

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



PRESS CLIPPINGS

Enclosed are clippings of local and international press on the Special Court and related issues obtained by the Outreach and Public Affairs Office

as at:

Monday, 7 June 2010

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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Cotton Tree News

Saturday, 5 June 2010

IPAM wins Moot Court competition

Written by Ndeamoh Mansaray

Three students from the Institute of Public Administration and Management (IPAM) have won this year's Moot Court competition organized by the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society. The three representatives from IPAM argued on issues related to International Humanitarian Law with three other students from the LICSSAL Business College after successfully going through preliminary stages with other colleges. The Secretary General of the Red Cross Society, Emmanuel Tommy said the society organized competition was annually organized so that students would have a fair understanding of International Humanitarian Law. The President of the Special Court, Justice John Kamanda presided over the moot court. He encouraged the participants to show more interest in the law of war.

Awoko

Monday, 7 June 2010

NEWS 38 receive grant from SL Humanitarian Project

By Abibatu Kamara

Thirty eight secondary school girls from the Western Area amputee camps have received Le 300, 000 (three hundred thousand Leones) each as educational grant from Sierra Leone Humanitarian Project based in the United States of America (USA).

Distributing the grant on past Friday at the National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA) head office in Freetown, the Director of Reparations, Buya Kamara said that the grant was to help the girls invest in their education. He added that in order to select these girls, they went to communities and selected vulnerable girls whose parents cannot afford to pay their school fees and buy educational materials for them.

President of the Amputees, Alhaji Jaka stated that they

have been getting help from their brothers and sisters in the USA through Action Aid International and now through NaSCA.

“We are vulnerable people, unable to find money to educate our children”, he said.

Alhaji Jaka reiterated that the money came in at a time as they need to buy books and pay their children's fees.

Acting Country Director Action Aid International, Mohamed Sillah said he hoped that the money will be invested judiciously on the girls.

He added that education is the only investment that one will never forget in his or her life.

Deputy Commissioner of NaSCA Charles Rogers explained that for a long time now they have

started reparations programmes in the country for war victims.

Maintaining that NaSCA is looking at ways to help make the lives of the amputees meaningful like any other person adding “we want you to live a dignify life. This grant is part of the reparation programmes”.

The Deputy Commissioner applauds the work of Action Aid and implored the beneficiaries to make education their priority.

One of the beneficiaries, Umu Barrie of Hasting Amputee Camp, thanked Sierra Leone Humanitarian Project for leading them to their future.

Awoko

Monday, 7 June 2010

On National Tree Planting Day...

UN family introduces Neem Tree at Kafu Bullom

By William Freeman

The United Nations (UN) family in Sierra Leone on Saturday 5th February, 2010 celebrated the National Tree Planting Day with the people of Kafu Bullom chiefdom with the aim of raising awareness among people in that part of the country on the need to preserve trees to protect their environment.

Giving a brief background of the Neem Tree John Brima who is an Agro-forestry Expert in Njala University said the Neem is an exotic tree from South East Asia (India) and it was officially introduced into Sierra Leone at Njala University National Hibernum on the 14th January 1948 by a researcher F.C Deighton who collected the species from India.

The Expert further stated that the tree which serves an economic importance was introduced to the people of Lungi for the very first time. The leaf of the Neem tree serves as insecticide on farms and gardens and is also viable for medicinal purposes by use of its root. It is

widely believed that the Neem tree can cure malaria and can recycle nutrients for pasture growth that provides palatable animal feed in Agro-Silvopastoralism.

In his statement the Executive Representative of the United Nations Secretary General Michael Schulenburg said their presence in Lungi is a demonstration of the UN's appreciation to the people of Kafu Bullom chiefdom for the support they gave to UN Peacekeeping Troops in Sierra Leone.

It could be recalled that when the UN Peace Keepers first arrived in Sierra Leone they set up their base in Lungi where the country's only international airport is located.

The ERSG said he found it ridiculous when he came to Sierra Leone some two years ago and discovered that the country was importing pure drinking water from other countries in spite of all the rain fall the country is blessed with. He urged the people of Kafu Bullom to preserve trees for the benefit of the community and also

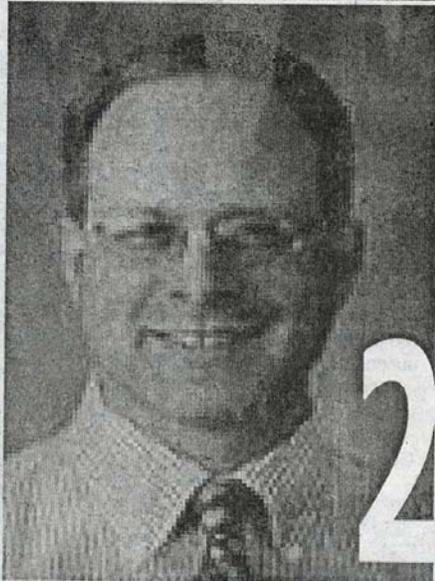
pledged his organization's continued support to the chiefdom.

The FAO Country Representative Kevin Gallagher said over 10,000 (ten thousand) Neem trees have been given to the People of Kafu Bullom and urged them to take advantage of the opportunity to plant the trees.

"We realized that the Neem Trees will be useful to you and it can help to develop this chiefdom if only it is well taken care of and we are ready to work with you". He added.

The Paramount Chief of Kafu Bullom PC. Bai Sheborah Shebah Gbareh III thanked the UN team for remembering his chiefdom and hoped that the planting of these trees will bring progress to his people. He called on the UN family to support his chiefdom as they host the gate way to the country but they are among the least developed chiefdoms in the country.

UN Will Not Provide



Security For 2012 Elections

The charismatic and urbane German diplomat, Michael Schulenberg told senior journalists on Friday that the United Nations will not be providing security for the 2012 Presidential and Parliamentary elections.

The United Nations Secretary General's point man in Sierra Leone, Michael Schulenberg said in

Freetown that security for the 2012 elections will be provided by the Sierra Leone Police Force. "We

intend to make our presence in Sierra Leone less visible in order to demonstrate to the rest of the

world that Sierra Leone is now a peaceful country", noted Michael Schulenberg. *Cont. page 9*

UN Will Not Provide Security For 2012 Elections

Schulenberg.

The UN diplomat said that his organization will not be providing direct funding for any political party in Sierra Leone. "All we intend to do (and doing right now) is providing technical assistance to all registered political parties in the country", Michael Schulenberg said.

Michael Schulenberg added, "Sierra Leone belongs to Sierra Leoneans... All we are doing is helping to stabilize your country.. It is up to you Sierra

Leoneans to make or break your own country. There is a limit to which we can support your country", quipped Schulenberg.

Michael Schulenberg succeeded the discredited Portuguese diplomat, Victor Angelo in 2008. Since arriving in Sierra Leone, Schulenberg has been very instrumental in laundering the battered image of the UN in Sierra Leone especially after his predecessor was identified as the mastermind behind the internationally backed "Regime Change Agenda" in this country. Victor Angelo left

behind a very messy and discredited UN office in Sierra Leone.

Michael Schulenberg was the brain behind the Joint Communiqué signed between the APC and SLPP after political tension rose in the country immediately after the SLPP head office was vandalized by thugs believed to be acting on instructions from key APC functionaries.

The UN diplomat concluded, "my mission in Sierra Leone is, among others to build up and strengthen democratic institutions across the country".

CharlesTaylorTrial.org (The Hague)

Thursday, 3 June 2010

Liberia: NPFL Fighters Who Assisted The RUF In Sierra Leone Were Not Sent By Charles Taylor, Witness Says

Alpha Sesay

Liberian members of Charles Taylor's rebel group who assisted Sierra Leonean rebels during the West African country's civil conflict were not sent by the former Liberian president, but did so voluntarily, a defense witness for Mr. Taylor told Special Court for Sierra Leone judges in The Hague today.

The defense witness is testifying with partial protective measures and is therefore only identified by Pseudonym Number DCT-292. The witness, who lived in Liberia before Mr. Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) rebels invaded the country in 1989, said he later joined Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels in Sierra Leone, a rebel group that Mr. Taylor is on trial for allegedly providing support for through supply of arms and ammunition in return for supply of diamonds. Mr. Taylor has denied the allegations against him.

Prosecutors say that when the conflict started in Sierra Leone in 1991, Mr. Taylor provided NPFL personnel who helped RUF rebels to attack Sierra Leonean towns and villages.

Transfer of Charles Taylor for trial for war crimes in the Hague, Liberia

Under cross-examination today, DCT-292 told the court that the NPFL fighters who went to Sierra Leone did so voluntarily and allegations that they were sent by Mr. Taylor were wrong. The witness mentioned that NPFL commanders Anthony Menkunagbe, Dupoe Menkazohn, Francis Menwon, and Nixon Gaye, among many others, volunteered to help the RUF in Sierra Leone. These Liberian fighters, prosecution witnesses have said, committed atrocities in Sierra Leone and were later forced to leave the country. The witness said that he cautioned RUF leader Foday Sankoh to seek advice from Mr. Taylor even though the men had indicated that they were in Sierra Leone to help the RUF voluntarily. Prosecution counsel Nicholas Koumjian had his doubts.

"Sir, when you said that he [Foday Sankoh] should go talk to Charles Taylor, that was because you knew that these Liberian soldiers who were creating the problems were under the command of Charles Taylor, correct?" Mr. Koumjian asked the witness.

In his response, the witness said that "when they came they said they were not under the supervision, so I came to conclude that it was not Charles Taylor that sent these people."

"I told Foday Sankoh to go back and tell Charles Taylor about it," he added.

"Because you understood Charles Taylor was able to command those men, correct?" Mr. Koumjian asked again.

"He was their leader, yes, he can command them," the witness responded.

On prosecution suggestion as to why he did not ask Mr. Sankoh to inform Amos Sawyer, who was the interim Liberian president at that time, the witness agreed with Mr. Koumjian that it was Mr. Taylor who had control over the Liberian fighters.

The witness also told the court that the relationship between the NPFL fighters in Sierra Leone and their RUF counterparts broke up when RUF members tried to initiate the NPFL rebels into a secret society. When the NPFL rebels heard about the plan to initiate them into the secret society, they went on the rampage, killing an RUF senior fighter and maltreating some other members of the Sierra Leone rebel group, the witness explained. He said that after consulting Mr. Taylor, RUF leader Mr. Sankoh expelled the NPFL fighters from Sierra Leone.

"He [Sankoh] left and when he came back, he came and told the people, you have come but what you are doing is not in the interest of the revolution, therefore, I have given you 48 hours to move from Sierra Leone," he said.

Asked whether Mr. Sankoh told them he had agreed to something with Mr. Taylor, the witness said that "he didn't discuss that with me at all sir."

The cross-examination of the witness continues tomorrow.

CharlesTaylorTrial.org

Friday, 4 June 2010

By Alpha Sesay

Prosecutors Question Defense Witness About The Death Of Sam Dokie

Prosecutors today questioned a defense witness for Charles Taylor about the death of Liberian politician Samuel Dokie, who was allegedly assassinated alongside his family in 1997 by fighters loyal to the former Liberian president. Prosecutors aim to prove that in addition to supporting Sierra Leonean rebels, Mr. Taylor did not respect the law and that he was notorious for eliminating persons perceived to be opposed to him.

Mrs. Annie Yeney, a former member of Mr. Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) rebel group, today concluded her testimony as Mr. Taylor's 14th witness after being cross-examined by prosecutors. Prosecution counsel Mohamed Bangura spent today's cross-examination questioning the witness about the death of Mr. Dokie, who prosecutors alleged was assassinated on the orders of Mr. Taylor because the former Liberian president believed that Mr. Dokie and few other NPFL members wanted to form a rival faction to pose a threat to his (Taylor) bid for the Liberian presidency. Mr. Taylor has denied these allegations.

The witness, who told the court yesterday that Mr. Dokie's wife was her sister, today said that she could not tell whether members of the Dokie family were killed on the orders of Mr. Taylor. Alongside another popular Liberia politician Jackson Doe, Prosecutors allege that Mr. Dokie was assassinated because he was about to depart for neighbouring Guinea to meet another NPFL dissident Laveli Supuwood. Mr. Supuwood is now a part of Mr. Taylor's defense team. Asked today whether these allegations were true, Mrs. Yeney said she did not know.

Asked by Mr. Bangura whether "Charles Taylor believed that Sam Dokie and Laveli Supuwood will form an alliance against him and that's why he prevented him [Dokie] from going to Guinea," Mrs. Yeney responded that "I don't know."

"The death of Sam Dokie and Jackson Doe were not incidents that happened by chance. These people were ordered executed by Charles Taylor?" Mr. Bangura asked the witness again.

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

"It was part of his efforts to eliminate political opponents, isn't it? Mr. Bangura pressed the witness again.

For a third time, the witness said "I don't really know."

Mrs. Yeney denied that her loyalty to Mr. Taylor had motivated her to travel to The Hague to testify for the former Liberian president. She said that she decided to testify because she wanted to refute claims by prosecution witness and former member of the NPFL Joseph Zig Zag Marzah that she cooked Mr. Dokie's liver as a meal and served Mr. Taylor. In March 2008, Mr. Marzah told the court that after Mr. Dokie's execution, his liver was cooked by Mrs. Yeney and served in a meal to Mr. Taylor as part of a ceremony. The witness denied this allegation in her testimony yesterday. Today, Mr. Bangura sought to know whether the witness ever served this meal in a bowl to Mr. Taylor as part of a traditional ceremony. The witness said that never happened.

“Around the time that Sam Dokie was killed, you did serve food to Mr. Taylor, didn’t you?” Mr. Bangura asked the witness.

“No, when Sam Dokie was killed, I never, even when we were in Gbarngaha, I never gave him food, no, I never gave him food,” the witness responded.

“You served him soup which was served in a ceremonial way, didn’t you.” Mr. Bangura pressed the witness further.

Again, the witness said “no, I don’t know anything about society, I am not in a society, no.”

Mrs. Yoney also today told the court that those who were accused of executing Mr. Dokie and his family were never tried in court. She said that Mr. Taylor’s Director of Special Security Services (SSS) Benjamin Yeaten was only questioned by a Court in Bong County whether he knew anything about the death of Mr. Dokie and his family. She said that family members of the Dokies were later informed by the judge that those who were responsible for the assassinations had escaped and that once they were arrested, the family members would be informed. This, she said never happened.

Prosecutors allege that Mr. Taylor was known for executing his political opponents and that was why he allegedly ordered the execution of the Dokies. The former Liberian president is on trial for providing support to Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels in Sierra Leone. Mr. Taylor has denied the allegations against him.

On Monday the testimony of Mr. Taylor’s 15th witness will commence.

CharlesTaylorTrial.org

Friday, 4 June 2010

Do Not Issue A Subpoena For Supermodel Naomi Campbell, Defense Lawyers Tell Judges; NPFL Fighters In Sierra Leone Were Not Sent By Charles Taylor, Witness Says

By Alpha Sesay

Defense lawyers for Charles Taylor this week asked Special Court for Sierra Leone judges to deny the request by prosecutors to issue a subpoena for Supermodel Naomi Campbell, who is alleged to have received rough diamonds from Mr. Taylor while on a visit to South Africa in 1997. A defense witness for Mr. Taylor also told judges this week that members of Mr. Taylor's rebel group, who assisted Sierra Leonean rebels during the country's civil conflict, did so voluntarily and were not sent by the former Liberian president.

On Monday, in response to a prosecution request to reopen the case against Mr. Taylor by calling three additional witnesses, including a subpoena for British supermodel Ms. Campbell, Mr. Taylor's defense lawyers asked the judges to turn down the prosecution requests.

After closing their case against Mr. Taylor in February 2009, prosecutors have asked that they be allowed to present three new witnesses, who will testify about a diamond gift allegedly given by Mr. Taylor to supermodel Naomi Campbell while they were both on a visit to South Africa in 1997. The three people whose evidence prosecutors seek to submit as new evidence are Ms. Campbell, Mia Farrow, and Ms. Campbell's former agent Carole White. Prosecutors say that Ms. Farrow will testify about being told by Ms. Campbell that Mr. Taylor had sent men to her hotel room after a 1997 dinner with former South African president Nelson Mandela and that the men had given her a diamond gift allegedly from Mr. Taylor. Ms. White, prosecutors say, will testify that she was present when Mr. Taylor said he was going to give the diamond gift to Ms. Campbell and that she was present when the men arrived and delivered the said diamonds to Ms. Campbell. As Ms. Campbell has been reluctant to testify about the incident, prosecutors have asked that the judges issue a subpoena to oblige the supermodel to testify about the incident before judges in The Hague. In their response on Monday, defense lawyers for Mr. Taylor called both motions unnecessary and urged the judges to deny both requests.

In the "Defense Response To Prosecution Motion To Call Three Additional Witnesses," which was signed by Mr. Taylor's lead defense counsel Courtenay Griffiths, defense lawyers stated that "The Defense strongly opposes this motion on the basis that no reasonable Court could find that the anticipated evidence is relevant to the charges against Mr. Taylor."

"Furthermore, the prosecution should not be allowed to trivialize the seriousness of the proceedings and charges against the Accused by adducing tangential and highly speculative testimony into evidence," the defense response states.

The response further states that "The issue of Mr. Taylor's interaction with the AFRC/RUF [Armed Forces Revolutionary Council/Revolutionary United Front] junta, the issue of diamonds and the issue of his credibility has been thoroughly explored and addressed as part of the Prosecution case-in-chief. Consequently, additional witnesses are not needed to elaborate on these same issues."

"Simply put, there must be finality to the proceedings. For the Prosecution to present such an inferential evidence, as part of an obvious publicity stunt, would bring the administration of justice into serious disrepute," defense lawyers say.

Regarding the request by prosecutors for a subpoena to be issued for supermodel Ms. Campbell to testify on the same issue, the defense response states that "The Trial Chamber should refrain from exercising its discretion and issuing a subpoena for several reasons."

These reasons, defense lawyers say include "Naomi Campbell's evidence is of low probative value and is tangential to the real issues in the case."

“Secondly, the evidence that Naomi Campbell could put before the court is obtainable elsewhere. Thirdly, the Prosecution must be aware that Naomi Campbell will likely be a hostile witness and should not be allowed to subpoena her as such. Finally, the Trial Chamber should be cautious about issuing an order that might not be enforceable.”

“The Defense contends that Naomi Campbell’s only utility would be to bring unwarranted media attention to the proceedings, it cannot be said that her testimony is necessary to try the case fairly,” defense lawyers say.

The response concludes that the prosecution request should be denied by the judges.

On Tuesday, Mr. Taylor’s 13th witness, a Sierra Leonean national and former executive member of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) – the rebel group that Mr. Taylor is accused to have provided support for – told the court that RUF leader Foday Sankoh personally gave him (the witness) an amount of \$30,000, which he took to a soldier in Liberia, who was an officer in the Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) peacekeeping force in Liberia. The amount was for the supply of arms and ammunition to the RUF. This arrangement was facilitated by a Liberian national called Saye Boayue. Defense counsel for Mr. Taylor, Terry Munyard, sought to know how the witness and his RUF counterparts intended to transport the arms and ammunition from Liberia if they were supplied by the ECOMOG officer.

“I was supposed to receive the arms and ammunition from the ECOMOG man, he has to make sure that he leads me to the border of Sierra Leone and Liberia, then hand those arms and ammunition to a man called Michael Mike Lamin,” the witness explained.

Mr. Lamin himself was a senior Commander in the RUF.

Asked by Mr. Munyard whether he knew “how much, what quantity of arms and ammunition you were expecting to accompany to the border,” the witness said, “I didn’t know how much.”

The witness explained, however, that the arms deal with the ECOMOG office was futile because the officer had failed to deliver the arms and ammunition after receiving the money from him.

Prosecutors have argued that it was Mr. Taylor who supplied the RUF with arms and ammunition in return for blood diamonds mined by the rebels in Sierra Leone. Mr. Taylor has denied the allegations.

As the witness concluded his direct-examination on Tuesday, prosecution counsel Nicholas Koumjian commenced the cross-examination of the witness immediately. Mr. Koumjian sought to know about what happened to the diamonds mined by the RUF, especially in the late 1990s, to which the witness said that the only person who can answer that question would be Issa Hassan Sesay. Mr. Sesay, the former Interim Leader of the RUF, is now serving a sentence of 52 years imprisonment in a Rwandan jail after Special Court for Sierra Leone judges convicted him for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other serious violations of international humanitarian law in the territory of Sierra Leone from 1996 to 2002.

“Diamonds that were reserved by the RUF, these diamonds, the only one that can tell about the whereabouts of these diamonds is Issa Sesay himself,” the witness said.

He said that Mr. Sesay had kept some of the diamonds and told them he was doing so for RUF leader Mr. Sankoh, who at that time was incarcerated in Nigeria. The witness agreed with Mr. Koumjian that diamonds mined by the RUF in Sierra Leone had not been of any benefit to the people of the country.

“My Lord, I did not see any benefit, there was no benefit for the people of Sierra Leone,” the witness said.

Prosecutors allege that diamonds mined by the RUF in Sierra Leone were taken to Mr. Taylor in Liberia. Mr. Taylor has denied receiving any diamonds from the RUF.

On Wednesday, DCT-292 told the court that the NPFL fighters who went to Sierra Leone did so voluntarily and allegations that they were sent by Mr. Taylor were wrong. The witness mentioned that NPFL commanders Anthony

Menkunagbe, Dupoe Menkazohn, Francis Menwon, and Nixon Gaye, among many others, volunteered to help the RUF in Sierra Leone. These Liberian fighters, prosecution witnesses have said, committed atrocities in Sierra Leone and were later forced to leave the country. The witness said that he cautioned RUF leader Foday Sankoh to seek advice from Mr. Taylor even though the men had indicated that they were in Sierra Leone to help the RUF voluntarily. Prosecution counsel Nicholas Koumjian had his doubts.

“Sir, when you said that he [Foday Sankoh] should go talk to Charles Taylor, that was because you knew that these Liberian soldiers who were creating the problems were under the command of Charles Taylor, correct?” Mr. Koumjian asked the witness.

In his response, the witness said that “when they came they said they were not under the supervision, so I came to conclude that it was not Charles Taylor that sent these people.”

“I told Foday Sankoh to go back and tell Charles Taylor about it,” he added.

“Because you understood Charles Taylor was able to command those men, correct?” Mr. Koumjian asked again.

“He was their leader, yes, he can command them,” the witness responded.

Regarding the prosecution suggestion as to why he did not ask Mr. Sankoh to inform Amos Sawyer, who was the interim Liberian president at that time, the witness agreed with Mr. Koumjian that it was Mr. Taylor who had control over the Liberian fighters.

On Thursday, as he concluded his testimony, DCT-292 agreed with prosecutors that Mr. Taylor lied in his testimony that he did not ask RUF commander Issa Sesay to take his fellow RUF commander Sam Bockarie back to Sierra Leone. After falling out with the RUF leader Foday Sankoh in 1999, Mr. Bockarie relocated to Liberia with Mr. Taylor’s approval. When RUF leader Mr. Sankoh was arrested by the government of Sierra Leone in 2000, prosecutors say that Mr. Taylor asked interim leader of the RUF Mr. Sesay to allow Mr. Bockarie to rejoin the RUF and go back to Sierra Leone. Mr. Taylor in his testimony denied this account. On Thursday, Mr. Taylor’s own witness DCT-292 told the court that it was in his presence that Mr. Taylor asked Mr. Sesay to allow Mr. Bockarie to go back to Sierra Leone.

Prosecution counsel Nicholas Koumjian asked the witness whether Mr. Taylor had lied to the judges when he denied saying this. The witness agreed with Mr. Koumjian that that was the case.

“Mr. Taylor was asked by his counsel ‘Now, did you suggest that Mosquito [Sam Bockarie] be taken back,’ and Mr. Taylor said ‘No, I did not suggest that.’ Mr. Witness, Charles Taylor lied to these judges because you were present when he asked Issa Sesay to take Sam Bockarie back to Sierra Leone, correct?” Mr. Koumjian asked the witness.

“Yes, my lord,” the witness responded.

Also on Thursday, former Liberian Legislator and member of the NPFL, Mrs. Annie Yeney commenced her testimony as Mr. Taylor’s 14th witness.

In her testimony, Mrs. Yeney told the court that prosecution witness and former member of the NPFL, Joseph Zig Zag Marzah, lied when he told the court about how she had been engaged in cannibalism with Mr. Taylor. Mr. Marzah in his testimony told the court that on Mr. Taylor’s orders, when former Liberian politician Sam Dokie was killed in 1997, his liver was removed, cooked by one “Annie Yeney” (the current witness) and eaten together with Mr. Taylor. Mrs. Yeney denied ever engaging in such a practice.

“It is not true. That is what we call assassination of character, for a woman like me to cook a human being, it is not true. I am speaking to my God I serve, He knows my heart,” Mrs. Yeney told the court.

Mrs. Yeney took some moments to sob when speaking about Mr. Dokie’s death because according to her, Mr. Dokie’s wife was her sister who was also assassinated alongside the Liberian politician. She said she was informed that it was Mr. Marzah who had killed her sister and her brother-in-law.

Mrs. Yoney explained that it was Mr. Marzah's practice to eat human beings and brag about it, telling people that he did not have a jail to keep his enemies.

"Zig Zag Marzah used to say these things in Gbarngba. He used to say he hasn't got a jail house, when he arrests any war criminals, he'll eat them," she said.

Describing Mr. Marzah, the witness told the court that "Zig Zag Marzah was not correct in his head, he was half mad, he used to naked himself and run in the streets," she said.

Mrs. Yoney's description of Mr. Marzah corroborates what Mr. Taylor and his 11th witness Timan Edward Zammy told the court about the prosecution witness. Defense lawyers concluded Mrs. Yoney's direct-examination within a couple of hours and prosecutors immediately commenced her cross-examination.

On Friday, prosecutors questioned Mrs. Yoney about the death of Mr. Dokie, who prosecutors alleged was assassinated on the orders of Mr. Taylor because the former Liberian president believed that Mr. Dokie and other NPFL members wanted to form a rival faction to pose a threat to his (Taylor) bid for the Liberian presidency. Mr. Taylor has denied these allegations.

The witness, who told the court on Thursday that Mr. Dokie's wife was her sister, on Friday said that she could not tell whether members of the Dokie family were killed on the orders of Mr. Taylor. Alongside another popular Liberia politician, Jackson Doe, prosecutors allege that Mr. Dokie was assassinated because he was about to depart for neighbouring Guinea to meet another NPFL dissident Laveli Supuwood. Mr. Supuwood is now a part of Mr. Taylor's defense team. Asked whether these allegations were true, Mrs. Yoney said she did not know.

Mrs. Yoney denied that her loyalty to Mr. Taylor had motivated her to travel to The Hague to testify for the former Liberian president. She said that she decided to testify because she wanted to refute claims by prosecution witness Mr. Marzah that she cooked Mr. Dokie's liver as a meal and served Mr. Taylor.

Mr. Taylor is on trial for allegedly providing support to RUF rebels during Sierra Leone's 11 years civil conflict. The former president has denied the charges against him

By John Kollie

NEWS ITEM

On direct examination, a Former Liberian Legislator testifying in defence of Charles Taylor in The Hague broke down in tears on Thursday and brought the court to a momentary stand still when she was questioned about the death of Former Liberian Politician, Samuel Dokie and his wife Janet Dokie allegedly killed by two notorious bodyguards of Mr. Taylo. On cross-examination Friday, Madam Annie Yeney said the Dokie family were instructed not to open the caskets containing the remains of Mr. Dokie and three members of his family. John Kollie transcribes reports for the BBC World Service Trust on the trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor...

Madam Yeney said two notorious bodyguards of Charles Taylor, Benjamin Yeaten and Zigzag Marzah accused of killing Sam Dokie and three members of his family were never tried.

Madam Yeney, the Defence first female witness told the court that Benjamin Yeaten was only questioned by a Court in Bong County whether he knew about the death of the Dokies.

She said the Judge of the court later informed the Dokie family that those responsible for the death of Samuel Dokie and his family members had escaped, and that the family would be informed when perpetrators are arrested.

The Defence witness also told the court that the Samuel Striker Funeral Home in Monrovia gave the Dokie family four caskets with an instruction not to open them. The Presiding Judge Julia Sebutinde asked Madam Yeney why the Dokie family did not ignore the instruction not to open the caskets.

Madam Yeney denied that her loyalty for Mr. Taylor motivated her to travel to The Hague to testify in his defence. She said she came to The Hague to clarify an allegation made against her by Prosecution witness, Zigzah Marzah that she cooked the liver of Samuel Dokie for Mr. Taylor.

Prosecution Lawyer, Mohammed Bangura asked Madam Yeney about a bowl of soup she allegedly served Mr. Taylor. Madam Yeney's evidence was concluded early Friday afternoon. The Defence 15th witness is expected to take the stand on Monday.

Los Angeles Times

Friday, 4 June 2010

<http://articles.latimes.com/2010/jun/04/opinion/la-oew-enholm-20100604>

Defining 'aggression' for the International Criminal Court

As diplomats meet in Uganda to consider adding the crime of aggression to the jurisdiction of the ICC, it is time to remember historic American principles.

By Robert A. Enholm

David Kaye warns in his June 1 Op-Ed article that bringing the crime of aggression within its ambit may erode support for the International Criminal Court. It is true that the ICC has done an admirable job in the years since its founding in holding trials for those accused of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. Without the ICC, these individuals, accused of the most heinous mass crimes, might not ever face justice and punishment.

The ICC is an institution that our nation's founders would have recognized. The ICC springs from the same European Enlightenment principles that informed America's founding, including the idea that there are certain basic rights afforded to all people. Although the United States has not joined the ICC, the treaty that created the court relies on principles and ideas long promoted by American thinkers and lawyers. Adding the crime of aggression to the ICC's jurisdiction follows in the tradition of the Nuremberg and Tokyo trials after World War II. The U.S. actively participated in the formation and successful operation of the more recent special purpose international tribunals for Sierra Leone, Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia.

Of course, many of the current objections to expanding the jurisdiction of the ICC to include aggression were also raised in the 1990s against the founding of the court. Aren't there always practical difficulties in asserting an important principle?

The 111 nations party to the court may decide this month at the 2010 ICC review conference to include the crime of aggression within the ICC's jurisdiction. The value of the protection the ICC can offer against aggression may outweigh the practical concerns Kaye enumerates. Evidence shows that prosecution by the ICC for conscripting child soldiers has caused combatant leaders in other countries to release child soldiers and spurn their use. The establishment of global standards can have a positive deterrent effect. A country without the military power of the United States might reasonably conclude that the rule of law is valuable protection against the use of aggressive force.

Lusaka Times
Sunday, 6 June 2010

Zambia: The International Criminal Court: Africa Beware!

By Dr David Hoile

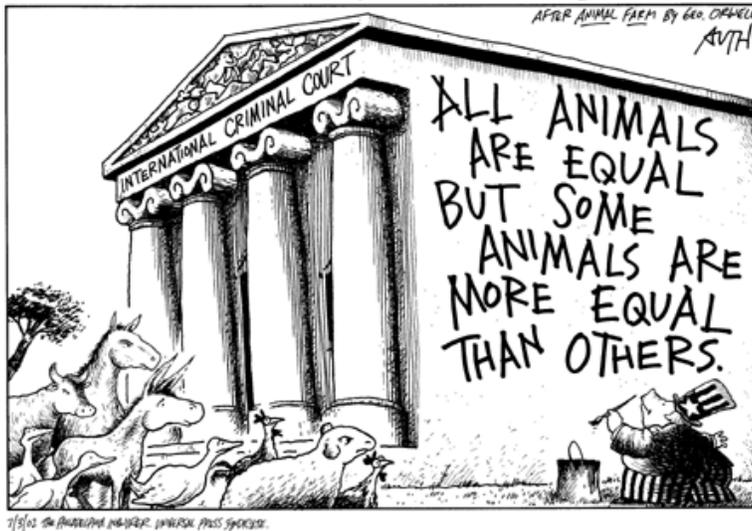


Last week, in Kampala, Uganda, state members of the International Criminal Court begin their first ever review conference of the Court since its establishment in 2002. When the Assembly of States parties meet in Kampala there is a lot they should be worried about, not least of which the fact that the ICC has proved to be manifestly unfit for purpose. The ICC's claims to international jurisdiction and judicial independence are institutionally flawed and the Court's approach has been marred by blatant double-standards and serious judicial irregularities.

While the ICC presents itself as an international court this is quite simply not the case. Its members represent just over one quarter of the world's population: China, Russia, the United States and India are just some of the many countries that have remained outside of the Court's jurisdiction.

The truth is also that the ICC is as independent as the United Nations Security Council and the Court's European Union funding lets it be. The ICC's own statute grants special "prosecutorial" rights to the Security Council. Political interference was thus made part of the Court's founding terms of reference.

The Court is also umbilically tied to the European Union which provides over 60 percent of its funding.



Unsurprisingly perhaps the ICC has ignored all Western human rights abuses in Afghanistan and Iraq or human rights abuses by Western client states. Instead, the Europeans have chosen to focus the Court exclusively on Africa. Despite over 8,000 complaints about alleged crimes in at least 139 countries, the ICC has started investigations into just five countries, all of them African. Given Africa's previous traumatic experience with the very same colonial powers that now in effect direct the ICC, this must create an alarming déjà vu for those who live on the continent.

The Court's proceedings have often been questionable where not farcical. Its judges – some of whom have never been lawyers, let alone judges – are appointed as the result of vote-trading amongst member states. The Court has produced witnesses who recanted their testimony the moment they got into the witness box. There have been prosecutorial decisions which should have ended any fair trial because they compromised the integrity of any subsequent process. Simply put, the Court has been making things up as it goes along.

It has cost half a billion Euros to put on one deeply flawed trial, which subsequently ground to a halt for months. The ICC claims to be victim-centred, yet Human Rights Watch has criticised its ambivalence towards victim communities. The ICC claims to be fighting impunity, yet it has afforded de facto immunity and impunity to several serial abusers of human rights who happen to be friends of the West.

Despite over 8,000 complaints about alleged crimes in at least 139 countries, the ICC has started investigations into just five countries, all of them African.

Africa fought long and hard for its independence. It must reject this new “legal” colonialism. The ICC’s legal blundering in Africa has derailed delicate peace processes – thereby prolonging devastating civil wars. There is a clear lesson for countries in Africa and elsewhere: do not join the ICC and do not refer your country to the ICC. The ICC does not have Africa’s welfare at heart, only the furtherance of Western, and especially European, foreign policy and its own bureaucratic imperative – to exist, to employ more Europeans and North Americans and where possible to continue to increase its budget.

The Star Online (Malaysia)

Monday, 7 June 2010

Malaysia wants Israel referred to International Criminal Court (Updated)

By LEE YUK PENG

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia on Monday called on the world community to bring a resolution to the United Nations General Assembly to refer Israeli's atrocities to the International Criminal Court (ICC).

The proposal was contained in a special motion tabled in the Dewan Rakyat by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and unanimously passed on Monday.

The 15-point motion, among others, proposed that the May 31 incident where Israeli forces stormed the humanitarian aid ship "Mavi Marmara" bound for blockaded Gaza be also referred to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) for an "advisory opinion".



Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak, right, tables a motion to discuss the condemnation of Israel's attack on a humanitarian aid flotilla headed to Gaza at the Parliament House in Kuala Lumpur on Monday. (AP Photo/Lai Seng Sin)

In tabling the motion, Najib also proposed that Turkey, which lost nine of its nationals in the Israeli commando attack on the ship, consider action under the provisions of the Rome Statute of the ICC.

The motion strongly condemned Israeli leader Benjamin Netanyahu for having allowed the regime's military forces to act beyond the bounds of humanitarian norms against the people of various countries, including Malaysia, who had joined the Freedom Flotilla aid mission to Gaza.

The motion, seconded by Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, states that Malaysians were deeply dismayed with the inability of the international community, particularly the United Nations Security Council to strongly protest the violent acts of the Zionist regime.

The resolutions also include urging countries to propose a motion to the United Nations General Assembly to seek an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice.

It also sought the approval of the Dewan Rakyat to cooperate with the member countries of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), the Arab League and other like-minded countries to uphold the principles of international law in dealing with the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

Meanwhile, the Dewan Rakyat sitting for Monday was extended to 5.45pm until the motion tabled by the Prime Minister was dealt with.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Nazri Abd Aziz had earlier tabled a motion to extend the sitting until the MPs taking part in the debate were done.

Due to time constraints, Speaker Tan Sri Pandikar Amin Mulia had allotted only 10 minutes for each MP to debate the issue while Opposition Leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim (PKR - Permatang Pauh) was given a longer time.

One MP was selected from each party for the debate, and another from the independent MPs.

Among them are MCA deputy president Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai (BN -Bentong), DAP secretary-general Lim Guan Eng (DAP - Bagan), MIC vice-president Datuk Dr S. Subramaniam (BN - Segamat), Gerakan deputy secretary-general Liang Teck Meng (BN - Simpang Renggam), Datuk Douglas Unggah Embas (PBB), Datuk Seri Hadi Awang (PAS - Marang), Datuk Peter Chin (SUPP), Datuk Dr Marcus Mojigoh (Upko), Datuk Joseph Entulu Belaun (PRS), Tan Sri Joseph Kurup (PBRs), Datuk Seri Tiong King Sing (SPDP) and Datuk Liew Vui Keong (LDP).

The 15 points of motion condemning Israel:

1. Condemning in the strongest terms the attack by the military of the Zionist regime under the leadership of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on the Gaza-bound humanitarian aid ship, which resulted in the loss of lives and injury to civilians;
2. Recording the utmost disappointment over the weak statement of the United Nations Security Council against the violent attack of the Zionist regime on the aid ship;
3. Deciding to call on the United Nations Security Council to condemn Israel and not just make weak statements;
4. Deciding for Malaysia to cooperate with member countries of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC), Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), Arab League and like-minded nations to uphold the principles of international law, including human rights laws, international humanitarian laws and the United Nations Charter, in handling the humanitarian crisis in Gaza;
5. Calling on like-minded countries to bring a resolution to the United Nations Security Council to refer the Zionist regime's attack (on the aid ship) to the International Criminal Court (ICC);
6. Calling on like-minded countries to bring a resolution to the United Nations General Assembly to seek an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice (ICJ);
7. Proposing that Turkey consider action under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC);
8. Urging that a fully independent investigation, and not just an impartial probe, be conducted on the attack by the military of the Zionist regime;
9. Supporting fully the call of the international community, particularly the Human Rights Council via the resolution adopted on June 2, 2010, for an independent and accountable investigation into this attack;
10. Demanding that Israel not obstruct any humanitarian aid convoy for the Palestinian people, especially in Gaza, in accordance with Resolution 1860 of the United Nations Security Council;
11. Welcoming the action of Egypt in its unconditional opening of the Rafah border to ensure that humanitarian aid can be channelled unimpeded;
12. Appealing to the international community to continue providing humanitarian aid to the people of Palestine in Gaza without heed or fear of the threat from the Zionist regime;
13. Recording appreciation for Jordan, Turkey, Ireland, the Philippines and other countries which had been engaged in the efforts to free the Malaysian nationals detained by the Zionist regime;
14. Urging the Palestinian people to unite with the purpose of safeguarding their fundamental rights to establish an independent, free and sovereign Palestine state;
15. Expressing the undivided support of the Malaysian people for the struggle of the Palestinian people towards the establishment of an independent, free and sovereign state. - Bernama

Morning Star Online

Sunday, 6 June 2010

Bail decision due for Rwanda genocide lawyer

A US lawyer imprisoned in Rwanda on charges of denying the country's 1994 genocide and publishing articles that threaten security will find out today whether he has been granted bail.

Peter Erdinger pleaded not guilty during a five-hour court hearing on Friday.

He is a key defence lawyer at the UN International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda representing individuals, including a current presidential candidate, charged with orchestrating the racially motivated slaughter of over 500,000 people.

Mr Erdinger has also criticised current Rwandan President Paul Kagame, claiming that he triggered the genocide by ordering the assassinations of then Rwandan president Juvenal Habyarimana and his Burundian counterpart Cyprien Ntaryamira.

Britain's Haldane Society of Socialist Lawyers described Mr Erdinger's arrest last week as "politically motivated" and accused the Rwandan government of seeking "to punish him for fulfilling his responsibilities as a lawyer."

"The Rwandan government and President Kagame should not fear fair and public trials," it said in a statement.

The Rwandan presidential election is set to take place on August 9.