

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



Ferry crossing the Moa River, between Potoru and Zimi. Photo credit: Mohamed Fadika, CITS

**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:**

**Wednesday, 18 November 2009**

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.  
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact  
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## The Spark

Wednesday, 18 November 2009

# Taylor Denied Influencing Witnesses

*From front page*

After his cross-examination got off to a stumble last week over the use of "new evidence," Charles Taylor today admitted to prosecutors that he shared information with the spy agency of the same country he has accused of plotting his downfall: the United States. Mr. Taylor also dismissed as "nonsense" prosecution allegations that he has been misusing his phone privileges while in jail to try to influence testimony of his defense witnesses.

When court resumed this morning, the prosecution's lead counsel Ms. Brenda Hollis indicated her team's willingness to go ahead with Mr. Taylor's cross-examination, having had more time to "rearrange strategies" after the court refused to allow the use of "new evidence" which had not been part of the prosecution's case and was not raised in Mr. Taylor's direct-examination. As the cross-examination proceeded, Mr. Taylor denied suggestions that he was an agent of the United States' Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). He admitted, however, that his rebel group, the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL), exchanged information with the CIA - a collaboration and exchange that continued into his presidency.

"The organization [NPFL] provided information to the CIA. The NPFL at the time did provide information to the CIA and there was information from the CIA to us too. There was exchange of information, mostly from between 1991-92," Mr. Taylor said.

"The NPFL and the CIA exchanged information on certain operations. They were mostly internal to the Liberia operation," he added.

Mr. Taylor explained that the collaboration with the CIA continued when he became president in 1997.

"The government of Liberia associated in so many ways in exchange of information with the CIA. Throughout my presidency, an agency of my government collaborated with the CIA," the

former president said.

Despite this previous collaboration with an agency of the United States, the accused former president has consistently accused the United States of plotting his downfall through support to rebel forces who fought to unseat him in Liberia, and his subsequent trial at the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

Also in his cross-examination today, the prosecution accused Mr. Taylor of misusing his phone services in his Hague cell to influence prospective defense witnesses to tell lies in his favor. Mr. Taylor denied Ms. Hollis' suggestion that he has been calling prospective defense witnesses in Sierra Leone and Liberia, telling them to "testify in a certain way" or promising to give them money if they travelled to The Hague and told lies in his favor. Mr. Taylor has been "misusing the privileged access lines," Ms. Hollis suggested. Mr. Taylor denied these claims.

"I have never misused the privileged access lines. To the best of my knowledge, I have never been advised that I cannot use the privileged access lines to talk to prospective witnesses," he said.

Mr. Taylor dismissed as "nonsense" Ms. Hollis' suggestions that when he (Taylor) resigned as president of Liberia and sought asylum in Nigeria, West African leaders had to accompany him to Nigeria because they wanted to make sure that he got to where he was supposed to go.

"Maybe that is your assessment. Your assertion that I would have escaped to another country is totally nonsense," he said.

Mr. Taylor agreed with Ms. Hollis that while in Nigeria, the host government imposed certain conditions on his asylum status - but such restrictions, he said, were not established specifically for him. He said that the restrictions were part of Nigerian law for anybody obtaining asylum in the country. The restrictions, as stated by Ms. Hollis, in-

cluded restrictions on Mr. Taylor's involvement in military and political activities in Liberia; not travelling out of Calabar, Nigeria, without authorization; and not talking to the press without informing the Nigerian authorities. Mr. Taylor responded that while in Nigeria, he had several press interviews and he was able to travel to visit several individuals, including then Nigeria president, Olusegun Obasanjo.

Mr. Taylor dismissed the notion that President Obasanjo imposed these restrictions on him because of evidence that while as president of Liberia, he had meddled in the politics of other countries and there were concerns that he would do the same thing with Liberian politics while in Nigeria.

"To suggest that Obasanjo will put these restrictions because I was meddling in other states is total nonsense," he said.

The former president dismissed as "misleading" prosecution suggestions that West African leaders invited him for peace talks in Ghana in 2003 and then forced him to resign as president of Liberia. Mr. Taylor told the lead prosecutor that her team needs to do their work well.

"If they do their work and stop misleading this court, that will be good," Mr. Taylor said. "I can tell you 100 percent that I volunteered to resign."

Mr. Taylor is responding to charges that he was involved in a joint criminal enterprise with Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels in Sierra Leone. Mr. Taylor has denied allegations that he supplied arms and ammunition to the rebels in return for Sierra Leone's blood diamonds and that he helped them plan certain operations during which atrocities such as rape, murder and amputation of civilian arms were committed. From July 14 to November 10, 2009, Mr. Taylor testified in direct-examination as a witness in his own defense. He is currently being cross-examined by the prosecution.

## Concord Times

Wednesday, 18 November 2009

### Local News

Charles Taylor's cross examination resumed on Monday and one issue prosecution questioned was the accusations he made against the government of Sierra Leone and to which he later agreed had no factual basis.

BBC World Service Trust's John Kollie sent this transcript from The Hague... Senior prosecuting Attorney, Brenda Hollis asked Mr. Taylor to say how many times he's made such accusations. Miss Hollis

# Taylor's baseless accusations

also questioned Mr. Taylor on the misuse of the telephone lines to communicate with his lawyers. Mr. Taylor also faced questions about the killing of six Senegalese soldiers in Vahun, Lofa County. Charles Taylor agreed that his National security Advisor provided him security intelligence without any factual basis upon which he made these accusations.

But he said it was normal that in times of conflict and propaganda, governments make these accusations to draw at-

tention to their fears. He said Former President Tejan Kabbah had himself made similar baseless accusations.

Miss Hollis also asked Mr. Taylor on communicating with potential witnesses. She put it to the Former Liberian president that he had misused telephone facility set aside for Mr. Taylor to only communicate with his lawyers.

One example she said, when Mr. Taylor claimed to be talking to Cllr Lavella Supuwood in Monrovia; there was a

call from another Supuwood. On the killing of six Senegalese soldiers in Vahun, Lofa County, Liberia, Miss Hollis read an ECOWAS Dakar conference communiqué, pointing out what the conferees called the NPFL uncooperative attitude in the peace process, and asked all governments in the region not to do business with the rebel group and its National Patriotic Reconstruction Assembly Government. Charles Taylor's cross examination continues.



*Charles Taylor ... being tried for his role in Sierra Leone's war*

## CharlesTaylorTrial.org (The Hague)

Tuesday, 17 November 2009

### **Liberia: Prosecution Reads Statements By The International Community Condemning The Actions Of Charles Taylor's Rebel Group In Liberia**

Alpha Sesay

Prosecutors spent much of today's cross-examination of former Liberian president, Charles Taylor, reading out statements by other West African leaders condemning Mr. Taylor's Liberian rebel group for crimes committed against Liberians and members of international humanitarian agencies, including American Catholic nuns and peacekeepers during his country's civil war.

In a 1992 statement read by lead prosecutor, Brenda Hollis, Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) leaders condemned Mr. Taylor's rebel group (the National Patriotic Front of Liberia – NPFL) for their actions against West African peacekeepers serving in Liberia under the banner ECOWAS Monitoring Group (ECOMOG). The ECOWAS leaders had "warned all warring factions against the commission of war crimes" in Liberia. The statement alluded to the killing of civilians, peacekeepers and American Catholic nuns during "Operation Octopus," an operation launched by Mr. Taylor's NPFL on the Liberian capital Monrovia in October 1992.

Mr. Taylor, in his response explained the circumstances surrounding the death of the nuns.

"That issue remains contested. They were killed in the area controlled by Senegalese forces. It remains contested. The United States raised that issue, we investigated it and it was determined that they were not killed deliberately by the NPFL but they were killed by crossfire," Mr. Taylor explained.

"If you have a document showing that they were deliberately killed by NPFL, then you can bring it here," the former Liberian president challenged the prosecution counsel.

"We will bring it later," prosecutor counsel Ms. Hollis responded.

Ms. Hollis also read portions of the 1993 Cotonou Peace Agreement that was signed between the Interim Government of National Unity of Liberia (IGNU), the NPFL and the United Liberation Movement of Liberia for Democracy (ULIMO). Among many other things agreed to in the Cotonou Agreement, the various parties declared a ceasefire, agreeing to stop all hostilities and to disarm all fighters in Liberia. Ms. Hollis pointed out that fighters were not disarmed as agreed in Cotonou and immediately after the signing of the agreement, Mr. Taylor's NPFL started attacking Liberian towns and peacekeepers. In his response, Mr. Taylor said that other parties were responsible for the ceasefire violation.

"There were fightings but various parties were responsible," he said. Mr. Taylor explained that the peacekeepers were taking sides in the conflict, and therefore their neutrality was brought into question.

Mr. Taylor also denied allegations that in 1994, his NPFL rebels held Tanzanian peacekeepers hostage, taking away their arms and ammunition, but admitted that radio communication sets were taken from the Tanzanians.

"I do not recall the NPFL arresting Tanzanian peacekeepers and taking away their ammunition. NPFL soldiers took radio sets from the Tanzanians but we took care of that by punishing those who were responsible," he said.

Ms. Hollis also read portions of the August 1995 Abuja Agreement signed by the various parties to the Liberian conflict which established executive authority in Liberia in the hands of a "six-member Council of State" headed by Wilton Sankawolo. The agreement also established a time-table for certain actions to be taken including the deployment of ECOMOG peacekeepers and the disarmament of all fighters. Mr. Taylor agreed with Ms. Hollis on the contents of the agreement. Mr. Taylor also agreed that in May 1996, ECOWAS Ministers of Foreign Affairs met and issued a communique in which they raised concerns about fighting in Monrovia and other parts of Liberia.

In response to a question about massive looting allegedly carried out by his NPFL rebels during fighting in Monrovia on April 6, 1996, Mr. Taylor told the judges today that civilians were mainly responsible for pillaging in the country's capital.

"The lootings as far as I am concerned that happened in Monrovia were done by civilians, in fact most of the lootings were carried out by the large population that moved to Monrovia. So all of the factions including the NPFL didn't loot but in fact most of the lootings were carried out by civilians," he said.

Though Mr. Taylor is being tried for crimes committed by Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels in Sierra Leone, the prosecution, during the presentation of their own case submitted evidence of atrocities committed by Mr. Taylor's forces in Liberia in order to show evidence of a consistent pattern in the actions of the RUF in Sierra Leone and Mr. Taylor's NPFL in Liberia. Today's cross-examination focused on the NPFL's activities in Liberia.

The prosecution alleges that Mr. Taylor was in a joint criminal enterprise with RUF rebels in Sierra Leone. Mr. Taylor has denied claims that he was in a position of superior authority to RUF rebels and so he knew or had reason to know that the rebels were committing atrocities in Sierra Leone but that he failed to prevent the commission of those crimes or failed to punish the rebel forces when he knew that the crimes had been committed. Mr. Taylor is testifying as a witness in his own defense. He is presently being cross-examined by the prosecution.

Mr. Taylor's cross-examination continues tomorrow.

## UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 17 November 2009

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

### **International Clips on Liberia**

#### **Liberian president urges peaceful by-election**

APA-Monrovia (Liberia) Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, who is apparently taken aback by the low turn-out of voters in the first round of the senatorial by-election, has urged registered voters who did not vote in the first round to go to the polls on Tuesday 24 November to cast their ballots, APA learns here. According to the National Elections Commission, a paltry 20.2 percent of the electorate voted in the first round of the Montserrado County by-election to elect a replacement for Senator Hannah Brent who passed away in August this year. Montserrado County hosts Monrovia the capital city.

"The election offers an opportunity for all to elect the person who will best represent them," President Johnson Sirleaf told reporters late Monday. She commended the electorate, candidates and political parties for "exercising a great level of political maturity" during the first round of the by-election on 10 November. Sirleaf cautioned partisans of the ruling Unity Party and former soccer star George Weah's Congress for Democratic Change whose candidates have been qualified to participate in the run-off, to show the same level of political maturity as during the first round of the by-election. "In elections, candidates may have some differences but those differences can be resolved through dialogue and peaceful negotiations," the Liberian leader noted.

#### **Rebels and Government Exchanged Information With The CIA, Taylor Says; Denied**

Nov 17, 2009 (CharlesTaylorTrial.org/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- After his cross-examination got off to a stumble last week over the use of "new evidence," Charles Taylor today admitted to prosecutors that he shared information with the spy agency of the same country he has accused of plotting his downfall: the United States. Mr. Taylor also dismissed as "nonsense" prosecution allegations that he has been misusing his phone privileges while in jail to try to influence testimony of his defense witnesses. When court resumed this morning, the prosecution's lead counsel Ms. Brenda Hollis indicated her team's willingness to go ahead with Mr. Taylor's cross-examination, having had more time to "rearrange strategies" after the court refused to allow the use of "new evidence" which had not been part of the prosecution's case and was not raised in Mr. Taylor's direct-examination. As the cross-examination proceeded, Mr. Taylor denied suggestions that he was an agent of the United States' Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). He admitted, however, that his rebel group, the National Patriotic Front of **Liberia** (NPFL), exchanged information with the CIA - a collaboration and exchange that continued into his presidency.

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

#### **Guinea**

#### **S.Africa probes Guinea junta training reports: official**

PRETORIA, Nov 17, 2009 (AFP) - South Africa's foreign ministry on Tuesday said it is investigating reports that local mercenaries are training pro-junta recruits in Guinea. "There have been both true and false leads about this story so we are very carefully checking on the veracity of it," foreign affairs director general Ayanda Ntsaluba told a media briefing. Witnesses in Guinea told AFP on Monday that South African and Israeli army instructors, hired by the ruling junta, are training recruits in a camp in Forecariah, 100 kilometres (60 miles) south of the capital Conakry. Speaking two weeks after four South African mercenaries were pardoned in Equatorial Guinea for a failed coup bid, Ntsaluba said "nefarious activities" could harm the country's international ties. "We do not want

to see our citizens involved in nefarious activities abroad. These could undermine our foreign policy," he said. The new soldiers recruited by the junta, which seized power in Guinea on December 23 last year, are being trained in a camp formerly used to house Sierra Leone refugees outside Forecariah.

## **Yar'Adua, Compaore Discuss Guinean Crisis**

Nov 17, 2009 (Vanguard/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- PRESIDENT Umaru Yar'Adua Monday met with the President of Burkina Faso, Mr. Blaise Compaore, at the Presidential Villa, Abuja. At a joint briefing at the end of the meeting, Yar'Adua said it centred on the situation in Guinea-Conakry and was "very fruitful." Yar'Adua said Compaore, who is the ECOWAS mediator and facilitator for the crisis in Guinea, "came for a consultation meeting regarding the situation in Guinea. "And, in the course of that meeting, he has come to consult with me as chairman of ECOWAS and we have had very fruitful discussions. "He outlined his plans and I am confident that what he is doing will achieve our desired objectives, by the grace of God," he said. President Compaore added that he held consultative meetings with all the stakeholders in the crisis and had come to brief Yar'Adua.

## **Cote d'Ivoire**

### **Ivory Coast army patrols stepped up in Abidjan**

**ABIDJAN**, Nov 17 (Reuters) - **Ivory Coast's** army deployed troops onto the streets of Abidjan on Tuesday in what it said was a step intended to discourage any attempt to undermine security in the world's top cocoa grower. A Reuters witness said troops were present at strategic points of the port city, including main road junctions and outside the building of the state broadcaster. "This is a dissuasive patrol," said a senior army officer who requested anonymity. "We are keeping our forces on alert, that's all." Authorities are due to announce shortly a new date for a long-delayed presidential election. The latest target date for the poll was Nov. 29 but officials acknowledged this month that preparations had slipped and a postponement was inevitable. The eligibility of around one million voters has still not been clarified, a simmering dispute which harks back to the divisive issue of nationality which was at the root of the West African country's 2002-2003 civil war and subsequent crisis.

## **Sierra Leone**

### **OIC boss to attend Sierra Leone investment, donors conference**

APA-Dakar (Senegal) The secretary general of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC), Professor Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, will lead an OIC delegation to the Sierra Leone International Investment and Donors Conference to take place on 18-19 November in London, England. According to a statement copied to APA on Tuesday, the conference will open with a special session of the OIC member states and their donor organizations.

This session will be jointly hosted by the UK Department for International Development (DFID) and the OIC to strengthen cooperation between the OIC donors and Sierra Leone, and enhance understanding of the challenges faced by this West African country.

The conference, which is being held in partnership with the OIC and its member states, will provide the platform for the Sierra Leonean government to present its new "Agenda for Change" : Poverty Reduction Strategy II and identify major challenges, funding requirements and its priority areas and donor interventions associated with its three year implementation period.

## **Local Media – Newspaper**

### **President Sirleaf Urges Maturity in Senatorial Run-off**

(The News, The Inquirer, The Analyst, Daily Observer, Heritage, The Informer)

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has called on parties in the Montserrado Senatorial run-off election to show the same level of maturity exhibited during the first round.
- In a statement issued Monday, the Liberian leader said maturity and respect for each other was critical to the democratic process.
- President Sirleaf said it does not matter who wins but the preservation of the country's future was important.
- The President hoped the National Elections Commission has learned a lesson from the first round and would get its house in order for the run-off.
- She acknowledged it was the first time the National Elections Commission had organized such an election in a big county thus making it a challenge.

### **Angel Tokpa Murder Case Suffers Setback**

(New Democrat, The Informer, Daily Observer)

- A defense motion has stalled the start of the Angel Tokpah murder case in Criminal Court B.
- Following a heated argument Monday between state and defense lawyers, Judge Blamo Dixon suspended the trial until the motion is dealt with.
- Keen followers of the trial, including a group of girls who picketed before the court yesterday to protest the delay in the case, expressed disappointment over the suspension.
- Angel was found dead in November 2007, hanging from a rope in the bathroom of her guardians.
- Despite claims by her guardians, Hans Williams and Mardea Paykue that she hanged herself, reports suggested the accused created the bathroom scene to hide the truth. The two are accused in connection with the murder.

### **Run-Off Showdown-Intense Political Lobbying, "Money to Change Hands"**

(New Democrat, The Parrot, The Inquirer, The Analyst)

- The two runner-ups for the Montserrado County Senatorial by election are said to be wooing defeated candidates with reports that money or jobs could change hands as precondition for support.
- Losers in campaigns often benefit materially as was the case in 2005 when several defeated candidates lined-up behind candidates they thought would win.
- Those who backed the Unity Party ended with Ministerial and other jobs and many have formally joined the President's party.
- Meanwhile, reports say supporters of some political parties and independent candidates that participated in the first round of the Montserrado Senatorial by-election have endorsed the candidacy of UP's candidate, Clemenceau Urey for the run-off.
- The Coalition of Support Groups said they were rallying behind Mr. Urey as he was the best candidate for now.

### **Opposition CDC Wary Ahead of By-Election Run-Off, Accuses Unity Party of Plans to Buy Vote**

(The News, Heritage, Daily Observer)

- The opposition Congress for Democratic Change(CDC) says it has uncovered a ploy by the ruling Unity Party(UP) to engage in the mass purchase of voters registration cards ahead of the Montserrado County by-election slated for November 24.
- Addressing a news conference in Monrovia, the Chairman for the Geraldine Doe-Sheriff for the Senate Committee said the UP has allocated at least US\$150,000 for the purpose.
- Representative Rufus Neufville vowed that the CDC would take "drastic action" against anyone involved in buying voters cards and other electoral fraud during the pending run-off.
- However, the Secretary General of the Unity Party, Henry Fahnbulleh has rubbished the allegation saying the CDC's suspicion was tantamount to scare tactics.

### **UN Envoy tells Liberians to Take Ownership of Peace Process and Ensure its Sustainability**

(Heritage, The Analyst)

- Speaking during a two-day visit to Nimba County, the Special Representative of the Secretary General to Liberia, Ellen Margrethe Løj emphasized the need for Liberians to own and sustain the peace and development process in the country as the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) scales down its operations.
- During the visit, SRSG Løj opened the groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of a new prison in Sanniquellie.
- The UN Peace building Fund is financing the construction and equipping of the 72-bed facility as well as the training of additional corrections officers as part of an emergency corrections project valued over US\$1 million.
- The SRSG also dedicated the newly renovated Eighth Judicial Circuit Court in Sanniquellie, funded by UNMIL's Quick Impact Projects programme with support from the UNDP.
- In the commercial city of Ganta, the head of UNMIL also presented books and sporting kits donated by the Bangladeshi peacekeepers to the JW Pearson Extension School.
- UN Envoy Løj also toured the World Bank/UNIFEM-sponsored cassava processing plant run by the 500-strong Ganta Concerned Women's Group and the UNICEF-funded Learning Across Borders for Living Across Boundaries school project in Ganta.

### **National Security Ministry Employees Threaten "Go Slow Action"**

(The Analyst)

- Aggrieved employees at the Ministry of National Security have threatened a go-slow action if calls for an audit the ministry are not given prompt attention.
- The employees say their call stemmed from financial malpractices by top officials of the Ministry.
- But National Security Minister, Victor Helb has debunked the reports saying the allegations were concocted by people he accused of wanting to receive salaries with out working.

### **DHL Delegation Impressed with Government**

(The Analyst, The Informer, Daily Observer, Heritage)

- A high-level DHL delegation visiting the country has expressed confidence in Government for the creation of an environment for investment opportunities.
- The delegation headed by DHL Vice President for Sub-Saharan African, Phillippe Couchman is in the country to hold discussions with relevant stakeholders on how to assist post-war Liberia and expand its investments in the country.
- During a meeting with Vice President Joseph Boakai he commended the entity for investing and staying in the country even in the difficult days of the civil conflict.

### **Grenade Explosion in Lofa County Kills One, Injures Two**

(The Inquirer)

- Report from Lofa County says a grenade explosion has killed one person and seriously wounded two others in John Town, Voinjama District.
- Correspondents say four-year old Mulbah Bekay was killed Monday while playing with the grenade abandoned in the area during the war years.
- Correspondents say one of the wounded, twenty-five year old Korpo Bekay sustained injuries in the stomach and other parts of her body.
- Our correspondent says two buildings and some plastic containers were also destroyed in the explosion. John Town is about twenty-five kilometres away from Voinjama.

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

### **President Sirleaf Urges Maturity in Senatorial Run-off**

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

### **Grenade Explosion in Lofa County kills One, Injures Two**

### **Angel Tokpa Murder Case Suffers Setback**

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

### **Chinese Company Still Struggling with Monrovia Streets**

- The Programme Director of the Infrastructures and Implementation Unit at the Public Works Ministry, Akindele Beckley says CICO is yet to cover a significant portion of the streets of Monrovia.
- CICO is the Chinese Road Construction Company contracted by government to rehabilitate over forty kilometres of road in Monrovia.
- Mr. Beckley said CICO was at the verge of starting the first three kilometres of road within the Central Monrovia area but said the inability of the company to hasten the pace of the work was due to the damaged drainage system it is simultaneously rehabilitating.

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

### **Immigration Bureau Dismisses Two Officers for Harassment**

- Authorities of the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization have with immediate effect dismissed two officers of the bureau for harassing aliens.
- The Director for Press and Public Affairs of the BIN, Bill Smith named the dismissed officers as Captain Richard Nyanti and Officer Emmanuel Paye.
- Mr. Smith said the officers were in the constant habit of inspecting alien documents without authorization a practice which runs contrary to the Bureau's standard operation procedure.
- One of the dismissed officers, Captain Richard Nyanti has denied the claim that they were in the constant habit of harassing aliens in the country describing their dismissal as illegal and based on malice.
- Meanwhile, BIN authorities have suspended two other officers, Majors Titus Kebbie and Alfred Yormie for three months for violating the standard operation procedures.

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

#### **Liberia Labour Congress opens Constitutional Review and Leadership Seminar in Monrovia**

- The Liberia Labour Congress Monday opened a two-day constitution review and leadership training for Executive Board members.
- In an interview, the National Programme Director for Social Dialogue at the International Labour Organization (ILO), Patrick Andersdon said the reforms undertaken by the labour congress are in the interest of peace and nation building.
- Mr. Anderson said the improvement of workers livelihood was a paramount component in the maintenance of the growing democracy the country now enjoys.

### **Truth F.M.** *(News monitored today at 10:00 am)*

#### **Senator Nelson Cautions political Leaders to Refrain from Inciting Electorates**

- Grand Kru Senator Blamo Nelson has cautioned political leaders in the country to refrain from making inciting comments ahead of the November 24 Montserrado County by-election run-off.
- Senator Nelson's caution is in an apparent reaction to media reports that the Congress of Democratic Change Standard Bearer, George Weah had threatened that something would happen if there were flaws in the by-election.
- Mr. Weah has come under incessant criticisms since they media reported the alleged threat by the CDC Standard Bearer.

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## Reuters

Wednesday, 18 November 2009

### **UN court acquits priest of genocide in Rwanda**

DAR ES SALAAM (Reuters) - A priest accused of genocide and crimes against humanity during the 1994 Rwandan genocide has been acquitted, the second release in as many days, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda said on Tuesday.

The U.N. court ordered the immediate release of Father Hormisdas Nsengimana, who was a priest at a Catholic secondary school during the three months of slaughter of some 800,000 Tutsi and moderate Hutus in 1994.

The court said it could not conclude that Nsengimana, 55, was guilty of any of the crimes, which included killing Tutsi priests, a judge and other Tutsi victims.

"The Chamber did not find a sufficient factual and legal basis for concluding that Nsengimana was guilty of any of the crimes," the tribunal said.

The prosecution said Nsengimana was at the centre of a group of Hutu extremists that planned and carried out targeted attacks and participated directly in killings.

Nsengimana has been in prison since his arrest in Cameroon in 2002. He is the second indicted person to be released by the ICTR, based in Arusha in northern Tanzania, in as many days.

On Monday an appeals chamber acquitted Protais Zigiranyirazo, known as "Mr. Z", of genocide and extermination after he was previously sentenced to 20 years.

Judges reversed the conviction citing several serious factual and legal errors.

ICTR spokesman Roland Amoussouga told Reuters the acquittals were not a disappointment for the court.

"It's not a sign of a problem," he said by telephone. "This is to show you that the justice system is not one way -- it can go both ways.

He said that so far 39 people have been convicted of 47 cases.

"It's an incredible record of efficiency on the part of the prosecution. This is the first stage of the process, now we have to see whether the prosecution will appeal today's judgment," he said.

Reuters

Tuesday, 17 November 2009

## US demands Kenya deliver Rwanda genocide suspect

By International Justice Desk



*Nairobi, Kenya*

The United States wants Kenya to hand over a Rwanda genocide suspect it believes the east African nation has been harbouring for

years, President Barack Obama's war crimes envoy said on Monday.

Stephen Rapp, US ambassador-at-large for war crimes issues, said the fact Kenya had not delivered the suspect to the Rwanda war crimes tribunal was part and parcel of the impunity prevalent in east Africa's biggest economy.

The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) said last year Kenya was failing to act against Felicien Kabuga -- despite evidence of his entry into the country, application for residency, visa approval and opening of a bank account.

Kabuga is Rwanda's most-wanted man and the US has put a \$5 million bounty on his head.

A Hutu businessman, Kabuga is accused of funding the militias that butchered some 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus over a span of 100 days in 1994.

"I've seen pictures of him in Kenyan neighbourhoods, the ICTR has continued to press with Kenyan authorities for effective action to bring about his arrest. Even arriving last night, I received fresh information of his presence in Kenya," Rapp told a news conference in Kenya's capital.

### **Frozen assets**

Kenya froze Kabuga's assets in May this year, but has questioned whether the genocide suspect is still in Kenya.

Rapp said the latest government response was that Kabuga had now left Kenya, but it was still looking for evidence to confirm his departure.

"If you are still looking for the evidence, you can't honestly say that he's left. You can't have it both ways. So I think we have to presume that this man is still here," he said.

"They need to cooperate genuinely, and deliver Kabuga. Send him down the road to Arusha," Rapp said, referring to the location of the tribunal.

Experts say that Kabuga had extensive business dealings with powerful individuals in the government of former President Daniel arap Moi and security sources believe he has been paying for protection in Kenya.

### **Critical time**

Rapp also said Washington had hoped Kenya would be able to prosecute the perpetrators of last year's post-election violence, but it looked increasingly likely the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague would now pursue several cases.

ICC chief prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo said earlier this month he would request an investigation after Kenyan leaders refused to refer the cases to The Hague court.

Ethnic clashes after a disputed presidential election killed at least 1,300 people and uprooted more than 300,000, shattering Kenya's image as a stable, regional economic powerhouse.

Kenya had promised to deal with the masterminds. But numerous attempts to kick-start the process have floundered and many Kenyans are sceptical powerful individuals will be arrested and charged because of widespread impunity among politicians.

There are fears that unless those most responsible for the bloodshed are brought to book, there will be a repeat at the next presidential election in 2012.

Rapp said it was crucial that Kenya act on Kabuga, especially given the risk of more ethnic violence here.

"Obviously cooperation on that case is important, but it's all part and parcel of the same thing," he said.

"It is critical that a man who was involved in inciting ethnic hatred [...] isn't given refuge, and continued refuge in Kenya, at this critical time."

## The Jurist

Tuesday, 17 November 2009

### **International prosecutors call for convention on crimes against humanity**

Hillary Stemple

Prosecutors from the five major international tribunals on Monday called on member states [press release] "to seriously consider the adoption of a convention on the Suppression and Punishment of Crimes against Humanity." The statement came at the end of a three-day convention and reiterated the need to fight against impunity for perpetrators of serious international crimes. Representatives from the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), the International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia (ICTY), the Special Court of Sierra Leone (SCSL), the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC), the International Criminal Court (ICC), and the Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL) [official websites] attended the colloquium, which was held in Rwanda and hosted by the ICTR.

The statement, which was unanimously adopted by the participants, also called on states to ensure their legal systems can effectively prosecute international crimes, to provide full cooperation to the all international criminal tribunals, and to become a party to the Rome Statute [text, PDF] of the ICC, if they have not already done so. Speaking at the closing ICTR President Judge Dennis Byron [official profile] spoke of the need for the tribunals to share their experiences and knowledge.

The ICC was established in 2002 in order to create a permanent international criminal court for the prosecution of "the perpetrators of the most serious crimes of concern to the international community." It is governed by the Rome Statute, which has been ratified [ICC Now website] by 110 of the 192 UN member states and signed by 139 member states. The US originally signed the treaty, but then-president George W. Bush "unsigned" it by informing the UN that the US did not intend to ratify it. Recent media reports have suggested that the Obama administration may be considering joining the ICC, but advocacy groups have urged the White House not to re-sign the Rome Treaty. Other scholars have said that the time has come for the US to support the ICC. Other states that have refused to ratify the treaty include China, India, and Russia.