

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



Photo: Peter C. Andersen

A helicopter view of the Special Court.

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, 23 February 2010

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
Martin Royston-Wright
Ext 7217

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Concord Times
Tuesday, 23 February 2010

Local News

'I am no criminal'

...Charles Taylor declares

Liberian president, Charles Taylor has ended his re-direct examination declaring that he's not a criminal, and that the prosecution has failed to prove its case.

He dismissed prosecution claims that he extorted millions of dollars from every company including the Firestone Rubber Plantation that operated in Liberia during his presidency. Mr. Taylor also denied that his government tortured journalists and human rights activists in Liberia.

Taylor has ended his nearly seven months of evidence on the witness stand in his own defence.

He started his production of evidence in his own defence on July 14, 2009.

He's indicted on eleven count charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity which include the recruitment of child soldiers and sexual slavery. Mr. Taylor concluded his re-direct examination Thursday by telling the court that he's not a criminal as the prosecution alleged in its indictment.

The prosecution had alleged in its cross-examination that the former Liberian leader

enriched himself with millions of dollars from several companies and corporations that operated in Liberia.

The prosecution had claimed that Taylor extorted money from the Firestone Rubber Plantation, the Oriental Timber Company, the Maryland Wood Processing Company among others.

During his re-direct examination, Taylor denied the prosecution allegations and said he performed in accordance with his duty as president of Liberia. He also dismissed the prosecu-



tion claim that he rained terror on journalists and human rights activists who were critical of his government. The prosecution had named Counsellor Tiawon Gongloe, Kofi Woods, Aloysius Toe and Hassan Bility as human rights activists and journalist

who experienced Taylor's reign of terror.

But the accused said he was not aware of his government torturing any one. However, he told the court that those named by the prosecution as human rights activists were opposition in disguise.

At the end of Taylor's

re-direct examination, the prosecution applied for re-cross or to ask him questions again, but the judges turned down the request. According to lead defence lawyer, Courtenay Griffiths, the defence first witness after Taylor took the stand on Monday.

Labour Congress, SLTU may face Parliament

By Regina Pratt

Member of Parliament representing Kono district has called on the house to thoroughly in-

Congress, accusing both institutions of "using the closed shop system instead of the open shop system".

ing the sum of Le8,000 from teachers' monthly salaries," he informed the house, adding, "What is the union doing with

Cotton Tree News
Monday, 22 February 2010

Special Court gets new Persecutor and Registrar.

Written by Francis Sowa



The Secretary-General of the United Nations has named Binta Mansaray of Sierra Leone as Registrar of the Special Court. Mrs. Mansaray, who was appointed Deputy Registrar in July 2007, has served as Acting Registrar since June 2009.

Binta Mansaray joined the Special Court for Sierra Leone in 2003 as Outreach Coordinator, where she

designed the Court's acclaimed grassroots programme to keep the people of Sierra Leone, and later Liberia, informed about the Court and the trials. Prior to joining the Court, she was a human rights advocate for victims and excombatants with a number of organizations.

During her time as Acting Registrar, Mrs. Mansaray has overseen the end of trials in Freetown and the transfer of convicted persons to serve their sentences, as well as the downsizing of the Court and consideration of residual issues.

The Secretary-General of the United Nations has also named Brenda Joyce Hollis of the United States as Prosecutor of the Special Court. Since 2007, Mrs. Hollis has been a Principal Trial Attorney in the Office of the Prosecutor, where she is responsible for leading the legal team prosecuting former Liberian President Charles Taylor.

Brenda Hollis paid tribute to Deputy Prosecutor Joseph Kamara, who has served as Acting Prosecutor since the departure of Stephen Rapp last September.

NEWS ITEM

Feb. 22, 2010

A Former Gambian Dissident now Liberian Citizen has taken the witness stand in The Hague in defence of Former Liberian President, Charles Taylor. Mr. Yanks Smythe a Foreign Service Officer in Liberia denied Prosecution allegation that Charles Taylor had a plan to destabilize the West African Sub-region. John Kollie transcribes reports for the BBC World Service Trust from The Hague...

Mr. Smythe said he was part of a Gambian Dissident group trained at the Libyan Military Camp called Tajura. He told the court his Gambian group headed by Kukua Sanbasanja commonly known as Dr. Mani trained along with some Liberians led by Charles Taylor and Sierra Leoneans headed by one Ali Kabbah.

Mr. Smythe said the three leaders resided at the Mataba Guest House provided by the Libyan Government for revolutionary leaders. He dismissed Prosecution claim that Former Gambian Dissident Leader, Dr. Mani, Former RUF Leader, Foday Sankoh and Charles Taylor formulated a common plan to destabilize their respective country.

The Defence Witness denied that Charles Taylor and Foday Sankoh met in Libya. Former Prosecutor of the Special Court had said the three men met in Libya after the training of their rebel groups and designed a plan to destabilize their countries. Mr. Stephen Rapp had said the destabilizing forces started with Liberia, and later travelled to Sierra Leone.

But Mr. Smythe told the court the three men never planned to collaborate in the invasion of Liberia, Sierra Leone and the Gambia. Defence Lawyer, Morris Anyah questioned the witness on the alleged destabilization plan of the three rebel leaders.

The Prosecution alleged last year that the Gambians led by Dr. Mani joined Charles Taylor forces to carry out their common plan to destabilize Liberia, Sierra Leone and the Gambia. But Mr. Smythe said no Gambian was involved in the invasion of Liberia. Mr. Smythe's testimonies continue on Tuesday.

United Nations  Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

**UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary
22 February 2010**

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

International Clips on Liberia

Tony Blair arrives in Liberia to Launch Africa Governance Initiative with President Johnson-Sirleaf

Source: [Newstime Africa](#). 22 February 2010

Former British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, today (Monday 22nd February 2010) started a two-day visit to Liberia in order to launch a new project between his Africa Governance Initiative and President Johnson-Sirleaf's administration. The project which follows a request from President Johnson-Sirleaf will focus on the Ministry of State and will see a small team from the Initiative, under Mr Blair's guidance, working side-by-side with counterparts in the Liberian government with the aim to build the capacity at the centre of the Liberian administration to deliver for its people. Mr Blair shares President Johnson-Sirleaf's ambition to "Lift Liberia" and transform the country as envisioned in the national Poverty Reduction Strategy. During the visit, his first to Liberia, Tony Blair will take a part in a series of one-on-one meetings with the President. He will express his strong admiration for the President's leadership and the progress being made. Tony Blair said: "President Johnson-Sirleaf is rightly regarded as one of Africa's greatest leaders – that is why I am so pleased to be working with her."

**International Clips on West Africa
Guinea**

**Guinea leader Jean-Marie Dore pleads for election funds
BBC**

Guinea urgently needs funds to be ready for an election due later this year, the prime minister has told the BBC. "We need to have money... [but] we will try to do our best to be ready," said Jean-Marie Dore. Election officials announced on Sunday that a vote would be held on 27 June - part of a deal brokered to secure a return to civilian rule. The military took over the country in December 2008, following the death of long-time leader Lansana Conte. Junta leader Capt Moussa Dadis Camara was shot and wounded in December, prompting crisis talks during which the military agreed to organise an election within six months. But Mr Dore told the BBC's Network Africa that the country had no funds for election materials or to conduct a census of Guineans living abroad. He said the government was working with international organisations such as the European Union, United Nations and regional body Ecowas.

"We are looking forward together the best way to organise fair elections," he said.

Sierra Leone

**Sierra Leone: veteran war crimes lawyer tapped as top prosecutor
UN-backed court**

22 February 2010 – A United States attorney, who leads the prosecution against former Liberian president Charles Taylor, has been named by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon as the new Prosecutor of the United Nations-backed tribunal trying the worst acts committed during the decade-long brutal civil war in Sierra Leone. Since 2007, Brenda Joyce Hollis has served as a principal trial attorney in the Office of the Prosecutor in the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL), where she heads up the legal team prosecuting Mr. Taylor, who is under indictment for war crimes and crimes against humanity. Prior to that, she was an expert legal consultant on international law and criminal procedure, training judges, prosecutors and investigators at courts and international tribunals in Indonesia, Iraq and Cambodia. Ms. Hollis has helped victims of international crimes in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Colombia prepare submissions requesting investigations by the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague.

Ivory Coast

Regional Mediator Holds Crisis Talks in Ivory Coast

VOA | Dakar 22 February 2010

Burkinabe President Blaise Compaore is in Ivory Coast for talks with government and opposition leaders about ways to resolve the country's political crisis. President Laurent Gbagbo dissolved the government and electoral commission weeks before expected presidential elections. President Compaore is in Abidjan trying to resolve what he says is the crucial issue of delaying the presidential vote - the dissolution of the Ivory Coast electoral commission. President Compaore says the appointment of an Independent Electoral Commission is essential to keep the process going forward. President Compaore met Sunday with the two leading opposition candidates for president, former president Henri Konan Bedie and former Prime Minister Alassane Ouattara. Burkinabe Foreign Minister Alain Yoda read their joint communiqué.

Local Media – Newspaper

Former British Prime Minister is in the Country for a Two-Day Visit

(Daily Observer, The Inquirer, Public Agenda and New Republic)

- Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair is in the country on a two-day visit.
- While in Liberia, Mr. Blair will hold bilateral talks with President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Vice President Joseph Boakai, Speaker Alex Tyler and the presiding officer of the Senate.
- According to a Foreign Ministry release, Mr. Blair will use his visit to launch a new project between his Africa Governance Initiative and the Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's administration.
- The former British Prime Minister will also hold talks with the Ministers of Public Works, Agriculture, Planning and Economic Affairs among others.

Liberia, Ghana Deepens Cooperation

(Daily Observer, The News, New Republic and Liberian Express)

- Liberia and Ghana have called for the deepening of cooperation between the two countries in the areas of trade, industry, investment, agriculture and the security sector. The decision followed discussions in Accra Saturday between Presidents Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and John Evans Atta Mills, during a two-day State Visit to Ghana.
- A Joint Communiqué issued at the end of the visit said the countries will reactivate the Permanent Joint Commission for Cooperation.
- According to an Executive Mansion release, the two Presidents welcomed the holding of the Ghana-Liberia Trade and Investment Forum, and urged business communities in both countries to promote meaningful investment and private sector participation in the region's economic development.
- The two leaders acknowledged the need to entrench the culture of democracy, good governance, the rule of law and the respect for human rights.

UN Envoy Lauds Ghana's Move to Place Female Troops in Forward Positions

(Public Agenda and The Analyst)

- The Special Representative of the Secretary-General to Liberia, Ellen Margrethe Løj, has praised the Republic of Ghana for deploying in the country the first group of female soldiers to forward positions in peacekeeping.
- SRSG Løj described the move as a milestone in the history of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) and that of the UN peacekeeping operations worldwide.
- Speaking when she awarded peacekeeping medals to Ghanaian soldiers serving in UNMIL, Ms. Løj praised the courage and resolve of the 54 women in the 700-strong contingent.
- She expressed gratitude government of Ghana for the close collaboration it had extended to UNMIL and for availing the best of its military to serve the cause of peace.
- SRSG Løj then recalled the sacrifices Ghana has made in the country during the sub-regional group ECOWAS' two peacekeeping missions that preceded UNMIL.

MAC Appeals For CollaborationBegins Partnership with CAFOD

(The Inquirer)

- The local media child rights campaigner, the Media in Advocacy for Children (MAC) has begun efforts aimed at forging partnership with the United Kingdom based Catholic Agency for Oversea Development (CAFOD) and other child rights advocacy groups.
- In a statement delivered on its behalf at the just ended CAFOD partnership conference in Freetown, Sierra Leone, MAC Secretary General David N. Targbe said the organization cannot achieve all its goals without the support of other child rights related group, including CAFOD-UK, Don Bosco Homes, UNICEF, Save the Children and others.
- Mr. Targbe said MAC is determined to remain vocal on the condition affecting underprivileged children, orphans and street children but stressed that it cannot be done alone.

Delay of Human Rights Commission Undermines Human Rights, Accountability

(New Republic and The Analyst)

- The International Centre for Transitional Justice (ICTJ) says the failure of the Liberian senate to confirm all presidential nominees to the Independent National Commission for Human Rights (INCHR) is a major setback to efforts to protect and promote human rights in Liberia, including moving forward the country's transitional justice agenda.
- ICTJ's Interim President, Hanny Megally said seven years after the end of the conflict, it is unfortunate that the INCHR, which is an important human rights protection mechanism mandated by the peace accord, is still not functioning.
- In August 2009 President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf nominated seven people—but later withdrew one of them—to serve on the INCHR after spending nearly three years vetting possible nominees and making amendments to the March 2005 INCHR Act. The senate rejected all nominees after two rounds of confirmation hearings.

IMCC Misleads President Sirleaf?

(Public Agenda)

- [SIC]The hope of many Liberians who rely on the Forestry Sector for employment has been dashed again.
- The United Nations, sometime last year lifted embargo on the timber Industry in an attempt to enable the Liberian government address the issue of the unprecedented unemployment in the country.
- However, since the embargo was lifted, the Forestry Sector is yet to commence operations for several factors underpinned by issues bordering on favouritism.
- An investigation conducted by this paper shows that the government of Liberia, through the Forestry Development Authority (FDA), is favoring certain logging companies to the extent that some are now evading the legitimate payment of the bidding fees of their contracts, including taxes and land rentals for forest management contracts.

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

Liberia, Ghana Deepens Cooperation

(Also reported on Radio Veritas, Sky FM, and ELBC)

Former British Prime Minister Arrives In Liberia Today

(Also reported on Radio Veritas, Truth FM, Sky FM, and ELBC)

Charles Taylor's Defense Team Puts First Witness On Stand

- The defense team of former President Charles Taylor has announced its readiness to put the first witness on the stand.
- The witness only identified as DCT-179 is expected to begin testifying today.
- A statement from the Special Court indicates that the witness will testify to events that occur in Libya when Mr. Taylor was training his rebel forces.
- The witness will also give testimony on whether there was a plan agreed between former RUF leader Foday Sankoh and Charles Taylor.
- The witness will further testify to the role of Gambians in the Liberian civil conflict.

Former Information Minister Challenges Youths

- Former Information Minister Dr. Laurence Bropleh has called on young people to be patriotic and nationalistic if they are to contribute to the rebuilding of the country.
- Dr. Bropleh called on the youth population of Liberia to adopt the sense of belonging and responsibility in making wise and informed decisions.
- He identified Liberians greatest problem as the lack of taking responsibility of themselves and others.
- The former Information Minister speaking Saturday at a forum organized by the youth organization, Our Future in Jacob Town assured the youths that the Ellen Johnson Sirleaf-led government is committed to empowering them to build a new Liberia.

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

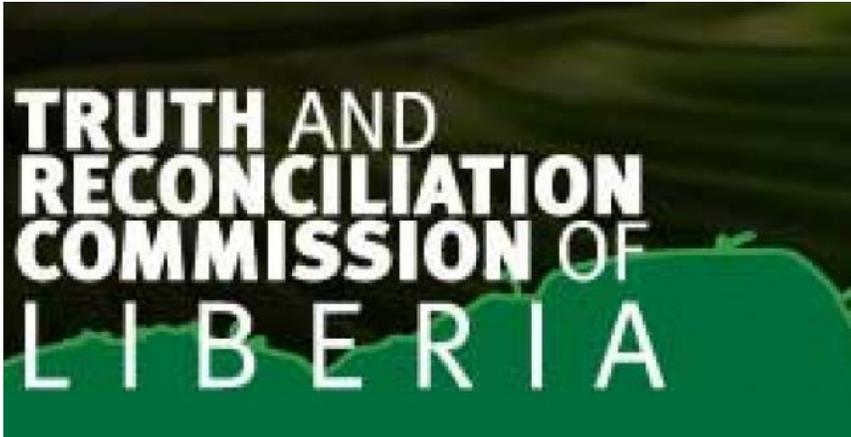
Eight National Security Agencies Hold Consultative Meeting

- Eight national security agencies Saturday held a consultative meeting in Monrovia on Liberia's reconstruction and contribution to the database of the international police organization or Interpol.
- Speaking during the meeting, Interpol head in Liberia, Deputy Police Commissioner Charles Blake said it has been too long since Liberia data was used in the fight against crimes.
- Deputy Commissioner Blake said the time has come for other Interpol members to use Liberia's data to fight crimes.

Human Rights Watch

Tuesday, 23 February 2010

Liberian's arrest in US shows need for justice



The arrest of a former Liberian warlord in the United States underscores the need for prosecutions of serious crimes committed during Liberia's civil wars, Human Rights Watch said today. George Boley, whose arrest was announced today, is the former leader of the Liberian Peace Council, one of several armed factions implicated in

heinous abuses during 14 years of armed conflict that ended in 2003.

Human Rights Watch's research in Liberia found that the Liberian Peace Council was responsible for torture, rape, extrajudicial executions, arbitrary detention, and forcible recruitment. Liberia's Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) recently identified Boley as one of eight leaders of warring factions during Liberia's conflicts who should be prosecuted for serious crimes.

"Boley's forces were implicated in rape, torture, and killings during Liberia's wars," said Elise Keppler, International Justice Program senior counsel at Human Rights Watch. "Whether in the United States or Liberia, he should be criminally investigated for these horrific offenses."

Immigration invalid

Boley faces proceedings to remove him from the United States on the basis of invalid immigration documents and involvement in extrajudicial killings overseas. It is unclear, though, whether the abuses in which Boley is implicated can be prosecuted in the United States under federal laws prohibiting torture and war crimes committed abroad. In 2008, the United States tried and convicted Charles "Chuckie" Taylor, Jr., the son of former Liberian president Charles Taylor, in the first US case for torture committed abroad.

Liberia currently lacks credible justice mechanisms to prosecute serious crimes committed during its internal conflicts between 1989 and 2003. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission, in its final report in December 2009, highlighted problems in the Liberian justice system and called for the establishment of a hybrid international-national tribunal with Liberian and foreign judges to try past crimes.

Fair trials

"Liberia's Truth and Reconciliation Commission has called for a new court that can bring justice for atrocities committed during Liberia's conflicts," Keppler said. "This arrest underscores the need for the Liberian government to act without delay to enable fair, credible trials of past crimes."

Human Rights Watch supports a hybrid tribunal for Liberia with a majority of internationally appointed judges, but has concerns about some elements of the commission's proposal. These issues should be addressed to ensure prosecutions in accordance with international fair trial standards, Human Rights Watch said.

Boley has lived in the United States for various periods since 1970, and in 2006, he was arrested for visa fraud, but the charges were dismissed.

Voice of America

Tuesday, 23 February 2010

Former Liberian Warring Faction Leader Goes Before a U.S. Judge Wednesday

James Butty

The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has said it will not allow the United States to be a safe haven for those trying to evade prosecution and punishment for crimes committed in their homelands. The warning comes as former Liberian warring faction leader George Boley goes before an immigration judge tomorrow (Wednesday) in Buffalo, New York.

Boley, leader of the former Liberian Peace Council, one of the factions in Liberia's civil war, was arrested in mid-January and charged with being in the United States without valid legal documentation and committing extra-judicial killings in Liberia.

Lev Kubiak, special agent in charge at the ICE office of investigation in Buffalo, New York said ICE is prepared for Wednesday's hearings but would welcome any additional information on the Liberian Peace Council and Mr. Boley's role.

"The information that we have has led us to file the charges that we have filed – that Mr. Boley is present in the United States without any valid documentation, and we believe there's evidence he may have been involved in extrajudicial killings as described by our Immigration and Nationality Act," he said.

Former Liberian rebels

Special Agent Kubiak said the purpose of the trial before an immigration judge is for the U.S. government to present its evidence against Mr. Boley and for Mr. Boley, through his attorney to disprove the government's evidence.

He said the United States would welcome any additional information that would help the government learn more about the Liberian Peace Council or any potential witnesses or victims.

"We're always seeking additional witnesses and additional information throughout this process. The best way for them to do that will actually be through an email contact with the group's supervisor who is in charge of overseeing this investigation and his email address is Kevin.ryan1@dhs.gov," Kubiak said. An ICE news release quotes Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security for ICE John Morton as saying that ICE "will not relent in our efforts to ensure that human rights violators are brought to justice and removed from our communities".

The news release also cited a 1995 U.S. Department of State report as documenting "credible reports that Boley authorized the extrajudicial executions of seven of his soldiers on Nov. 14, 1995".

It also said witnesses testified recently before the Liberian Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) that the LPC burned alive dozens of captives in Grand Gedeh County, northern Liberia, in 1994.

George Boley, Jr, said the allegations against his father are faceless and without merit.

"To be quite frank, the charges are bogus and completely fabricated and unsubstantiated. At no given time has he taken up a gun to shoot somebody as the United States claimed he has done," Boley Jr. said.

Kubiak said the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement has a history of pursuing and prosecuting people who committed serious human rights abuses in their countries of birth and are living in the United States.

"One of the most recent cases that affects the part of the world that you cover is the "Chuckie" Taylor case recently concluded down in the southern part of the United States. We have a long history of working

these types of cases and a very serious commitment to ensuring that individuals who have committed these atrocities are not able to hide in the United States or reside here after having committed such atrocities,” Kubiak said.

Charles “Chuckie” Taylor, Jr., the son of former Liberian president Charles Taylor was convicted in the U.S. state of Florida and ordered by a federal judge to pay \$22.4 million in damages to five Liberians who claimed they were tortured by President Taylor’s Anti-Terrorist Unit headed by Chuckie Taylor. Kubiak said if Boley is found guilty of the charges against him, he would be deported from the United States back to Liberia.

Liberians like Patrick Nimely Sie-Tuon, general coordinator of the U.S.-based Liberia Human Rights Campaign hope the effort to pursue Liberians living in the United States who might have committed serious human rights abuses in Liberia would not stop with Boley and Chuckie Taylor.