

**SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE  
OUTREACH AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE**



Mangroves at Sussex beach

**PRESS CLIPPINGS**

**Enclosed are clippings of local and international press on the Special Court and related issues obtained by the Outreach and Public Affairs Office**

**as at:**

Tuesday, 15 September 2009

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.  
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact  
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The Spark  
Tuesday, 15 September 2009

# Taylor Did Not Command RUF To Release UN Hostages...



Sesay to release those people and to release them unconditionally," Mr. Taylor said. I told him the concerns of the international community and that if they did not release the peacekeepers, the international community will come down on

Charles Taylor did not command Sierra Leonean rebel commander Issa Sesay to release the United Nations hostages, but rather conveyed the message of the international community to the peacekeepers. They had to be released unconditionally, he said today. "Its a lie. I did not command him. The only thing I did on the UN situation was to tell Issa Sesay to release those people and to release them unconditionally," Mr. Taylor was re-

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## Taylor Did Not Command RUF To Release UN Hostages...

From front page

sponding to the testimony of a prosecution witness, whose identity was not released because he testified under protective measures. The greater details of the witness's testimony were discussed in private session. The witness had testified that when UN peacekeepers were abducted by Sierra Leone's Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels in 2000, Mr. Taylor called RUF commander Issa Sesay to Liberia and commander Mr. Sesay to release the UN peacekeepers. According to the witness, Mr. Taylor told Mr. Sesay to "release the UN hostages so I'll tell the world that whatever I say happens."

Mr. Taylor dismissed the witness's testimony as "total foolishness."

In May 2000, RUF rebels in Sierra Leone held over 500 UN peacekeepers hostage, an action which eventually led to the arrest of the rebel group's leader Foday Sankoh. Issa Sesay, who was the RUF's most senior commander after Mr. Sankoh's arrest, later facilitated the release of the peacekeepers. Witnesses have testified that Mr. Taylor influenced the RUF to release the peacekeepers. Mr. Taylor has said he had the blessing of West African Leaders and the United Nations to negotiate the release of the hostages. The hostages were eventually taken to Liberia where they were released and then handed over to the UN.

In his testimony today, Mr. Taylor

explained that when he called Mr. Sesay to negotiate the release of the peacekeepers, Mr. Sesay wanted the RUF's leader Foday Sankoh to be released as a condition for the release of the peacekeepers. According to Mr. Taylor, he told Mr. Sesay that "we cannot tie Sankoh's release to the release of the hostages."

"The whole issue was not my decision. I conveyed to him the message of the international community," Mr. Taylor said.

Mr. Taylor also refuted the witness's assertion that after the release of the hostages, Mr. Sesay returned to Sierra Leone with arms and ammunition, given to him by Mr. Taylor for use by the RUF. Mr. Taylor dismissed this allegation, saying "it is a blatant lie."

The same prosecution witness, whose testimony Mr. Taylor sought to refute today had testified that after the signing of the Lome Peace Agreement by the RUF and the Government of Sierra Leone in 1999, Mr. Taylor supplied the RUF with a helicopter load of ammunition. Mr. Taylor responded that the only helicopter which ferried RUF rebels from Liberia to Sierra Leone belonged to the UN and so if any ammunition was on board the said helicopter, then there "must have been complicity on the part of the UN."

According to the witness, Mr. Taylor was not sincere in his dealings with West African leaders to bring peace to

Sierra Leone. Mr. Taylor denied these allegations. The witness further said that when RUF commander Sam Bockarie and Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) leader Johnny Paul Koroma travelled from Liberia to Sierra Leone after the signing of the Lome Peace Agreement in 1999, Mr. Taylor gave the two men about \$15,000 for use by their fighting forces. Mr. Taylor today denied giving the two men the said amount, but admitted that he gave them \$10,000. He said that there was no ulterior motive in his gesture to the two men.

Mr. Taylor also today refuted the testimony of Prosecution Witness TFI-567, who, in his testimony in July 2008 claimed that in 1992, Mr. Taylor supplied RUF leader Mr. Sankoh with 50 boxes of AK-47 rifles, RPG boxes, GPMGs and other types of arms and ammunition which according to the witness were to be used to attack the diamond rich town of Kono. According to the witness, Mr. Sankoh told him he (Sankoh) and "his brother Taylor had decided that this was the right time to capture Kono." Mr. Taylor today denied this allegation.

"Sankoh and I did not talk about the capture of Kono. I did not know if Kono was captured at that time. If I had 50 boxes of AK-47 rifles, I would have captured Monrovia in 1992. Mr. Taylor said,

The Democrat  
Tuesday, 15 September 2009

# Fambul Tok Promotes Community Farming

By PEL Koroma

**In its bid to sustain community reconciliation, Fambul Tok project has been encouraging communities after reconciliation ceremonies to come together and embark on community farming in Kailahun, Kono and Moyamba districts. It is aimed at keeping the community together as it was a part of the culture of the people to farm together for visitors, but it eloped them as result of the eleven year war, and other differences that have been keeping them apart.**

National Director of Fambul Tok, John Caulker stresses that there is a direct link between reconciliation and development, and therefore encourages the community people to stay together and work together as many hands makes work light. He said together, a team will produce more and it will promote better understanding as they continue to work together in unity. Fambul Tok community reconciliation project is poised to rejuvenate traditional practices that enhances peace, unity and common understanding among the war weary people. Since its inception a year ago, Fambul Tok have brought together victims, perpetrators and witnesses after the horrible eleven year war that left communities divided in the country. Fambul Tok have stepped into the gap left by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission by creating space at village level for the community people to genuinely come forward and talk over the things that left their communities divided. The community reconciliation process hinges on sincere confession, forgiveness and reconciliation. Fambul Tok have held 23 reconciliation ceremonies in Kailahun district, 11 in Moyamba district and 7 in Kono district.

In trying to fulfill the need for sustaining the reconciliation ceremonies, Fambul Tok supplied husk rice seedlings and cassava cuttings to 17 communities in Kailahun district with the aim of keeping the people together. Even though the community people have their individual farms, they all agreed to go back to the old days of

having community farms which is a symbol of unity and cohesiveness. The Kailahun district coordinator of Fambul Tok, Peter Mboyawa impressed that the community people are constantly using Fambul Tok structures for resolving community disputes rather than resorting to violence and the harboring of grudges. He said the Fambul Tok community Reconciliation Community comprising religious leaders (Imams and Pastors), Mammy Queens, Youth leaders and Traditional chiefs is very instrumental in sustaining community peace and development. Most of their community differences are now mostly directed to the Reconciliation Committee as opposed to going to the courts where heavy fines are inflicted on people which was a cause for major atrocities in most communities during the war. In Golan village, Peje Bongre chiefdom, the community is now working together after Fambul Tok ceremony. The community have recently constructed a Maternity Home that had never existed. The town chief said it is as a result of Fambul Tok reconciliation that inspired the community to work together and promote their own interests. In Luawa chiefdom, the community of Kenewa have built for themselves a court barray as a symbol of togetherness and Fambul Tok helped in purchasing 7 bundles of zinc so that the community will roof their court barray. Slowly, communities are coming together and caring for one another, a culture that got lost as a result of conflict. Recently, the community people came together to raise funds for a sick member of their community which was a sign post of commitment to each others wellbeing. Community people have also embarked on encouraging their daughters and sisters who were misused by the fighting forces to put that behind them and open up new chapters in their lives for progress.

In Kono district, Tamba Kamanda, district coordinator of Fambul Tok said the people are determined to take the war as some thing of past and are determined to weave their relationships again as it was before the war. The communities of Kunduma, Tongorma and Njadu in the Fiama chiefdom, have benefited from Fambul Toks' promotion of unity through community farming. Chanjadu in the Nimikoro chiefdom was also a

beneficiary of the Fambul Tok farming programme. Women are also encouraged to participate in the community farms. In Foindor, Dangbedu section, Kaama chiefdom, Fambul Tok have also helped with the supply of 4 bundles of zinc and nails to a victim of war to rebuild his house. In this case, the perpetrator has been helping the victim in rebuilding his house. Fambul Tok insists on forgiveness and reconciliation in the communities so that they will live again as one. In Nimikoro chiefdom, perpetrator and victim are now residing together and have worked on the same farm land as a result of Fambul Tok reconciliation. The Paramount Chief of Gorama Kono on the 14th June showered praises on the Fambul Tok method of reconciliation at a very recently reparation programme in the district pioneered by NaCSA. Paramount Chief Kono- Bundor said Fambul Tok is second to none as far as community reconciliation is concerned.

In Moyamba district, Fambul Tok have boosted agriculture in communities where reconciliation ceremonies have been held. In all, 7 communities got support from Fambul Tok in the Kargboro, Kongbora, Ribbi, Bagruwa and Timidale chiefdoms. The Moyamba district Fambul Tok coordinator, Joseph Benjie said the communities are currently busy transplanting and the up land rice farms are doing fine in Moyamba district. He said the people of Timidale, Bagruwa and Kargboro chiefdoms are bent of reviving their 40 years old trade fare at Foyah, Mai section that lost its importance as a result of the war. But the people are determined to revive that culture which had held them together but was destroyed as a result of differences. Fambul Tok is encouraging the communities to work together for better yield and common understanding.

It is the belief of Fambul Tok National Director that plenty food will make people happy. He said he is quite conscious of the fact that it is only development that will cement reconciliation especially for victims that badly need help. He emphasized on first shaping the mind- set of the people as grudges in communities will surely hinder progress in any society.

**BBC** WORLD SERVICE TRUST

September 14, 2009

John Kollie

*The Prosecution has consistently claimed that it was Charles Taylor's desire for diamonds that inflamed the Sierra Leone war. The Prosecution further alleged that Mr. Taylor provided arms to the RUF Rebels for diamonds. A Prosecution Witness only identified TF1-567 alleged last year that the Former Liberian Leader played a dubious role in the Sierra Leone war. Mr. Taylor denied the Prosecution allegation. John Kollie has this transcribed report for the BBC World Service Trust...*

Prosecution evidence reviewed by the Defence Team on Monday alleged that it was Charles Taylor who provided all of the ammunition used to capture the Sierra Leone's diamond town of Kono.

The prosecution claimed that Mr. Taylor who was then rebel leader in 1992 provided 50 boxes of the ammunition to capture of the town of Kono.

The Prosecution said Mr. Taylor and RUF rebel Leader, Foday Sankoh arranged the capture of Kono in Liberia.

But Mr. Taylor described the Prosecution evidence as hearsay.

The Prosecution evidence further alleged that Mr. Taylor was not sincere in his cooperation with the Economic Community of West African States, ECOWAS to restore peace to Sierra Leone.

A Prosecution witness only identified by a pseudonym for security reason claimed last year that Mr. Taylor sent a helicopter loaded with ammunition to the RUF immediately after the Lome Peace Accord in 1999.

The Lome Peace Accord was signed between the RUF and the Sierra Leone Government in 1999 under the supervision of ECOWAS.

The witness alleged that Mr. Taylor sent Sam Bockarie and Junta leader, Johnny Paul Koroma out of Monrovia with a helicopter loaded with ammunition.

The Indicted Former Liberian Leader denied that ammunition was on board the helicopter. The prosecution alleged that in addition to the ammunition, Mr. Taylor gave Johnny Paul Koroma and Sam Bockarie 15-thousand United States Dollars.

But Mr. Taylor said the envelop that he gave to the two rebel leaders and their fighters contained about ten thousand United States Dollars, and he had no ulterior motive.

## BBC World Service Trust

Monday, 14 September 2009

### NEWS ITEM

14/09/09

The allegation against Mr. Taylor is that he provided arms and ammunition to the RUF rebels for the so call “blood diamonds”. Last year, one of the prosecution witnesses testified at the SCSL in The Hague that Mr Taylor provided the RUF with 50 boxes of ammunition to capture Kono. Mr. Taylor again denied this allegation. Adolphus Williams reports from The Hague

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WILLIAMS: Last year, one of the prosecution witnesses alleged that the accused, Charles Taylor, provided 50 boxes of ammunition to RUF for the capture of Kono in 1992.

The witness said Mr. Taylor and Foday Sankoh arranged this attack in Liberia.  
Mr. Taylor denied this allegation.

TAYLOR: This particular situation that he’s explaining and confusing it with the later Kono – remember we heard some testimony here about the so-called “fiti-fata” in Kono and all that kind of stuff – I’m not sure if, you know, these boys just bring information. I don’t have that quality of ammunition back in 1992.

WILLIAMS: The Prosecution evidence further alleged that after the Lome Peace Agreement between the RUF and the Government of Sierra Leone, Mr. Taylor sent Sam Bockarie and Johnny Paul Koroma with a helicopter full with ammunition to the RUF.

Mr Taylor again denied this.

Mr. Taylor said it was a UN helicopter that conveyed Johnny Paul and Sam Bockarie from Monrovia to Sierra Leone in 1999.

TAYLOR: I did not do that and if that happened then there must be complicity on the part of the UN, because the helicopter that is being used to ferry RUF people whether they’re going to Vahun or whether they are going other places, the only helicopter that is available is a UN helicopter.

COURTENAY GRIFFITHS: But you’ve told us earlier, Mr. Taylor, that UN helicopters are painted white. The witness is suggesting this is a camouflage helicopter...

TAYLOR: That’s what we’re talking about.

GRIFFITHS: Did the Liberian government own a helicopter with camouflage [livery]?

TAYLOR: Yes, we owned one.

GRIFFITHS: At that time?

TAYLOR: No, not at that time.

GRIFFITHS: When?

TAYLOR: In 2000, we did.

WILLIAMS: Mr. Taylor said it was a United Nations helicopter that conveyed Johnny Paul and Sam Bockarie from Monrovia to Sierra Leone in 1999. The Prosecution alleged that in addition to the ammunition, Mr. Taylor gave Johnny Paul Koroma and Sam Bockarie an envelop of 15-thousand United States Dollars.

Mr. Taylor said the money was not for clandestine motive but of a genuine purpose as a form of assistance to them.

**AW, BBC WST, The Hague**

## The Analyst (Liberia)

Friday, 11 September 2009

### **Liberia: Taylor Denies Execution of Bockarie and Family**

The Defence Team of Charles Taylor on Thursday continued its attack on the credibility of the testimonies of Prosecution Witnesses. One of the Prosecution evidence attacked by the Defence blamed Sam Bockarie's death on Charles Taylor.

Prosecution evidence is that the RUF and Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia, NPFL were inseparable. Mr. Taylor described the prosecution allegations as nonsensical. John Kollie transcribes reports from The Hague for the BBC World Service Trust...

A Protected Prosecution Witness alleged last year that Charles Taylor ordered the execution of Former RUF Leader Sam Bockarie and his entire family. The witness said Sam Bockarie was killed with the intent to destroy the secret of Mr. Taylor's involvement and support to the RUF Rebels.

On Thursday, Mr. Taylor vehemently dismissed the allegation. The Prosecution Witness said in 1990 Foday Sankoh recruited the first group of RUF Fighters from Kakata which was controlled by Taylor's NPFL.

Mr. Taylor told the court that he was not aware of any recruitment by Foday Sankoh in Liberia. The Prosecution evidence further indicated that Foday Sankoh received support from Mr. Charles Taylor for the invasion of Sierra Leone.

The witness said the RUF received arms, food and Medicare from Mr. Taylor. Mr. Taylor said he didn't know the beneficiaries of food distributed by his men. An American Journalist Stephen Smith alleged in his testimonies that Taylor's defunct NPFL was a senior brother to the Foday Sankoh's RUF.

Mr. Smith said Mr. Taylor dictated all the tactics used by Foday Sankoh to launch the rebel war in Sierra Leone. Mr. Smith claimed that Mr. Sankoh lived in Monrovia in 1990 and got support from Mr. Taylor before travelling to Sierra Leone with his war campaign.

Mr. Taylor said it was not possible for Mr. Sankoh to have lived in Monrovia in 1990.

## Daily Observer

Monday, 14 September 2009

### Group Sends Officers to Hague



*(l-r): Messrs. Mannis Barclay, T. Tommy Sumo, Daniel Towalid and Mrs. Louis Tucolon and taking oath of office - To Monitor Taylor's Trial*

MONROVIA -- A civil society group under the banner, Outreach Society of Liberia (OSEL), has elected its corps of officers to steer its affairs as it continues its advocacy.

The group, which is a coalition of civil society organizations, claims it is charged with the responsibility of disseminating 'accurate and unbiased' information to all Liberians about former Liberian President Charles Taylor's trial ongoing in The Hague, The Netherlands.

Taylor is charged with 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity, charges levied against him for acts allegedly committed in neighboring Sierra Leone by the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), a rebel group that took part in the civil war in the neighboring country.

OSEL's Thursday, September 10, election, which was held at its offices on Camp Johnson Road in Monrovia, saw Mannis Barclay emerge as chaplain; J. Tommy Sumo, treasurer; Daniel Towalid, national coordinator; and Louise Tucolon, assistant national coordinator.

The civil society group has trained dozens of students from various universities in Monrovia, civil society members, as well as senior staff from the Liberian National Police (LP) and Ministry of National Defense in International Law and International Humanitarian Law.

They say the rationale behind the various training sessions is to provide law enforcement officers, civil society members and students the opportunity to fully comprehend the rules of war and what is meant by international law.

Among those the group has sent to The Hague to monitor Taylor's trial are John Y. Jukon, representing the Liberian NGOs Network (LINK); J. Tommy Sumo, Peace Building and Resource Center (PBRC); and Daniel Towalid, Civil Society Movement of Liberia (CSML).

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**United Nations**      **Nations Unies**  
 United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

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## UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 14 September 2009

*[The media summaries and press clips do not necessarily represent the views of UNMIL.]*

### **International Clips on Liberia**

#### **Liberia Converting Old Rubber Trees to Electricity**

<http://www.voanews.com/english/2009-09-13-voa6.cfm>

Work begins this month on a new, environmentally-friendly power plant in Liberia that will use old rubber trees to generate electricity. It is part of a plan to make Liberia the world's first sustainable biomass-driven economy. Natural rubber has anchored the Liberian economy for more than 75 years. The huge Firestone plantation east of the capital, Monrovia, remains the world's largest single natural rubber operation and was one of the first businesses to reopen after Liberia's long civil war. Its continued success is crucial to Liberia's economic recovery. Now, the plantation's eight million rubber trees may help fuel that recovery by producing low-cost electricity. The firm Buchanan Renewable Energies is building a carbon-neutral power plant using woodchips from older rubber trees to generate 35 megawatts of electricity. The Liberian Electric Company will then sell that power to people in Monrovia for about half what they are paying now.

### **International Clips on West Africa**

#### **Sierra Leone**

09/14/2009 09:36:46

#### **Sierra Leone mourns victims of ferry disaster**

Source: AFP World News / English Date: September 14, 2009

FREETOWN, Sept 14, 2009 (AFP) - Drivers honked their car horns and church bells rang out as Sierra Leone on Monday marked a day of mourning for the victims of last week's ferry disaster in which at least 200 people drowned. Flags were lowered to half-mast on public buildings and radio stations played sombre music. Public buildings remained open however as people marked the day of mourning with local tradition.

Hundreds of people made their way to work wearing black armbands or items of clothing. Others wore white, a symbol of mourning in the West African country. "We are not shutting down any public building but asking people to remember those who have died and to pray for them," Information Minister Ibrahim Ben Kargbo said.

#### **Nigeria, Sierra Leone sign volunteers agreement**

LAGOS, Sep 14, 2009 (Xinhua via COMTEX) -- The Nigerian federal government on Saturday entered a bilateral agreement with the government of Sierra Leone toward the deployment of 130 volunteers of the Technical Aids Corps (TAC) to that country, the Guardian newspaper reported on Monday. The provision of the TAC country agreement raises the level of bilateral assistance to Sierra Leone and is partly in furtherance of a cardinal objective of citizens' diplomacy. Nigeria lost 1,000 soldiers who were on peacekeeping duties in Sierra Leone even as the country is still in its post-civil war reconstruction and rehabilitation period. Bagudu Hirse, Nigeria's minister of state for foreign affairs,

who signed for his country, said the tenets of the country's working document represent an important milestone in the bilateral relations between Nigeria and Sierra Leone.

## Guinea

### **Russia accuses Guinea of trying to "expropriate" Russian-owned alumina refinery**

**BBC Monitoring International Reports**

Text of "Report for the media on the situation concerning United Company Rusal in Guinea" by Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs website on 11 September. On 10 September, a court of first instance in the city of Conakry, Republic of Guinea, made a ruling declaring the act on the transfer of the bauxite-alumina complex Friguia to the ownership of UC Rusal in 2006 null and void. The Guinean side has been bringing various complaints against the Russian company concerning the "inadequacy", in its view, of the price for which this enterprise was bought, as well as the size of tax payments and failure by the company to comply with environmental safety norms. In effect, the Guinean authorities have made an attempt to expropriate UC Rusal's property through the courts.

### **African ruler grills his people on live television about cocaine**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news>

Yet Captain Moussa Dadis Camara, star interviewer on Guinean state television, has one crucial advantage over such fellow inquisitors as Jeremy Paxman. His day job is as Guinea's new military ruler, and if his screaming, hectoring interview technique doesn't loosen tongues, the sight of scores of Kalashnikov-carrying bodyguards in the studio around him surely helps. "The problems with the corruption drug trafficking that I have discovered in the former government have helped to destroy this country," he snarled last week, launching into yet another televised tirade against the misdeeds of Guinea's previous regime. "But now we will fight it - no drug cartel can buy me." So begins another episode of the "Dadis Show", which has transfixed Guineans since its presenter-in-chief, known mainly by his middle name, seized power following the death of the West African nation's aging dictator, Lansana Conte, last December.

## **Local Media – Newspaper**

### **President Sirleaf Sues New Broom Newspaper**

(The Informer, The News, The Monitor, The Independent, New Democrat, Liberian Express, Public Agenda, The Inquirer, National Chronicle, The Analyst)

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has filed a law suit against a local daily, the New Broom Newspaper.
- According to a writ of summons issued by the Civil Law Court, the President filed for Action of Damages in line with the publication of the paper of September 3, 2009 alleging that the President took US\$2 million dollars bribe to award a contract. She is claiming up to US\$5 million dollars.
- Meanwhile, the Press Union of Liberia has issued a statement welcoming the law suit filed against the New Broom Newspaper by President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf.
- The Union says the President's decision to go to court should be applauded by all democratic forces because it promotes the rule of law.
- The PUL said the media community will be interested in the logical conclusion of the free and fair trial of the case so that other journalists can learn some lesson.

### **PUL Rebukes Information Ministry Mandate to Commercial Printers**

(The Inquirer, The Informer, The News, The Monitor, The Independent, New Democrat, Liberian Express, Public Agenda, National Chronicle, The Analyst)

- The Press Union of Liberia has reiterated its call to commercial printers to ignore what it called “military orders” from the Ministry of Information, Culture, and Tourism (MICAT).
- Last week, Information Minister, Laurence Bropleh mandated all printing Houses in the country not to print any newspaper that is not registered with Government.
- The Union says it is woefully shameless for the government to be clamoring to enforce a decree that was promulgated by the military junta and say it is not muzzling the press.
- In a press statement issued in Monrovia, the Union says it remains open to “constructive engagement” with the Ministry on the development of the media in Liberia but will never be a partner to arbitrariness.

### **World Bank Official In The Country**

(Daily Observer, The News)

- The World Bank Country Director for Burkina Faso, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, Dr. Ishac Diwan is in the country on a five-day assessment mission.
- The visit is to review the World Bank Country Portfolios and assess projects funded by the Bank.
- While in the country, Dr. Diwan will hold high-level talks with the Government of Liberia.
- Dr. Diwan today visited the Cotton Tree-Bokay Town road construction site and held discussion on OPRC and road sector issues with relevant stakeholders.
- The Ministers of Agriculture and Public Works accompanied the World Bank Country Director.

### **UNDP Official Wants Development Planners To Be “Agents Of Change”**

(The Analyst)

- The County Support Team Joint Programme Manager at the UNDP, Abibu Tamu is challenging development planners to be agents of change in their counties by effectively and efficiently monitoring and evaluating development projects.
- Mr. Tamu said without effective monitoring and evaluation, development partners would have no knowledge of project activities.
- He made the assertion at the weekend during the final regional workshop for local development planners and local MDGs local sector ministries and agencies held in Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County.

### **MCC Launches Campaign on City Ordinance Number 1**

(National Chronicle)

- The Monrovia City Corporation (MCC) has launched the revised City Ordinance #1 governing the public health, sanitation and the general condition of Monrovia.
- Acting City Mayor, Madam Mary Broh said the Ordinance seeks to rescue Monrovia from its current filthy state.
- Under the Ordinance, garbage disposal will be restricted to designated sites and the selling of foodstuff on the streets prohibited. Madam Broh said the Ordinance will take effect on October 1 this year.

### **FAO Donates To Agriculture Ministry**

(The Inquirer)

- The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has donated a brand new pick-up, three motorbikes and 14 power tillers to the Ministry of Agriculture for use by women farmers in Bong, Lofa and Nimba Counties.
- The items were made available by the Danish Government through the United Nations Joint Programme for Food Security and Nutrition.
- They were handed-over to Agriculture Minister, Dr. Florence Chenoweth by Dr. Winfred Hammond, FAO Representative in Liberia on Saturday during her first official visit to CARI.
- The Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) project is in response to the Global Food Crisis and medium term priorities of the Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) of the Liberian Government.

- The project seeks to train near 8,000 women from Bong, Lofa and Nimba Counties in the effective operations, maintenance and management of the Power Tillers.

### **Sirleaf Forecasts A New Liberia**

(Daily Observer)

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has predicted a new Liberia in which people will no longer run helter-skelter for their precious lives or experience violence.
- Speaking at the weekend at a programme marking the first anniversary of Liberia Renaissance Education Complex (LREC) in Dwazon, Lower Margibi Country, President Sirleaf pledged her commitment to the development a new Liberia free of disappointment and hiding.
- At the school, the President donated 230 umbrellas, 230 note books, 115 school bags and 115 pencils. She also provided 10 bags of rice.

**Local Media – Star Radio** (*culled from website today at 09:00 am*)

**Star Radio** (*News monitored today at 09:00 am*)

#### **MCC to Invoke City Ordinance Number 1**

(*Also reported on Sky F.M., Truth F.M. and ELBC*)

**Radio Veritas** (*News monitored today at 09:45 am*)

#### **PUL Commends President's Action against the New Broom**

(*Also reported on Sky F.M., Truth F.M. and ELBC*)

#### **Suspected Nigerian drug dealer rushed to hospital after swallowing cocaine**

- Reports say the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) is interrogating several drug dealers including Liberians and two Nigerians.
- The suspects were arrested in possession of banned substances including cocaine and marijuana.
- One of the Nigerian suspects, Mukala Agina is at the JFK Medical Center undergoing medication after he swallowed 6 grams of cocaine caught with him apparently to destroy evidence.
- The DEA said those arrested would be forward to court for prosecution.

(*Also reported on Sky F.M., Truth F.M. and ELBC*)

#### **Joint Modernization Committee Convenes Special Session**

- Members of the Joint Modernization Committee of the National Legislature are expected to shortly convene a special session in order to formulate an annual work plan in line with Section 10.2 of the Legislature's Strategic Plan.
- The Senate and the House of Representatives have reportedly endorsed and adopted a five-year strategic plan to modernize the Liberian legislature.
- According to Grand Kru Senator Blamo Nelson, the 5-year strategic plan will cover key critical areas that include representation, lawmaking, oversight, staffing and work environment.
- The plan if implemented will make the Liberian legislature 21<sup>st</sup> century compliant.

(*Also reported on Sky F.M., Truth F.M. and ELBC*)

#### **Medical Reports on Child Mortality**

- Latest medical reports on child mortality in Liberia say 1 out of every 10 children will die at childbirth.
- The report was conducted by 16 international medical charities including Oxfam and Merlin.
- The report covered over 54 countries mainly in Africa and other parts of the world.

(*Also reported on Sky F.M., and ELBC*)

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## The Phnom Penh Post

Monday, 14 September 2009

### **It's all a question of timing**

A former UN envoy examines why legal proceedings against the Khmer Rouge were delayed for three decades.

IN the past couple of months, we have been witnessing the trial of Kang Guek Eav, alias Duch, the notorious head of the S-21 prison camp of the Khmer Rouge, in the Extraordinary Chambers of the Courts of Cambodia.

Thus, we finally see the beginnings of justice coming to Cambodia, 30 years after Pol Pot's regime killed almost 2 million people and left the rest scarred beyond belief in ways not yet fully comprehended.

Many young people, who read about or attend the trials and who were born after the tragic era, are of course wondering why it took so long for these trials to begin. Why was there an international amnesia for almost 30 years before the hideous criminals, the leaders of this unequalled brutal regime, were finally brought to trial?

### **Long search for justice**

Many search libraries and archives to get to the truth behind this amnesia, which denied justice to the people of Cambodia for so long. The answer must be seen in the international context of the tragedy. During the Cold War, Cambodia had - due to its geographical location - seen itself subjugated in the ongoing struggle for hegemony in Southeast Asia. The result was a tragedy of enormous proportions that, for 20 years prior to the arrival of the United Nations Transitional Authority (UNTAC) in 1992, had plunged the country into chaos, turmoil, civil war and deep despair.

The period before UNTAC can be divided into three phases. The first was the rise of the Khmer Rouge, aided by open and unequivocal support from China along with two interventions by the US - one overt and one covert, both of which indirectly aided and abetted the nascent Khmer Rouge movement. The overt intervention consisted of incessant bombings of Cambodia by US president Richard Nixon, who dropped 2.4 million tonnes of bombs on Cambodia - more than during the whole of World War II - in order to, in his words, kill Communist Vietnam troops hiding in the jungles of Cambodia.

This action drove many angry young men and women, who helplessly witnessed the daily dropping of bombs by B-52s onto their paddies and homes, into the arms of the Khmer Rouge. The covert act consisted of King Father Sihanouk's being ousted from power on March 17, 1970, by the right-wing, pro-American General Lon Nol. This was a decisive factor in the meteoric rise of the Khmer Rouge. An enraged King Father Sihanouk, speaking from Beijing, called for a general uprising in collaboration with the Khmer Rouge to defeat Lon Nol and what he termed the "US imperialists".

This ushered in the second phase: the Khmer Rouge's reign of terror between April 17, 1975, and January 7, 1979. On that final day, Vietnamese forces, assisted by exiled Cambodians, united under the banner of the Renakse Samaki Sangkruoh Cheat Kampuchea (United Front for the National Salvation of Kampuchea, or UNFSK). Under the leadership of Samdech Chea Sim, Heng Samrin and Hun Sen, they liberated Cambodia from the hateful yoke of the Pol Pot regime. The People's Republic of Kampuchea (PRK) was established and soon gained control over almost all of the country.

Alas, this did not please the powers that be in the United Nations in New York - and marked the beginning of a third period: the internationalisation of the Cambodian tragedy. In a travesty of justice, the General Assembly of the United Nations continued to recognise the Khmer Rouge, later bolstered by FUNCINPEC and KPNLF, as the legitimate government of Cambodia, rather than the de facto PRK government. This prolonged the suffering of the Cambodian people for a further 11 years until the Paris Agreements were signed in October 1991. Meanwhile, the international community did not think of holding a Khmer Rouge tribunal because they were too busy propping up leaders of the Pol Pot regime as the "legitimate" government. The Khmer Rouge ambassador, representing Cambodia, would be seen for 11 more years gracing the meetings and cocktail parties of the United Nations and lobbying for the PRK to be denied official recognition. In Cambodia, the PRK did try the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary clique and condemned them to death, but this trial was ignored by the international community.

### **Tribunal beginnings**

Finally, the co-prime ministers of the new royal government established after the UNTAC elections - Samdech Krom Preah and Samdech Dejo Hun Sen - in June 1998 addressed a letter to the United Nations secretary general requesting assistance in the establishment of a UN-assisted tribunal. Long and acrimonious negotiations ensued over many years, but finally the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) was established with UN help so that now, finally, the ailing and old leaders of the Khmer Rouge are being brought to justice.

Though the ECCC of course elicits a sigh of relief among Cambodians who have suffered so long, it is certainly not the only means for reconciliation with the Khmer Rouge. Recognition has already taken place in many forms in the country. Ordinary people, encouraged by the return to peace and progress - especially since the last remnants of the Khmer Rouge have been dissolved by government policy - have, of their own volition, forged reconciliation among all Khmers. No longer do people question whether their neighbour, or their office mate, or the bride of their son is ex-Khmer Rouge or the daughter of an ex-Khmer Rouge.

### **Burgeoning unity**

People today are working together for peace, prosperity and progress under the wings of a new government. Reconciliation has indeed been achieved by Cambodians, for Cambodians. Foreigners are welcome: Whether they be NGOs, technical experts or foreign investors, all are welcome to contribute to the country's progress, so long as they do not interfere in the domestic affairs of the country or foster divide-and-rule policies. Cambodia has had its fair share of this in the past 30 years.

Benny Widyono was the United Nations representative in Cambodia between 1994 and 2007, and is the author of *Dancing in Shadows: Sihanouk, the Khmer Rouge and the United Nations in Cambodia*.

Deutsche Welle

Monday, 14 September 2009

## ICC's trial of Congo militia leader raises questions and concerns in DRC



*Großansicht des Bildes mit der Bildunterschrift: Lubanga, left, and his militia are accused of massive abuses*

The trial of militia leader Thomas Lubanga at the International Criminal Court in The Hague is being heavily criticized in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Many fear that the process is merely a show trial for the ICC.

Much was made of the arrest of Congolese militia leader Thomas Lubanga Dyilo in 2005 on charges of recruiting and using child soldiers in the bloody Congolese civil war between 1998 and 2003. Lubanga was accused of creating an entire infrastructure around child soldiers in the Ituri region and commanding forces responsible for massive human rights violations, including ethnic massacres, murder, torture, rape and mutilation in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

His arrest, the first under a warrant issued by the International Criminal Court (ICC), was seen as the first step in an international crackdown on seemingly out-of-control military leaders using human rights abuses as tactics in many of Africa's brutal conflicts. His trial for war crimes in The Hague, which began in January this year, appeared to show that the ICC was a judicial force to be reckoned with and that a flood of arrests and convictions would follow.

But as the prosecution rested its case in July, leaving Lubanga's counsel to prepare its defense case ahead of its October presentation, increasing criticism of the trial and accusations against the ICC gathered pace in the DRC.

### Congolese call trial a "neo-colonial project"



*Bildunterschrift:*

*Großansicht des Bildes mit der Bildunterschrift: Some say the ICC is making an example of Lubanga*

Many Congolese accuse the historic process against Lubanga as being a show trial, saying that the ICC are trying one individual while many others remain free to commit more human rights abuses in Congo. Some have called Lubanga's trial a "neo-colonial project" and that the ICC is trying to set an example rather than using the case as part of an on-going quest to bring others like Lubanga to justice. They say his is a token arrest.

"There's a growing disconnection between how the ICC is seen in the West and how it's perceived in Africa," Richard Gowan, an Africa expert at the European Center for Foreign Relations, told Deutsche Welle. "It has focused almost entirely on African cases so far, so many Africans believe it's being used in a colonial way and Western leaders haven't done enough to dispel this negative impression."

Anneke van Woudenberg, Human Rights Watch's Congo expert, believes that distrust in the ICC has its roots in both a political agenda and public confusion in Congo.

"This is certainly not a sham trial and this is something which has been propagated by Lubanga's supporters and those loyal to him in the Ituri region," she told Deutsche Welle. "There has been confusion in Congo over the narrow nature of the charges. Many don't understand why Lubanga has been charged only with the recruitment of child soldiers when he was responsible for the ethnic murders, rape and torture which made the Ituri conflict the bloodiest in the Congo war. In addition, the evidence against him is very strong."

Others fear that a conviction against Lubanga will be held up as a justification for the ICC's existence but will result in a slow decline of its pursuit of other war criminals, not only in the DRC but all over Africa and the world.

"I don't subscribe to these Congolese assertions, other than the undeniable fact that many suspected perpetrators of war crimes in the DRC remain free and in positions of authority," Andrew Philip, a Congo expert with Amnesty International, told Deutsche Welle. "Amnesty welcomes the ICC investigations and prosecutions, although we have encouraged and continue to encourage the ICC Prosecutor to extend investigations to other areas of DRC than just in the Ituri region, and to other crimes within its mandate."

Van Woudenberg also believes that many more war crimes suspects remain at large but believes that the ICC will not be stopping with Lubanga.

"The ICC will not stop with Lubanga and besides, he is not alone in standing trial," she said. "There are three other individuals charged alongside him. But what the ICC prosecutor has to do is to look past the Ituri conflict and the warlords there and go after those who supported and funded Lubanga. This would lead them to the higher echelons of not only the Congolese government but also those in Uganda and Rwanda. For this to have a wider effect the ICC must not stop at the warlord level."

### **Critics claim UN deaths accelerated Lubanga pursuit**



*Bildunterschrift*

*Großansicht des Bildes mit der Bildunterschrift: It's claimed the death of UN troops speeded up the pursuit*

It has also been alleged that Lubanga was only brought to trial after he was implicated in the deaths of UN troops in the DRC and that otherwise, the international community would have continued to turn what some Congolese believe to be a blind eye to atrocities there. Some claim that while six million people have been killed in Congo over the last 12 years and a wide range of abuses recorded, it took the death of nine Bangladeshi peacekeepers in the northwestern region of Ituri to stir the ICC into action.

"The claim that the deaths of the UN soldiers prompted international action is misplaced," said van Woudenberg. "Ituri was the bloodiest region where more people were killed than anywhere else in Congo so this was the ICC's first focus in its search for war crimes suspects. Because of the violence there, there were a lot of UN troops and consequently UN troops died there - but it wasn't the only place in Congo where they died."

It is also claimed that Congo's natural resources played a part in the international community's hesitation to act. The DRC is rich in natural gas and crude oil reserves, while zinc, uranium and copper deposits are also plentiful.

### Experts say conviction would prove positive for human rights



*Bildunterschrift:*

*Großansicht des Bildes mit der Bildunterschrift: Despite international efforts, Congo still suffers*

Despite these claims, human rights and legal experts believe Lubanga's trial and possible conviction will have a positive effect on the overall battle for human rights and motivate the world to pursue war criminals and bring them to justice at the ICC.

"In terms of human rights, Lubanga's trial is hugely significant," said van Woudenberg. "It is the first case at the ICC and a conviction would enhance the ICC's efforts. If he is convicted it will be a first for a suspect involved in the recruitment and use of child soldiers. His arrest has already has a huge effect, bringing child soldiers to international attention and making African leaders aware that this is actually a crime. We would like to see more offences added to his charge sheet so any conviction would hopefully have as strong an impact on those areas of abuses."

Author: Nick Amies

Editor: Rob Mudge

## Times

Friday, 11 September 2009

### Cambodia's Trial of the Century, Televised

By Christopher Shay

Kaing Guek Eav, former chief of the Khmer Rouge's notorious S-21 prison, is seen on a screen during his trial in Phnom Penh

Like any pair of good TV news hosts, Neth Pheaktra and Ung Chan Sophea deftly play off each other, finishing each other's thoughts and building on each other's ideas. But unlike the playful banter of most local news shows, neither host ever cracks a joke, or even smiles. Instead, the two veteran Cambodian journalists look directly into the camera and talk to viewers every Monday at 1 p.m. about torture, murder and the law.

Neth Pheaktra and Ung Chan Sophea's 24-minute weekly show summarizing and analyzing the trial of Kaing Guek Eav, better known as 'Duch,' the chief of the Khmer Rouge's notorious S-21 interrogation facility also known as Tuol Sleng, has become a sleeper hit in Cambodia. With one in five Cambodians watching the show every week, Duch on Trial has become the main way many young Cambodians, who were not taught about the Khmer Rouge in school, learn about the historic Khmer Rouge tribunal unfolding in Phnom Penh — and, in a lot of cases, hear about this dark chapter of their country's history for the first time.

From 1975 to 1979, the ultra-Maoist Khmer Rouge emptied Cambodia's cities, abolished money and turned its upper classes into de facto slave laborers in an attempt to form a radical agrarian utopia. More than 30 years later, Cambodia is still rebuilding — both economically and socially. For overseeing the execution of more than 15,000 people during that era, Duch has been charged by the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC), a hybrid Cambodian-international court backed by the U.N., with war crimes, crimes against humanity, homicide and torture. S-21, the facility that he headed from 1976 until 1979, was a local Phnom Penh high school that the KR transformed into what one scholar later called "the anteroom to death." (See pictures of the rise and fall of the Khmer Rouge.)

Not surprisingly, testimonies at the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) have been grim since the trial started in February of this year. Duch, a mathematics teacher before joining the Khmer Rouge, admitted that his guards smashed babies against trees. One guard on the stand outlined the process of live blood-letting, and a rare survivor described the pain of having his toenails ripped out.

Despite the gruesome tales, Duch on Trial has attracted up to three million viewers a week in recent months — a whopping 20% of the country's population. The success of the show, which premiered in April, rests on its ability to decode the trial's complex proceedings to a mass audience — no small task in this largely rural, poorly educated country where only about 30% of students who enter school graduate from grade 9. The ECCC was established as a hybrid court after years of negotiation between the U.N. and the Cambodian government, and the result is a complex hodgepodge of international and domestic law.

Matthew Robinson, the British producer of Duch on Trial and executive director of Khmer Mekong Films, took the show's predecessor — a pretrial miniseries about the ECCC — to focus groups around the country, fine tuning the show's language to ensure it could be understood. But while the show may keep it simple, it is still able to highlight complex themes raised in the trial — like mental health and forgiveness — that are relevant to people's daily lives in a nation still suffering from collective post-traumatic stress.

The endeavor was something of a gamble. With the Khmer Rouge only being introduced into the school curriculum this fall, many born after 1979 know little about Cambodia's darkest period. And for those who did, before the Duch trial, over two-thirds of people born after the Khmer Rouge rule said they rarely or never talked about the era. Robinson said before he produced the first episode, he went to his local eatery and asked the staff if they would be interested in a half-hour show about the Duch trial. "They said, 'No, no, no.' But I was there on the Monday [when

the show first launched], and all of them were watching. At the end, they gave me a big thumbs up." Now the restaurant shows Duch on Trial every Monday at lunch.

The show, largely funded by the British government, is played on the Cambodian Television Network (CTN), Cambodia's most watched channel. Controlled by Cambodia's richest businessman, Kith Meng, CTN is not playing the show in a prime-time slot as a public service, but because it glues so many Cambodians to the TV screen.

Nonetheless, Duch on Trial is helping fulfill one of the Court's central mandates, according to ECCC chief spokesperson Reach Sambath: to educate Cambodians about the Khmer Rouge. In the last seven months, some 23,000 Cambodians have come to the courts to watch the trial, and the Documentation Center of Cambodia has discussed the trials with nearly 100,000 villagers throughout the country. The trial "is an education. It's equal to a professor of history," says Reach Sambath.

(Read TIME's 199 cover story about Cambodia's genocide.)

But with its millions of viewers in Cambodia, television has proven to be better positioned to bring the trial into people's homes. "You'll go out to the local little village in the middle of Kampong Speu [a province in Cambodia], and there will be almost nothing there," says Gregory Stanton, the president of the Washington-based NGO Genocide Watch. "Yet there will be a TV set hooked up to set of car batteries, and people watching."

Though the government has not publicly commented on the show, Robinson says he's heard that high-ranking government officials also watch it to keep tabs on the trial. The current government contains many former members of the Khmer Rouge, including Prime Minister Hun Sen, who was a low-level cadre and even lost his eye fighting for the Khmer Rouge during the invasion of Phnom Penh. It was Hun Sen who initially asked the U.N. for help in establishing a tribunal in 1997, but he has since been accused by critics like Human Rights Watch for trying to limit the trial's scope in order to protect members of his own Cambodian People's Party (CPP).

But for Reach Sambath and many other Cambodians, this trial is not just about teaching the public or finding justice but about accelerating a long-overdue healing process. "The witnesses cry. The accused cries. The audience that comes to the court or watches on television cries," Reach Sambath says. "But they cry not to be more painful, but to release their pain that they have been holding for 30 years."

Duch is only the first Khmer Rouge member to sit behind the bulletproof glass at the ECCC. A joint trial of four other defendants will start within the next two years, and on Sept. 8 despite objections from Hun Sen, prosecutors submitted a list of five additional former high-ranking members of the Khmer Rouge who may one day end up at the tribunal. No matter how open Duch is about the horrific details of S-21, he cannot supply all the answers about the Khmer Rouge, as he played no policy role. "The people we've interviewed say, 'We want to know why these educated people did this to our country?'" Robinson said. "And they won't really get this answer through the Duch trial."

The next hearings, however, expected begin in 2010, will include several people who did derive the Khmer Rouge philosophy, like Pol Pot's second-in-command Nuon Chea and the Khmer Rouge's former head of state Khieu Samphan. Robinson is hoping Khmer Mekong Films will be there too, helping give millions of Cambodians the answers they've been waiting three decades to hear.

See TIME's Pictures of the Week.

See the Cartoons of the Week.

## Daily Nation

Tuesday, 15 September 2009

### **Kenya rights activists head to Hague to press justice**

Kenya National Commission on Human Rights vice-chairman Hassan Omar. He left for the Hague to press the International Criminal Court to move with haste and start investigations into the 2007 post-election violence. Photo/FILE

By LUCAS BARASA

Mr Omar says KNCHR and ICJ-Kenya wants the ICC to send its investigators to Kenya immediately so that they could start investigations on the grounds before critical evidence is lost.

Two human rights campaigners have left for the Netherlands to press the International Criminal Court to speedily start investigations into the 2007 post-election violence.

Kenya National Commission on Human Rights vice-chairman Hassan Omar and International Committee of Jurists (ICJ-Kenya) chairman George Kegoro left for The Hague Tuesday morning.

Speaking to the Nation at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport before leaving, Mr Omar said: "We will press for justice in terms of post election violence perpetrators."

"We will press upon them to ensure justice is done. We want them to move with speed and act on the perpetrators," the vice-chairman said.

Mr Omar and Mr Kegoro will be attending a conference in The Hague but have been slated to meet ICC officials on Friday.

Top on the agenda, Mr Omar said, will be briefing the ICC of the progress made in the country to bring the financiers and organisers of the chaos to book.

This follows a Cabinet resolution to expand the Truth Justice and Reconciliation Commission to handle the violence.

Justice, National Cohesion and Constitutional Affairs minister Mutula Kilonzo has, however, since stated that he will not initiate the changes saying TJRC was formed with a different mandate.

Imenti Central MP Gitobu Manyara is also spearheading fresh efforts for the formation of a Special Tribunal to try the suspects.

The Bill, which was set for introduction to Parliament Tuesday, is unlikely to garner two thirds of all MPs support to pass Mr Omar said.

"The TJRC is also not an option. That is why the ICC has an inevitable role to conduct investigations and trials," he said.

Mr Omar said KNCHR and ICJ-Kenya wants the ICC to send its investigators to Kenya immediately so that they could start investigations on the grounds before critical evidence is lost.