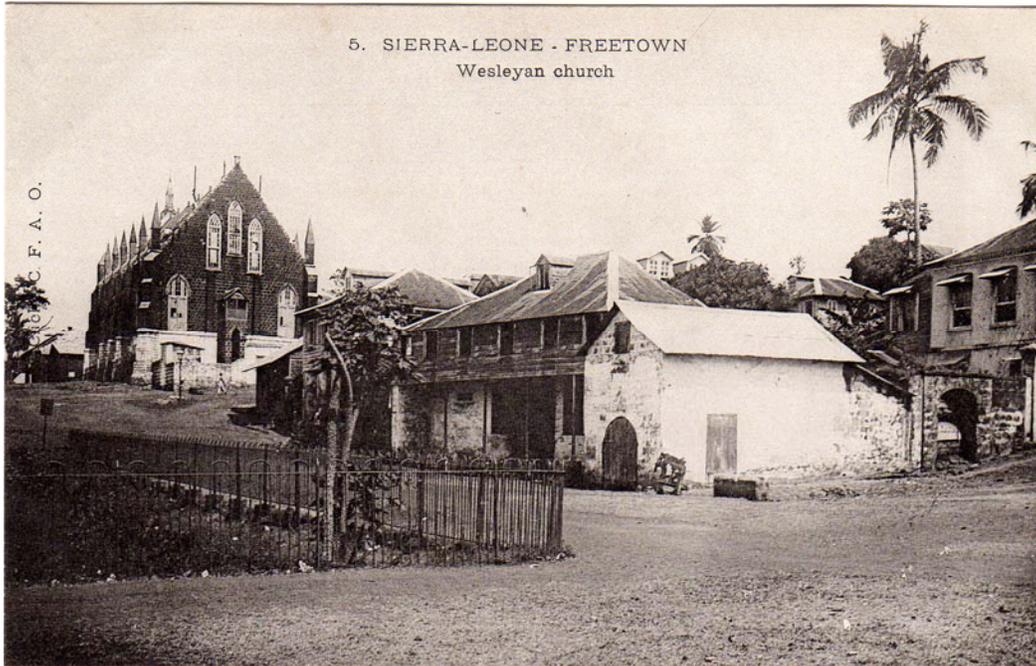


**SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE  
OUTREACH AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE**



Historic postcard depicting a deserted Oxford Street, now LightfootBoston Street.

**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:**

Monday, 26 April 2010

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

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Charlestaylortrial.org

Friday, 23 April 2010

## **Charles Taylor Did Not Give Arms TO RUF To Attack The Diamond Town Of Kono; Never Heard Of RUF Diamonds Taken To Charles Taylor, Witness Says**

By Alpha Sesay

Charles Taylor did not provide arms and ammunition to Sierra Leonean rebels to attack Sierra Leone's diamond rich town of Kono — and diamonds mined by the rebels were not taken to the former Liberian president, Mr. Taylor's defense witness told Special Court for Sierra Leone judges today in The Hague.

Martin Flomo George, a Liberian national and former member of Sierra Leone's Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebel group, refuted prosecution claims that the former Liberian president gave weapons to the RUF, instructed the group's senior commander, Sam Bockarie, to attack the diamond-rich town of Kono in 1998, and then received the diamonds mined from the town. Mr. Taylor has dismissed the allegations as false.

Mr. Taylor's defense counsel, Morris Anyah, asked the witness today whether Mr. Bockarie had said "anything about receiving instructions from Charles Taylor to attack Kono."

"Sam Bockarie never told us anything in relation to Charles Taylor," Mr. George responded.

The witness added that Mr. Bockarie never told them about receiving arms and ammunition from Mr. Taylor for the recapture of Kono, as alleged by prosecutors.

"Charles Taylor had his own problems to solve. He never told us anything about Charles Taylor giving us ammunition or sending us ammunition to recapture. No," Mr. George said.

Asked what he meant by "Charles Taylor had his own problems," the witness explained:

"What I mean about Charles Taylor having his own problem, he was elected in Liberia in 1997, he was not fighting, there was no war going on in 1997. How could he have given us instruction? How could he have given us ammunition? That's what I'm saying."

The witness added that the arms and ammunition used by the RUF to attack Kono in 1998 were bought from the United Liberation Movement for Democracy in Liberia (ULIMO) rebels, a rival rebel group to Mr. Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) rebel group. Mr. George said that shortly before the attack on Kono in 1998, ULIMO commander, Abu Keita, delivered boxes of ammunition Mr. Bockarie, who was at the time based in Sierra Leone's eastern town of Buedu in the Kailahun District. The witness's account about ULIMO selling arms and ammunition to the RUF corroborates an account given by a previous defense witness on the same subject.

Also in his testimony today, Mr. George denied prosecution claims that diamonds mined by the RUF were taken to Mr. Taylor in Liberia. The witness said that he never heard of diamonds being taken to Liberia. As far as he knew, Mr. George said, all diamonds mined by the RUF were given to RUF commander, Issa Sesay, who in turn took them to Mr. Bockarie. Prosecutors claim that when Mr. Bockarie received the diamonds from Mr. Sesay, he handed them to either Mr. Taylor or his former Director of Special Security Services (SSS) Benjamin Yeaten in Liberia. Mr. Anyah sought to clarify this issue with the witness today.

"Were diamonds mined in Kono by the RUF sent to former Special Security Director Benjamin Yeaten in Liberia?" Mr. Anyah asked the witness.

“All I know, all diamonds were given to Issa and from Issa to Sam Bockarie. But I never heard that a particular set of diamonds packed were sent for that particular person whose name you are calling,” the witness responded.

“How about Charles Taylor? Did you ever hear someone say diamonds that were recovered by the RUF in Kono, when you were Brigade Commander there, were being sent to Charles Taylor in Liberia?” Mr. Anyah asked.

“Never,” the witness responded.

“Nobody ever told me that they were taking diamonds to Charles Taylor for arms or ammunition or food or what have you. All I knew was that I was focused on my frontline and the miners were focused on their mining. I did not have anything to do with the mining activities. I only had business with my frontline,” Mr. George said.

Since the start of his defense, Mr. Taylor has had both Sierra Leonean and Liberian nationals testify on his behalf. Mr. George is the ninth defense witness who has testified for Mr. Taylor.

Mr. George’s testimony continues on Monday

## CharlesTaylorTrial.org (The Hague)

Thursday, 22 April 2010

### **Liberia: Witness Never Saw Charles Taylor Or NPFL Commanders While RUF Trained At Camp Nama In Liberia**

Alpha Sesay

Neither Charles Taylor, nor any member of his Liberian rebel group, ever visited the base where Sierra Leonean rebel forces underwent training in Liberia, a defense witness for Mr. Taylor told Special Court for Sierra Leone judges today in The Hague.

Former Liberian president, Charles Taylor, is on trial for allegedly supporting Sierra Leonean rebels during the country's brutal 11-year war as they raped, mutilated and killed civilians while benefitting from the country's diamond wealth. Prosecutors say that Mr. Taylor gave the rebel group weapons in exchange for blood diamonds, and either controlled, or jointly planned, the rebels' atrocities in his neighboring country. Mr. Taylor has denied all 11 charges against him of war crimes, crimes against humanity and other serious violations of international law. His defense case started in July 2009 with Mr. Taylor on the stand, and since February 2010, witnesses have come forward in his defense.

#### **Special Court for Sierra Leone**

Martin Flomo George, a Liberian national, today told the court about how the Sierra Leonean rebel group – the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) — underwent training at Camp Nama in Liberia before they invaded Sierra Leone in 1991. Mr. George – who said he was a member of the RUF throughout Sierra Leone's war between 1991-2002 – said he was approached by RUF leader, Foday Sankoh, to join the rebel group in 1991. Based in the Liberian town of Gbarngaha at the time, Mr. George said he willingly joined the group once Mr. Sankoh told him that a liberation struggle in Sierra Leone needed the witness' help. (Gbarngaha served as the headquarter town for Mr. Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) and Camp Nama was within NPFL controlled territory within this time in the early 1990s).

Mr. George said he was taken to the RUF training base at Camp Nama, where he met other Liberians and Sierra Leoneans also undergoing revolutionary training. This did not mean that Mr. Taylor and his NPFL rebels supported the RUF rebels during their training at Camp Nama, however, Mr. George said. Instead, the portion of Camp Nama where RUF rebels were trained — called "Crab Hole" — was cut off from other groups there. Mr. George said he never saw Mr. Taylor at Camp Nama, corroborating a previous defense witness' testimony about "Crab Hole".

As Mr. Taylor's defense counsel, Morris Anyah, asked him whether he ever saw or heard of Mr. Taylor being at Camp Nama, the witness said that "I never saw him there, not a day did I see him on that base."

"When I was training at Camp Nama under the RUF, I never heard about Charles Taylor in Camp Nama," the witness added.

Prosecutors have alleged – backed up by prosecution witnesses – that Mr. Taylor provided support for the RUF during their training at Camp Nama and that RUF leader, Foday Sankoh, held meetings with Mr. Taylor and other NPFL commanders at the camp during this period. Mr. Taylor has dismissed this assertion as false. In his testimony today, the Mr. George sided with Mr. Taylor's account.

Asked by Mr. Anyah whether he ever saw or heard of Mr. Sankoh meeting with any NPFL commanders while at Camp Nama, Mr. George said no.

"I never heard about that and I never saw it," the witness said.

In his testimony yesterday, however, Mr. George said that while the RUF underwent training at a particular section of Camp Nama — which he said was a big military barracks — an NPFL artillery unit was also undergoing training at another section of the camp. He did not say that the two groups interacted with each other.

Also in his testimony today, Mr. George said that when RUF rebels completed their training at Camp Nama in 1991, they did not have any weapons to attack Sierra Leone. He said that as they advanced to enter Sierra Leone, they came across a bundle of arms and ammunition at the Liberian border with Sierra Leone. These weapons, the witness said, were used to attack Sierra Leone. He said they did not know who put the weapons there.

The witness drew a harsh response from the presiding judge of the Chamber, Justice Sebutinde, for the manner in which he responded to her question asking him to clarify his statement about the weapons found by the RUF.

"What should I say? Should I say they were wasting there?" the witness responded in a harsh tone.

This response did not go down well with Justice Sebutinde.

"Mr. Witness, I don't like your attitude when you are answering questions," Justice Sebutinde said.

"Nobody in this court was there. You are here to give evidence and to help us understand what went on for the purposes of a very serious trial. Now kindly cooperate with your lawyer in answering and making yourself understood. If you use words that we can't understand, we ask for your clarification. I don't know with whom you are losing your temper," Justice Sebutine told the witness.

"Check your attitude and be courteous to everybody, as we are trying to be courteous to you," she added.

The witness apologized and thanked the Justice Sebutinde for her caution.

Mr. George's testimony continues tomorrow.

## Voice of America

Saturday, 24 April 2010

### War Reparations Program in Sierra Leone Needs Money

Lisa Schlein

A boy passes in front of a sign illustrating the reasons behind the creation of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission for Liberia, outside the commission headquarters in the capital, Monrovia, 30 May 2007  
An official with the Sierra Leone Truth and Reconciliation Commission says reparations have been paid to about 20,000 victims of the country's long-running civil war. She says the Commission would like to extend this program to a further 12,000 victims, but lacks the funds needed to provide cash grants and skills training to these people.

Tens of thousands of people suffered horrific abuse during Sierra Leone's 11-year civil war, which ended in 2002. Two years later, Sierra Leone's Truth and Reconciliation Commission set up a reparations program to redress some of the worst consequences of the war.

Field Supervisor for the reparations program in Sierra Leone, Hawa Sese, says women were hardest hit by the war.

She tells VOA women were raped, used as sex slaves, their husbands and children were killed. She says the torment many women experienced during the war continues to this day.

"It is difficult for these women because most of these women who were sexually abused, some of them were not accepted back into their communities," said Sese. "When a woman is being raped they are ostracized by their community, the stigmatization. Some of these women have been living-even if there is no more war-they have been living in a war situation because they have war in their own minds, within themselves."

Sese says many women are forced into prostitution to care for their families. She says many survive by begging on the street.

In recognition of the many problems confronting women, Sese says the war reparations program is specifically tailored to meet the pressing needs of victims of sexual violence.

She says more than 60 percent of those registered in the program are women. "It is timely because the women are really suffering in Sierra Leone and they need an extra hand," said Sese. "They need to be trained. They need to be given capacity so that they can restore their dignity once more and they need to be trained in livelihood skills so that they can be able to take care of their homes even if there is no husband."

The Geneva-based International Organization for Migration (IOM) is providing technical assistance to Sierra Leone's reparations program for victims of sexual violence. Hawa Sese was in Geneva to confer with officials from IOM about their joint activities.

The German government, the U.N. Peace Building Fund and U.N. Trust Fund to End Violence against women are providing money for the Sierra Leone Reparations Program. Despite this, IOM says \$8 million is urgently needed to continue vital assistance to all victims of Sierra Leone's brutal and long civil war.

## The Australian

Monday, 26 April 2010

### **The model and the blood diamond**

THE curious tale of the diamond that arrived in the night has returned to haunt supermodel Naomi Campbell, who is entangled in a web of allegations against Charles Taylor, the former Liberian president on trial at The Hague for crimes against humanity.

Despite denials from Taylor and Campbell that any diamond changed hands between them, the US ABC television network broadcast an interview with Mia Farrow, the American actress turned political activist, who contradicted the supermodel's recollection of events.

The two celebrities were visiting South Africa as guests of Nelson Mandela in 1997. Prosecutors at the Special Court for Sierra Leone in The Hague have claimed that Taylor was also in South Africa to buy weapons with so-called "blood diamonds" looted from Sierra Leone mines.

Farrow has told prosecutors of an unusual conversation she had with Campbell at breakfast in Cape Town. "She said during the night some men had knocked on her door and she, half asleep, had opened the door and it was representatives of President Charles Taylor and they had given her a huge diamond," Farrow said.

Taylor has dismissed accounts of the incident as "totally incorrect" and described as nonsense allegations he kept a pile of rough diamonds in a mayonnaise jar.

When the ABC attempted to question the British model during a visit to New York, Campbell replied: "I didn't receive a diamond and I'm not going to speak about that."

Yet Farrow insists her account is accurate.

"You don't forget when a girlfriend tells you she was given a huge diamond in the middle of the night," she said. Farrow has become a defender of Africans caught up in regional conflicts and believes Campbell should testify about her experience to help prosecutors link Taylor to the illegal diamond trade.

The actress recalled that Campbell told her she was going to give the diamond to Mandela's children's charities. According to ABC, the charity received large cash sums from Campbell in successive years, but it has no record of a donated diamond.

## Reuters

Sunday, 25 April 2010

### **Liberia weighing trials for war crimes: minister**

By Tim Cocks

MONROVIA (Reuters) - Liberia is considering trying perpetrators of the worst crimes committed during its 1989-2003 civil war, in which child soldiers were recruited, women raped and thousands killed, the justice minister said.

Justice Minister Christiana Tah told Reuters a committee had been set up to review a report by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) detailing evidence of atrocities and that it would advise on whether prosecutions should go ahead.

Africa's oldest independent republic is still recovering from the war that left it in ruins.

But unlike neighboring Sierra Leone, which swiftly set up an international tribunal to try war criminals in its closely intertwined conflict, Liberia chose to rebuild first. The twin conflicts killed about a quarter of a million people.

Trials could upset a delicate power balance in a nation that has maintained peace partly by co-opting former combatants.

Some former warlords named in the TRC report have seats in the Senate. Former Liberian president Charles Taylor is being tried for war crimes in The Hague, but only for his alleged involvement in Sierra Leone's war.

"The president set up a committee that includes myself and the head of law reform, because we want accountability. This is not over," Tah said in a weekend interview. "We'll review the report and advise the government on the way forward."

But Tah said no decision had yet been made on the issue.

"For those who committed the most serious atrocities they are recommending prosecution. That's one of the questions we have to examine. We'll try to do that as quickly as possible."

The TRC was established in 2005 to investigate war crimes.

Its report caused a storm when it was released last year for recommending that President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf be banned from public office for 30 years for backing Taylor's rebellion. The incumbent admits she provided Taylor with money but says she was misled.

Many Liberians doubt Sirleaf, who plans to run for a second term next year, can selectively back the TRC's recommendations for trials while ignoring its demand that she leave office.

"To all intents and purposes this TRC report is dead," said Israel Akinsanya, chairman of the opposition Liberty Party.

"Nobody's going to touch it if she doesn't touch it. How will she prosecute without enforcing the full recommendations?"

TRC president Jerome Verdier told Reuters even if the move toward trials went ahead it would be a drawn out process.

"It would take the next ten years to put all the resources in place to do prosecutions," he said.

"But this is something we cannot escape from. We cannot claim to have ended the conflict in the absence of justice."


**United Nations**      **Nations Unies**

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

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**UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary**  
**23 April 2010**

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

**UN News in Liberia**

*UNMIL and related UN agencies were not reported in the media today.*

**Local News on Liberian issues**

**GOL, China Sign US\$8.8M Contracts... Launch Bong Mines Project**

[Front Page Africa, Heritage, New Vision, The Inquirer]

- China has provided a little over US\$8.8 million to the Liberian government as gratuitous assistance of its confirmation to its commitment to Liberia's developmental agenda.
- Thursday's evening representatives of both governments witnessed the signing ceremonies of six contracts being entered into that would help boost Liberia's social and developmental drive.
- The contracts include the agreement on economic and technical cooperation; exchange of letter-zero tariff treatment with import duties of 60 percent of commodities originated from Liberia to China being totally exempted; and exchange of letter-technical cooperation project with the Liberia Broadcasting System.
- Other agreements entered were the exchange of letters for the provision of about US\$1.4 million for additional medical materials for the Tappita Hospital to support the operation of the hospital in Nimba County; exchange of letter-provision of medical equipment to the China-Liberia Malaria Prevention and Treatment Centre by the Chinese government and exchange of letter-provision of about US\$225,000 to malaria medicines to the Liberian government.
- Additionally, the China Union (Liberia) Bong Mines Project was launched with remarks from the Liberia's Lands, Mines and Energy Minister Eugene Shannon, Vice Governor of the China Development Bank, Li Jiping and Vice President of Wuhan Iron and Steel Group Corporation Peng Chen.
- The head of the Chinese delegation Deputy Minister of Commerce Fu Ziyang said the signing of the agreements prove the long standing bilateral relations of both countries.

**House Still Undecided Over Passage Of Threshold Bill**

[New Democrat, The News, Heritage, The Inquirer, Liberia Journal, National Chronicle, Daily Observer]

- Normal session at the House of Representatives Thursday ended in chaos due to protest from a group of lawmakers.
- The protesting lawmakers disrupted the session on grounds that the controversial threshold bill be passed finally.
- The lawmakers led by Representatives Byron Browne and George Mulbah of Grand Bassa and Bong Counties respectively insisted that without a debate and final passage of the threshold bill there would be no peaceful session at the House any longer.
- The protest was backed by a group of lawmakers from Grand Bassa, Nimba and Montserrado.
- However, lawmakers Kai Farley, James Biney, Kettehkumuehn Murray of Grand Gedeh, Maryland and Montserrado Counties respectively frowned on the action of their colleagues contending that it was improper for a group of lawmakers to hijack the floor of the House in such a noisy fashion.
- Amidst the chaos, Speaker Alex Tyler forced the House into a closed-door session.
- It was later announced that no agreement was reached on the passage of the threshold bill but a final decision would be taken next week.

**GAC Surprised Over President Sirleaf's Office**

[Public Agenda, The Analyst, New Democrat, New Vision]

- The General Auditing Commission (GAC) says while it thanks President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, the National Legislature, the Liberian people and the international partners, media and civil society organizations for their continued support to the Commission, it is troubled by reports that the President does not receive the reports before they get into the media.
- The GAC says it is surprised because, normally, GAC often officially submits audit reports to the Office of the President a week, or sometimes a month, before they are submitted to the National Legislature and the public.
- From time to time, Auditor General John Morlu makes it a habit to discuss the progress of audit reports with the President, as in the case with the recent five HIPC audits when he met with the President on the Monday of the President departure for Brazil.
- The NASSCORP report was also discussed with the President and a team of GAC auditors.
- GAC often goes the extra mile to ensure that all, particularly the President, are informed of the final reports.
- Mr. Morlu said he is gravely troubled that audit reports from the GAC do not at times immediately reach the President's desk or don't reach her at all, as indicative by the revelation that the President has not received the HIPC audits reports and Ministry of Education payroll verification audit plus many more audits reports when in fact these reports were duly submitted to the Executive Mansion and signed for.

### **Auditor General Bashes Finance Minister, Accuses Him Of Illegally Using Predecessor's Signature For Six Months**

[Parrot]

- The Auditor General of Liberia, John Morlu has described Finance Minister Augustine Ngafuan as young and inexperienced and further accused him of illegally using the signature of his immediate predecessor, Dr. Antoinette Sayeh for six months from July 2008 to December 2008.
- Mr. Morlu noted that after the departure of Dr. Sayeh in July 2008 for the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Mr. Ngafuan embarked on the usage of her signature and the signature of former Assistant Minister Brown on government checks.
- "This is an unfair act to the two former government officials and said such act could be construed as criminal", the Auditor General added.
- He intoned that immediately after the discovery of the illegal act on the part of the Finance Minister, he informed the IMF, the President and Mr. Ngafuan himself asking him to cease from using the signatures since he did not receive an approval from the former Finance Minister and the Assistant Minister.

### **53,000 Persons Living With HIV In Liberia**

[The News]

- Statistics have shown that at least 53,000 persons are living with HIV in Liberia, The President of Light Association, Joejoe Baysah has disclosed.
- According to Mr. Baysah, of the 53,000 affected persons only 2,501 are on treatment while the remaining 50,499 have stayed away for fear of stigma and discrimination.
- He said people have refused to respond top the voluntary HIV test due to lack of education and for fear of the stigma that is associated with being pronounced positive.
- Mr. Baysah spoke Wednesday at a one-day media workshop on HIV and AIDS.

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

### **Liberia, China Launch China Union US\$2.6 Million Investment**

### **House Still Undecided Over Passage Of Threshold Bill**

*(Also reported Truth FM, Sky FM, and ELBC)*

### **"Liberia Lack Coordinated Clear Policy On Land Ownership", Says Land Commission Boss**

- The Chairman of the Land Commission, Dr. Cecil Brandy says Liberia lacks a clear coordinated policy on land ownership.
- Speaking at a one-day consultative meeting in Kakata, Margibi County Dr. Brandy said land dispute remains a major threat to peace and stability in Liberia.
- The Land Commission Chairman disclosed Margibi is one of the four counties faced with serious land disputes.
- Dr. Brandy however assured his Commission will help to address issues of land ownership in the country over it five-year life span.

### **Confirmation Of LBS Director General-Designate Suffers Setback**

- The confirmation of the Liberia Broadcasting System (LBS) Director General-designate Ambrose Nmah has experienced another setback in the Senate.
- It followed the failure of the Senate to take a vote on the motion for reconsideration filed against the rejection of Mr. Nmah.
- The Senate said it could not take a vote on the motion because its session was abruptly adjourned.
- The Senate Presiding Officer said Thursday's session which was held behind closed-doors focused on internal matters of the body.
- Senator Daniel Naatehn said the fate of other nominees including Jerolimek Piah and Isaac Jackson of the Information Ministry could not also be decided.
- It is not clear when the Senate will take a vote on the confirmation of the LBS Director General-designate and the other nominees.
- The confirmation of Mr. Nmah has been marred by controversy after he was initially rejected because of what is thought to be his poor human relations.

*(Also reported Truth FM, Sky FM, and ELBC)*

#### **Brother Of Missing Man Declared Wanted**

- Bomi County Attorney Jumah Karnley has declared a brother of the man who disappeared at the Sime Darby hospital wanted.
- Attorney Karnley said Flomo Ganteh is wanted because the crime of kidnapping is spread over him.
- The County Attorney said he has instructed the police in Bomi to go after Flomo Ganteh and ensure he's brought before the law.
- Attorney Karnley also maintained the Sime Darby Company remains legally liable for the disappearance of Amos Ganteh an accident patient entrusted to its hospital.
- According to him, the hospital must be held responsible because the patient was in the protection of the Sime Darby hospital security.

#### **LDI Releases Legislative Report Card Today**

- The Liberia Democratic Institute (LDI) says it will release its Legislative report card today in Monrovia.
- LDI Executive Director Dan Saryee said the Legislative report card would cover the first quarter of plenary functions this year and would highlight the three major functions of a Legislator including representation, lawmaking and oversight.
- Mr. Saryee assured the LDI would maintain a high degree of objectivity in the release of its Legislative report card.
- The LDI boss said the Legislative report is intended to support the spirit of Liberia's fledging democracy and will not be unnecessary critical of lawmakers.
- Mr. Saryee said given the critical role of the Legislature in the advancement of democracy, it was important for people to know the function of lawmakers.

#### **Former PUL President Reject President Sirleaf's US\$100,000 Inquiry**

- Former Press Union of Liberia President George Barpeen has rejected President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's inquiry about the whereabouts of the US\$100,000 she gave the Union for its headquarters project.
- Mr. Barpeen described the inquiry as an attempt to drive the media's attention from corruption in government.
- The former PUL boss believes the President's action during her press conference was meant to weaken the media which has been persistent in reporting on corruption in government.
- He also said the President's inquiry is deceitful, claiming she is aware of all that transpired but is trying to identify a corruption partner.
- Mr. Barpeen however failed to give account of the money in question in a release, but encouraged journalists to pursue the truth surrounding the money.

#### **Baptist Board Chairman, Others Ordered Arrested**

- The Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Liberia Baptist Theological Seminary Rev. Dr. Walter Richards has been ordered arrested.
- The Paynesville Magisterial Court ordered Dr. Richards arrested to answer to the crime of Criminal Contempt of Court.
- Also ordered arrested are the President of the Baptist Theological Seminary Rev. Arnold Hill, Board Treasurer Mrs. Olivia Williams and Deacon John Gray.
- The writ of arrest issued by Stipendiary Magistrate Kennedy Peabody, commanded the magistrate police to arrest the living body of the accused party.
- The case in question grew out of an eviction order involving Rev. Dr. Lincoln Brownell and Dr. Walter Richards and party.

- Dr. Brownell claims the Baptist compound was being desecrated with cigarette packs and other ungodly substances scattered in the compound.
- But, Dr. Richards argued that Dr. Brownell was trying to defame their characters by painting a non-existence picture of the situation.

*(Also reported Truth FM, Sky FM, and ELBC)*

## International Clips on Liberia

### **Liberia in talks with Brazil's Vale on iron ore**

(Reuters) - Liberia is in talks with Brazil's Vale, the world's top iron ore producer, over a possible concession and expects to make an announcement soon, the investment commission said on Thursday. If it goes ahead, investment commission chairman Richard Tolbert said it would be the sixth major iron ore mining deal awarded to a foreign firm in the past five years, adding to \$10 billion worth of agreements already signed. The deal highlights steps the West African nation has made in restoring stability and attracting investors seeking to tap into vast iron ore reserves in a country that was in a near-permanent state of war between 1989 and 2003. "As a result of our president's visit to Brazil (this month), we could get the world's number one iron ore company here," Tolbert said in an interview in the Liberian capital. "I'm not going to go into details but I'm very happy to see (Vale) come in. There will be an announcement coming soon." China Union snatched up an iron ore concession at the start of last year. A delegation of Chinese officials led by Vice Commerce Minister Fu Ziying officially opened the 25-year Bong mine project late on Thursday.

### **Venga: GMI Provides Update on GMI's Liberian Gold Mining Operations and the RAM Consulting**

<http://www.pr-inside.com/venga-gmi-provides-update-on-gmi-s-r1848740.htm>

Venga Aerospace Systems Inc. announced that the Liberian Ministry of Lands Mines and Energy has confirmed that the Company's mining affiliate, Global Mineral Investments, LLC ("GMI") has recovered a further 19 ounces of gold from GMI's dredging operation on the Dugbe River in Sinoe County, Liberia. This gold recovery took place during 19 operational days between March 1 and March 31, 2010. In an official communique to GMI, Mr. A. Kpandel Fayia, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Lands, Mines and Energy stated, "The recovered gold is a high grade type. Congratulations to Global Minerals on this success story!" "This lower than expected level of recovery is a reflection of the operational challenges, including the unseasonably, adverse weather conditions, which have restricted the number of days that we have actually been operational during the current mining season," stated GMI's president, Jon O'Regan. "While carrying on an active mining operation in the jungles of Liberia will always present logistical and operational obstacles, we are now employing our main dredge in two, 6 hour shifts each day and remain hopeful that with the modest cooperation of the prevailing weather conditions, a much higher rate of gold recovery will be achieved during the balance of this mining season," continued O'Regan.

### **Naomi Campbell punches camera; denies 'blood-diamond' gift**

<http://www.themoneytimes.com/featured/20100423/naomi-campbell-punches-camera-denies-039blooddiamond039-gift-id-10109496.html>

The ill-tempered temptress erupted when the interviewer asked her about reports she received a "blood diamond" as a gift from former Liberian president Charles Taylor. International supermodel Naomi Campbell's anger issues hit the front-page headlines once again. This time, she threw a punch at an ABC News camera when an interviewer asked her about allegations that she had received a "blood diamond" from deposed African despot Charles Taylor. Hot-headed British supermodel is now more famous for her violent behavior than modeling, facing a series of lawsuits and criminal charges by staff members and others who claim they were abused. Campbell flashed another of her infamous outbursts of anger during an interview with ABC News. The ill-tempered temptress erupted when the interviewer asked her about reports that she received a "blood diamond" as a gift from former Liberian president Charles Taylor. "I didn't receive a diamond and I'm not going to speak about that, thank you," she told the reporter. "I'm not here (to talk about) that." The reporter continued to ask Campbell about her refusal to be interviewed by prosecutors in The Hague for the U.N. Special Court for Sierra Leone, which is trying to link Taylor, the former president of Liberia, to the possession of uncut diamonds used to purchase weapons for the bloody massacres over the Liberian border in Sierra Leone between 1997 and 2001.

## International Clips on West Africa

### Guinea

#### **Guinea says RUSAL owes over \$860 mln in taxes**

(Reuters) - Guinea's mines minister said on Thursday that RUSAL owes the West African nation at least \$860 million in unpaid taxes. The claim is a result of Guinea's hiring auditing firm Alex Stewart International to inspect the Russian company's operations in Guinea, and follows a conflict over the purchase of a refinery, which Conakry says RUSAL paid too little for. "The firm told us that (RUSAL) owes us at least \$860 million," Mines Minister Mahmoud Thiam told journalists on Thursday. Thiam said that Guinea suspected RUSAL of exaggerating the costs of its operations in Guinea in order to pay lower taxes. RUSAL was not immediately available for comment in Conakry. Mining firms have had a rocky time in Guinea, the world's biggest bauxite exporter, since the December 2008 coup that followed the death of veteran ruler Lansana Conte. A court in Guinea last year ruled that the 2006 sale of the Friguia alumina refinery to RUSAL was unlawful. RUSAL last week said that the court of appeal in Conakry had overruled the decision.

### Côte d'Ivoire

#### **United Nations technical assessment mission enriched by its visit to Côte d'Ivoire, says UNOCI**

(African Press Organization) - The United Nations technical assessment mission returns to New York tonight with a better understanding of everyone's expectations with regard to the place and role of the United Nations Operation in Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI) within the framework of the search for peace and stability in Côte d'Ivoire, UNOCI's spokesperson Hamadoun Touré said on Thursday. Giving a brief review of the mission's ten-day visit, Mr. Touré said that the results were the fruit of the consultations it had with all the national and international actors involved in the search for peace. In this regard, Mr. Touré said that they all had the political will to continue to support the peace process. "The actors themselves said they were determined to remain in the Ouagadougou Political Agreement and to find a political solution to the crisis", he said, stating that this was a source for encouragement. According to the spokesman, the mission also recalled the need to re-launch the electoral dynamic, which faces difficulties and weaknesses. "It is therefore necessary to overcome the obstacles," he said. Mr. Touré noted, in addition to needs to be done? he asked. «It is only by processing appeals on the provisional electoral list that we will know whether there are persons who were fraudulently registered on it or if there are persons who were fraudulently cross-checked or omitted from the provisional electoral list in the part that is called the grey list," he noted. In this regard, he said that efforts were being made by the Prime Minister's office to find solution to all of these difficulties.

### Sierra Leone

#### **Ambassador Sacked.....Rape Scandal Rocks Sierra Leone Embassy In Russia**

[http://standardtimespress.net/cgi-bin/artman/publish/article\\_4587.shtml](http://standardtimespress.net/cgi-bin/artman/publish/article_4587.shtml)

It is all over in the Russian media, not a good news story, not an interesting reading to patriotic Sierra Leoneans about a small country in the West Coast of Africa, but news story occupying the pages of the Russian media that is embarrassing to the state and the Presidency, whose appointment to represent his image in a foreign land has been tarnished and the reputation of country compromised. The Russian Authority, seeing this unpalatable development emerging in their midst created by individuals from another country has imposed a persona non-grata on Sierra Leone's Ambassador Salieu M.Turay for crimes committed by his son Teshim Rahim Wilson whom he traveled with to that part of the world as his son. Whether Teshim Rahim Wilson is the biological child of Ambassador Salieu M.Turay whose name formed part of the family list of the diplomat or an adopted child, with different life style and disgraceful behavioural pattern devoid of his father,s true character is another subject of political and diplomatic debate. Ambassador Salieu M. Turay has now been declared persona non-grata by the Russian Authority for his non action over the alleged rape allegation levied against his son by four Russian ladies.

#### **Getting at the Gold in Southern Sierra Leone**

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/africa/Getting-at-the-Gold-in-Southern-Sierra-Leone-91822889.html>

Better known for its diamond fields, gold exploration and mining in Sierra Leone is on the increase. The British company, Cluff Gold, has announced it will build a mechanized gold mine in the southern Kangari hills after finding

large deposits of gold in the rock. Several hundred local miners also pan for gold in the area. Bobo Simbo stands thigh-high in a pool of orange water, sifting the mud for traces of gold dust. He swirls the tin pan and a tiny amount of gold glints in the sunlight. He spits in the pan and swirls again, gathering the precious dust in a small depression in the pan. Simbo has been mining here for the past two years. He is one of many who have flocked to the Kangari hills in southern Sierra Leone to find small fortunes in the hard graft of alluvial gold mining. He makes enough money from the sale of gold dust to take care of his wife and three children. Simbo says the guarantee of a daily profit makes the back-breaking work worthwhile.

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Reuters

Friday, 23 April 2010

## Guatemala hands over key file in army genocide case



*Guatemala City,*

By International Justice Desk

Guatemala's government handed over a military document on Thursday containing evidence soldiers massacred villagers during the country's civil war which could help prosecute top officials for genocide.

A copy of a military file dating from the 1980s, complete with maps, telegrams and hand-written patrol reports about an operation known as "Plan Sofia," was mailed anonymously to President Alvaro Colom last year.

Colom's government verified its authenticity and passed it to the attorney general's office, which has a long-running case against the Central American country's former dictator, Efraim Rios Montt, accusing him of ordering the murder of thousands of civilians.

The document was also turned over for use in a parallel case in Spain, brought by Mayan human rights activist Rigoberta Menchu, which accuses Rios Montt of carrying out genocide during his 1982-83 rule.

Nearly a quarter of a million people, mostly native Mayans, died during the 36-year-long civil war pitting leftist guerrillas against security forces.

Rios Montt, now 83, still serves in Guatemala's Congress.

A U.N.-backed Truth Commission report found the army committed 85 percent of the killings, but this is the first time a military document might be able to link the highest chain of command to human rights violations in a court of law.

"These documents paint a picture of command responsibility," said Andrew Hudson of the Washington-based group Human Rights First. "When put together they show Rios Montt and the top commanders were aware of and were directing a policy which the United Nations says constituted genocide," he told Reuters.

Colom pledged to address war-time abuses after taking office in 2008. His uncle, Manuel Colom Argueta, was a prominent leftist politician killed by a military ambush in 1979 at the height of Guatemala's 1960-1996 civil war.

He promised to open sealed military archives that date back to 1954, when a U.S.-backed coup toppled Guatemala's democratically elected president, despite the army's claims that opening the files would threaten national security.

The document reveals details about the military's scorched earth campaign aimed at wiping out guerrilla sympathizers.

"Plan Sofia" was based on a counter-insurgency strategy to attack towns providing food and shelter to guerrilla fighters as a way to "drain the water from the fish," Colom's government said in a statement after making the document public.

Women, children and old people were routinely beaten, raped, tortured and killed by soldiers during these raids, according the country's truth commission.

## Hirondelle News Agency

Friday, 23 April 2010

### **ICTR/WEEKLY SUMMARY - FRENCH LAWYER ACCUSED OF USING ABUSIVE LANGUAGE**

Arusha

A lawyer this week got into hot soup after he was accused of having used abusive language with racial connotations against the bench.

On the spot is the French citizen Vincent Courcelle-Labrousse who is the lead counsel of genocide-accused Callixte Nzabonimana, Rwanda's former Minister for Youth during the 1994 killings.

"Defence counsel made several utterances which may amount to abusive language with racial connotations," alleged Ugandan presiding Judge Solomy Balungi Bossa on Monday, flanked by Judges Mparany Rajohson from Madagascar and Bakhtiyar Tuzmukhamedov from Russia.

Judge Bossa claimed that the counsel made derogatory remarks referring the chamber such as "Mongolian Chamber" and the whole Tribunal "A Banana Republic". "This is an insult not only to the Chamber but also to the whole Tribunal," Judge Bossa charged, demanding an explanation from the lawyer.

The lawyer said he had no knowledge of "what the Chamber was talking about".

Judge Bossa explained further that such words were spoken among members of defence team shortly before lunch-break. The defence counsel quickly intervened saying: " Anything stated outside the hearing process is beyond the jurisdiction of the Trial Chamber."

Presiding Judge said, "The Chamber seizes the matter and will act according to this Tribunal rules."

Nzabonimana is facing five charges-- genocide, conspiracy to commit genocide, direct and public incitement to commit genocide, extermination and murder, as n the whole week the session was presided under closed doors.

The trial continues Monday.

Meanwhile, Joseph Nzirorera, then MRND Secretary General jointly tried with the party's President Mathieu Ndirumpatse and his deputy Edouard Karemera continued calling genocide convicts to defend him.

Among them is historian Ferdinand Nahimana, who told the Tribunal that MRND leaders neither participated in creation of Radio Television Libre de Mille Collines (RTL) nor used it to present their 'extremist ideologies'.

"None of the trio formed part of the group set up by 15 persons who created RTL," said Nahimana, a founder member of the radio, currently

serving 30-year-jail term in Mali.

When cross-examined, however, Nahimana admitted some MRND members, including President Juvenal Habyarimana, genocide fugitive Felician Kabuga and Nzirorera were shareholders of RTL.

The trial continues Monday. The trio is charged with genocide and crimes against humanity. The three men have pleaded not guilty. They are mainly charged with crimes committed by members of their party.

FK/SC

## Reuters

Saturday, 24 April 2010

### **Last surviving US prosecutor at Nuremberg trials dies**

By International Justice Desk

The last surviving US prosecutor at the Nuremberg war crimes trials of major Nazi figures after World War Two has died. Whitney Harris, 97, suffered from cancer and was injured in a fall six months ago. He died on Wednesday at his home outside St. Louis, his family said.

In 1945, Harris, then in his early 30s, led off the trials as prosecutor of Nazi SS commander Ernst Kaltenbrunner, who played a role in the 1943 massacre of Jews in the Warsaw ghetto.

The special court set up by the Allies tried 21 Nazis in the first set of trials, and Kaltenbrunner was among 11 sentenced to death by hanging. Hermann Goering, head of the Luftwaffe, committed suicide before he could be executed in October, 1946.

#### **Rudolf Höss**

Harris specialized in investigations of members of the Nazi secret services. He interrogated Rudolph Höss, the captured commander of the concentration camp at Auschwitz, over three days.

In a 2005 interview, Harris said Höss calmly explained how SS leader Heinrich Himmler had told him to convert Auschwitz into a mass extermination camp in 1941.

Höss had gas chambers and crematories constructed that were used to kill 2.5 million Jews, gypsies and prisoners of war. He also detailed how another 1.5 million died from starvation, exhaustion, illness, or mistreatment.

"He was not the least bit imposing," Harris said of Höss in the interview with Spiegel One. "There was nothing about him that suggested a monstrous murderer and he seemed like a totally normal guy." Harris' affidavit helped a Polish tribunal convict Höss in 1946.

#### **Proponent of international courts**

Harris, who was born in Seattle the son of an automobile dealer, returned to St. Louis to become a corporate lawyer and law professor, seeking to put the horrors of war behind him.

He became an outspoken proponent of international courts, and compared modern-day massacres and terrorism to Nazi atrocities.

#### **Poem**

In 2005, Harris spoke at a Holocaust Observance Day ceremony and read from a poem that he had written.

"A thousand years have passed. What was the number killed at Auschwitz? It matters not. 'Twas but a trifle in the history of massacre of man by man," the poem read.