

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



**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, 9 February 2010

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

### Local News

Pat Robertson Had Gold Deal With Taylor / <i>For di People</i>	Page 3
Charles Taylor Trial Adjourn for One Week / <i>The Spectator</i>	Page 4
Taylor Blames Fall on Western Conspiracy / <i>Premier News</i>	Page 5

### International News

Report From The Hague / <i>BBC World Service Trust</i>	Page 6
Prosecutors Conclude The Cross-Examination Of Charles Taylor / <i>Charlestaylortrial.org</i>	Pages 7-10
Charles Taylor Trial Adjourned For One Week / <i>Charlestaylortrial.org</i>	Page 11
UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary / <i>UNMIL</i>	Pages 12-16
Genocide Charge Now Possible for Sudan's al-Bashir / <i>Associated Press</i>	Pages 17-18

## Fore di People

Tuesday, 9 February 2010

# Pat Robertson Had Gold Deal With Taylor

**PROSECUTORS IN Human Rights Trial allege Pat Robertson lobbied George Bush on behalf of Liberian warlord, Charles Taylor.**

Prosecutors at the human rights trial of former Liberian warlord Charles Taylor alleged Thursday that Christian televangelist Pat Robertson had lobbied the White House on Taylor's behalf in return for a gold mining contract.

The controversial pastor and former Republican presidential contender met with then-President George W Bush on Taylor's behalf, prosecutors charged during cross-examination of Taylor in a Dutch courtroom, allegedly in return for a contract to mine gold in southeast Liberia—a contract they say that Taylor had no legal right to grant.

Lead Prosecutor Brenda Hollis questioned Taylor about how he may have skirted the Liberian legislature in order to get Robertson his gold mining contracts. "Mr. Taylor, even

**Continued Page 10**



**TAYLOR AND ROBERTSON: both were involved in dubious deals**

## Robertson And Charles Taylor In Gold Deal

**From Page 4**

the legislature in place in 1999 actually refused to ratify this agreement you had with Pat Robertson. Isn't that correct?" asked Hollis.

Taylor answered: "There was contention about different issues, yes."

And so you just went around the legislature. Isn't that right, Mr. Taylor?

"I don't know if we went around them. I would disagree with you," replied Taylor. Robertson made widely publicized public statements in support of Charles Taylor in 2003. However, Chris Roslan, a spokesman for Robertson, denied to ABC News that Robertson ever discussed Taylor with Bush.

But on the stand, Taylor answered, "That is correct," when asked if he had previously indicated that Robertson had met with Bush, and when asked if Robertson had volunteered to speak with high administration officials on his behalf.

### pumping

Taylor is being tried in the Netherlands by the Special Court for Sierra Leone, an independent judicial body under the auspices of the United Nations that receives a third of its funding from the U.S.

The gold deal went through in June 1999, with Robertson allegedly pumping \$15 million dollars into the project.

Hollis asserted that much of the money went straight into Taylor's pockets, which Taylor denied.

Robertson's company, of which he was president and sole director, was called Freedom Gold, Ltd. The agreement gave the Liberian government 10 percent equity interest in the company and Liberians could purchase at least 15 percent of the shares after the exploration period.

Roslan, Robertson's spokesman, said Freedom Gold's arrangement was similar to many American companies doing business in Africa at the time. "This concession was granted by the Liberian government to promote economic activity and alleviate the suffering of the people of Liberia following a terrible civil war," said Roslan, who denied any quid pro quo for granting the concession, and said that Robertson saw this as a way to help the suffering people of Liberia.

Freedom Gold is not currently operating and has never commercially produced any gold, according to Roslan.

The Spectator  
Tuesday, 9 February 2010

## Charles Taylor Trial Adjourned For One Week

Judges of the Special Court for Sierra Leone today granted a defense request for a one week adjournment of the trial of former Liberian president Charles Taylor. The judges also granted a defense request for restrictions on Mr. Taylor not to discuss his testimony with anyone, including his own lawyers.

When the court adjourned with the conclusion of Mr. Taylor's cross-examination by prosecutors on Friday, it was anticipated that the former president's defense lawyers will commence his re-examination today. However, when the court resumed this morning, lead defense counsel for Mr. Taylor, Courtenay Griffiths, informed the judges that cer-

tain contentious issues had been identified in Mr. Taylor's cross-examination and that the former president wished to discuss those issues with his defense team before the commencement of his re-examination. Lead prosecution counsel, Ms. Brenda Hollis, raised her objection to the defense application, but her objection was overruled by the judges.

Presiding Judge of the Chamber, Justice Julia Sebutinde, stated that it was part of Mr. Taylor's fair trial rights to consult a lawyer of his choosing and for him to be given adequate time to prepare his defense. According to Justice Sebutinde, the one week adjournment requested by the defense was not unreasonable.

## Premier News

Tuesday, 9 February 2010

### Taylor Blames Fall on Western Conspiracy

**C**harles Taylor has repeated his claim that a conspiracy by western powers to oust him from Liberia is what landed him in the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

"Throughout your testimony to these judges, you have talked about a supposed conspiracy against you, and you have referred to this whole case as being about 'let's get Taylor', Lead prosecutor, Brenda Hollis stated.

"That is correct," Mr Taylor responded, arguing that the conspiracy was led by Britain and the United States.

Ms. Hollis pointed out that in Mr. Taylor's own testimony; he had agreed that cooperation existed between his government and the United States Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) when Mr. Taylor was in power in Liberia. He had also told the court that the CIA had even tipped him off to an assassination attempt against him, Ms. Hollis said.

And yet, Ms. Hollis continued, if there was such cooperation between the CIA and Mr. Taylor's government, then the CIA would have been working against the interest of the United States, which, according to Mr. Taylor, wanted him out of office.

"Was the CIA part of this supposed conspiracy against you?" Ms. Hollis asked.

"It could have been, because sometimes intelligence agencies do one thing on one side and do another thing on the other side. So it could have been," Taylor replied.

Taylor also extended this supposed conspiracy against him to other institutions which included the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the European Union.

Asked whether former Sierra Leonean president, Ahmed Tejan Kabbah, was part of the conspiracy, for Kabbah's constant accusation that he (Taylor) was providing support to Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels in Sierra Leone; Taylor replied that Kabbah was in a little different boat.

"Kabbah was doing what he had to do as president of Sierra Leone. I don't know as to whether he was part of that conspiracy. But Kabbah was doing what came natural for him as president of Sierra Leone given the situation," Mr. Taylor said.

"So you are saying that he was simply doing the bidding of others, Mr. Taylor?" Ms. Hollis enquired further.

"I would say that, yes," Mr. Taylor responded.

Responding to a question as to whether Maxwell Khobe, the former Nigerian commander of the West African peacekeeping force was part of the conspiracy, Mr. Taylor said no.

"No, Khobe is small potatoes. Khobe was doing what he was told to do. He's small potatoes," Mr. Taylor said.

The former president also

Taylor also extended this supposed conspiracy against him to other institutions which included the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the European Union.

Asked whether former Sierra Leonean president, Ahmed Tejan Kabbah, was part of the conspiracy, for Kabbah's constant accusation that he (Taylor) was providing support to Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels in Sierra Leone; Taylor replied that Kabbah was in a little different boat.

"Kabbah was doing what he had to do as president of Sierra Leone. I don't know as to whether he was part of that conspiracy. But Kabbah was doing what came natural for him as president of Sierra Leone given the situation," Mr. Taylor said.

"So you are saying that he was simply doing the bidding of others, Mr. Taylor?" Ms. Hollis enquired further.

"I would say that, yes," Mr. Taylor responded.

Responding to a question as to whether Maxwell Khobe, the former Nigerian commander of the West African peacekeeping force was part of the conspiracy, Mr. Taylor said no.

"No, Khobe is small potatoes. Khobe was doing what he was told to do. He's small potatoes," Mr. Taylor said.

The former president also

immeasurable suffering to countless victims in Sierra Leone, to your African

brothers and sisters, that's the truth of it, isn't it Mr. Taylor?" Ms. Hollis asked Mr. Taylor.

"That's not the truth. I'll care about them more than you," Mr. Taylor responded.

As she concluded her cross-examination of Mr. Taylor today, Ms Hollis has this to say to the former president;

"And Mr. Taylor, at the beginning of your testimony on 14 July 2009, your defense counsel asked you if you were guilty of the charges on the indictment, and you said you were not guilty of all these charges, not even a minute part of these charges. Mr. Taylor, the tragic truth is that through your choices and through your actions, Mr. Taylor, you indeed are guilty of all the charges in this indictment against you. That's the truth of it, isn't it, Mr. Taylor?"

"I disagree. That's not the truth of it. And that's what you have to prove beyond reasonable doubt before these professional judges. I disagree," Mr. Taylor responded.

"Madam President, the prosecution has no further questions at this time for this accused, former president Charles Ghankay Taylor," Ms. Hollis concluded.

C r e d i t  
charlestaylortrial.com

**BBC** WORLD SERVICE TRUST  
Monday, 8 February 2010

John Kollie

## NEWS ITEM

---

*The war crimes trial of Former Liberian President, Charles Taylor has been adjourned for one week. Judges of the Special Court for Sierra Leone granted a Defence request to suspend Mr. Taylor's trial until next Monday. The Judges also lifted a restriction earlier placed on Mr. Taylor not to discuss his testimonies with anyone including his lawyers. The Prosecution disagreed with the Defence motion for adjournment. John Kollie transcribes reports from The Hague for the BBC World Service Trust.*

Lead Defence Lawyer, Courtenay Griffiths said Mr. Taylor has identified some contentious issues from the Prosecution cross-examination. He told the court that Mr. Taylor wants to discuss those issues with him (Griffiths) before the re-direct examination begins.

Mr. Griffiths reminded the Judges that during the cross-examination Mr. Taylor was restricted by the court not to discuss his testimonies with any one including his Lawyers.

Lead Prosecution Lawyer, Brenda Hollis disagreed with the justifications provided by the Defence for an adjournment.

In her ruling, Presiding Judge, Julia Sebutinde said the court was mindful of Mr. Taylor's rights to consult counsel of his choosing and to have adequate time for the preparation of his defence.

Justice Sebutinde also stated that in the court's view the Defence motion for one week adjournment was reasonable. The re-direct examination of Mr. Charles Taylor is expected to start next Monday February 15.

**BBC** WORLD SERVICE TRUST

Charlestaylortrial.org

Saturday, 6 February 2010

## Prosecutors Conclude The Cross-Examination Of Charles Taylor

By Alpha Sesay

Prosecutors this week concluded the cross-examination of former Liberian president Charles Taylor, asserting before Special Court for Sierra Leone judges that the former president persecuted human rights activists and suppressed press freedom in Liberia, that he executed politicians and rebel commanders who he saw as threats to his quest for political power, that he had ulterior motives when he negotiated the release of United Nations peacekeepers held hostage by Sierra Leonean rebel forces, and that through his support to rebel forces in Sierra Leone, he brought untold suffering to the people of the West African country. Mr. Taylor denied these allegations, insisting that his trial is part of a “let’s get Taylor” conspiracy by western countries, specifically Britain and the United States.

On Monday, lead prosecution counsel Brenda Hollis told Mr. Taylor that he did not tolerate press freedom in Liberia while he served as the West African country’s president from 1997 to 2003 and that during his tenure as president, several radio stations were closed down and several journalists were harassed and imprisoned. Reading from a report on press freedom in Liberia by the Committee for the Protection of Journalists (CPJ), Ms. Hollis told Mr. Taylor that his government was “repressive and intolerant to press freedom.” Mr. Taylor dismissed the claim as “incorrect.”

“Indeed Mr. Taylor, during your presidency, independent news reporting was cut back substantially, isn’t that correct?” Ms. Hollis asked Mr. Taylor.

“That is not correct,” Mr. Taylor responded.

Responding to allegations that his government closed down media institutions including religious radio stations that questioned his government’s violation of human rights, Mr. Taylor said that media institutions were closed down because they failed to pay taxes. For religious stations, Mr. Taylor said that such stations which deviated from their religious broadcast were warned not to engage in politics.

Also in court on Monday, Ms. Hollis questioned Mr. Taylor about his September 2009 testimony that it was only in court that he heard about “Operation No Living Thing”– an operation that was launched by RUF rebels in Sierra Leone which aimed to ensure that anything that had life must be killed. Mr. Taylor has previously denied giving orders to RUF rebels to conduct such an operation. In today’s cross-examination, Ms. Hollis asked Mr. Taylor about his September 2009 testimony that he did not know about such an operation.

“Were you telling the judges that prior to coming to this court, you’ve never heard of ‘Operation No Living Thing’?” Ms. Hollis asked Mr. Taylor.

“I could have but I cannot recall,” The former president responded.

Mr. Taylor reiterated that he never gave any order for such an operation.

Ms. Hollis also told Mr. Taylor that he ordered Operation No Living Thing in Liberia, an operation that involved Mr. Taylor’s Director of Special Security Service (SSS) Benjamin Yeaten and former prosecution witness and National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) member Joseph Zig Zag Marzah.

“I was not aware and I gave no such order,” Mr. Taylor said.

On Tuesday, Ms. Hollis told Mr. Taylor that when he helped secure the release of United Nations peacekeepers held hostage by Sierra Leonean rebels ten years ago, he was really trying to help the rebels gain more control over his neighboring country. Mr. Taylor disagreed: the safety of the hostages was forefront on his mind, he said.

Ms Hollis questioned Mr. Taylor's motives in calling for a ceasefire during the hostage crisis, arguing that it would have helped the rebels consolidate control over a key town, Masiaka. Such a ceasefire, prosecutors argued, would have placed the rebels closer to the capital, Freetown, and also provided a bigger buffer zone between the rebel-held diamond mining fields and government-controlled areas. Mr. Taylor denied being motivated by the enlargement of rebel control in Sierra Leone.

"I don't know the different positions in Sierra Leone where they (the Revolutionary United Front) were," Mr. Taylor said.

In May 2000, Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels captured hundreds of UN peacekeepers in Sierra Leone — an action that provoked international outrage. Mr. Taylor, who was sitting president of Liberia at the time, negotiated with the RUF rebels and secured the release of the UN peacekeepers. Prosecutors have long alleged that Mr. Taylor was able to secure the release of the UN hostages because he had some special control over the RUF rebel commanders. Mr. Taylor has denied these suggestions, saying that his involvement in the release of the peacekeepers was done mainly because he was asked by the international community to intervene and get the rebels to release the hostages, which he did.

Ms. Hollis noted that at the time of the release of the UN hostages, the RUF rebels had occupied the town of Masiaka, a strategic position that was in proximity to both the country's capital Freetown and the diamond mining areas.

"And also Mr. Taylor, had the RUF been left in place in Masiaka, that would have put them much closer to the capital of Freetown, wouldn't it?" Ms. Hollis asked Mr. Taylor.

"I disagree with your proposition," Mr. Taylor responded.

"And it would have given a larger buffer zone between the diamond areas and the government held-territories. Isn't that correct, Mr. Taylor?" Ms. Hollis enquired further.

In his response, the former president said that "your proposition, maybe you could very well be correct, but I disagree that that was foremost on my mind. I was mostly concerned about the lives of the hostages."

On Thursday, Ms. Hollis told Mr. Taylor that he executed Liberian politicians whom he perceived as threats to his political ambitions, killed rebels who failed to carry out his orders, and persecuted human rights activists who opposed his policies. Mr. Taylor denied these allegations.

Ms. Hollis questioned Mr. Taylor about the execution of several Liberian politicians including Jackson Doe, Gabriel Kpolleh, Moses Duopoe and Samuel Dokie. These men, Ms. Hollis alleged, were executed on the orders of Mr. Taylor. Mr. Taylor dismissed these allegations as stories made up by Tom Woweiyu, another rebel leader who broke ranks with the former Liberian president but later joined Mr. Taylor's National Patriotic Party (NPP) Government.

"After we broke up, after Tom Woweiyu formed a rebel group and attacked the NPFL [National Patriotic Front of Liberia] and broke away in 1994," Mr. Taylor said. "Tom Woweiyu made a lot of wild allegations that later he apologized for, I forgave him, and brought him into my government."

"I am aware of the nonsense he wrote. He later apologized and I brought him into my government. He became senator from the NPP," Mr. Taylor added.

After denying allegations that he executed Gabriel Kpolleh, whom he allegedly saw as threat to his power, Mr. Taylor also referred to allegations that he killed Jackson Doe as another story by Mr. Woweiyu.

"Mr. Taylor, you were also responsible for the killing of Jackson F. Doe, weren't you?" Ms. Hollis asked Mr. Taylor.

“That is not correct. That’s Tom Woweiyu again. That is not correct. Jackson Doe was a very well respected man,” Mr. Taylor responded.

Mr. Jackson Doe, a former Liberian politician is reported to have won democratic elections against then Liberian president, Master Sergeant Samuel K. Doe. The elections, reports indicate, were rigged against Mr. Jackson Doe. Mr. Taylor’s NPFL has previously stated that one of the reasons for its fighting in Liberia was to reverse the election victory that was stolen by Sergeant Samuel K. Doe at Mr. Jackson Doe’s expense. According to other reports, Mr. Taylor later killed Mr. Jackson Doe in order to eliminate any threat to his power. Mr. Taylor has denied these allegations.

Mr. Taylor also denied allegations that he had ordered the execution of some of his rebel commanders, including Oliver Varnie and Sam Larto. These commanders, Ms. Hollis alleged, were executed because they had failed to carry out Mr. Taylor’s orders. Mr. Taylor denied the accusation, saying that they were executed because they had been involved in subversive operations.

Ms. Hollis also questioned Mr. Taylor about the alleged persecution of several human rights activists in Liberia, some of whom were said to have gone into hiding after Liberian police tried to apprehend them for criticizing Mr. Taylor’s policies. Among the human rights activists who were said to have gone into hiding were a Mr. Adebayo of the Liberian Watch for Human Rights, an organization which questioned the constitutionality of Mr. Taylor’s Anti Terrorists Unit (ATU), Mr. James Torh, whose organization The Focus was critical of Mr. Taylor’s government, and Mr. Aloysious Toe, a human rights activist who criticized the actions of Mr. Taylor’s son Chuckie Taylor. Mr. Taylor Jr., who was head of his father’s ATU, has been convicted and sentenced to imprisonment in a United States court for crimes of torture committed in Liberia. Mr. Taylor denied knowledge of all three incidents relating to the three human rights activists.

On Friday, as the cross-examination of Mr. Taylor was brought to a close, the former Liberian president repeated his claim that a conspiracy by western powers to oust him from Liberia is what landed him in the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

“Throughout your testimony to these judges, you have talked about a supposed conspiracy against you, and you have referred to this whole case as being about ‘let’s get Taylor’ and referred to is as a ‘construct’ — yes, Mr. Taylor?” asked lead prosecutor, Brenda Hollis.

“That is correct,” Mr. Taylor responded, arguing that the conspiracy was led by Britain and the United States.

Mr. Taylor also extended this supposed conspiracy against him to other institutions which included the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the European Union.

Ms. Hollis, in disagreeing with Mr. Taylor’s alleged ‘conspiracy’ theory told the former president that he was in court because he had brought untold suffering upon the people of Sierra Leone. Mr. Taylor disagreed with Ms. Hollis’ allegation.

“And as the leader of the NPFL and president of Liberia, your actions brought immeasurable suffering to countless victims in Sierra Leone, to your African brothers and sisters, that’s the truth of it, isn’t it Mr. Taylor?” Ms. Hollis asked Mr. Taylor.

“That’s not the truth. I’ll care about them more than you,” Mr. Taylor responded.

As she concluded her cross-examination of Mr. Taylor on Friday, Ms Hollis had this to say to the former president;

“And Mr. Taylor, at the beginning of your testimony on 14 July 2009, your defense counsel asked you if you were guilty of the charges on the indictment, and you said you were not guilty of all these charges, not even a minute part of these charges. Mr. Taylor, the tragic truth is that through your choices and through your actions, Mr. Taylor, you indeed are guilty of all the charges in this indictment against you. That’s the truth of it, isn’t it, Mr. Taylor?”

“I disagree. That’s not the truth of it. And that’s what you have to prove beyond reasonable doubt before these professional judges. I disagree,” Mr. Taylor responded.

“Madam president, the prosecution has no further questions at this time for this accused, former president Charles Ghankay Taylor,” Ms. Hollis concluded.

Charlestaylortrial.org

Saturday, 6 February 2010

## **Charles Taylor Trial Adjourned For One Week**

By Alpha Sesay

Judges of the Special Court for Sierra Leone today granted a defense request for a one week adjournment of the trial of former Liberian president Charles Taylor. The judges also granted a defense request for restrictions on Mr. Taylor not to discuss his testimony with anyone, including his own lawyers.

When the court adjourned with the conclusion of Mr. Taylor's cross-examination by prosecutors on Friday, it was anticipated that the former president's defense lawyers will commence his re-examination today. However, when the court resumed this morning, lead defense counsel for Mr. Taylor, Courtenay Griffiths, informed the judges that certain contentious issues had been identified in Mr. Taylor's cross-examination and that the former president wished to discuss those issues with his defense team before the commencement of his re-examination. Lead prosecution counsel, Ms. Brenda Hollis, raised her objection to the defense application, but her objection was overruled by the judges.

Presiding Judge of the Chamber, Justice Julia Sebutinde, stated that it was part of Mr. Taylor's fair trial rights to consult a lawyer of his choosing and for him to be given adequate time to prepare his defense. According to Justice Sebutinde, the one week adjournment requested by the defense was not unreasonable.

Court was adjourned for one week and Mr. Taylor's re-examination is set to commence on Monday  
February 15, 2010.

## UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 8 February 2010

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

### **International Clips on Liberia**

#### **CRPF's 125-member women unit heads for peacekeeping in Liberia**

New Delhi, Feb 8: Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) gave the green signal to its women contingent to leave for Liberia for a United Nations Peacekeeping assignment today. Addressing the contingent on this occasion, CRPF Director General (DG) Vikram Srivastava said, "You are not only representing the Force but also representing the country." The contingent has been posted in the West African country for a year. Accompanied by some male members as support staff, the unit mostly consists of women who are mothers. The DG also expressed his confidence that the contingent will make the Force proud and deliver its best. "Families are always a matter of concern and the CRPF will make all arrangements to look after the families," Mr Srivastava added. The Force's women will assist the Liberian administration which has been facing turmoil while the country has lost many lives due to the civil wars. CRPF's women personnel, who are trained as rigorously as their male counterparts, have previously been entrusted with various peacekeeping missions, including the task of guarding the Liberian President's House.

#### **Charles Taylor Trial Adjourned For One Week**

charlestaylortrial.org

February 8 2010

*Judges of the Special Court for Sierra Leone today granted a defense request for a one week adjournment of the trial of former Liberian president Charles Taylor. The judges also granted a defense request for restrictions on Mr. Taylor not to discuss his testimony with anyone, including his own lawyers. When the court adjourned with the conclusion of Mr. Taylor's cross-examination by prosecutors on Friday, it was anticipated that the former president's defense lawyers will commence his re-examination today. However, when the court resumed this morning, lead defense counsel for Mr. Taylor, Courtenay Griffiths, informed the judges that certain contentious issues had been identified in Mr. Taylor's cross-examination and that the former president wished to discuss those issues with his defense team before the commencement of his re-examination. Lead prosecution counsel, Ms. Brenda Hollis, raised her objection to the defense application, but her objection was overruled by the judges. Presiding Judge of the Chamber, Justice Julia Sebutinde, stated that it was part of Mr. Taylor's fair trial rights to consult a lawyer of his choosing and for him to be given adequate time to prepare his defense. According to Justice Sebutinde, the one week adjournment requested by the defense was not unreasonable.*

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

#### **Dozens injured during violence in Guinea**

February 08 2010 at 12:23AM  
iol.co.za

Conakry - At least one person died in two days of clashes between Christians and Muslims in eastern Guinea and dozens more were injured, but the violence had mostly subsided by Sunday, witnesses and officials said. Residents of Nzerekore reported widespread gunfire in the town on Saturday, a day after several people were hurt in stone-throwing between residents of the town in the far east of the world's top bauxite exporter. The trouble appears to have been sparked by a religious dispute but the town is in the home region of wounded junta leader Moussa Dadis Camara, and there are fears the dispute may be manipulated for political reasons. "The situation is very difficult in Nzerekore and it is still very tense," said a police source, who asked not to be named. "We put in place a curfew but, despite that, clashes continued. We have been told of one dead and many injured." 'The situation is very difficult in Nzerekore'. Residents contacted by Reuters said that the violence had subsided by early afternoon on Sunday but dozens of women and children had left the town, seeking refuge in the bush. A government delegation is in the town, holding talks with leaders of both sides.

## **Cote D'Ivoire**

### **Cote d'Ivoire electoral process plunged in turmoil**

Source: People's Daily Online February 08, 2010

Cote d'Ivoire's electoral process is going through turmoil due to the political-judicial battle over voter registration contentions linked to the Independent Electoral Commission (CEI).

The suspected fraud on the voter list has caused commotion within the body charged with the duty to organize elections to end years of instability in the West African country.

"There is a little bit of unrest in the air," Prime Minister Guillaume Soro said on Friday during his visit to Ouagadougou, the capital of Burkina Faso, where he was expected to brief President Blaise Compaore on the situation in Cote d'Ivoire. Compaore was named the facilitator in the Cote d'Ivoire crisis late last year by the 15-member West African bloc ECOWAS with a mandate to bring the rival parties to a presidential vote set for late February and early March. With Compaore's mediation, Soro, who is also the leader of the former rebel New Forces (FN), had signed four peace accords with Cote d'Ivoire President Laurent Gbagbo in Ouagadougou before being named the official facilitator. Cote d'Ivoire's civil society organizations have also expressed their fear about the pre-election climate which has become deleterious.

### **Overseas minister Vyalar Ravi to be discharged from Cote d'Ivoire hospital in a few days**

#### **The Times of India, 8 February 2010**

ABUJA: Minister of Overseas Affairs Vayalar Ravi who was injured in a car crash in Liberia will be discharged soon, diplomatic sources at the Indian embassy at Abidjan, the capital of Cote d'Ivoire said today. "He is out of danger and stable and I believe that in the next two or three days he will be discharged depending on the discretion of the doctors at the hospital," he added. Ravi was injured in a car accident in Liberia on February 4 while on a tour to some African countries. On February 5 he was airlifted to Cote d'Ivoire for further treatment. The countries on his itinerary were Ghana, Tanzania, Kenya, Liberia and Nigeria.

He was on his way to catch a flight to Nigeria his next destination before a speeding taxi ran into the car conveying him. He was rushed to John F Kennedy (JFK) hospital for urgent medical attention.

#### **Local Media – Newspaper**

##### **US Judge Awards Liberians \$22 Million in Torture Case**

(Liberian Express, The News, New Democrat, In-Profile and New Vision)

- A federal court in the U.S. State of Florida has awarded five Liberians \$22.4 million in damages for torture ordered by the son of former Liberian President Charles Taylor.
- The Liberians sued Charles McArthur Emmanuel, also known as Chuckie Taylor, for mental and physical suffering.
- The group that represented the Liberians, Human Rights USA, said the award recognized what it called the "egregious nature and extraordinarily brutal acts" the victims suffered.
- Last year, a U.S. federal court sentenced Taylor to 97 years in prison for torturing opponents of his father's rule.
- According to the charges, Taylor and his colleagues burned victims in Liberia with cigarettes and hot irons, gave them electric shocks and beat them with firearms.

### **UP Endorses Merger With LAP, LUP**

(The Inquirer, New Democrat, FrontPage, In-Profile, The Analyst and Daily Observer)

- The ruling Unity Party (UP) says it has officially endorsed the Articles of Merger Document that brings together the party and two other parties namely the Liberia Action Party (LAP) and the Liberia Unification Party (LUP) at a convention held over the weekend in Gbarnga, Bong County.
- The merger came after hours of painstaking deliberation and disagreement by accredited delegates representing the fifteen counties along with the Executive Committee.
- The merger document was initially signed by UP leader, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, and endorsed by the party's National Executive Committee.
- The Merger carries the name Unity Party (UP) with the roster and hand shake as its symbol.
- Speaking at the convention, President Sirleaf mandated her cabinet ministers and other senior supporters of the UP to create job opportunities for partisans of the ruling party which observers say is reminiscence of the former President Charles Taylor era where members of the ruling party had the opportunities over the opposition for public jobs, a situation that led to the mass exodus of Liberians into the ruling party.
- Meanwhile, several Opposition Lawmakers have joined the ruling Party prominent among them are Sen. Lahai Lassanah formerly of the National Democratic Party of Liberia (NDPL) who recently joined the Liberty Party of Cllr. Charles Walker Brumskine.
- Others who have also joined the ruling party are Rep. Elijah Sieh of Alliance for Peace and Democracy (APD); Samuel Bondo of the Liberty Party, Rev. Dr. Kertehkumue Murray of the Congress for Democratic Change (CDC), and Rep. Titus Barclay of the Congress for Democratic Change (CDC).

### **Prosecution Ends Cross-Examination of Former President Charles Taylor**

(The News, Liberian Express, New Democrat, New Vision and National Chronicle)

- The Prosecution of the Special Court for Sierra Leone has concluded its nearly two months cross-examination of accused former Liberian President, Charles Taylor.
- Mr. Taylor again said he is not guilty of all the charges levied against him.
- The Prosecution also expressed doubt over Mr Taylor's account for surrendering the Liberian presidency in 2003.
- Mr. Taylor said he left for the sake of peace, but the Prosecutors told the court Mr. Taylor's account is not true.
- Mr. Taylor told the Judges the United States and Great Britain led a "let's get Taylor conspiracy," which brought him to the Special Court.
- Mr. Taylor said Former Nigerian President, Olusegun Obasanjo who provided a temporary asylum for him was pressured by the United States to have him arrested.
- But the Prosecution said it was Mr. Taylor's alleged miserable performance in Liberia and his criminal deeds in the West African State of Sierra Leone that brought him to court.

### **GAC Targets Executive Mansion, Capitol Building, and Temple of Justice**

(The News, Public Agenda and The Monitor)

- The General Auditing Commission (GAC) says it would conduct an audit of the Executive Mansion in line with its audit scope and mandate.
- The Director of Governmental Affairs at the GAC Edwin Harris said the Executive Mansion, National Legislature and Judiciary will all be audited at the appropriate time.
- Mr. Harris said the GAC was not afraid of these branches of Government because they squarely fall within the mandate of its audit.
- According to Mr. Harris, a risk index of the 72 Government ministries and agencies suggests that the branch of Government with the highest budget be audited first.
- The GAC Director disclosed the Executive Branch of Government was targeted first because it constitutes ninety-one percent of the 2009/2010 budget.
- He said due to the urgency of the HIPC process, five HIPC required Ministries were selected including Ministries of Finance, Lands, Mines and Energy, Education, Public Works, and Health.

### **ECOWAS Wants "Information Law" Passed**

(The Inquirer)

- After two days of exhaustive deliberations, media practitioners from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) have resolved that the ECOWAS Commission should encourage member states to enact the Freedom of Information Laws in their respective states.
- The media practitioners also called on ECOWAS to facilitate capacity-building programmes for media stakeholders, to enable them cover more effectively, regional programmes and issues, especially as they relate to the attainment of the ECOWAS Vision 2010 Agenda.
- They stressed the need for the ECOWAS Commission to develop a framework to involve media practitioners in its activities in a more structured and consistent manner.

### **LEC To Increase Power Delivery**

(The News and The Inquirer)

- The Management of the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC) has presented briefing notes containing the present activities and its future plans to increase the capacity of power delivery to the inhabitants of Monrovia by the end of 2010.
- The presentation was made by LEC's Acting Managing Director Joseph T. Mayah during a courtesy call by Senators Devine of Bomi County and Gbezonger Findley of Grand Bassa County also a member on the Senate Committee to acquaint themselves with operations at the corporation.
- In his briefing, Mr. Mayah told the Senators that beyond the Emergency Power Program (EPP), plans are underway to install a 10MW diesel plant at Bushrod Island and that further discussions are on-going to increase generation to about 30MW with Independent Power Producers.

### **UNMIL Drawdown is No Threat**

(The Analyst)

- [SIC] Nigerian Ambassador to Liberia, Ebenezer Adigun says the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) drawdown is no security threat to the country.
- The Ambassador's assertion comes amidst fear that the drawdown could pose a possible security vacuum in the country due to the gradual pulling out of peacekeeping troops in the country.

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

#### **Individuals Recommended For Public Sanctions Could Be Pardoned**

- A Star radio research has gathered that individuals recommended for public sanctions in the TRC final report could be pardoned.
- Count 15.1 of the TRC recommendations speaks of the pardoning authority of the palaver hut describing it as a form of justice.

- It further describes the palaver hut as an accountability mechanism with traditional orientation to foster national healing and reconciliation.
- Count 15.1 also requires that all perpetrators, their associates, warlords, financiers including those recommended for public sanctions appear before the palava hut.
- It maintains that the purpose of the palaver hut is to afford anyone who has committed a wrong or crime against individual or state to seek pardon.
- The section however clarified that persons recommended for persecution in the TRC report are not entitled to pardon by the palaver hut.
- According to Count 15.0 of the TRC report titled "Recommendations on Accountability" decisions reached through palaver hut are binding.

### **President Sirleaf Returns To Legislature**

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has for the first time commented on her controversial Presidential declaration at the Legislature, saying the debate over her declaration was part of the democratic process, which must be commended.
- President Sirleaf Friday paid an unannounced visit to the Legislature, where she held talks with Senate Pro-tempore Cletus Wortorson.
- According to the President, the talks with Senator Wortorson focused on her trip to the African Union Summit in Ethiopia and other national issues.
- The Liberian leader also told newsmen she has not received any official statement from opposition lawmakers who are demanding apology from her.
- The opposition lawmakers want President Sirleaf apologize for what they consider her insulting comments against them for passing the Threshold bill.

### **Charles Taylor Again declares Innocence**

### **GAC Targets Executive Mansion, Capitol Building, and Temple of Justice**

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

**Miami Court Nailed Chuckie Taylor With US\$22M For Tortured Victims**

**Truth FM** *(News monitored today at 10:00 am)*

### **President Sirleaf Wants Employment For UP Partisans**

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has directed her cabinet ministers and heads of public corporations to begin the effective employment of at least two members of the ruling Unity Party (UP).
- President Sirleaf says such exercise was necessary to ensure that every member of the ruling party can gain access to employment.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Associated Press

Tuesday, 9 February 2010

### **Genocide charge now possible for Sudan's al-Bashir**

The International Criminal Court will again consider charging Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir with genocide in Darfur, after an appeals panel ruled that judges made an "error in law" when they refused to indict him on that charge last year.

"He should get a lawyer," court prosecutor Luis Moreno Ocampo said after ruling Wednesday.

He accused al-Bashir of keeping 2.5 million refugees from specific ethnic groups in Darfur in camps "under genocide conditions, like a gigantic Auschwitz."

The appeals decision \_ which said the burden of proof should be lower when prosecutors seek an indictment than when they try to secure a conviction at trial \_ fueled hopes among human rights activists that prosecutors will indict other leaders around the world for atrocities.

The court is currently considering allegations of atrocities in countries from Colombia to Kenya, Gaza to Afghanistan, but has so far launched formal prosecutions in just four countries, all of them in Africa.

"This gives a new wind to the sails of international justice," said Kenyan human rights activist Njonjo Mue.

Moreno Ocampo welcomed the decision to reopen the Darfur genocide case and vowed to give judges even more evidence when they again consider charging al-Bashir with genocide.

A five-judge appeals chamber said the International Criminal Court wrongly concluded in March that there was insufficient evidence to charge al-Bashir with three counts of genocide for allegedly attempting to wipe out entire ethnic groups in the war-ravaged province of Darfur.

Instead, the court charged him with seven counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity for allegedly orchestrating a campaign of murder, torture, rape and forced expulsions in Darfur.

The Sudanese president refuses to recognize the court's jurisdiction and has vowed never to surrender to it. Since the charges were issued, he has traveled to friendly countries but called off trips to nations where he fears he could be arrested and sent to The Hague.

Al-Bashir's hardline regime also threw out 13 international aid agencies working in Darfur last March when the court first indicted him. The move further compounded the humanitarian crisis in a region where 300,000 people have died since fighting broke out in 2003 between the government and rebels. The United Nations says 2.7 million people have been driven from their homes by the conflict.

"For me, the fact that President Bashir expelled the humanitarian organizations is confirming that his intention is the physical destruction of these people," Moreno Ocampo told The Associated Press in his office at the court.

In Washington, State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley would not say specifically whether the U.S. favored the prosecution of Bashir.

"The United States strongly supports international efforts to bring those responsible for genocide and war crimes in Darfur to justice and believes firmly that there cannot be a lasting peace in Darfur without accountability and justice," Crowley said.

Wednesday's ruling set an important precedent because it marked the first time the world's first permanent war crimes court has dealt with a genocide case, said David Crane, a law professor at Syracuse University and former chief prosecutor at the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

The appeals bench effectively said "lower the bar, take a look at the evidence again and see what you come up with," Crane said in a telephone interview.

William R. Pace of the Coalition for the ICC, a nongovernment group that supports the court, also hailed the decision's significance, saying it could for the first time "lead to the inclusion of charges of genocide by ICC judges for a sitting head of state."

What it didn't do was bring al-Bashir any closer to justice. On Wednesday he was in Qatar at Darfur peace talks.

Rabie Abdel-Attie, a Sudan government spokesman, said Wednesday's decision will not affect al-Bashir's bid to run again for presidency at elections expected in April, and claimed it reflected the court's isolation from reality on the ground in Sudan.

"The government doesn't give the court any consideration and doesn't care much for it. This is a matter of principle," he told the AP from Khartoum. "The court is heading in one direction and we in the other."

Moreno Ocampo credited his investigations in Darfur with energizing peace efforts.

Since he launched his case in 2008 "everything is moving," Moreno Ocampo said. "When I presented my case, there was no peace process ... now there are vibrant discussions."

Moreno Ocampo accuses al-Bashir of mobilizing the entire Sudanese state apparatus with the aim of destroying a substantial part of the Fur, Masalit and Zaghawa ethnic groups in Darfur over more than six years.

Prosecutors accuse Sudanese troops and the janjaweed Arab militia they support of murdering civilians and preying on them in refugee camps. Moreno Ocampo said part of the alleged genocide was a campaign of rape to drive women into the desert, where they die of starvation.

"(The appeals ruling) put genocide back on the table," Crane said. "It will certainly put the world's leaders on notice once again that these types of crimes are now available (to prosecutors)."

Associated Press Writers Sarah El Deeb in Cairo and Tom Maliti in Nairobi and Matthew Lee in Washington contributed to this report.