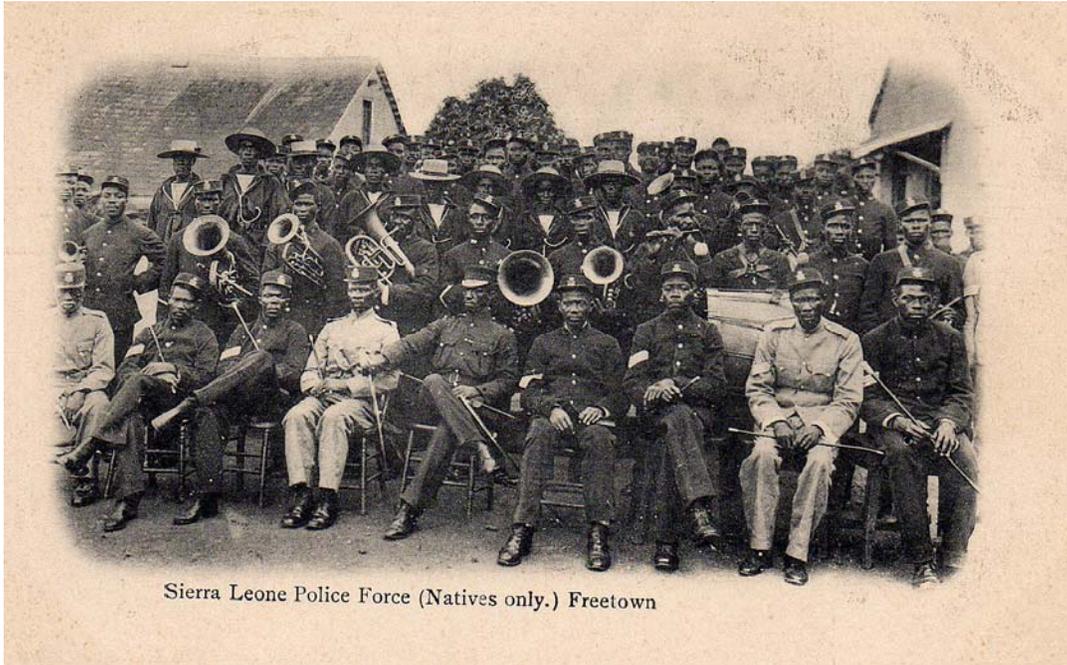


**SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
OUTREACH AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE**



A rare postcard

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:

Thursday, 1 July 2010

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

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African Champion

Thursday, 1 July 2010

War crimes court agrees to call Naomi Campbell

Ms Campbell had previously refused to testify against Charles Taylor. A war crimes court has ruled that model Naomi Campbell can be called to testify in a case against former Liberian President Charles Taylor. Prosecutors for the UN-backed court for Sierra Leone say she was given a "blood diamond" by Mr Taylor in 1997 at Nelson Mandela's house in South Africa.

Mr Taylor is accused of using such diamonds to fuel an insurgency in Sierra Leone that cost many lives.

Ms Campbell had previously refused to provide testimony to

prosecutors.

The Special Court for Sierra Leone, sitting in The Hague, also agreed to a prosecution request that it be allowed to call actress Mia Farrow and Ms Campbell's former agent Carole White to testify.

Ms Farrow - who was also at the Mandela dinner - has said Ms Campbell told her about the gift of the diamond the morning after the dinner.

Ms Campbell said she had been visited by representatives of Mr Taylor during the night, and that they had given her a "huge" uncut diamond. Ms Farrow told

ABC News in April.

Ms Farrow and Ms White were both willing to testify, the prosecutors' request to the court said.

Mr Taylor is accused of selling diamonds and buying weapons for Sierra Leone's Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels, who were notorious for hacking off the hands and legs of civilians during the brutal 1991-2001 civil war.

He has pleaded not guilty to 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity stemming from the war. He has also dismissed the claims he presented



Ms Campbell with a diamond in 1997.

"Blood diamonds" is the name given to diamonds mined in areas of conflict that are sold to fund warfare.

Mr Taylor's trial opened in June 2007.

In their request to subpoena the three women, the prosecutors said they did not know about the alleged Campbell diamond until June 2009, by which time they had already closed their case.

Mr Taylor had sought to prevent their bid to reopen the case against him. Defence witnesses are now being heard.

Bookmark with

LOCAL NEWS

The Special Court for Sierra Leone Wednesday ruled that prosecutors can call British model, Naomi Campbell, to testify over a diamond she allegedly received from former Liberian president Charles Taylor.

Actress Mia Farrow could also be subpoenaed to testify over claims that Campbell was given a rough diamond by Taylor after a dinner hosted by former South African president Nelson Mandela in September 1997.

"The trial chamber hereby grants the motion filed by prosecutors in May seeking permission to subpoena Naomi Campbell and Mia Farrow," a statement from

Naomi Campbell may testify in Taylor trial

the Special Court said. According to the prosecution's request to the court, Campbell has refused to give evidence on the matter, but that Farrow and the model's former agent, Carole White were both willing to do so.

The prosecution alleges the rough diamond was among those Taylor had obtained from Sierra Leone rebels and taken to South Africa "to sell or exchange them for weapons".

Taylor, 62, has been on trial in The Hague since January 2008 on 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity stemming from the brutal 1991-2001 civil war in Sierra Leone.

He is accused of having

fuelled the war by arming the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels in exchange for diamonds. The RUF is blamed for the mutilation of thousands of civilians who had their hands and arms severed in one of the most brutal wars in modern history, which claimed some 120,000 lives. Prosecutors said they had not known about the Campbell diamond, which they consider "material" to the case, until June 2009 -- by which time they had already closed their case, now in the phase of hearing defence witnesses.

Taylor has opposed the bid to reopen the prosecution case to call the women, saying in court papers the evidence they sought was "more appro-

priate for a screen-play than a courtroom hearing".

But a panel of four judges, having studied a declaration by Farrow and notes of an interview with White, found that the proposed new evidence was "highly probative".

"The trial chamber is of the view that the best procedure is to allow the prosecution to reopen its case so that the additional prosecution witnesses can be interposed between defence witnesses," said the ruling.

Source: AFP



Charles Taylor's Trial

Witness Denies Receiving Monetary Payments

Charles Taylor's defense witness Monday denied prosecution suggestions that he received money from court officials as an incentive to testify before taking the witness stand on behalf of the former Liberian president in The Hague.

As the cross-examination of Mr. Taylor's 15th witness, "DCT-190", finished, prosecutors focused on payments made to him in connection with his appearance at the Special Court for Sierra Leone as a defense witness. The witness denied receiving money as an incentive for his testimony, telling the court instead that its Victims and Witness Section (VWS) indeed provided some money for him - but that such money went towards medical services, transportation and accommodation. He did not physically see the money paid on his behalf.

While being involved with the Charles Taylor team, have you received any payment from the court?" prosecution counsel, Kathryn Howarth, asked the witness.

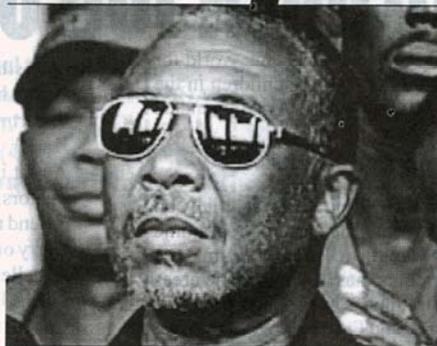
"No," he said.

Ms. Howarth asked the witness whether he had received an amount of Le899,000 (about USD \$230) for medical services.

"I had a toothache and was treated and my daughter was ill and taken care of but I don't know if it went up to that amount," he said.

Ms. Howarth put before the witness a WVS document titled "Expenses incurred on DTC-190," which itemized the amounts of money spent on the witness and the purposes for which said monies were disbursed.

"As I have told you, this is a figure that is shown but I



was taken to the hospital and given treatment," the witness said when asked again about the Le899,000.

The witness agreed that he received about Le760,000 (about USD \$200) to cover expenses relating to transportation from his work place in Sierra Leone's provincial district to the country's capital. Ms. Howarth pressed the witness on the number of times he had travelled to Freetown and whether the amount was justified. The witness said he travelled to Freetown twice.

Ms. Howarth also pointed out that the witness received about Le497,000 (about USD \$130) for miscellaneous expenses and Le250,000 (about USD \$64) as attendance allowance. While the witness said he did not know what the meaning of miscellaneous allowance was, he denied in clear terms that he had received money for an "attendance allowance."

"I am completely unaware of attendance

allowance. Nobody has ever given me money for attendance allowance," he said.

When asked about WVS's expense of Le360,000 (about USD \$92) on his accommodation while he was being prepared for his testimony, the witness said "that is correct, for my hotel."

Ms. Howarth pointed out that a total amount of Le2,772,000 (about \$706) was spent on the witness, based on the document provided by WVS.

"I've never received that amount of money. The money they are claiming, one of it was paid for medications, so I've not received that kind of money," the witness responded.

The witness explained that if the money was spent on him, it could be justified because he would not be expected to leave his job, pay his way to Freetown and then pay his own accommodation bills without any support from the court. He, however, denied receiving physical cash from court officials.

"But I've told you I never received physical money from the court. In Sierra Leone, what we call physical is when they give money to you - but they did not come and show me receipts that this is the money we have spent on you," the witness said.

As the witness concluded his testimony this morning, the judges granted a defense request that the trial be adjourned until Monday, July 5, 2010 because Mr. Taylor's lead defense counsel, Courtenay Griffiths, has been ill and unable to prepare the next witness.

The trial of Mr. Taylor will resume Monday.

International Criminal Court Solicits Support From Sierra Leone's Ambassador To Ethiopia



The International Criminal Court's (ICC) Senior Legal Adviser, Mochochoko on Tuesday 29th June 2010 sought the support of Sierra Leone's Ambassador to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Mr. Andrew Bangali for his Organization to open a Liaison Office in Addis Ababa.

He made the request when he paid a civility visit on the Ambassador at the Chancery.

Mr. Mochochoko pointed out that the objective of the Office is to facilitate communication and

dialogue between the African Union Commission (AUC) and the Court.

"Most decisions are taken at The Hague without cognisance of the political sensitivity in Addis Ababa," he said, adding that Addis Ababa is the hub of international diplomacy in Africa.

He said he has realized that there is an information gap between The Hague and Addis Ababa.

He lauded the crucial role played by the Sierra Leonean delegation at the Kampala Meeting.

Mr. Mochochoko also spoke about the three Organs of the ICC namely: The Prosecutor's Office, The Registry and The Office of the President which is overseeing the work of the Court.

Responding, Ambassador Bangali who also doubles as Sierra Leone's Permanent Representative to the AUC and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) said the issue has been brought before the Permanent Representatives' Committee (PRC) and if Member States see the need for a Liaison Office here there is a likelihood that they would support the initiative.

Ambassador Bangali said Sierra Leone will not be opposed to the setting up of the Office if that is the desire of the Member States and the AUC.

He assured the ICC Senior Legal Adviser to depend on Sierra Leone's support for establishing an open line of communication and dialogue between the ICC and the AUC.

The duo also exchanged views on the indictment of Sudan's President Omar Hassan al-Bashir and the way forward.

Meanwhile in a related development, on Thursday 24th June, Ambassador Bangali received in audience the Director of the Institute for Security Studies (ISS), Ambassador Olusegun Akinsanya.

The Institute is a pan-African applied policy research institute headquartered in Pretoria, South Africa with offices in Kenya and Ethiopia.

The objective of the institution is to add critical balance and objectivity by providing timely, empirical research and contextual analysis of relevant human security issues to policy makers, area specialists, advocacy groups and the media.

He said he chose Ambassador Bangali as the first envoy to pay a courtesy visit on because of the cordial and friendly relationship between Sierra Leone and his country Nigeria.

Ambassador Bangali congratulated him on his new appointment and as a former international civil servant with a wealth of experience, he opined that Ambassador Akinsanya was the most fitted person for the job.

Ambassador Bangali assured the Director of Sierra Leone's support, adding that he would bring a new dimension into the workings of the Think Tank.

Ambassador Akinsanya was erstwhile Nigeria's Ambassador to Ethiopia and served as the Special United Nations Development Programme Representative to the ECA and the AUC.

Mr. Christopher Bockarie, Second Secretary Embassy of the Republic of Sierra Leone in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia also attended the meeting.

Abdul Karim Koroma
Information Attaché
Embassy of the Republic of Sierra Leone

Breaking News: Prosecution can re-open its case against Charles Taylor – and try to get supermodel and actress to testify

Prosecutors can reopen their case against former Liberian president, Charles Taylor, paving the way for them to try to bring star-studded witnesses – including supermodel Naomi Campbell and Hollywood actress Mia Farrow — to testify at the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

Last month, prosecutors had asked the judges if they could re-open their case to focus on allegations that Mr. Taylor gave Ms. Campbell rough cut diamonds during a trip to South Africa in September 1997 – diamonds which prosecutors say were given to Mr. Taylor by Sierra Leonean rebels to exchange for weapons to help fuel the country’s brutal 11-year conflict in the 1990s. Prosecutors also want to bring in the supermodel’s former agent, Carol White, along with Ms. Farrow, to testify for one day about the allegations, which were said to have occurred after a celebrity-filled charity dinner hosted by former South African president, Nelson Mandela. In their motion to the judges, prosecutors argued that the evidence the three women can provide “was unknown to the prosecution when it formally closed its case on 27 February 2009” and relates to “a ‘central issue’ to the prosecution’s case: The Accused’s possession of rough diamonds.”

Mr. Taylor’s lawyers had opposed the request, telling judges that “no reasonable Court could find that the anticipated evidence is relevant to the charges against Mr. Taylor.” Defense lawyers also argued that the prosecutors should have made greater efforts to seek evidence before their case was over about Mr. Taylor’s trips outside Liberia and his alleged possession of rough diamonds. “Thus the prosecution Motion must be denied,” defense lawyers said.

Today, the judges ruled in favor of the prosecution, allowing them to re-open their case and bring new evidence against the former Liberian president. In delivering their ruling, the judges relied on Rule 85(A) of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, which describes the sequence in which evidence could be presented as “(i) evidence for the prosecution, (ii) evidence for the defense, (iii) prosecution evidence in rebuttal, with leave of the Trial Chamber, and (iv) evidence ordered by the Trial Chamber.” The judges also relied on international jurisprudence that the prosecution “may further be granted leave to re-open its case in order to present new evidence not previously available to it.”

According to the judges, the requirements for a party to reopen its case in such a situation are twofold:

1. “The party must meet the threshold test of establishing that the evidence could not, with reasonable diligence, have been obtained and presented during its case in chief”; and if this test is met:
2. “The Trial Chamber must be of the view that the probative value of the evidence is not substantially outweighed by the need to ensure a fair trial.”

The judges held that prosecutors only received information about the alleged diamond gift in June 2009 — “well after [the prosecution] had closed its case” and had since been unable to contact Ms. Campbell.

“Accordingly, the Trial Chamber is satisfied not only that the Prosecution has shown that it could not, with reasonable diligence, have obtained and presented the fresh evidence during its case in chief, but that it subsequently acted with reasonable diligence to obtain such evidence,” the judges stated.

The judges also thought the three high profile witnesses may offer valuable information.

“The Trial Chamber, having perused the declaration of Mia Farrow and the interview notes of Carole White, is satisfied that the proposed fresh evidence is highly probative and material to the indictment,” according to today’s decision.

Judges were also not concerned that testimony of the three extra witnesses would be unfair to Mr. Taylor. His defense team had known about Ms. Farrow’s statement since December 2009 and about Ms. White’s evidence before prosecutors did. Since the prosecutors were asking for one day to complete their examination of the three witnesses, it would not cause any undue delay.

“The Trial Chamber is also satisfied that no injustice would be caused to the Defense by such re-opening in that it will be entitled to test the evidence of the proposed witnesses by cross-examination and may apply for time to make further investigations and call further evidence if necessary,” the judges said.

“Accordingly, the Trial Chamber finds that this is an appropriate case for the Trial Chamber to exercise its discretion to allow the Motion, in that the proposed fresh evidence is not substantially outweighed by the need to ensure a fair trial,” the judges concluded in their ruling.

The judges directed prosecutors to call the “proposed additional witnesses as soon as practicable and in any event before the close of the defense case.”

Judges still need to decide on the prosecutors’ request to issue a subpoena for Ms. Campbell.

CNN

Wednesday, 30 June 2010

War crimes court steps toward seeking Naomi Campbell as witness

By Richard Allen Greene



Prosecutors are seeking the testimony of Naomi Campbell at Charles Taylor's war crimes trial.

(CNN) -- The war crimes tribunal trying former Liberian President Charles Taylor has taken a step toward requiring supermodel Naomi Campbell to testify, the court announced Wednesday.

Prosecutors last month asked the court to order her to testify about allegations she got a "blood

diamond" from Taylor, and requested permission to reopen their case against him.

The court Tuesday granted the prosecution request, according to court documents posted online Wednesday. It has not yet ruled on the subpoena for Campbell, but allowing prosecutors to reopen the case gives a hint as to which way it will decide, a court spokesman said.

The prosecution -- which rested in February of last year -- asked to reopen their case specifically to call Campbell, as well as actress Mia Farrow and a witness named Carole Taylor, court papers show.

The court did not say when it would rule on the request for a subpoena for Campbell. Farrow and Taylor have indicated they will testify voluntarily, court spokesman Peter Andersen told CNN.

But Campbell's testimony would be expected in July or August, he said, citing the court's schedule.

The tribunal does not have its own police, so it is not clear what power it would have to enforce a subpoena, Andersen said.

"I am hoping that we don't have to find out," he said.

The prosecution says Campbell received rough diamonds from Taylor, and claimed her testimony would prove that the former president "used rough diamonds for personal enrichment and arms purchases," according to papers filed with the U.N.-backed court.

Campbell has said she does not want to be involved in the case, prosecutors said, forcing them to ask the court to issue a subpoena ordering her to appear.

"Her anticipated evidence rebuts the accused's testimony that he never possessed rough diamonds," prosecutors said.

Prosecutors said they learned in June 2009 that Taylor had given the supermodel a diamond in South Africa in 1997. The actress Mia Farrow confirmed it, they said.

Taylor, 62, has been on trial for more than three years. He is accused of fueling a bloody civil war in Sierra Leone that led to widespread murder, rape and mutilation.

Rough diamonds, also known as "blood diamonds" or "conflict diamonds," were a key component of the war, both fueling it and being used as currency in it.

Sky News

Wednesday, 30 June 2010

Campbell To Testify Over 'Blood Diamond'

Kat Higgins, Sky News Online

Supermodel Naomi Campbell could be called to give evidence about a "blood diamond" she allegedly received from the ex-president of Liberia.



Charles Taylor and Naomi Campbell met in September 1997

A war crimes court at The Hague made the ruling on Wednesday after claims that Ms Campbell was given a rough diamond by Charles Taylor at a dinner hosted by Nelson Mandela in 1997.

The prosecution alleges the jewel was among those Taylor had acquired from rebels in Sierra Leone and taken to South Africa "to sell ... or exchange for weapons".

Taylor, 62, has been on trial at The Hague since January 2008 on 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The charges relate to the 1991-2001 civil war in Sierra Leone when thousands of people were killed or brutally maimed.



He is accused of having fuelled war there by arming the rebel Revolutionary United Front (RUF) in exchange for "blood diamonds" - the name given to diamonds mined in rebel-held regions of Africa and sold to fund warfare.

Ms Campbell has repeatedly refused to give evidence on the matter, but it is thought her former agent Carole White and the actress Mia Farrow are both willing to.

Mia Farrow has agreed to testify at the war crime trial

Ms Farrow, the ex-wife of film director Woody Allen, was also a guest at the dinner held by the former South African president and claims Ms Campbell told her about the gift at the time.

Prosecutors said they had not known about the Campbell diamond, which they consider "material" to the case, until June 2009 - by which time they had already closed their case.

The jury has now moved on to hearing from defence witnesses.

Taylor is said to be opposed to the reopening of the prosecution's case, saying in court papers that the evidence they sought was "more appropriate for a screen-play than a courtroom hearing".

But a panel of judges ruled: "The trial chamber is of the view that the best procedure is to allow the prosecution to reopen its case so that the additional prosecution witnesses can be interposed between defence witnesses."

Thaindian News

Wednesday, 30 June 2010

Naomi Campbell To Testify In The Taylor Trial

By Sampurn Wire

June 12, 2010 (Sampurn Wire): Supermodel Naomi Campbell has been summoned to a war crimes tribunal of Liberia's former President Charles Taylor. She was allegedly given a rough blood diamond by Taylor, while on a trip to South Africa.



Taylor is being charged of 11 war crimes against humanity in the civil war of Sierra Leone during 1990's. The charges include murder, torture, rape, sexual slavery, use of child soldiers and terrorism during his backing of the rebels in Sierra Leone. Prosecutors allege that Taylor provided the brutal rebels with arms and ammunitions in exchange for diamonds. But Taylor has denied the allegations.

Earlier in the trial actress Mia Farrow had claimed that Naomi had told her that she received a big blood diamond from the representatives of Taylor, which she was planning to give to Nelson Mandela's children's charity. She said that they went to attend a dinner hosted by Nelson Mandela in 1997 and at the breakfast table the following morning Naomi revealed that she has been given a diamond by Taylor at night.

The prosecutors appealed to subpoena Campbell in order to testify the claims of Mia Farrow. They claim that Naomi's testimony would provide a direct evidence of Taylor's possession of uncut diamonds from a witness who is not related to the Liberian or Sierra Leone conflict. But the defense lawyers are opposing the motion by calling it a publicity stunt.

Meanwhile, Naomi has refused to speak, stating that she is concerned about her safety and is not willing to involve herself in the case. Earlier in May, Campbell told the talk show host Oprah Winfrey that she didn't want to get involved in the case of Taylor, who has done terrible deeds. She didn't want to put her family in any kind of danger. She had added. In April, she walked out of another interview that asked her about the diamond.

According to a court official Solomon Moriba, the court would be asking the UK government for assistance if Naomi refuses to testify.

-Sampurn Wire

Daily Observer (Liberia)

Tuesday, 29 June 2010

Liberians Urged to Follow Taylor's Trial

By: Victoria G. Wesseh

A consortium of civil society grouping in Liberia under the banner of the Liberia NGO Network (LINK) has underscored the need for more public awareness for the trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor. The LINK warned that misinformation may characterize the court's verdict if people were not adequately informed about the trial proceedings of Mr. Taylor.

The former Liberian President is being tried by the Special Court for Sierra Leone in The Hague, Netherlands, on 11-court charges ranging from supplying arms and ammunition to the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) of Sierra Leone as well as rape, gun running and child abuse, amongst others during that country's 10-year civil war.

The trial of Mr. Taylor in The Hague is a major concern for civil society groups in Liberia and Sierra Leone who are of the view that all citizens of the two neighboring countries should be fully aware of the trial proceedings.

At a one-day seminar for civil society groups over the weekend in Mamba Point, Monrovia, LINK's secretary general, Dismas Cupson, said the seminar was intended to deliberate on relevant international instruments including humanitarian law, its application, and the role of Liberian citizens in the trial to avoid reverting the country back to conflict.

The workshop also focused on the role of the Special Court's outreach section for the trial in Liberia and also deliberated on relevant issues on how LINK could further enhance collaboration with its Sierra Leonean counterparts.

Mr. Cupson acknowledged the importance attached to the trial by civil society groups in Liberia and Sierra Leone due to its security implications in the Mano River Union sub-region.

According to the LINK's secretary general, it was necessary for citizens of the two countries to develop more interest in the trial.

“There may be misconception, and misinformation at the time of the verdict. Therefore, our role, as civil society in Liberia, is to ensure that our people are adequately informed,” he said. But he did not say specifically what they are doing to keep Liberians and Sierra Leoneans abreast with the proceedings of the Taylor trial.

Mr. Cupson stated that the training workshop was also intended to inform non-governmental organizations (NGOs) about their individual roles in the implementation of their various programs relative to the trial.

“We as national institution must help to shape the minds of our people. The rule of law and the issue of legality are things that should concern all of us,” he noted.

The chief facilitator of the seminar, Dickson Wlah, said it was necessary for civil groups to continue to meet in such a gathering and share ideas.

Mr. Wlah also pointed out that it was necessary to educate civil group to understand international humanitarian laws.


United Nations **Nations Unies**

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary
30 June 2010

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

UN News in Liberia

Senior UN Military Officers Agree to Strengthen Collaboration on Security Concerns

[In Profile Daily, Liberian Express, Public Agenda, The Informer]

- Senior UN Military Officers in West Africa have resolved to strengthen collaboration on security concerns and enhance joint border patrols and close interaction between peacekeeping forces and other security agencies in the sub-region.
- The decisions were reached at the close of the 20th Intermission Force Commanders' Conference held at the headquarters of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL).
- The UN Regional Military Chiefs discussed common security issues, challenges and the need to closely coordinate their joint efforts giving the upcoming elections in West Africa.
- The issues include the current Guinean elections, Ivory Coast's elections likely to take place at the end of this year, the 2011 Liberian elections and the 2012 Sierra Leonean elections.
- Issues on drug trafficking and security were also discussed.

Local News on Liberian issues

Liberia Reaches HIPC Completion Point Declares President Sirleaf

[Heritage, The Inquirer, Front Page Africa, The Informer, National Chronicle, Daily Observer, New Democrat]

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has announced that Liberia has finally reached the HIPC completion point.
- President Sirleaf said this comes with the cancellation of Liberia's US\$4.6 billion arrears with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- Speaking Tuesday in a nationwide address, the President noted that the money was borrowed from the World Bank, the IMF and other countries by previous Liberian governments before the civil war with none of them reaching a settlement which made the debt to generating interest and penalties.
- According to the Liberian leader, the cancellation of Liberia's huge debt is a blessing because it would have taken the country 28 years to clear if it's current budget of US\$350 million were entirely directed toward paying back.
- She explained that in order for Liberia to get to where it is today the government was forced to carry out difficult major reforms.
- President Sirleaf described the IMF and the World Bank's requirements as "tough prescribed bitter pills that needed to be taken to get healed."
- She however thanked the two top financial institutions for the gesture and said it is a victory that needed to be celebrated by all Liberians.

World Bank, IMF Announce Debt Relief for Liberia

[Heritage, The Inquirer, In Profile Daily, Front Page Africa, Liberia Journal, Daily Observer]

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank have announced a US\$4.6 billion dollar debt relief for Liberia.
- The decision by the executive boards of both institutions will reduce the stock of debt in present value terms by US\$2.9 billion.
- This amount also includes US\$2.7 billion from the enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative (HIPC).

- The decision also reduces Liberia stock of debt by US\$223.8 million from the multilateral Debt Relief Initiative.
- A dispatch from Washington DC puts the total debt relief from the IMF at US\$730 million, the biggest ever HIPC contribution for a single country.
- According to the dispatch the World Bank relieved Liberia of US\$375 million.
- The boards of the two financial bodies declared that Liberia has taken the necessary policy actions to reach the HIPC Completion Point.

Netherlands Princess Meets President Sirleaf

[The Inquirer, The Informer, New Democrat]

- Princess Maxima of the Kingdom of the Netherlands has expressed interest in helping to develop the financial sector of Liberia.
- Princess Maxima wants to view the focus of the Liberian government on important financial factors put in place in the economic development of the country.
- She promised to hold discussions with heads of financial institutions in the country including Finance Ministry officials to see how the financial sector can help facilitate the growth of the country.
- The Netherlands Princess expressed satisfaction over Liberia's financial growth.
- Princess Maxima who is also UN Secretary General Special Advocate for Inclusive Finance and Development spoke Tuesday when she paid a courtesy call on President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf at her Foreign Ministry office.
- For her part, President Sirleaf called on Princess Maxima to focus on micro-financing to help strengthen the capacity of ordinary Liberians.
- The Liberian leader also called on the visiting Dutch Princess to consider strengthening the capacity of the country's judiciary system.

Senate Finally Confirmed Rejected LBS Director General-Designate, Others

[Heritage, Front Page Africa]

- The Senate has finally confirmed Darryl Ambrose Nmah as Director General of the Liberia Broadcasting System (LBS) after twice denying his confirmation.
- The confirmation vote on Mr. Nmah was taken Tuesday during a closed-door session of the Senate following his re-nomination by President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf who reportedly asked the Senate to reconsider its rejection decision.
- Reports say the confirmation of Mr. Nmah is a huge somersault by the Senate with views that the body cannot be taken seriously.
- However, the Presiding Officer of the Senate, Daniel Naatehn said the change of mind to at last confirm Mr. Nmah must not be seen as weakness .
- Senator Naatehn of Gbarpolu also confirmed that the earlier rejection of Mr. Nmah was based on contention by most Senators about his poor human relations.
- Meanwhile, the Senate has voted to confirm Deputy Internal Affairs Minister for Operations Gabriel Nyekan following an earlier stalemate over his confirmation.
- Also confirmed by the Senate is Bedrew Macaulay, Commissioner of Jedepoe Statutory District in Sinoe County.

Anti-Corruption Bill Introduced in Senate

[Heritage, In Profile Daily, Liberia Journal, Front Page Africa]

- A proposed Act seeking to make corruption a non-billable offense in Liberia has been introduced in the Senate.
- The draft Act is being sponsored by Montserrado Senator Geraldine Doe Sheriff.
- In her submission, Senator Sherriff said, if enacted the Act will serve as a serious deterrent to would-be corrupt officials
- Under the bill, any public official accused or indicted of misappropriation of public funds shall be jailed and prosecuted without bail.
- It also proposes that in the event of a guilty verdict, the assets of the accused shall be confiscated and turned over to government.
- The bill further says if the accused does not have property equivalent to the value of the money misapplied, the court shall determine the necessary punishment.
- The Senate has meanwhile asked its Judiciary Committee to scrutinize the bill submitted by Senator Sheriff and advise the plenary.

- Meanwhile, the Senate has ordered a review of two separate letters seeking increment in the salary of civil servants and budgetary support to Liberian albinos.
- The letter for the increment of civil servants salary was submitted by Grand Bassa Senator Nathaniel Innis while the other letter came for the Liberian Albino Society.

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

President Sirleaf Launches First Local Multi-media Today

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf will today Wednesday launch the first local multi-media pro-democracy, peace-building and development NGO in the country.
- The Liberia Media Initiative (LMI) is headed by Liberian journalist, John Kollie and works in partnership with at least 40 local media outlets.
- The LMI produces and broadcasts four radio programmes including the Melting Point, Our Liberia, Focus on the Future and Reconciliation Road.
- Wednesday's ceremony will see the formal launching of the entity's new multi-media radio production studio, Studio Democracy or Studio-D.
- Studio Democracy will also carry out production of strategic TV and radio programmes targeting peace, democracy and development using the media as conduit.
- According to a LMI release, Wednesday's launching exercise will take place at the Mildred Page Hall of the S. Trowen Nagbe United Methodist Church in Sinkor.

World Bank, IMF Announce Debt Relief for Liberia

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

Netherlands Princess Meets President Sirleaf

Women Launch Anti-Female Circumcision Campaign Today

- A women group, Women Solidarity Incorporated will today Wednesday launch a public education campaign against female circumcision in Liberia.
- The launching of the anti-female circumcision project takes place in Paynesville and will be held under the theme: "Break the Taboo."
- A release said the event will bring together an array of government officials, representatives of national and international NGOs and prominent citizens and is intended to raise awareness on the adverse effects of female circumcision on women and girls.
- The project targets Gbelegeh and Zoe Geh, two districts in Nimba County where the organizers believe more awareness is needed.
- It will be implemented with US\$10,000 grant from Equality Now, an international human rights organization with regional offices in Nairobi, Kenya.

Senate Finally Confirmed Rejected LBS Director General-Designate, Others

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

Anti-Corruption Bill Introduced in Senate

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

Representative Chambers Opposes SIFCA's Takeover

- A Maryland Representative has protested the takeover of the Decoris oil palm in Pleebloe-Sodoken District by the multi million Ivorian agro company, SIFCA.
- Representative Bhofal Chambers said the takeover by SIFCA is null and void and the company will not be allowed to operate in Maryland.
- According to him, the people of Pleeblo-Sodoken District would not permit a company to takeover Decoris without an initial capital of US\$100 million.
- He said his people are firmed in their decision and a representation has been made to President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf by a group of lawmakers.
- Representative Chambers said the SIFCA contract is not good for Maryland because another company is offering more investment with huge benefits for the people.
- The Pleeblo-Sodoken lawmaker said the group Bakrie Sumatera Plantations is committed to the deal.

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

House Constitutes Probe Committee into Land Rental Fees

- The House of Representatives has constituted a committee to probe land rental fees levied on logging companies in the country.

- The land rentals which are payable annually varies from one country to another based on what the logging companies offer at the time of the bidding process.
- The constitution of the committee follows a communication from Representative David Saydee of Maryland County calling on the Senate to investigate the issue in the forestry industry.
- Representative Saydee said the annual payment of these land rental fees were unfair to the logging companies noting that this could scare away investors.

International Clip on Liberia

War crimes prosecutors cleared to call Naomi Campbell **AFP**

A war crimes court ruled Wednesday that prosecutors can call supermodel Naomi Campbell to testify over a "blood diamond" she allegedly received from Liberian ex-president Charles Taylor. Actress Mia Farrow can also be called to the stand over claims that Campbell was given a rough diamond by Taylor after a dinner hosted by former South African president Nelson Mandela in September 1997. "The trial chamber hereby grants the motion" filed by prosecutors in May seeking permission to subpoena Campbell and Farrow, said the decision by the Special Court for Sierra Leone, based in The Hague. Campbell has refused to be give evidence on the matter, but Farrow and the model's former agent Carole White were both willing to do so, the prosecution request to the court said. The prosecution alleges the rough diamond was among those Taylor had obtained from Sierra Leone rebels and took to South Africa "to sell ... or exchange them from weapons".

International Clips on West Africa

Guinea

Guinea vote results delayed by up to by 48 hours **Reuters**

Guinea's Supreme Court gave election authorities on Wednesday a further 48 hours to publish provisional results from Sunday's presidential election, citing logistical and other problems. "The President of the Supreme Court ... taking into account logistical, material and security difficulties, gives the national electoral commission a prolongation of 48 hours to publish total provisional results," the court said in a statement. Results had been due later on Wednesday but the move means the electoral commission now has until Friday to publish scores.

Francophonie observer mission commends peaceful election in Guinea **www.apanews.net**

The head of the Francophonie observer mission for the Sunday presidential election in Guinea, Professor Theodore Holo, on Tuesday commended "the calm, serenity and responsibility" that prevailed during the polls. "The mission of the International Organization of the Francophonie (OIF) said it had weighted the "the determination of the Guinean people, especially women and youth, to fully participate in the ongoing changes as well as their awareness of the major stakes this election embodies, as evidenced by the high turnout," Holo said. The mission also welcomed the neutrality of the administration and all the political leaders' interest in the election. "The mission notes that the Guinean and Guinean people were allowed to vote freely despite some organizational shortcomings," he said. The OIF observers urged all political leaders to uphold the calm and peaceful atmosphere that prevailed on the 27 June Election Day. More than 4 million Guineans voted Sunday to elect their president among 24 candidates. All Guineans are still waiting for the announcement of the results by the electoral commission.

Guinea: Civil society, parties claim Guinea poll irregularities **PANA**

The National Council of Civil Society Organizations (CN OSC) in Guinea on Tuesday denounced what it said were several cases of fraud during Sunday's presidential poll. It said there were several cases of irregularities in the capital, Conakry, and the countryside. Some 4.297 million Guineans voted in more than 13,000 polling stations to choose a new president. The Union of the Democratic Forces of Guinea (UFDG) of former Prime Minister Cellou Dalein Diallo, has also alleged ballot rigging in the commune of Matam in Conakry, a stronghold of the Union of Republican Forces (UFR) led by the other former Prime minister, Sidya Touré. UFDG also claims fraudulent activities in the commune of Ratoma in Conakry and has asked for the suspension of vote counting. For its part, the Guinean People's Rally (RPG) led by Alpha Conde is claiming cases of fraud and vote manipulation in Upper Guinea and Forest Guinea, its traditional strongholds. European Union observers who were in those two regions

say they noted 'technical faults' related to the refusal to let voters to cast their ballots but would not say whether these problems could have an impact on the results.

Ivory Coast

Security Council expands mandate of UN force in Côte d'Ivoire www.un.org

The Security Council today expanded the mandate of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), and the French forces supporting it, in an effort to strengthen its capacity to consolidate stability in the West African country, and extended the term of the mission until the end of this year. The Council unanimously adopted a resolution giving UNOCI and the French forces the mandate to monitor armed groups in Côte d'Ivoire, protect civilians, monitor the arms embargo, promote the peace process, protect human rights, particularly those of children and women, and support humanitarian assistance. The mission was also mandated to help in the organization of free and fair elections – which have been repeatedly delayed – and contribute towards the process of providing identification to the population. UNOCI was also tasked to continue contributing to the implementation of the peace process by supporting the disarmament, demobilization, storage of weapons and the reintegration of former combatants of the two parties, as well as supporting the integrated command centre in the disarmament effort. The mission will also support the redeployment of the Ivorian state administration and justice throughout the country, and help reform of the security sector. UNOCI's other tasks include supporting the facilitator of the Côte d'Ivoire peace process and his representative and the protection of UN personnel, installations and equipment in the country.

AU urges Ivorians to hold elections in 2010 AFP

The African Union expressed concern Tuesday over the repeated delay of long-postponed Ivory Coast elections and urged authorities to work together to hold the polls this year. The AU Peace and Security Council "expresses concern at the lack of progress in the process of ending the crisis in the Ivory Coast," said a statement sent to AFP. The Council "urges ... the concerned Ivorian parties to agree without delay on an election calendar and remain committed to organise the presidential elections in 2010." Ivory Coast has been split since a foiled coup against President Laurent Gbagbo in September 2002, after which the rebels took control of the northern half of the cocoa-rich country. A peace deal made their leader Guillaume Soro prime minister, and the latest accord, signed at the end of 2008, provides for the disarmament of rebels who have neither been demobilised nor made part of the joint brigades to be formed with the army to oversee a presidential poll. Elections have been postponed seven times since Gbagbo's mandate ran out in 2005, the latest delay coming in February when the head of state scrapped both the government and the Independent Electoral Commission.

Bahrain to boost trade with Ivory Coast www.menafn.com

Gulf Daily News reported that Bahrain and Ivory Coast have agreed to promote investments and boost economic co-operation. Bahraini Industry and Commerce Minister Dr Hassan Fakhro held talks with Minister of Industry and Promotion of the Private Sector and Minister of State for Financial Affairs Bernard Yao. Talks with Ivory Coast officials also focused on promoting the volume of trade exchanges. The high-level economic delegation was updated on Bahrain's experience in medium and small businesses. Dr Fakhro highlighted Bahrain's drive to promote co-operation, joint ventures and boost investments for the benefit of all parties. The ministry also gave a presentation on Bahrain's economic and investment environment. It also highlighted Bahrain's status as a major financial hub in the Middle East, hosting over 350 banking and insurance institutions.
