

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



A father transporting his five children to church. Credit: Patrick Fatoma

**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, 28 June 2010

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.  
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact  
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## Witness says she was not loyal to Taylor

By Alpha Sesay



Charles Taylor's defense witness has said that her efforts to help Sierra Leonean rebel fighters during the country's 11-year war were motivated purely by loyalty to one man: rebel leader Foday Sankoh - not the former Liberian president Charles Taylor, as prosecutors allege.

Isatu Kallon, a Sierra Leonean business woman who helped Revolutionary United Front (RUF) leader Foday Sankoh in recruiting fighters to invade Sierra Leone in 1991, has spent several days on the witness stand, telling the Special Court for Sierra Leone about her closeness to Sankoh and her role in helping his fighters.

Lead prosecutor Brenda Hollis challenged the witness: she was not only loyal to Sankoh, but to Taylor and his National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) rebel group as well. The witness denied Ms. Hollis's claims, insisting that her loyalty only lay with Sankoh and the RUF.

"You were loyal to Charles Taylor, right?" Ms. Hollis challenged the witness. "No, I never even spoke with him," Mrs. Kallon responded.

As Ms. Hollis highlighted the witness's activities in travelling to different places seeking materials and support for the RUF, she asked the witness: "so your actions were motivated by loyalty right?"

"Loyalty to who?" the witness asked Ms. Hollis. "To both Foday Sankoh and Charles Taylor," Ms. Hollis said.

"I was not loyal to two

people. I was only loyal to Foday Sankoh and the RUF fighters," Mrs. Kallon responded.

"The activities you have described in this court served the interests of both Foday Sankoh and Charles Taylor," Mrs. Hollis shot back.

"I did not know whether it was between them. I only know that I served Foday Sankoh and the RUF," the witness said.

She denied suggestions that both Taylor and Mr. Sankoh had made her aware of their friendship.

"You were aware that Charles Taylor and Foday Sankoh had known each other for a long time," Ms. Hollis put to the witness.

"I don't know," the witness said.

The witness had previously told the court that she had passed through NPFL checkpoints to take food to RUF fighters who were being trained at Camp Naama in Liberia -- a place where NPFL fighters also underwent training. The witness also described how she fled with NPFL fighters when rival rebels attacked the Liberian town of Gbarngba, where she had been based, selling goods in the local market. Ms. Hollis argued that the witness' freedom to move around NPFL-controlled territories was a product of her loyalty to both Sankoh and Taylor.

"The freedom you had to travel in NPFL territory, all the freedom of movement you had, was because you were loyal to both Charles Taylor and Foday Sankoh," Ms. Hollis put to the witness.

"No, I was not benefiting from two leaders,"

Mrs. Kallon said.

When put to her that the RUF and NPFL were mostly two sides of the same organization, the witness said that "no, that is not how it happened."

One of the allegations against Taylor is that he is responsible for the crime of forced labour committed by RUF forces in Sierra Leone. Prosecutors say Taylor knew or had reason to know that RUF fighters in Sierra Leone were forcing civilians to mine diamonds and work on farms -- and that he continued to provide support to them through the supply of arms and ammunition, and in planning operations. Mrs. Kallon denied seeing civilians being forced to mine diamonds -- but admitted that civilians were forced to work on farms by the RUF.

"You know that civilians were being forced to produce food, right?" Ms. Hollis asked the witness. "Yes," the witness replied.

The witness agreed that civilians were made to harvest the produce from the farms and were forced to carry the produce to the river side in Guinea where they were sold. She agreed that the civilians did this work because they did not have any choice.

The witness denied prosecution claims that when she did business with West African peacekeepers based in Liberia that she had actually bought materials, such as fuel, for both the RUF and the NPFL. She also dismissed Ms. Hollis's assertions that she obtained intelligence information from the West African peacekeepers and passed it on to Taylor.

The witness insisted that she was never "supporting Charles Taylor."

Mrs. Kallon concluded her testimony Friday, insisting that she had no idea of any collaboration between the RUF and the NPFL.

The protected witness TFI-130, whose cross-examination was put on hold due to a request by prosecutors, is expected to resume his testimony today.

Charlestaylortrial.org

Saturday, 26 June 2010

## **Witness Testifies About Her Support And Loyalty To Foday Sankoh And The RUF, Says She Was Not Loyal To Charles Taylor, Did Not See Or Hear Of Taylor's Support To The RUF**

A Sierra Leonean business woman who helped in recruiting fighters to invade Sierra Leone in 1991 this week concluded her testimony as Charles Taylor's 18th witness, telling Special Court for Sierra Leone judges about her support and loyalty to the Sierra Leonean rebel leader and denying prosecution claims that she was not only supportive and loyal to the Sierra Leonean rebels, but that same support and loyalty extended to Mr. Taylor and his Liberian rebel group.

Mrs. Isatu Kallon spent more than a week testifying about the support she provided to Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels before they invaded Sierra Leone in 1991 as well as during the country's 11 years conflict that lasted from 1991 to 2002. Prosecutors have alleged that Mr. Taylor and RUF leader Mr. Sankoh were involved in a joint criminal enterprise and such enterprise aimed to take over the territory of Sierra Leone and establish control over the country's diamond resources. Mr. Taylor has denied these allegations.

On Tuesday, Mrs. Kallon, who was involved in purchasing materials including fuel, food, and arms and ammunition for the RUF told the court that during her entire interaction with RUF leaders and commanders, she never saw or heard of any evidence that Mr. Taylor provided support or had a relationship with the RUF.

In a direct question and answer session with Mr. Taylor's defense counsel Morris Anyah, the witness denied any knowledge of Mr. Taylor's alleged support to the RUF, going further as to dismiss the evidence of key prosecution witnesses as "lies."

"During the entire time that you interacted with Foday Sankoh, did the name Charles Taylor come up, did he ever mention the name Charles Taylor?" Mr. Anyah asked the witness on Tuesday in a direct question and answer session.

"Never," Mrs. Kallon said.

"While you were in Liberia, did you ever see he and Charles Taylor together?" Mr. Anyah asked the witness.

"Never," the witness said.

"You mentioned efforts made by yourself to purchase arms and ammunition for the RUF...did you hear of any instance when Charles Taylor is said to have given RUF arms?" Mr. Anyah pressed further.

"I never saw that happen. I did not hear about it," answered Mrs. Kallon.

When asked again whether she ever heard anyone say that he was sent to fight in Sierra Leone by Mr. Taylor, the witness said "no."

Also on Tuesday, Mrs. Kallon responded directly to the testimonies of prosecution witnesses who testified in 2008 about Mr. Taylor's alleged involvement with the RUF.

In February 2008, a former RUF radio operator Perry Kamara, commonly known as King Perry, testified that Mr. Sankoh sought advice from Mr. Taylor on a regular basis and that any time Mr. Taylor gave such advice, the RUF would launch a major operation.

"Mr. Sankoh was always advised by Mr. Taylor. At anytime Mr. Sankoh received advice from Mr. Taylor, we would undertake a serious attack," King Perry said in February 2008.

He said that such operations based on Mr. Taylor's advice included the RUF attacks on the mining fields in Kono in the Eastern Province, and Sierra Rutile Mines in the Southern Province of Sierra Leone.

"Are you aware of this particular mission that Perry Kamara was talking about?" Mr. Anyah asked Mrs. Kallon on Tuesday.

"I don't know about this one," the witness said.

King Perry also in his 2008 testimony told the court that after the attack on the Sierra Rutile Mines, the RUF secured a huge amount of money at the mines and Mr. Taylor advised RUF leader Mr. Sankoh that the money should be used to establish and finance RUF diplomatic relations by having an RUF external delegation based in the Ivorian capital Abidjan. Mrs. Kallon dismissed this account as a lie, telling the court that she was the one who accompanied members of the external delegation to Ivory Coast and she had to sell some diamonds in order to provide funds to members of the delegation.

The witness also refuted claims by another prosecution witness, Isaac Mongor, who in March 2008 testified that it was Mr. Taylor who sent him to train RUF fighters at Camp Naama in Liberia.

When asked whether Mr. Mongor had ever mentioned to her that he had been sent by Mr. Taylor to conduct the said training at Camp Naama, the witness said "no."

She added, however, that Mr. Mongo told her "that he went to Camp Naama to help Mohamed [another RUF commander] and others to train the boys [RUF fighters]."

According to Mrs. Kallon, Mr. Mongor lied when he testified that he was close to Mr. Sankoh, even before the invasion of Sierra Leone.

"Isaac was just a mere bodyguard to John Kargbo [a rebel commander in Liberia]," Mrs. Kallon said.

On Wednesday, under cross-examination, Lead prosecutor, Brenda Hollis, sought to establish that Mrs. Kallon was an influential figure and provided assistance to both the RUF and Mr. Taylor's NPFL rebel group in Liberia. The witness, while admitting her support for the RUF, denied any suggestions that she had links with the NPFL.

Asked whether she did "provide support to the NPFL during the time NPFL controlled Herbel," the witness "I did not help them."

When Mrs. Hollis pointed out that NPFL fighters used to eat the food that the witness cooked for sale without making any payment, the witness responded that "that is not direct assistance."

When confronted with the suggestion that while she was based at NPFL headquarters in Gbarngaha that she did provide assistance for the rebel group, the witness said that she only "used to work at the market" in Gbarngaha.

She admitted that when a rival rebel faction attacked Gbarngaha in the 1990s, she "fled Gbarngaha with NPFL fighters and supporters."

Mrs. Hollis also pointed out that when the RUF signed a peace agreement with the government of Sierra Leone in 1999, the witness was one of the persons selected by RUF leader Mr. Sankoh, as part of a delegation to attend a meeting with Mr. Taylor. The witness agreed that this was the case.

"You were selected because of your close association with both Foday Sankoh and Charles Taylor," Mrs. Hollis suggested.

"No, I don't know about that one," Mrs. Kallon said.

The witness denied claims that during the conflicts in both Sierra Leone and Liberia, she was known by the code name "Iron Lady." According to Mrs. Kallon, nobody ever called her that name and if they ever did, it probably

could have been behind her back.

“And they referred to you as Iron Lady because you were such a strong liaison between the RUF and Charles Taylor, correct?” Ms. Hollis asked.

“No. Nobody ever called me that name,” the witness said.

The witness agreed that she carried the code name “Sensitive” — but while admitting that she used that name to communicate with the RUF while she was in Guinea, she denied using the same name to communicate with the NPFL while she was in Danane, Ivory Coast.

“I did not communicate with NPFL,” she said.

In her testimony on Wednesday, the witness also told the court that after the RUF invasion of Sierra Leone in 1991, her business dipped because she had spent a huge portion of her money to finance the RUF. Ms. Hollis retorted that the downfall of her business was because Mr. Taylor and the RUF leader Mr. Sankoh stopped paying her for supplying food to RUF and NPFL trainees at Camp Naama in Liberia.

“No. I only had money business with Foday Sankoh,” Mrs. Kallon replied.

As the witness concluded her testimony on Thursday, she denied prosecution suggestions that her loyalty did not only lie to Mr. Sankoh and his RUF, but the such loyalty extended to Mr. Taylor. Ms. Hollis challenged the witness: she was not only loyal to Mr. Sankoh, but to Mr. Taylor and his NPFL rebel group as well. The witness denied Ms. Hollis’s claims, insisting that her loyalty only lay with Mr. Sankoh and the RUF.

“You were loyal to Charles Taylor, right?” Ms. Hollis challenged the witness.

“No. I never even spoke with him,” Mrs. Kallon responded.

As Ms. Hollis highlighted the witness’s activities in travelling to different places seeking materials and support for the RUF, she asked the witness: “so your actions were motivated by loyalty right?”

“Loyalty to who?” the witness asked Ms. Hollis.

“To both Foday Sankoh and Charles Taylor,” Ms. Hollis said.

“I was not loyal to two people. I was only loyal to Foday Sankoh and the RUF fighters,” Mrs. Kallon responded.

“The activities you have described in this court served the interests of both Foday Sankoh and Charles Taylor,” Mrs. Hollis shot back.

“I did not know whether it was between them. I only know that I served Foday Sankoh and the RUF,” the witness said.

The witness had previously told the court that she had passed through NPFL checkpoints to take food to RUF fighters who were being trained at Camp Naama in Liberia — a place where NPFL fighters also underwent training. The witness also described how she fled with NPFL fighters when rival rebels attacked the Liberian town of Gbarngha, where she had been based, selling goods in the local market. On Thursday, Ms. Hollis argued that the witness’ freedom to move around NPFL-controlled territories was a product of her loyalty to both Mr. Sankoh and Mr. Taylor.

“The freedom you had to travel in NPFL territory, all the freedom of movement you had, was because you were loyal to both Charles Taylor and Foday Sankoh,” Ms. Hollis put to the witness.

“No, I was not benefitting from two leaders,” Mrs. Kallon said.

When put to her that the RUF and NPFL were mostly two sides of the same organization, the witness said that “no, that is not how it happened.”

The witness denied prosecution claims that when she did business with West African peacekeepers based in Liberia that she had actually bought materials, such as fuel, for both the RUF and the NPFL. She also dismissed Ms. Hollis’s assertions that she obtained intelligence information from the West African peacekeepers and passed it on to Mr. Taylor.

The witness insisted that she was never “supporting Charles Taylor.”

One of the allegations against Mr. Taylor is that he is responsible for the crime of forced labor committed by RUF forces in Sierra Leone. Prosecutors say that Mr. Taylor knew or had reason to know that RUF fighters in Sierra Leone were forcing civilians to mine diamonds and work on farms — and that he continued to provide support to them through the supply of arms and ammunition, and in planning operations. On Thursday, Mrs. Kallon denied seeing civilians being forced to mine diamonds — but admitted that civilians were forced to work on farms by the RUF.

“You know that civilians were being forced to produce food, right?” Ms. Hollis asked the witness.

“Yes,” the witness replied.

The witness agreed that civilians were made to harvest the produce from the farms and were forced to carry the produce to the river side in Guinea where they were sold. She agreed that the civilians did this work because they did not have any choice.

Earlier on Monday, Mrs. Kallon told the court that when a group of Sierra Leonean soldiers who formed the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) under the leadership of Major Johnny Paul Koroma and overthrew the government of President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah in 1997, the soldiers put her in radio communication with RUF rebels. She said she convinced the rebels to come out of the bush and form a coalition government with the soldiers.

“I spoke to them [RUF rebels], I said to them I am Isatu Kallon, please come out of the bush. Everything is finished,” Mrs. Kallon told the court.

When asked to explain why she thought the soldiers, formerly of the Sierra Leone Army (SLA), had asked her to speak with the rebels, Mrs. Kallon responded that “the SLA had been talking to the RUF, maybe it was during those conversations that my name came up.”

“They said it was Johnny Paul Koroma who had asked that I help with the peace process,” she added.

Prosecutors have alleged that Mr. Taylor was influential in getting the RUF to join the AFRC after the 1997 coup in Sierra Leone but Mr. Taylor has said that he had nothing to do with the RUF’s decision to join the soldiers. In her testimony on Monday, Mrs. Kallon did not mention Mr. Taylor’s name but pointed out that the AFRC soldiers had already established dialogue with the RUF rebels before she spoke with RUF commanders to travel to the country’s capital in Freetown to join the junta government. She said that RUF leader, Foday Sankoh, also communicated with the RUF rebels and told them to join the AFRC.

The RUF rebels, the witness said, requested that the AFRC “authorities should send food and vehicles for them.

Asked by Mr. Anyah whether “the SLA soldiers responded to the request of the RUF,” the witness said “yes.”

After the 1997 coup, the soldiers were able to have access to Mrs. Kallon because she was already in the country’s capital when the coup took place, having been arrested in Guinea when she was there to buy arms and ammunition for the RUF. In her testimony last week, the witness said that she travelled to the Guinean capital, Conakry, in the company of a Guinean army captain to purchase arms and ammunition for the RUF.

On Monday, the witness said she was arrested by Guinean security forces on her return from Conakry with a truck load of ammunition boxes and 19,000 United States dollars in her possession. She was later transferred to Sierra

Leone where she was detained by the then military junta, the National Provisional Ruling Council (NPRC) under the leadership of Captain Valentine Strasser. The witness testified about meeting NPRC officials including the country's then Vice Head of State Brigadier Julius Maada Bio. When Brigadier Bio overthrew Captain Strasser in a palace coup in 1996, the witness said she encouraged Brigadier Bio to reach out to RUF leader Mr. Sankoh for a peaceful end to the conflict in Sierra Leone.

"Now that you have overthrown, maybe you'll be the one to bring peace to this country because maybe the Pa [Sankoh] will talk to you," the witness referenced her discussion with Brigadier Bio in 1996.

"After that, Maada Bio started the process of negotiating with Foday Sankoh over the radio," she said.

These discussions eventually led to the signing of the peace agreement between the government of Sierra Leone and the RUF in the Ivorian capital Abidjan on November 30 1996.

On Friday, prosecutors resumed the cross-examination of Mr. Taylor's fifteenth witness, DCT-190, having being put on hold because after his direct-examination, the judges ruled the his written statements which were disclosed by defense lawyers were "grossly inadequate."

As they resumed his cross-examination, prosecutors sought to establish that there were several inconsistencies between the witness's written statement made to defense lawyers and his oral testimony in court.

The witness in his direct-examination told the court about being involved in fighting in the West African sub-region for the about fifteen years, having been a member of the United Liberation Movement for Democracy in Liberia (ULIMO) rebel group, a rival rebel faction which fought against Mr. Taylor's NPFL rebel group, was recruited into the Civil Defense Forces (CDF) of Sierra Leone with an aim of fighting against rebel forces in Sierra Leone, and was recruited as part of the Liberians United For Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD), a rebel group which fought to topple the government of Mr. Taylor while he served as president of Liberia.

On Friday, prosecution counsel Katherine Howarth sought to establish that the witness has given inconsistent accounts to defense lawyers and Special Court for Sierra Leone judges.

Ms. Howarth pointed out that in his briefings notes with Mr. Taylor's lead defense counsel Courtenay Griffiths on June 6 2010, the witness said that LURD forces dispelled attacks by RUF rebels in the Guinean town of Gekeidou. The witness denied saying this to Mr. Griffiths and insisted that a mistake had been made.

In his written statement, the witness was quoted to have said "we attacked Gekeidou to push RUF back into Sierra Leone."

The witness responded that "It might have been a mistake."

"It was after disarmament that we travelled. By that time, RUF had disarmed...we took this operation after disarmament," he added.

When put to him that he was "changing his story before these judges," the witness said that "i am not changing my story."

"You are saying one thing to the judges and a completely different thing to your lawyers," Ms. Howarth put to the witness.

"I am telling you there is a mistake somewhere," the witness responded.

Prosecutors have long stated and witnesses have testified that while Mr. Taylor served as president of Liberia, he sent RUF fighters to attack Guinea. Prosecutors now seek to establish that the witness is changing his account because an admission that LURD had pushed RUF out of Gekeidou will give credence to accounts that Mr. Taylor indeed sent the RUF to attack Guinea.

Ms. Howarth therefore put to the witness that “you know very well that the RUF attacked Gekeidou on behalf of Mr. Taylor.”

The witness responded that he could not say that this was the case.

Ms. Howarth again pointed out that in his written statements to defense lawyers, the witness had stated that in 1992, NPFL fighters helped RUF rebels in attacking Pujehun in southern Sierra Leone.

“There were some NPFL elements assisting the RUF at this time [1992],” the witness was quoted in a June 6 2010 statement made to Mr. Griffiths.

When prosecutors commenced his cross-examination on June 10 2010, the witness told the court that he “never said NPFL elements were assisting RUF in Pujehun” at the end of 1992.

Ms. Howarth again put to the witness that “you are contradicting everything that you’ve been saying in this court.”

“You don’t want to say that now because you don’t want to incriminate Mr. Taylor,” Ms. Howarth put to the witness.

“In the first place, this is my first time of seeing Mr. Taylor and so i have nothing to hold back for Mr. Taylor,” the witness said.

Ms. Howarth also pointed out that in the witness’s direct-examination, he told the court that LURD leader Sekou Damate Conneh informed him in June 2003 that Liberian journalist Hassan Bility had called from Monrovia to inform them that Mr. Taylor’s forces were running out of ammunition and so the time was ripe to attack the Liberian capital. The prosecutor put to the witness that the last time Mr. Bility was arrested in Liberia was in June 2002 and upon his release and based on a condition given by Mr. Taylor, Mr. Bility was taken out of the country in December 2002.

Ms. Howarth told the witness that “Mr. Bility was completely out of the picture and was in the USA” by June 2003.

The witness explained that he never spoke to Mr. Bility but that he had been briefed by Mr. Conneh who said he had spoken with Mr. Bility.

As prosecutors highlight inconsistencies in the witness’s accounts, they seek discredit the witness and establish to the judges that he is not credible and so his testimony cannot be relied on. It will be left with the judges to determine the authenticity of the witness’s testimony.

Charlestaylortrial.org

Monday, 28 June 2010

## **As They Resume The Cross-Examination Of DCT-190, Prosecutors Say Witness's Written Statements And Oral Testimony Have Been Inconsistent**

Prosecutors today pointed out that there have been several inconsistencies in the written statements made to defense lawyers and the oral testimony given in court by Charles Taylor's fifteenth witness whose cross-examination resumed today, having being put on hold on after the witness concluded his direct examination about two weeks ago.

On June 8 2010, Special Court for Sierra Leone judges suspended the cross-examination of Mr. Taylor's witness DCT-190 on the basis that the witness's statements which were disclosed to prosecutors by defense lawyers were "grossly inadequate."

The witness in his direct-examination told the court about being involved in fighting in the West African sub-region for the past fifteen years, having been a member of the United Liberation Movement for Democracy in Liberia (ULIMO) rebel group, a rival rebel faction which fought against Mr. Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) rebel group, was recruited into the Civil Defense Forces (CDF) of Sierra Leone with an aim of fighting against rebel forces in Sierra Leone, and was recruited as part of the Liberians United For Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD), a rebel group which fought to topple the government of Mr. Taylor while he served as president of Liberia.

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"It was after disarmament that we travelled. By that time, RUF had disarmed...we took this operation after disarmament," he added.

When put to him that he was "changing his story before these judges," the witness said that "i am not changing my story."

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"I am telling you there is a mistake somewhere," the witness responded.

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When prosecutors commenced his cross-examination on June 10 2010, the witness told the court that he “never said NPFL elements were assisting RUF in Pujehun” at the end of 1992.

Ms. Howarth again put to the witness that “you are contradicting everything that you’ve been saying in this court.”

In his response, the witness said that “this written statement, i am not very convinient with it.”

This prompted a question from Justice Richard Lussick to the witness that “are you saying you didn’t tell your lawyer that?”

“That is correct,” the witness responded.

When asked whether this had been made up by Mr. Griffiths, the witness said “that’s a question for Mr. Griffiths.”

“You don’t want to say that now because you don’t want to incriminate Mr. Taylor,” Ms. Howarth put to the witness.

“In the first place, this is my first time of seeing Mr. Taylor and so i have nothing to hold back for Mr. Taylor,” the witness said.

Ms. Howarth also pointed out that in the witness’s direct-examination, he told the court that LURD leader Sekou Damate Conneh informed him in June 2003 that Liberian journalist Hassan Bility had called from Monrovia to inform them that Mr. Taylor’s forces were running out of ammunition and so the time was ripe to attack the Liberian capital. The prosecutor put to the witness that the last time Mr. Bility was arrested in Liberia was in June 2002 and upon his release and based on a condition given by Mr. Taylor, Mr. Bility was taken out of the country in December 2002.

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DCT-190’s cross-examination continues on Monday.


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

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

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**UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary  
25 June 2010**

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

**UN News in Liberia**

UNMIL was not reported in the news today.

**Local News on Liberian issues**

**UP Secretary General-Elect Resigns amid Pressure from Party Executives**

[Daily Observer, Heritage, The Inquirer, Public Agenda, Parrot, Front Page Africa]

- The Secretary General-elect of the ruling Unity Party (UP), Mr. Henry Boimah Fahnbulleh has resigned, amid pressure from executives of the party to do so.
- According to reports, Executive Members of UP requested Mr. Fahnbulleh to resign his elected post on grounds that he was biologically related to the Chairman-elect of the party, Cllr. Varney Sherman.
- Some executives of the party also believe that his election had constitutional implications consistent with article 79(e) of the Liberian Constitution.
- But addressing a news conference Thursday, Mr. Fahnbulleh said his resignation was triggered by prepositions from Chairman Sherman, asking him to decline from the recent election held during the Ganta Convention of the party.
- He said he rejected the prepositions by Cllr. Sherman on grounds that he had overwhelming support from his peers, particularly those who supported his bid to becoming the Secretary General-elect of the party.
- According to him, his decision not to yield to the prepositions from Cllr. Sherman is causing a level of divisiveness amongst members of the party.

**Senate Rejects Property Seizure Act, Says It Should Be Quashed**

[Liberia Journal, Daily Observer, The Informer, Heritage, Front Page Africa]

- The Senate has rejected the passage of the contentious draft Act seeking the freezing and seizure of properties of anyone accused of stealing state resources.
- The rejection followed a report by the five-member Committee on Judiciary, Claims, Petition and Human Rights chaired by Sinoe Senator Joseph Nagbe.
- The Committee recommended that the proposed Property Freezing and Seizure Act be quashed from the records of the Legislature as if it has never existed.
- The draft Act provided for the pre and post freezing, seizure and confiscation of property of accused corrupt officials and any associate.
- But, in a four-page report, the Committee said the draft Act submitted by the Executive violates Articles 20(a) and 21(b) of the Liberian Constitution, which guarantee the rights of every citizen to life, property and security.
- Thursday's rejection of the property seizure bill now unifies the position of the Legislature after similar rejection in 2007 by the House of Representatives.

**Senate Orders Review of Senator Taylor's UN Travel Ban**

[Daily Observer]

- The Senate has ordered a review of a petition seeking its intervention in the lifting of the UN travel ban on Bong County Senator Jewel Howard Taylor and other Liberian women.
- The mandate followed the first reading of the petition submitted by a coalition of women groups.
- Prior to the decision, the Senate was split over the petition with some Senators suggesting it was appropriate but selective.

- The Senators who pushed the argument included Nathaniel Innis of Grand Bassa, Prince Johnson of Nimba and Abel Massaley of Grand Cape Mount.
- However, Sinoe Senator Joseph Nagbe said it was wrong for the women to submit such a petition to the Legislature and should have instead presented it to the Foreign Ministry.
- Senator Nagbe warned his colleagues not to debate the petition or pass judgment because they don't have the facts why the UN imposed the travel restriction.

### **New Threshold Bill Introduced As Lawmakers End Protest**

[The Inquirer, Front Page Africa, Heritage]

- The House of Representatives has announced a final breakthrough following days of protest by lawmakers of six highly populated counties.
- The breakthrough followed intense lobbying and hours of closed-door session Thursday.
- House spokesman Isaac Redd said the protesting lawmakers led by Representative George Mulbah have resolved to attend session.
- Mr. Redd said as part of the breakthrough the lawmakers have agreed to reach a speedy workable solution on the stalemate facing the threshold bill.
- Meanwhile, a fresh bill on the threshold bill has been introduced in the House of Representatives.
- The bill provides for all electoral constituencies established prior to the 2008 census to be maintained with nine additional constituencies.
- It said the additional constituencies shall be apportioned only by counties with populations above 200,000 as per the 2008 census report.
- Under the new bill, there would be a total of 73 Representatives with Montserrado, Nimba, Bong, Lofa, Grand Bassa and Margibi benefiting new seats.

### **US\$13 Million Needed to Avoid Flooding in Monrovia**

[The Informer, The News, The Inquirer, Public Agenda, Parrot, Front Page Africa]

- Public Works Minister Samuel Woods says the Ministry needs US\$13 million to make Monrovia a water-free city.
- Minister Woods said although the Ministry's budget of U\$39 million was sliced to US\$19 million, more funding is urgently needed to deal with the problem of flooding.
- The Public Works Minister made the disclosure when a Government assessment team toured areas affected by Wednesday's flooding.
- They included officials from the Ministries of Public Works; Lands, Mines and Energy and the Liberia Water and Sewer Corporation.
- The assessment team blamed constant flooding in the Monrovia area on abuse of water channels by residents.
- They claimed the construction of houses on the water channels impedes the free flow of water whenever it rains.
- Lands, Mines and Energy Minister Eugene Shannon attributes the situation to what he called environmental and structural problems.

### **For VAT Programme, ECOWAS Contributes over €37,000 to Finance Ministry**

[The Analyst, In Profile Daily, The Informer]

- The ECOWAS Commission has made a contribution of over €37,000 to the Finance Ministry.
- The money is intended to assist Liberia with the implementation of the work programme of the Value Added Tax (VAT) in the country.
- VAT was adopted at the 62<sup>nd</sup> Session of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers in Abuja, Nigeria in May 2009.
- The ECOWAS Council also recommended to the ECOWAS Commission to provide assistance to Liberia, Gambia and Sierra Leone the only three West African countries that have not yet set up their VAT programme.
- VAT will ensure that there is no discrimination on trade and completion will exist among ECOWAS Member States.

### **Local Government Authorities in Trouble**

[The Analyst, Daily Observer, The Inquirer, Front Page Africa]

- The Superintendents of Bomi and Nimba Counties have fallen in big trouble with the Public Procurement and Concessions Commission (PPCC).
- PPCC Communications Director told a news conference Thursday Superintendents Mohammed Massaley and Edith Gongloe Weh violated the Commission Act.
- Mr. Nathan Bengu said Superintendent Massaley purchased a used yellow machine for Bomi County without going through the normal bidding process.
- According to Mr. Bengu, the Bomi County Superintendent had written the PPCC seeking permission for an exemption to purchase the motor grader but did not approve the exemption request when Mr. Massaley purchased the yellow machine in sharp contravention of the PPCC Act.
- Also, Mr. Bengu said Nimba County Superintendent Edith Gongloe Weh purchased two generators worth US\$115,000 without the PPCC's approval.
- He said Mrs. Weh single-handedly purchased the generators on grounds she was constrained with time to prepare for the Independence Day celebrations in Nimba.
- The PPCC Communications Director emphasized the Commission will not take lightly the violations committed by the two local government officials.
- Mr. Bengu said the PPCC would take legal recourse to deal with such violations to ensure economic and efficient use of public funds in public procurement.

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

#### **President Sirleaf says she's Sorry for Liberia, Ministers**

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf said she is sorry for Liberia and her ministers who are sacrificing to rebuild the country.
- The President did not give reasons for her sorrow but made reference to a newspaper report on a financial scandal at the Central Bank of Liberia.
- The scandal relates to the transfer of over US\$1 million to ECOBANK under dubious circumstances which now links her son, Charles Sirleaf.
- She made the statement Wednesday when she commissioned six Ministers and eight Deputy Ministers in her government.
- The commissioned officials promised to discharge their duties with honesty and dedication.

#### **President Sirleaf on Restoring Police Image, Praised AFL**

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf says there is lot to be done to restore the image of the Liberia National Police (LNP).
- She said government needs to do all it can to professionalize the police to win back the confidence of the public.
- The President however boasted of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) which she said represents the image of the country.
- The Commander-in-Chief of the AFL said the present army, though small in number is strong and well-equipped to protect the county.
- The Liberian leader also reaffirmed her trust in Finance Minister Augustine Ngafuan and clarified that the issue of corruption was not on the agenda during a recent visit to US President Barack Obama in Washington DC.
- She spoke at an interactive forum with students of the African Methodist Episcopal University where she promised to give underprivileged students US\$15,000 to cover their tuitions.

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

#### **Senate Rejects Property Seizure Act, Says It Should Be Quashed**

#### **Senate Orders Review of Senator Taylor's UN Travel Ban**

#### **New Threshold Bill Introduced As Lawmakers End Protest**

#### **US\$13 Million Needed to Avoid Flooding in Monrovia**

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

#### **In US\$55,000 Iron Ore Deal, Francis Nyumalin Breaks Silence**

- The man at the centre of a US\$55,000 iron ore deal Francis Nyumalin has broken silence describing Nigerian businessman Onaolapo Delon as a 419 agent.
- Mr. Nyumalin alleged that the Mr. Delon was paid by detractors to damage his reputation and bring embarrassment to Vice President Joseph Boakai noting that the Nigerian has only served as a middleman between his company and a Chinese company.

- According to him, in April 2009 a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between his company and the Chinese company and at the close of the transaction Delon was given US\$2,500 as compensation for his role played.
- Meanwhile Francis Nyumalin has clarified that Vice President Boakai was never a party to the deal as is alleged by the Nigerian businessman.
- He said he will take legal action against the Nigerian businessman for assassinating his character and the image of his company.

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

**For VAT Programme, ECOWAS Contributes over €37,000 to Finance Ministry**

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

**President Sirleaf Declares Saturday, 26 June Working Holiday**

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has by proclamation declared Saturday, 26 June 2010 as International Day against Drug Abuse and Trafficking to be observed as a working holiday.
- According to a Foreign Ministry release drug trafficking and abuse have become a major problem worldwide and the proliferation of illicit drugs in post war Liberia is very alarming and detrimental to the survival of the elderly, youth and the incoming generation.
- The President has called on all institutions and individuals to execute programmes that will fight against drug abuse and trafficking.

**International Clip on Liberia**

**'Envoys' held over cocaine**

<http://thecitizen.co.tz>

Police are holding two West Africans who were arrested in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday night, in what the anti-narcotics boss described as a major breakthrough in the fight against a new wave of drug trafficking by couriers masquerading as diplomats. The foreigners, a Liberian and a Guinean, who had presented themselves to the Immigration officials as diplomats, were found with 31 kilogrammes of cocaine in two bags, labelled "diplomatic", and allegedly meant for the Arusha-based International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR). Anti-narcotics personnel at the arrivals' lounge of the Julius Nyerere International Airport pounced on the suspects before they made their way out and detained them for questioning. They had used diplomatic letters allegedly issued by their governments to avoid scrutiny of their cargo by Customs and Immigration officials. The two had arrived from Johannesburg at 7.30 in the evening on transit to Arusha. The drugs, whose street value, was estimated to be between \$372,000 (about Sh520million) and \$1million (about Sh1.4billion), is the second largest haul in the country this year. Their arrest comes hot on the heels of the seizure in Nairobi two weeks ago of a Ugandan woman, who had also posed as a United Nations official, transporting two boxes of goods meant for the UN office in Kampala. But on scrutinising her supposed "diplomatic cargo", police found 21kgs of cocaine valued at Sh1.4 billion. Yesterday in Dar es Salaam, police identified the West African suspects as 52-year-old Diaka Brama Kaba, a Guinean national, who resides in Conakry, and Mr Abubakary Ndijane (50), a Liberian, who lives in Monrovia. Mr Kaba was said to have been carrying 17 kilogrammes of cocaine, while Mr. Ndijane was allegedly found with 14 kilogrammes.

**International Clips on West Africa**

**Guinea**

**Former Beninese Foreign Affairs Minister to Lead Electoral Observer Mission of the Organization of the Francophonie to Guinea**  
**African Press Agency**

The former Beninese Foreign Affairs minister, Professor Theodore Holo will lead the electoral observer mission of the Organization of the Francophonie (OIF) to Guinea of which the first ballot is billed for June 27th, a source close to the organization told APA. The mission of this former President of the Benin High Court, is to weigh the actions implemented by the candidates for the holding of free, reliable, and transparent elections", consistent with the Bamako Declaration. Guinea has a transitional government led by the military junta following the death of former President Lansana Conte in December 2008. Guinea will hold its first free presidential election since the country gained its independence in 1958.

**Special force to secure Guinea's elections finalizes preparations**

**APA**

The Special Force for a Safe Electoral Process (FOSSEPEL) in Guinea comprises 16,000 security officers, comprising 8,000 police and 8,000 gendarmes, who will be deployed in all constituencies before the Election Day on 27 June. This special force, headed by the Chief of General Staff Colonel Nouhou Thiam, would need US\$38 million to accomplish its mission. According to FOSSEPEL, this budget is yet to be balanced. The mandate of FOSSEPEL will be to “maintain order, peace, and enable the free movement of people and goods throughout the national territory.” Its other mandate is to secure meetings or public events while also ensuring the safety of political leaders during the campaign, and securing headquarters of their political parties. During the elections, the special force will be in charge of maintaining law and order, in case of problems in the voting process.

**Stellar to increase diamond production at Guinea mines**  
[www.miningweekly.com](http://www.miningweekly.com)

Production at West Africa-focused Stellar Diamonds’ Mandala diamond mine was expected to increase to 12 000 ct/m from the end of the second quarter, while the Bomboko mine was expected to see an increase in its output to 4 000 ct/m, chairperson Peter Daresbury said on Friday. The Aim-listed miner earned revenues of \$1,19-million from the sale of diamonds from its Mandala and Bomboko mines, in Guinea, in the first six months of its 2010 financial year. The Mandala mine had produced 34 409 ct during the six months ended March 31, 2010. A total of 78 491 ct had been produced since the mine started operating in April last year, with total sales to date amounting to 74 793 ct sold for a combined \$2,3-million. Trial mining at the Bomboko mine delivered 2 411 ct during the six months, bringing the operation’s total output to date, to 4 157 ct. Diamond sales from this mine have realised revenues of \$417 000. Daresbury noted in a statement to shareholders that the average 2010 sales prices were significantly higher than those realised last year, as the rough diamond market continued to improve. Recent sales had realised prices of between \$38/ct and \$42/ct, he added.

**Ivory Coast**

**UN Secretary-General Special Representative meets Ivorian President**  
**African Press Organization**

The Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Côte d’Ivoire, Y.J. Choi, on Thursday met with President Laurent Gbagbo in Abidjan. Speaking at the end of the 30-minute meeting, Mr. Choi told journalists that he had come to brief the head of state on the UN Security Council meeting which took place in early June. The two men also discussed various ways in which UNOCI and Côte d’Ivoire could continue to work together on the crisis-resolution process. On the issue of the crisis-resolution process, Mr. Choi said he believed the moment was “very delicate”. From now on we have two ways of resolving the crisis-resolution question, the Special Representative explained. In order to do so, it is vital to maintain peace and stability in the country, he added. The Special Representative said that with peace and stability, it was possible to build two pillars, namely reunification and elections. He said in order to achieve this, it was necessary to concentrate on producing a definitive electoral list. “This list is not only important for the elections but also for reunification because it will resolve the issue of identification definitively,” he concluded. Earlier, Mr. Choi had met with a delegation of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) led by the president of the ECOWAS Commission, James Victor Gbeho, at UNOCI’s headquarters in Abidjan. They discussed the situation in Côte d’Ivoire and the sub-region. Mr. Gbeho thanked the Special Representative for the partnership he had developed between ECOWAS and the UN with the aim of successfully resolving the crisis-resolution process.

**Cote d'Ivoire: Torrential rains kill 12 in Abidjan**  
**PANA**

At least 12 people either died in landslides or drowned in rising waters following the torrential rains that fell in Abidjan, the Ivorian economic capital, Thursday, according to the National Civil Protection Office. The office said the landslides and flooding also damaged a number of property in different districts of Abidjan, and that several workers could not go to work. Last May, more than 20 people were killed during torrential rains in many districts of Abidjan.

**UN agency helps set up laboratory in Ivorian port to monitor for toxic waste**  
[www.un.org](http://www.un.org)

A new laboratory has been set up in the Ivorian port city of Abidjan to improve the monitoring of hazardous materials under a project backed by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) that aims to prevent a repeat of a notorious incident in which thousands of people were sickened by toxic waste. The laboratory, which has been handed over to Cote d’Ivoire’s environment ministry, is equipped to test for waste in ships entering the port, according to a press release issued by UNEP in Geneva. The agency developed the laboratory as part of a joint project with the Secretariat of the Basel Convention on the Control of Trans boundary Movements of

Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal. UNEP said the project is the result of wider efforts by the agency to both improve waste management systems in Côte d'Ivoire and protect the West African coast from hazardous materials. In 2006 the cargo ship Probo Koala dumped 500 tons of toxic waste, belonging to the Dutch company Trafigura, at various sites – including local waterways – around Abidjan, the largest city in Côte d'Ivoire.

## **Sierra Leone**

**Sierra Leone suffers stagnant growth despite British 'take-over'**  
**[www.afrik-news.com](http://www.afrik-news.com)**

Recent evaluation of Sierra Leone has revealed that the anger and frustration that fuelled the civil war there a decade ago are still substantial despite a quasi-British run administration, and people are hungry for the benefits they thought peace would bring. Almost 50 years after its independence from the British, the government of Sierra Leone believes its corporation with the former European colonial power can help bring the progress it seeks. However, the Sierra Leonean story remains the same despite having British officials taking over some functions of state in the West African country in the quest for good governance. According to Valnora Jones of the non-governmental organization, Campaign for Good Governance, the Sierra Leonean administration has been, to a high extent, taken-over by British elements. Donor partners need clearance from the UK Department for International Development or the UK before coming into the country.

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CNN

Friday, 25 June 2010

## **War crimes trial postponed**

By the CNN Wire Staff

(CNN) -- The trial of a man accused of war crimes in the Central African Republic has been postponed, the International Criminal Court said Friday.

The start of the trial of Jean-Pierre Bemba Gombo was postponed until July 14 for "administrative reasons," the court said in a written statement. He had been scheduled to go on trial on July 5.

Prosecutors have charged Gombo with crimes against humanity -- murder and rape -- and three war crimes -- murder, rape and pillaging. They say he acted as a military commander and committed the criminal acts in the Central African Republic between October 26, 2002 and March 15, 2003.

Gombo is in custody at the International Criminal Court detention center in The Hague, Netherlands.

# Kenya Broadcasting Corporation

Saturday, 26 June 2010

## Kenya takes on ICTR over Kabuga

Written By:Judith Akolo

Caption: Kabuga is the most wanted of 11 genocide suspects still on the run.

Foreign Affairs Minister Moses Wetangula Saturday accused the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda - ICTR of using Kenya as a scapegoat not to wind up its work in Arusha.

Wetangula insisted that Rwandan fugitive Felician Kabuga is not in Kenya.

The Minister at a press conference in his office said the tribunal was using the issue of Kabuga every time questions were raised over its long duration in arresting all genocide suspects.

He said ICTR has always pointed to Kenya as harbouring the fugitive, yet there is no evidence to that effect.

Wetangula said following his recent meeting with Rwanda President Paul Kagame, he was confident that the fugitive is not in Kenya and could be hiding elsewhere.

"We have an extradition treaty with Rwanda, if Kabuga(Felicien) was in Kenya we would very well hand him over to Rwanda," said Wetangula.

The Minister said it could be probable that the fugitive could be hiding in Brussels, Belgium where his family is living and where all his money was wired once his bank accounts in Kenya were closed.

"A man lives where his money and family is and Kabuga could very well be in Brussels, Belgium," he said.

The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR),based in Arusha is an international court established in November 1994 by the United Nations Security Council in Resolution 955 to try genocide suspects.

For the last 15 years so far, the tribunal has finished 50 trials and convicted 29 accused persons. Another 11 trials are in progress.

14 individuals are awaiting trial in detention; but the prosecutor intends to transfer 5 to national jurisdiction for trial. 13 others are still at large, some suspected to be dead.

Kabuga is the most wanted of 11 genocide suspects still on the run. The United States has placed a five-million-dollar bounty on his head.

Last week ICTR chief prosecutor Hassan Jallow court claimed Kenya had failed to cooperate with the court in capturing of Kabuga

"I regret to report... that there has been no further progress in the matter of cooperation with Kenya in relation to the case of Felicien Kabuga," Jallow said as he briefed the UN Security Council on the court's activities over the past six months.

Kenya has continuously dismissed claims about the fugitive's presence