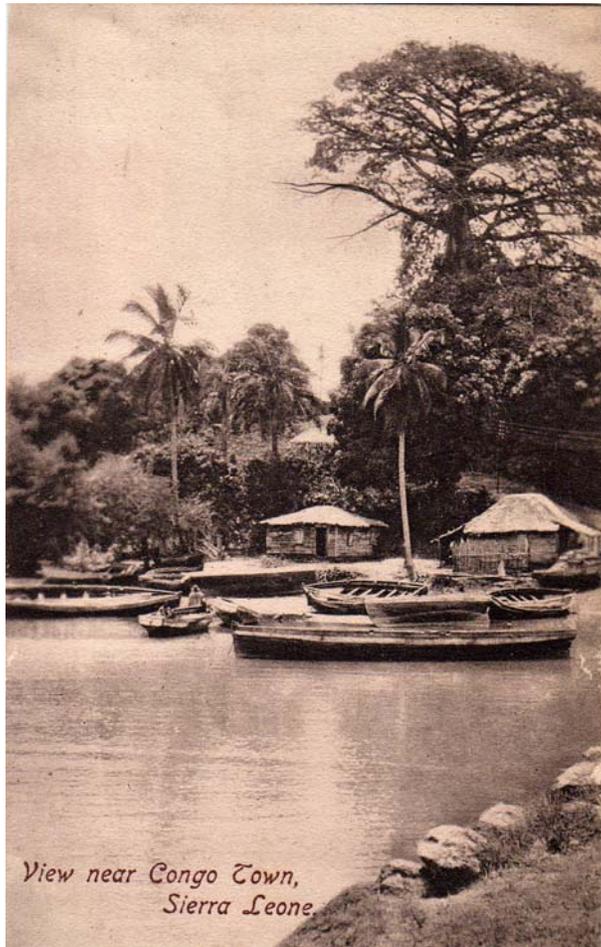


**SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE  
OUTREACH AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE**



**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:**

Thursday, 22 July 2010

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.  
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Abc News

Tuesday, 20 July 2010

## **Naomi Campbell Will Testify At 'Blood Diamond' Trial, Says Her Lawyer**

By ANNA SCHECTER

### **Supermodel Reluctantly Agrees To Appear In The Hague as a Witness in August**

After months of refusing to cooperate, supermodel Naomi Campbell has now agreed to testify in person at the "blood diamond" trial of former Liberian dictator Charles Taylor. The decision by the international tribunal to subpoena Campbell came following an ABC News report about allegations that Taylor had given her uncut "blood" diamonds on a trip to South Africa.

The controversy that caused Naomi Campbell to storm out of an interview.

"Whilst she would rather not be involved in this case at all, she will nevertheless attend to assist the court as requested," her lawyer, Gideon Benaim, told ABC News Tuesday. Campbell will fly to The Hague in early August to give her version of events the night she met Taylor at the home of Nelson Mandela in 1997. She had initially been asked to appear on July 29, but the date has now been moved to August 5.

Until the ABC News report, Campbell had refused to cooperate with the Special Court for Sierra Leone where Taylor is standing trial. Taylor is charged with 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

## Charlestaylortrial.org (The Hague)

Wednesday, 21 July 2010

### **Liberia: United States Court of Appeals Judges Uphold Charles Taylor Jr.'s (chuckie Taylor) Convictions And 97 Years Jail Sentence**

Alpha Sesay

Judges of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit on Thursday July 15 2010 issued a decision affirming the conviction of Charles Taylor Jr., aka Chuckie Taylor.

Taylor was convicted in October 2008 by the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida and sentenced to 97 years imprisonment for "committing numerous acts of torture and other atrocities in Liberia between 1999 and 2003," while he served as head of the country's " Anti Terrorist Unit" (ATU) during the presidency of his father, Charles Taylor Sr.-who is himself presently being tried by the Special Court for Sierra Leone sitting in The Hague for allegedly controlling and supporting rebel forces who fought and committed heinous crimes in Sierra Leone from 1991 to 2002. Mr. Taylor Sr. has denied the charges against him.

Mr. Taylor Jr. was convicted and sentenced in 2008 under a United States domestic statute-the Torture Act- which establishes the basis for prosecution of United States citizens for crimes of torture committed abroad. Mr. Taylor Jr., a United States citizen by birth, sought a reversal of his conviction on the basis that the "Torture Act is unconstitutional."

According to Mr. Taylor Jr., while the Torture Act derives its authority from the obligations owed by the United States as a signatory to the United Nations Convention Against Torture (CAT) of 1984, the Act "impermissibly exceeds the bounds of that authority, both in its definition of torture and its proscription against conspiracies to commit torture." Mr. Taylor Jr., also challenged his conviction on several other grounds, including based on a section of the Torture Act which makes it a criminal offense to use or possess a firearm in connection with a crime of violence, that the said provision "cannot apply extraterritorially to his actions in Liberia," and that his trial was unfair based on several procedural errors, and that the United States District Court erred in sentencing him after his conviction.

After assessing all the facts of the case, the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit issued a decision that Mr. Taylor Jr.'s convictions were constitutional, and that it was within the powers of the United States Congress to criminalize torture as well as conspiracy to commit torture. The Court of Appeals also ruled that contrary to Mr. Taylor Jr.'s suggestions, "both the Torture act and the firearm statute apply to extraterritorial conduct, and that their application in this case was proper." According to the Court of Appeals Mr. Taylor Jr.'s trial and convictions "were not rendered fundamentally unfair by any evidentiary or other procedural errors, and that his sentence is without error." The convictions and sentence of the District Court were affirmed in entirety by the Court of Appeals.

At age 20, Mr. Taylor Jr., called mostly in the Court's judgment as "Emmanuel" was appointed as head of Liberia's ATU, which was also known as "Demon Forces" after his father, Mr. Taylor Sr. became the democratically elected president of Liberia in 1997 after having led the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) rebel group in a bloody war that sought to unseat the government of Master Sergeant Samuel K. Doe. The ATU was charged with the responsibility of providing security to the Liberian president and his family.

As head of the ATU, Mr. Taylor Jr. recruited men into the Unit and established its training camp at a place called the Gbatala Base. As described in Court by one of the ATU recruits Wesley Sieh, under the direction of Mr. Taylor Jr., ATU soldiers dug "twenty grave-size prison pits," and covered them with "metal bars or barbed wires." The base also contained a holding cell for ATU soldiers who became disobedient and an educational training center called the "College of Knowledge." The commander of the Gbatala Base was David Campari, who took his orders from Mr. Taylor Jr. According to the Court, the ATU was Mr. Taylor Jr.'s self described "pet project" and that all ATU affiliates called him "Chief" and that his car license plate carried the inscription "Demon."

The Court noted that from 1997 to 2002, Mr. Taylor Jr. wielded his power in a terrifying and violent manner, torturing numerous individuals in his custody who were never charged with any crime or given any legal process. Several witnesses testified at Mr. Taylor Jr.'s trial including victims such as Sierra Leonean refugees who were arrested at checkpoints and tortured at the Gbatala Base, and Liberian nationals who were arrested and tortured because they were perceived as being affiliated with groups opposed to Mr. Taylor Sr.'s presidency in Liberia. Witnesses also spoke about individuals being executed based on orders from Mr. Taylor Jr. After his father, Mr. Taylor Sr., left the Liberian presidency and sought asylum in Nigeria before he was finally taken into the custody of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, Mr. Taylor Jr. left Liberia in July 2003.

In March 2006, as he attempted to enter the USA from Trinidad and Tobago, Mr. Taylor Jr. was arrested at the Miami International Airport for attempting to enter the country using a false passport. When his luggage was searched, US lawmakers discovered a book on guerilla tactics and notes of rap lyrics which made reference to the ATU.

In November 2007, a grand jury sitting in the US District Court for the Southern District of Florida issued an indictment against Mr. Taylor Jr., with charges relating to "conspiracy to commit torture in Liberia against seven unnamed victims - with death resulting to at least one victim - by seizing, imprisoning, interrogating, and mistreating them, and by committing various acts with the specific intent to inflict severe physical pain and suffering, conspiracy to use and carry a firearm during and in relation to a crime of violence, and committing substantive crimes of torture against five named victims..." in violation of the US Torture Victim Protect Act of 1994 (The Torture Act). In October 2008, after a trial which lasted for one month, Mr. Taylor Jr. was convicted on all counts and sentenced to an imprisonment term of 1,164 months or 97 years.

Mr. Taylor Jr. appealed his conviction and sentence before the US Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. On said appeal, the Court of Appeals noted the following:

On Mr. Taylor Jr.'s appeal that the Torture Act is "invalid because its definition of torture sweeps more broadly than that provided by the CAT [ UN Convention Against Torture]," the Court of Appeals noted that "Notably, the existence of slight variances between a treaty and its congressional implementing legislation do not make the enactment unconstitutional; identity is not required. Rather...legislation implementing a treaty bears a "rational relationship" to that treaty where the legislation "tracks the language of the [treaty] in all material respects."

"Applying the rational relationship test in this case, we are satisfied that the Torture Act is a valid exercise of congressional power...because the Torture Act tracks the provisions of the CAT in all material respects...and the CAT declares broadly that its provisions are "without prejudice to any international instrument or national legislation which does or may contain provisions of wider application...Put simply, the CAT created a floor, not a ceiling, for its signatories in their efforts to combat torture," the Court of Appeals said.

On Mr. Taylor Jr.'s appeal that "the Torture Act oversteps the bounds of the CAT by criminalizing not only consummated acts of torture, but acts done with no more than the "specific intention to inflict" severe pain or suffering, whether or not such pain or suffering is actually inflicted," the Court of Appeals noted that "The CAT expressly directs state parties to punish un consummated crimes of torture. Specifically, it requires that state parties criminalize not only torture, but also attempts to commit torture."

"In simple terms, an attempt to commit torture is exactly the same as an act done with the specific intent to commit torture," the Court of Appeals said.

The Court of Appeals also rejected Mr. Taylor Jr.'s claim "that the Torture Act is invalid because its official-conduct requirement uses the phrase "under the color of law," rather than the phrase "in an official capacity," as found in the CAT. The Court responded that based on an explanation given by the Senate Executive Committee charged with evaluating the CAT, "there is no distinction between the meaning of the phrases "under the color of law" and in "an official capacity."

"In sum, we can discern no merit to any of Emmanuel's constitutional challenges to the way in which Congress defined torture in the Torture Act. If anything, the arguably more expansive definition of torture adopted by the United States is that much more faithful to the CAT's purpose of enhancing global efforts to combat torture," the Court of Appeal said.

Mr. Taylor Jr. also challenged the "Torture Act as unconstitutional because it applies during armed conflicts." The Court of Appeals referenced Article 22 of the CAT itself, which provides that "no exceptional circumstances whatsoever, whether a state of war or a threat of war, internal political instability or any other public emergency, may be invoked as a justification of torture."

"Accordingly, there is no merit to Emmanuel's contention that the CAT, or legislation authorized by the CAT, cannot apply during armed conflicts," the Court said.

The judges also rejected Mr. Taylor Jr.'s argument that "he cannot be prosecuted for torture committed before Liberia became a signatory to the Convention Against Torture in 2004." According to the judges, "nothing in the CAT limits its application to torture committed within the territorial borders of its signatories."

The Court of Appeals stated that "The Supreme Court made clear long ago that an absent United States citizen is nonetheless "personally bound to take notice of the laws [of the United States] that are applicable to him and to obey them."

"Emmanuel was a United States citizen at all relevant times - when the Torture Act was passed and when he committed all of the acts for which he was convicted. As such, he is bound by United States law "made applicable to him in a foreign country...For disobedience to its laws through conduct abroad, he was subject to punishment in the courts of the United States. Thus, there was nothing improper about application of the Torture Act to Emmanuel's conduct in Liberia before that country signed the CAT," the Court said.

The Court also said that Mr. Taylor Jr. was wrong in his challenge that the "Torture Act does not apply to the extraterritorial conduct of a United States citizen." The Court noted that the US Congress has the authority to regulate the extraterritorial conduct of US citizens and that this is exactly what the Congress did in the Torture Act.

"It has long been established that Congress has the power to regulate the extraterritorial acts of U.S. citizens," the Court said.

Mr. Taylor Jr. sought to argue that he should not have been prosecuted for his actions because "all of his alleged acts in furtherance of the conspiracy to commit torture were "governmental self-preservation tactics." The Court rejected this argument, noting that "the CAT thus anticipated prosecutions such as this one, where torture is committed by a regime in order to maintain its brutal control over an unhappy populace."

Mr. Taylor Jr. also appealed his conviction on the basis that the District Court had made multiple errors which had had a huge effect on his fair trial rights as an accused. The Court of Appeals rejected this claim.

"As this Court has explained, evidentiary errors are not grounds for reversal "unless there is a reasonable likelihood that they affected the defendant's substantial rights; where an error had no substantial influence on the outcome, and sufficient evidence uninfected by error supports the verdict, reversal is not warranted," the Court of Appeals said.

On Mr. Taylor Jr.'s objection that notes of rap lyrics obtained from him had been used as evidence against him, the Court of Appeals ruled that the language used in the lyrics were relevant and that their probative value was not outweighed by any unfair prejudice.

"The rap lyrics were relevant and their probative value was not outweighed by any unfair prejudice that might have arisen from their admission into evidence. Specifically, the lyrics stated such things as: "Take this for free, six feet is where you gonna be. ATU niggas on the scene. Body bag is all you see"; "More sweat in my training means less blood in my life. So with the shots from guns keep it dead and precise. Bull-doze ambushes in the midst of a fight. Try to cut my supply, you'll be losing your life"; and "army thugs united." Such lyrics were probative on multiple fronts," the Court said.

According to the judges, they were not persuaded by Mr. Taylor Jr.'s argument that his 1,164 months or 97 years imprisonment was invalid.

As the Court of Appeals judges concluded their judgment, they stated that "In sum, we affirm [Mr. Taylor Jr.'s] convictions and sentence in full. The Torture Act's proscriptions against both torture and conspiracy to commit torture are constitutional, and may be applied to extraterritorial conduct...Finally, Emmanuel's advisory Sentencing Guidelines range was correctly calculated by the district court, and the sentences imposed violate neither the CAT nor the Constitution."

Freedom News  
Tuesday, 20 July 2010

## ***The Big Interview: Gambian Rebel Leader Tells His “Life” Story!!!***

***...Ready To Face The International Criminal Court—Koukoie***

***JAMMEH SERVED AS A “SPY” FOR KOUKOIE’S REBEL MOVEMENT PRE—JULY 22<sup>ND</sup> COUP***

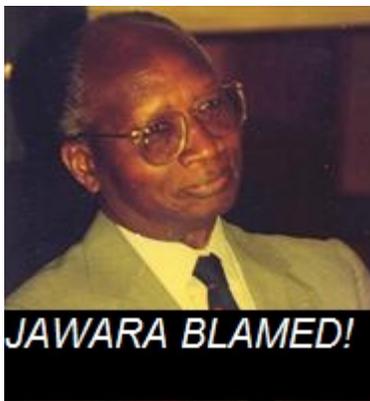


***As Koukoie Renewed His Call To Dislodge Jammeh’s Government By Any means Necessary***

***By Pa Nderry M’Bai***

***KUKOI OPENS UP***

***Giving a vivid account about the circumstances leading to the 1981 rebellion that left thousands of Gambians death, and massive destruction to public property, the main man behind the rebellion Koukoie Samba Sanyang, says he is ready to face the International Criminal Court in the Hague, Netherlands, together with all the actors associated with the brutal incident—notably former Gambian President Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara, Former Senegalese President Abdou Diouf, and the British ( SAS). Speaking in an Exclusive interview with the US based Freedom Newspaper, Mr. Sanyang who goes with the aliases Dr. Mane said he has nothing to hide and he is ready to give his own side of the story regarding the events leading to the 1981 massacre, which devastated the tiny impoverished West African country, then under the leadership of Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara. “I challenge any Gambian or Senegalese who believes Koukoie Samba Sanyang was responsible for what happened on the 31<sup>st</sup> of July 1981 to file a law suit in an International criminal Court like the ICC against all the actors or***



***JAWARA BLAMED!***

***all the forces involved in this unfortunate criminality e.g. (Koukoie Samba Sanyang and comrades; Sir Dawuda Kairaba Jawara and his neocolonial government and the Senegalese invading criminal forces not forgetting the British SAS) I am ready to answer to any charges in an International criminal Court if all other parties will agree to stand trial like me,” Mr. Sanyang posited. Sounding unapologetic, Mr. Sanyang threw an invitation to interested parties to file charges against him including Sir Dawda and co should they deem it imperative to seek redress at the ICC. He says he is not scared one moment to face justice. “Not for a moment and I challenge any Gambian and any lawyer who will be brave enough to file a criminal law suit in an International Criminal Court like the ICC against all players of the 31<sup>st</sup> July 1981 political crisis, e.g. Koukoie Samba Sanyang; Sir Dawuda Kairaba Jawara;***

*President Abdou Diouf and his government and the British SAS,” he remarked. In what could be categorized as Koukoie’s “life story” interview, the former rebel leader commented on a wide range of issues: Jammeh serving as a “spy” for his rebel Movement prior to the toppling of the Jawara’s administration in 1994, his Bissau failed extradition, Farafenni army barracks attack, Kanilai failed peace deal, relationship with Charles Taylor, Libyan Government, President Wade, Lang Tombong’s so called coup, his views about the ICC, and a host of other topical issues.*

.....  
**FN:** *Good day Sir. Could you please briefly introduce yourself to our readership?*

**K. S.Sanayng:** *Good day my dear brothers and sisters how are you all? I hope everything is ok with you, and may Allah bless you and guide you. I am Koukoie Samba Sanyang and I was born on May 1, 1955 in Wassadou Sanyangkunda village, Foni Jarrol, Western Division (The Gambia).*



*I am one of the children of Muhammad Mehdi Nyiel Sanyang and Aminata Tamba Sanyang. I was born with the natural power and wisdom of refusing injustice, human rights abuses and evil with all its manifestation which for me is not natural. I began my primary education in 1960 and continued my education in Casamance Senegal.*

*My name Koukoie signifies beneficial purity, truthfulness, integrity, justice and anything that is far from injustice, wrong doing, cheating, fraud and all that is against justice and love.*

*As for the name Samba which was given to me by my Fulani foster father and mother who named me after the great Fulani warrior and king Samba Geelahjegie which means leader and shepherd played a crucial role in my qualities as a person who possess royal power and leadership ability, Shepard of men/women (a guide and a leader).*

*As for the surname Sanyang it is a long glorious African history which in the mandinka language means “Those who only think of how to gloriously die in defence of freedom and justice and the weak” in dignity but originally the Sanyangs are Keitas descendants from the Manding Empire of Emperor Sundiata Keita.*

*The then princes of the manding empire who go on the rampage throughout west Africa fighting to conquer more territories who were called with praise names by the griots (Jallykebbalu) and traditional historical narrators (Finakebbalu) “Sanyang” which means as mentioned earlier those who only think of how to die.*

**FN:** *What happened in July of 1981 in The Gambia?*

**K.S. Sanyang:** *What happened in July 1981 in the Gambia is no secret to anyone neither a crime but a people’s revolution took place under my able leadership overthrowing a neocolonial puppet regime (the public enemy) for the establishment of a genuine democracy, the rule of law and administrative justice. It was for laying the footpaths for the peoples struggle towards a New Independent and Democratic revolutionary Gambia with the rule of law, strict respect for civil liberties, peace, progress, prosperity and the pursuit of happiness.*

*The popular character and nature of this 31<sup>st</sup> July peoples uprising was the outcome of the general belief that when a society demands, a change there is no need attempting to change it*

*on old neocolonial principles, and also no need remaining unchanged in the political attitudes while the world change around us, we might very well become more reactionary than the enemy after having been revolutionary because the status quo would have changed so much in the meantime.*

*The people realized that we badly needed a positive change in the Gambia, not a change for change sake. It was of our conviction that the poor oppressed and exploited Gambian masses had little to lose from such a positive radical qualitative change we struggling for, but may hope to gain from the proposed socialists egalitarian policies this is why they took an active part in the struggle, while the well-to-do were seeing our proposed change as threats to their best interests, thus aligning themselves on the neocolonial side.*

*What we urgently needed then was serious organized challenges and resistances not isolated acts to this human eating society. Contrary to President Sir Dawuda Kairaba Jawara's believe and aims ethnicity certainly was not the focus of our nationhood.*

*The strategy and tactics of this national resistance for change was determined by the reaction as usual of the enemy forces – and we were ready to meet force with force, reasoning with reasoning and dialogue with dialogue which never had a chance.*

*Because our objective was to serve the people of the Gambia by our deeds and in total truth, we had no doubt, what so ever that we will be understood by all Gambians as the struggle unfolds.*

**FR:** *What motivated your actions to use arms against the Jawara administration? Why don't you give chance to the democratic process at the time to prevail?*

***K.S. Sanyang:*** *The use of arms was a last resort to overthrow the then settler neocolonialism of the Jawara administration which was ruining the Gambia and taking back our dear country 500 years backwards. One thing we must acknowledge and appreciate about the 31<sup>st</sup> July 1981 people's revolution was that it was a breaker of barriers and restriction. Truly speaking during the Jawara era there was no avenue for a possible democratic change this was why the PPP regime remained in power for 30 years. Together with other revolutionary comrades we sought to assure what is good and right for the Gambian society as a whole which demanded and required men and women of boldness firmness and uprightness to transforming the Gambian society. It was to end the sad status of poor governance in the Gambia due to high corruption, mismanagement of public funds and theft by the PPP blood suckers and oppressors.*



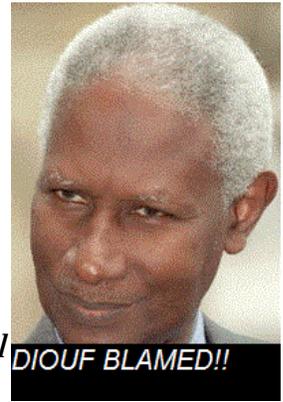
**KUKOI**

*Our democratic struggle was for the radical overthrow of statistics and to undertake profound, qualitative and accelerated socio-cultural and economic transformations to construct a socialist state system.*

*We proceeded from the assumption that the inherent human creativities, initiatives and energies of the citizenry ought to be a driving force of socio-economic life while a revolutionary democratic government should provide the appropriate legal and infrastructural environment to propel and sustain the imperatives of a socialist market economy.*

**FR:** *Thousands of Gambians were reported death during the 1981 rebellion. Who is to be blamed for the deaths?*

***K.S Sanyang:*** History will absolve us for what happened in the Gambia on the 31<sup>st</sup> of July 1981 which was a genuine people's revolution and not an infantile foolery. We took up arms not to kill our own people with whom we hoped to join forces with and rebuild our sinking nation and we never intended to destroy property in the Gambia as claims some people. As whom to be blamed for the deaths, I can let the people of truth and justice tells the true story. Remember that neocolonial history like colonial history is not the history of a free thought. When we took over power in the early morning of Friday the 31<sup>st</sup> of July no Gambian, I repeat no Gambian was killed until when the Senegalese invading forces attacked our position to foil the revolution. What is wrong with some Gambians who pretend to be ignorant of the fact and blame Koukoie Samba Sanyang? The Senegalese invasion was it not an act of terrorism and a violation of our sovereignty, the Senegalo-Gambian defense Pact and International laws and conventions.



*In Africa we have a very dangerous sickness that was given to us by the colonialist. The colonial masters taught us how to hate ourselves and laugh at ourselves. It is a pity and as we continue to suffer from this dangerous disease we will always hate ourselves and saying what our enemies wants us to say about us. Why are Gambians afraid to tell the truth about the 31<sup>st</sup> July 1981 people's revolution? If it was not for Jawara and the Senegalese bloody aggression who would have died?*

***FR:*** But on the other hand, upon his return into the country, President Jawara blamed you and your men for the deaths. In that, the rebels which you led went on rampage, killing innocent civilians, and looting properties. What is your view on such allegations?

***K.S. Sanyang:*** I always feel ashamed as a Gambian when I read on some reactionary newspapers that Koukoie Samba Sanyang is to be blamed for what happened on the 31<sup>st</sup> of July 1981. Only people who have recycled brains can think and believe such unfortunate allegations and shameful lies. We did not stage this historic people's revolution to kill innocent oppressed and exploited Gambians but to unify all progressive forces in order to struggle to meet the demands of our people. We know and believe that we needed people alive and healthy to sustain the revolution rather than dead people, we could have not killed our own people we were struggling to liberate and redeem for their survival.

***FR:*** Who killed the civilians then? Who were behind the looting of public properties?

***K.S Sanyang:*** Our action was not intended to commit crimes against humanity. Our revolution was for the democratic empowerment of the Gambian people and for a radical qualitative overthrow of statistics. Those fifth columnist who sabotaged the revolution together with the Senegalese greedy invaders are responsible for all that happened. It was not necessary for that senseless bloodshed among brothers because what Gambians and Senegalese share in common is much more powerful than what divides them, and that people of good should have worked together and be enriched by their diversity, not fearful of it, if we are to build landscape of peace

***FN:*** Why was the 1981 rebellion a failure? What prevented you from taking over from Jawara?

***K.S. Sanyang:*** Our people's revolution was not a failure since we were able to seize power of which every Gambian knows and can testify. We are not power hungry people who just wanted to be in power. Our aim was for the establishment of a new democratic order in the Gambia but Gambians were denied their rights by these criminal Senegalese terrorists.

**FN:** *Your men were also blamed for the death of the Senegalese paratroopers who came to suppress the coup. Your views?*

**K.S. Sanyang:** *Oh only hypocrites can say such an insulting view. What do you expect for a brave people fighting for their birth rights who are attacked by a foreign criminal invading force to do, sit down and be butched by these terrorists?*

*I challenge any Gambian or Senegalese who believes Koukoie Samba Sanyang was responsible for what happened on the 31<sup>st</sup> of July 1981 to file a law suit in an International criminal Court like the ICC against all the actors or all the forces involved in this unfortunate criminality e.g. (Koukoie Samba Sanyang and comrades; Sir Dawuda Kairaba Jawara and his neocolonial government and the Senegalese invading criminal forces not forgetting the British SAS) I am ready to answer to any charges in an International criminal Court if all other parties will agree to stand trial like me.*

**FN:** *What role have you played in the 1981 coup?*

**K.S. Sanyang:** *I played the role of the revolutionary leader of the Gambian people and commander in chief of the Gambian people's revolutionary armed forces. You must know that leadership is a process not an event and that leadership is the energetic process of getting people fully and willingly committed to a new and sustainable course of action to meet commonly agreed objectives whilst having commonly held values. With our divided and confused Gambia where sharp living contradictions exists between all interest groups we are tired of continued militarism and the network of spies, informers and NIA security personnel that impose a life of permanent fear and mistrust on an already exhausted population.*

**FN:** *Did you personally kill anyone during the rebellion?*

**K.S. Sanyang:** *I can only say and reply to your this question by saying that I am less than what people say about me but more than what they think of me. Let no one judge me if that person does not know me. I laid down my valuable life for the Gambian people for freedom and justice so I cannot understand how I can be going around like a crazy person the type President Yaya Jammeh killing my own people. Does it not sound stupid to say and believe such things?*

**FN:** *Who were the brains behind the 1981 rebellion?*

**K.S. Sanyang:** *No one was behind our revolutionary action as a conspirator but it is the Gambian revolutionary freedom fighters and patriots who love their country who organized, planned and executed this revolutionary action to rescue the country. I can proudly say that throughout Africa only the 31<sup>st</sup> July people's revolution of the Gambia never received support both military and financial from outside revolutionary countries. We wholly relied on the support of the oppressed people of the Gambian, on our own forces and the alliance of all progressive forces.*

*The first thing we learnt in the struggling to liberate our people was relying on our own efforts and that "when a people laugh at your reality and your nature, they have you one way and when they teach you or train you to laugh at your own reality and nature they have got you another way. We were not imitators neither trained mercenaries but conscious revolutionaries who relied on our efforts to liberate our dear oppressed people. We do not believe in importing the revolution.*

**FN:** *Prior to the 1981 rebellion, what do you do for a living?*

**K.S. Sanyang:** *I worked for a Pan African and International economic company called Societe Africaine de Promotion et d'Edition (SAPE) under the auspices of the OAU which paved the way for the creation of the OAU Economic Commission.*

**FN:** *As a member of the National Convention Party (NCP) under the leadership of Sheriff Dibba, what can you tell us about Sheriff Dibba? What type of leader was Dibba?*

**K.S. Sanyang:** *What do you want me to tell you about Sheriff Mustapha Dibba different to who Sir Dawuda Kairaba Jawara was? Dibba was a direct product of Jawara, for they all came from the same neocolonial Owen backed and fashioned alike. Dibba is no differences with Jawara.*

**FN:** *I read in one of your postings, in which you argued that you served as Gambia's Second President. In that, it is wrong for Jammeh to call himself as the Second President of The Gambia after Jawara's toppling. What make you believe that you are Gambia's Second President?*

**K.S. Sanyang:** *The events that took place in the Gambia on the 31<sup>st</sup> of July 1981 was not a religious change but political changes so why waste time arguing and trying to fabricate a false history. What will our grandchildren regret not living our times?*

**FN:** *But the 1981 coup was suppressed by the Senegalese troops. How come that you become as a Second President?*

**K.S. Sanyang:** *The evil interruption of our glorious revolutionary history by these Senegalese terrorist invaders is testimony of that they came to fight a sitting President. In Africa I am not the first and the last political and military leader to take over power. Because the criminal intervention of the Senegalese invading force made it very difficult for us to firmly take control of the situation. The fact is that everybody is saying what he/she thinks and likes because we are not in power. If we were in power we would be angels today. We never laid down our lives to free the Gambia and to be praised by anyone but for freedom and justice.*

**FN:** *How do you managed to escape from the country unhurt?*

**K.S. Sanyang:** *Oh my dear it is too much and unfair to say that I escaped and fled to Guine-Bissau. I went unhindered together with comrades in arms to look for arms and ammunition with our revolutionary comrades in Guine-Bissau. On arrival we were faced with a divided government on our issue.*

*The then foreign Minister of Guine-Bissau Mr. Victor Saude Marie who was bribed by Jawara and Diouf organized a pro-Jawara lobby group asking and making pressure on the President Joao Brnardo Nino Vieira and comrades for us to be extradited back to the Gambia or to Dakar Senegal. Thanks to the intervention of the late revolutionary Panafricanist leader Ahmed Sekou Toure President of Guinea Conakry we were not handed over to the peoples enemies.*

**FN:** *Why do you fled the country, leaving your supporters, and troops behind?*

**K.S. Sanyang:** *Look I think that you want to know why I in the first place went myself to Guine-Bissau leaving behind my fellow revolutionary comrades. We were not working in isolation or confusion but in an organized revolutionary manner.*

*I did not flee the country to save my skin but went to Bissau because all our envoys we sent to secure for arms returned back to the Gambia empty handed saying that the revolutionary brothers in Bissau are saying if it is not me myself they will not hand any weapons to no one because the situation is very confused at present in the Gambia and wants to know what was happening.*



**FN:** *Don't you think you have betrayed your men by running away? Why don't you stayed and face the consequences?*

**K.S. Sanyang:** *The conduct line of my life is the fear of shame and humiliation and for that reason I do not have a grain of betrayal in my blood and body.*

**FN:** *Was the late Mustapha Danso part of your coup?*

**K.S. Sanyang:** *The late comrade Mustapha Danso may his soul rest in perfect peace is a great revolutionary freedom fighter and a national hero who stood valiantly to face injustice meted out to him by his superior military boss. He was a founding member of this revolutionary group that overthrew Jawara's rotten neocolonial regime. He is ever living in our memories and will be remembered for all times. Mustapha Danso died for the Gambia and the Gambian people and not for Koukoie Samba Sanyang.*

**FR:** *How about Pap Cheyassin Secka, and Sheriff Dibba?*

**K.S. Sanyang:** *Unlike Sheriff Mustapha Dibba comrade Pap Cheyassin Secka is a revolutionary intellectual thinker and a human rights defender.*

**FR:** *After fleeing from the country, what was your next port of call?*

**K.S. Sanyang:** *As I said earlier I never fled from my country and I was warmly welcomed by revolutionary comrades in Cuba.*

**FN:** *One would have expected that you would have embraced President Jammeh's 1994 coup—given the fact that Jawara was in your bad books at the time. Why don't you return home in 1994 and work with Jammeh?*

**K.S. Sanyang:** *How can I embrace President Jammeh's so-called 1994 reactionary coup which was not his making but the results of the seat of government being vacant due to the demonstration of Gambian soldiers who served in ECOMOG in Liberia and Sierra Leone asking for their salary back pay.*



***Look I want all Gambians to know today that President Yaya Jammeh was a member of our revolutionary group and an active recruiting officer when I was in Libya. He worked very hard with all the people we sent to the Gambia to mobilize people for our second return. But once he found a golden chance to take power he betrayed the Gambian revolutionary brothers and turned against us. We still have people who worked with him and they can testify to this statement.***

**FN:** *Why are you obsessed with power?*

***K.S. Sanyang:*** *If I am obsessed with power I could have accepted all the offers and returned to the Gambia and live a degrading life likes all those traitors and quislings. I respect and honor all my comrades who died fighting to free the Gambia. It will be unjust for me to betray them and spite on their graves by becoming one of those traitors.*

***FN:*** *Does President Jammeh play “tribal card” in the administration of the country?*

***K.S. Sanyang:*** *Why because I am a Jola and from Wassadou just 20 miles from Kanilai and a half cousin to Jammeh. As a revolutionary freedom fighter I strongly believe that the biological family should give way to the ideological family. The fact is that President Jammeh is body and blood tribalist. One should know that President Jammeh is playing the tribal card in his administration for a necessity self-defense.*

***FN:*** *In the late 90's, the Jammeh Government claimed that you were behind the Farafenni Army camp attack, which left couple of soldiers death. Is it true that you assigned the late Yahya Drammeh, Sonko and others to wage a rebellion in The Gambia?*

***K.S. Sanyang:*** *Frankly speaking I am a revolutionary leader and I can never disown a militant whatever the case and crime he has committed who has rebelled against the leadership to do otherwise. I know that it is all that remains in Jammeh's mouth to try to vilipandize me for anything that goes against him and threatens the survival of his oppressive regime. We are an organized revolutionary movement fighting for freedom and justice and not adventurers. The role I played to avoid this senseless and non-organized action resulted in people and even some comrades accusing me of being tribalist wanting to spear Mr. Jammeh and go in for peaceful negotiation based on a Jola platform. It is only brother Abdulai Sonko leader of that dissident group that attacked Farafenni who can tell you what he aimed to achieve in that attack.*

*I have documented evidence of those accusations against me by Mr. Abdulai Sonko. Yes they are members of our group and we can never disown them but we as I was concerned never supported and never took active part in that attack.*

***FN:*** *But why should the Government accuse you without evidence? The captured rebels claimed that you hired them as mercenaries. Your reaction?*

***K.S. Sanyang:*** *Who doesn't know the inhumane treatment inflicted on detainees and prisoners by the NIA terrorist agents to forcefully extort information from them through torture? All members of our revolutionary movement are Gambians and no mercenaries are within our ranks.*

***FN:*** *Are you in the business of recruiting mercenaries?*

***K.S. Sanyang:*** *Mercenaries for what when able bodied Gambians are there ready to uproot the evil neocolonial regime of President Yaya Jammeh. I hope you are not confusing Pan African solidarity and mercenaries.*

***FN:*** *How is your relationship with the Libyan Government?*

***K.S. Sanyang:*** *My relationship with the Peoples authority of the Libyan people is based on Pan African solidarity since according to our Pan African concept solidarity is not an act of charity but mutual aid to forces fighting for the same objectives.*

**FN:** *Have you received any military training in the past from Libya? Why are you subscribed to revolutionary ideals?*

**K.S. Sanyang:** *I am a civilian and I will remain a civilian till death. I have never received military training from Libya or any other country. My military knowledge is a gift from Allah and remember that I am a descendant of the emperor Sundiata Keita.*

**FN:** *Are you operating under the aliases such as Dr. Manneh?*

**K.S. Sanyang:** *I do not need to operate under the aliases such as Dr. Mane. I answer by the name that is on my travel document since both the Jawara and Jammeh governments have refused to give me my Gambian citizen and nationality which is my birth right.*

**FN:** *When did you last visited The Gambia?*



**K.S. Sanyang:** *My last visit to the Gambia was on my second trip to see President Yaya Jammeh when he requested meeting me for reconciliations and join our efforts to build the Gambia.*

**FR:** *What can you tell us about your peace deal with President Jammeh?*

**K.S. Sanyang:** *Look my dear there was no personal peace deal with President Yaya Jammeh and it was not possible. I responded to his call to hear what he has to say about and how all Gambians can join in a peace negotiation to bring peace through, truth, reconciliation, forgiveness and putting our efforts together to rebuild our sinking nation. I am not egoist and a slave of money or power so I can only talk on behalf of the entire Gambian nation. Based on my revolutionary belief I alone cannot reach an agreement on a peace deal with Jammeh without involving the whole Gambian polite body.*

**FN:** *After been accused of murdering the soldiers at Farafenni, Jammeh was still interested in brokering peace with you. Was Jammeh trying to use you for a specific project: (IE) harm your fellow Gambians, or help keep him in power?*

**K.S. Sanyang:** *Oh for Heaven's sake do you really believe that President Jammeh was interested in brokering a peace deal with me I don't think so. Jammeh was not trying to use me for a specific project but seeking ways and means to lull me to sleep to eventually eliminate me. I know he has in mind how to use people to harm fellow Gambian citizens but frankly speaking President Jammeh was aware that no man on earth can use me Koukoie Samba Sanyang to harm even a fly much more my beloved Gambian brothers and sisters.*

**FN:** *What happened at your Kanilai meeting? Did Jammeh give you money?*

**K.S. Sanyang:** *Unfortunately at our Kanilai meeting there was nothing special of importance to the Gambian people; but only self praises and revealing his evil plans of wanting to eliminating fellow Gambians and expressing his fears about certain people he wants to see dead. In actual fact he gave money of which I do not know the amount to my accompanying delegation that is my militants who came from our base*

**FN:** *What led to your strained relationship with Jammeh?*

**K.S. Sanyang:** *It is very clear to every Gambian that Jammeh and myself we are not compatible and our political ideas are diametrically opposed. He thinks of himself and I think about the Gambian people.*

**FN:** *Is correct to say that you have not honored the promise you made to Jammeh?*

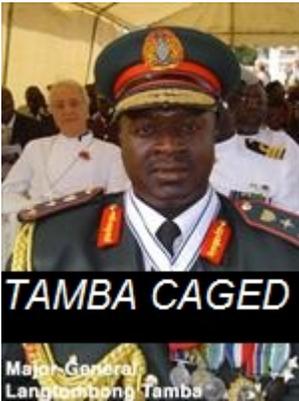
**K.S. Sanyang:** *Frankly speaking I made no promise to President Jammeh and I cannot see how I can honor his evil dreams.*

**FN:** *Why honoring an invitation to visit Banjul to meet Jammeh? What were your expectations from the Jammeh invitation?*

**K.S. Sanyang:** *I honored an invitation to visit Banjul and Kanilai to meet Jammeh in order to have a frank dialogue with him not a monologue.*

*My expectations from the Jammeh invitation were to have a chance to redefine what way the Gambian revolution should go ahead, by redefining our political thoughts.*

**FN:** *Who paid for your Banjul trip? Where were you hosted?*



**K.S. Sanyang:** *Everything was done on the wish and believes by both parties to see something positive come out of this trip and meeting.*

**FN:** *Who negotiated for your reconciliation with Jammeh?*

**K.S. Sanyang:** *I can thank concern Gambians like General Langtombong Tamba, Abdulai Kujabi, Baba Saho, and the criminal NIA agent Alhagie Essa Gibba who knew our group in Liberia. These are the people who made the contacts with us and arranged all meetings with our group. Our first meeting was in Danane La Cote D'Ivoire, followed by regular telephone conversations with Tamba, Kujabi and Saho. Our second meeting was in Mali and then in Dakar Senegal.*

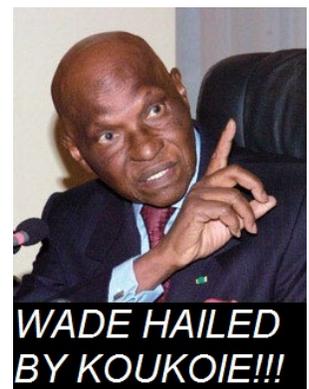
*To make these negotiations a national and international issue I requested the mediation and intervention of Presidents Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal; President John Kufuor of Ghana; President Blaise Compaore of Burkina Faso; the late President Lansana Conte of Guinea-Conakry; President Alpha Omar Konare and ex-President Amadi Tumi Toure of Mali but surprisingly Jammeh rejected to all these proposals saying it was a Gambian issue and no need for outside participation which in fact was a big cheat.*

**FN:** *President Jammeh has in the past accused President Wade of Senegal of supporting you to unseat his administration. Is there any iota of truth in such allegations?*

**K.S. Sanyang:** *Who doesn't know Jammeh's tactics and settings to create confusion? Any time I visit Senegal Jammeh cannot sleep and thinks that he will soon be overthrown. In fact and very truly Jammeh knows my intelligence and capacity to act.*

**FN:** *Have you ever met President Wade?*

**K.S. Sanyang:** *Jammeh requested me to meet him and I met him then what is wrong in me meeting President Wade? I respect Wade as a father and a Pan African leader period. Yes I have good relations with President*



*Abdoulaye Wade since the seventies and are both of Islamic nature in the first place, then political and Panafricanist.*

*My relationship with President Abdoulaye Wade is of a Panafricanist nature dating back to the time he was not yet an elected President. We are both Pan African freedom fighters and democrats who believe in freedom, justice, the rule of law and democracy.*

**FN:** *The Daily Observer published a letter purportedly from you addressed to President Wade appealing for help to overthrow the Jammeh Government. How credible is the Observer reportage?*

**K.S. Sanyang:** *We are at the age of advanced computer technology and well trained people can do anything with the computer to falsify documents. One thing must be clear to everybody that I have a natural and political right as a freedom fighter to appeal for help from anyone even the former President of America George Bush, and whom so ever I feel like asking.*

**FN:** *Do you have Gambian dissidents in Dakar under your payroll as claimed by the Government of The Gambia?*

**K.S. Sanyang:** *The only thing I can tell you is that I very much feel bad seeing the hard conditions in which Gambian refugees in Dakar are living in whom Jammeh calls dissidents, and whom he hunts like one hunts rabbits. All around Dakar you have Jammeh NIA sponsored agents throughout Dakar whether they are real agents, sell-outs or marabouts' acting for Jammeh no one knows.*

**FN:** *Having met Jammeh at Kanilai, what kind of person is President Jammeh?*



**S.S. Sanyang:** *A Diminutive Demented Dictator (DDD) and nothing more. One can also see in Jammeh what an embezzler and thief he is. He has no respect for human life and value. He thinks only for himself, self-aggrandizement and lust for power and wealth. When you meet President Yaya Jammeh and speaking to him it is so very clear that one notices he comes from a different time, reality and a different place, and one can feel the criminal motives behind the founding of state terrorism in the country to safeguard his regime. Frankly speaking what I think of President Yaya Jammeh is that he is an indecent and unjust brutal murderer.*

*He wishes to measure out Gambians future like a potion.*

*As I said earlier to Gambians he is not a national voice in Gambian affairs.*

*He is not a man of good faith.*

*He is not honest and trustworthy.*

*He is a ruthless leader, a murderer and notorious criminal.*

*He is a dubious criminal manipulator.*

*He has a certain amount of irrational confidence in himself.*

*He cannot win the trust of the Gambian people for he cannot display integrity.*

*He lacks the knowledge of gutter fighting.*

*He lacks human imagination, intellectual and behavioral resources as president for the reconciliation of decency to prove his valor.*

*As an empty drum making too much noise, he is not a strategic policy maker.*

*He is not a strategic catalyst for progress in the Gambian political system and far away to be the central figure in the international system as well.*

*He is not and can never be an architect of Gambian public policy.*

*He uses the state power to oppress, exploit and kill instead of slaying the dragon of crisis and be the engine of change to move the Gambian nation forward.*

*He is not the nation's personal and moral leader.*

*Jammeh cannot symbolize the greatness of the Gambia and can never ever radiate inspirational confidence and pull the nation together while directing Gambians towards the fulfillment of the Gambian great dream.*

*Jammeh is not the national symbol of reassurance.*

*President Jammeh knows the value of expropriating credit when policies worked well due to external factors and influence and he wickedly decentralizes blame when things go wrong due to his stupidity and shortsightedness.*

*President Jammeh is not a political broker but a political divider (spliticist).*

*The indelible cruel and state terrorist image of Jammeh's regime should be erased from the minds of Gambians before it will be too late.*

*All Gambians are lamenting helplessly today that a great darkness envelops the lost African Paradise at a time when imaginary visions for prosperity and well-being dances in the heads of Gambians.*

*We are African Gambian freedom fighters, fighting to protect and uphold the respect for human rights, freedom, justice, democracy and the rule of law through Transparency, Accountability and Probity in our fast sinking Paradise The Gambia.*

*Our struggle to shift the balance of power in favor of the oppressed and exploited masses is for the genuine construction of a multi-party democracy based on republican values and principles in The Gambia and working to adopt a socialist market economic system where The Gambia will not be placed in an auxion box, which is the cherished wishes of all Gambians.*

*President Jammeh's regime has taken almost every possible step to show its disrespect for Gambian laws and the tenets of his self-tailored constitution, the rules of good governance, free speech and free press. These steps included, but were not limited to rejecting national limits on respect for human rights, refusing for a national dialogue and reconciliation so we never reached an agreement.*

*In actual fact there was nothing like a discussion that took place during our meeting that would have benefited the Gambian people except numerous destructive critics by him against his enemies, evil plans to harm Gambians and simple story telling in vanity.*

**FN:** *Were you arrested in Guinea Bissau?*



***K.S. Sanyang:*** *I can say I was kidnapped together with my militants who usually accompany me whenever I travel either for political affairs or for personal business undertakings. We were arrested by elements of the Marines under the command of General Jose Americo Bubu Nachueta Marines chief of staff and a well-known cocaine dealer and a very close friend of President Jammeh. The orders were given to General Bubu by Defense Minister Helden Proenca Tavarez Mendez on the orders of President Joao Bernado Nino Vieira. General Bubu acted together with Internal Security Minister Basirou Darboe. Our capture in Guine-Bissau was a Jammeh planned kidnapping and a case where I can say that it was a deal in human selling and buying. The aim was to find ways and means of how to get rid of me as a potential active opponent as I am not ready to compromise with my own principles and let President Jammeh continue with his unwarranted crimes with impunity.*

*Since our failed meeting in Kanilai where we did not reach an agreement or to put it rightly where President Jammeh did not succeed getting me subdued to his dicta and dance to his criminal tune he saw me as a potential danger to the survival of his regime.*

*To him the only way out and the solution to his problems on how to brutally rule and ruin the Gambia with insanity was to simply liquidate me.*

*At the end of our failed meeting in Kanilai President Jammeh with anger bluntly told me face to face in his house that if I betray him and goes against his will and wish he will drink from my skull.*

*In collaboration with a close friend of mine by the name of Adama Souvane of Pakau Dianaba in Casamance living in H.L.M.Nimzat Dakar who was coordinating with me to bring French investors to help rebuild war torn Guine-Bissau, Commandant Malick Cisse of the service des renseignements secret du Senegal, the late President Joao Bernado Nino Vieira, the late Defense Minister of Guine-Bissau Helden Proenca Tavarez Mendez and General Jose Americo Bubu Nachuta ( a notorious drug dealer and a close collaborator to Jammeh in their drugs dealings) Guine-Bissau's Marines chief of staff a fugitive now living in The Gambia under President Jammeh's protection, the late Internal security Minister Basirou Darboe agreed with President Jammeh to organize and kidnap me and my comrades once we are in Bissau in return for cash ,4X4 Toyota and Nissan Pickups and rice.*

*To further clarify the situation I wish to state that we were not in Guine-Bissau as said by Jammeh that we went there for arms deal.*

*All documentation and evidence are available with me proving that my trip to Guine-Bissau was to concretize a deal for financial investment I arranged for Nino's government to revive the Guinean economy.*

*Since President Nino Vieira the defense minister , the marine's chief of staff and the internal security minister were not interested in developing Guine-Bissau but for personal gains they decided to sell me out to President Jammeh.*

*We were brutally arrested and taken to a Portuguese old military camp 60 miles from Bissau called Cumere military base. Here many attempts were made to kill me by poisoning me and in two occasions Jammeh's counter-intelligence agent Yankuba Badji from Somita village Foni Berefet who infiltrated our ranks in Dakar and was among us during our detention tried to assassinate me but failed. He was later helped to escape by the Guinean military security officers who were assigned to guard us and now he is living somewhere in Europe. To cover himself and the role he played as a counter-intelligence agent in our kidnapping Yankuba Badji release a message in the Internet accusing me that I sold him and the two other Gambian brothers to Jammeh.*

*In two occasions a plane was chartered by Jammeh and send to Bissau airport to secretly smuggle us into Banjul but failed because one I resisted and strongly challenged their criminal action and two because the Army General Chief of staff the late General Batista Tagme Nawaye was opposed to our illegal extradition.*

*It was a well-planned operation to get us to Banjul because the Guinean authorities succeeded to mislead the ECOWAS representative in Bissau a Malian by the name Mr.Sidibe to accompany us with the pretext that it was an agreement reached between us and Jammeh's regime to return home freely.*

*From these repeated attempts to illegally extradite us to Banjul the late General Tagme Nawaye informed the UN which send Brazilian and Mozambican colonels to meet us and reassured us that now we are in safe hands.*

*Frankly speaking all corrupt officials and security agents in Nino's government were all busy working around the clock to get us extradited to Banjul by all means possible in order to receive their share of the reward.*

**FN:** *Were you arrested alongside with other dissidents? What happened?*

**K.S. Sanyang:** *I want it to be very clear to everyone that those arrested with me in Guine-Bissau are not dissidents but my close body guards who are our militants.*

**FN:** *General Tamba told the high court in Banjul during the treason trial that they could not extradite you to Banjul because of your refusal to board the plane. What happened on the day in question?*

**K.S. Sanyang:** *Yes General Langtombong and Peter Signateh were the military officers who came to Bissau to illegally extradite us to the Gambia. But I cannot understand why I should have boarded the plane to be illegally extradited to Banjul for what crime did I commit I did not know. Nothing extraordinary happened that day just only as a revolutionary leader who knows his rights I saw no reason why we should leave ourselves into the blood stained of these criminals.*

**FN:** *It was gathered that the Jammeh Government bribed the Bissau authorities with millions of dalasi to facilitate your extradition to Banjul. Were you happy with the way the Bissau authorities handled your case?*

**K.S. Sanyang:** *In fact it is true that Jammeh's criminal government bribed the Bissau authorities with two billion five hundred million Cfa Francs (2.500.000.000CFA); 45 brand new Toyota and Nissan jeeps, and 500.000 tons of rice from the Gambian tax payers money of which I myself saw with my naked eyes since I was living in the late Chief of staff's office General Batista Tagme Nawaye since the day I was released by the UN.*

***FN:*** *What were you doing in Bissau in the first place?*

**K.S. Sanyang:** *Very interesting as I was not an enemy of Guine-Bissau government and people and I was not doing anything wrong that contravened or agressed the limits of the Guinean Constitution.*

*I was on an investment trip to help the government rebuild this war turn nation. I took a French businessman and investor who was willing together with his associates to finance all important projects like the rebuilding of the Osvaldo Vieira International airport; the construction of the Port of Bubacque; Bissau roads reconstruction; the buying of the only existing Cashew nuts decorticating factory and the building of a new one; the construction of housing units for the soldiers and to help Guine-Bissau in its military demobilization efforts.*

***FN:*** *Without the intervention of the UN, you would have been extradited to The Gambia, right?*

**K.S. Sanyang:** *Very true without the intervention of the UN my comrades and I would have been dead men by now. Jammeh would have been jubilating drinking with my skull as he wished.*

***FN:*** *Your name was being associated with the Lang Tombong alleged November coup attempt. Were you part of the said coup?*

**K.S. Sanyang:** *As the usual plans and strategy of Jammeh to vilipandize me and transform me into a war mongered person and terrorist to make Gambians hate me, but I will repeat that history will absolve me. Every sensible Gambian who is upright and truthful can say that judging from the witness Rui Jabbi's statement full of lies and fabrication I am not and cannot be part of this Jammeh coup setup to eliminate potential enemies.*

***FN:*** *Why should the Government accuse you without evidence? Why is your name affiliated with all coups in The Gambia?*

**K.S. Sanyang:** *The simple reason is that Jammeh is very afraid of me and wants to see me dead since he was disappointed at the failed talks in Kanilai between him and me. He even threatened my life in his house in Kanilai that if I betray him I do not know for what, and disappoint him I do not know on what he will drink with my skull.*

***FN:*** *Did you know General Tamba at a personal level?*

**K.S. Sanyang:** *Look Langtombong Tamba is a cousin to me. His father is a half-brother to my mother. I can never disown him.*

***FN:*** *Is General Tamba your relative?*

**K.S. Sanyang:** *Oh yes for sure and nothing or no one can deny or change this fact.*

***FN:*** *How about President Jammeh? Is Jammeh related to you?*

**K.S. Sanyang:** *Of course he is related to me through the old man Jarjarwo Jammeh the medicine man who use to cure peoples fractured bones whose mother and my grandmother on my mother side are relatives.*

***FN:*** *Do you believe in armed rebellion?*

**K.S. Sanyang:** *Yes but when all other political and democratic options are not available and exhausted. We should be ready to meet force with force. Our African leaders are still not yet awoken and like President Yaya Jammeh who thinks and dreams to remain in power against the will of the Gambian people for over 30 years should be kicked out of power through violence, I am very sorry for it is not democratic and civilized methods.*

***FN:*** *You recently called for Jammeh's removal. Are you calling for an armed rebellion?*

**K.S. Sanyang:** *I am calling for the use of any means to remove Jammeh by force whatever the consequences will be. I strongly believe that since fighting for freedom and justice for our people is a national duty, a patriotic responsibility and sacred principle enshrined in our Constitution*

***FN:*** *Have you played any role in the Liberian, and Sierra Leonean wars?*

**K.S. Sanyang:** *I was in Liberia working to establish people's resistance committees; revolutionary people's democratic authorities and coordinating and protecting all foreign Diplomats and NGOs a thing that proofs are available but I was never in Sierra Leone for I had no revolutionary working relations with the late Foday Shayban Sankor but I know and worked with my revolutionary brother and comrade Ali Kabbah who was the leader of the Sierra Leonean Pan African Revolutionary Movement.*

***FN:*** *Did you know Charles Taylor at a personal level?*

**K.S. Sanyang:** *Oh yes I knew former President Charles Taylor, for he is a brother and Pan African comrade.*

***FN:*** *Do you think Mr. Taylor is being treated fairly by the International Community?*

**K.S. Sanyang:** *In my understanding and opinion as a Panafricanist I think he is not being treated fairly by the Bush Administration; Tony Blair and traitor Olusegun Obasanjo.*

***FN:*** *What is your view about the International Criminal Court? Do you trust the court?*

**K.S. Sanyang:** *It is very early and difficult to say something about the Court but let us wait and see the outcome of the ongoing Charles Taylor trial that I see as a political trial.*

***FN:*** *Are you worried about your future?*

**S.S.Sanyang:** *Worried for what as I am not a criminal and a terrorist neither a thief. I feel very proud to be a Pan African freedom fighter and I do not and will never regret or be ashamed fighting a neocolonial puppet regime.*



**FN:** Do you sit one minute and say: "I might be indicted for the 1981 rebellion one day." If no, why not?

**K.S. Sanyang:** Not for a moment and I challenge any Gambian and any lawyer who will be brave enough to file a criminal law suit in an International Criminal Court like the ICC against all players of the 31<sup>st</sup> July 1981 political crisis, e.g. Koukoie Samba Sanyang; Sir Dawuda Kairaba Jawara; President Abdou Diouf and his government and the British SAS.

**FN:** How old are you Sir?

**K.S.Sanyang:** I am in my fifties and fit to continue the struggle no doubt about it.

**FN:** Do you have kids?

**K.S. Sanyang:** I am a responsible loving father and love kids this is why I am fighting to protect the rights of children and their mothers.

**FN:** Do you miss The Gambia?

**K.S. Sanyang:** Frankly speaking I really miss the Gambia it is my home country but not a Gambia under criminal Jammeh's evil rule.

**FN:** How do you want to be remembered?

**K.S. Sanyang:** When all Gambians will sit and enjoy in a free democratic proud Gambia with the rule of law and administrative justice.

**FN:** Any last word:

**K.S. Sanyang:** "LET ALL GAMBIAIS KNOW THAT MY RIGHT TO DEFEND THE SOVEREIGNTY AND WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE OF THE GAMBIA IS INVOLABLE AND NON NEGOTIABLE" I WILL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO FIGHT FOR FREEDOM AND JUSTICE.

**OUR FATHER OR DEATH WE SHALL WIN. Let President Yaya Jammeh know that we Gambians are standing on tiptoes, looking over the edge of tomorrow to see the happy fulfillment of our life's great dreams, for sooner or later his stubborn mental fences built by his ignorance, apathy, or intolerance will soon be torn apart and open the way for a new day of peace ,freedom, justice and happiness that Gambians deserve.**

*We will strip the folding false mask from the people's eyes. This is what we call corrective guilt, as we will be making a great move to get back on track.*

*This is our message to President Yaya Jammeh to know that ignorant foolish people who belittle people will be little and accomplish little or nothing at all. He should know that the quiet people of the Gambia whose silence suggest private disagreement with him are ready like lions to devour its prey.*

*We the African Gambian Panafricanist need everybody enthusiastically on board the wagon band of freedom with this new project for a new proud Gambia.*

*Remember that the,*

*The demanding person always runs into resistance.*

*The defeated person runs into indifferences*

*The dedicated person runs into help.*

*Our determination to achieve victory is volcanic, explosive, waiting to erupt at any moment with massive energy for we have enough resources to match our mountain!*

*Our genuine people's democratic revolution will be waged with a positive mental attitude and it will be a continuous evolutionary process, not an overnight achievement; a journey, not a destination; an unending project, never a single, simple accomplishment that will stand alone unrelated to the past and disconnected from the future.*

*Revolution is going through good times and bad times, pleasure and pain, ups and vicissitudes (downs), ins and outs. As responsible Gambians and freedom fighters, we can no longer leave the destiny of our dear country in the hands of a misguided generation of crooked self-centered politicians and military adventurers who everyday since independence, have proved beyond all reasonable doubt that they are inefficient, irresponsible and highly corrupt...*

*Posterity will never forgive us if we sit passively by while a few desperate men and women, who are nothing but an "organized" bunch of criminals and thieves, continue to despoil rape and loot the people's wealth.*

**FN:** *Thanks Mr. Sanyang for granting us this interview.*

**K.S. Sanyang:** *It is me to thank you for it is a pleasure to talk to Gambians and reveal all the facts surrounding the Gambian political crisis I will not forget to mention and it will be unjust if I fail to point out the great job you doing to conscientize dear fellow Gambians I thank you also for the great job you are doing to conscientize our beloved Gambian people. The information you are giving to our people is a means of increasing man's knowledge and that of society. Its usefulness is that it will harmonize human capacities; it will therefore promote the equality of intellectual resources among Gambians, among groups of men and among societies. Knowledge provides the motive force and determines man's attitude towards life's phenomena. It lies behind all man's conscious actions and reactions in society.*

*The information you spreading among Gambians is a vehicle par excellence of intelligence. By its various media it conveys and spreads the fruit of human thought, makes known human activities and their results. In this respect it creates bonds of understanding among men, among groups of men, and societies, so that it facilitates an exchange of knowledge.*

*The information you spreading across and amongst Gambians stimulates the exchange and the confrontation of ideas, which in turn stimulates either cooperation or intellectual cross fertilization of ideas.*

*I hail your noble mission of conveying to the Gambian society the facts of life of our society and other societies. Your information is adding knowledge and improving human understanding in such a way as to encourage the development and evolution of human activities. For these reasons we have to campaign very seriously and very hard for a free press in the Gambia where journalists will not be harassed, intimidated, dragged into kangaroo courts by Jammeh's criminal junta regime. I once again thank you and hail your great job, move forward.*

Voice of America  
Wednesday, 21 July 2010

## Sudan's Bashir in Chad, First Visit to ICC Country Since Warrant



**Photo: AFP**

*Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir (R) walks with Sudan's First Vice President and south Sudan leader Salva Kiir at the airport in Khartoum, as he prepares to leave for Chad, 21 Jul 2010*

Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir has arrived in Chad, his first visit to a country that recognizes the war crimes court seeking his arrest.

Witnesses say the Sudanese leader was greeted by Chad's President Idriss Deby after his plane landed in the Chadian capital of N'Djamena Wednesday. Mr. Bashir is due to attend

a summit of Sahel and Saharan leaders.

The International Criminal Court indicted Mr. Bashir last year on charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity in Sudan's war-torn Darfur region. Last week, the court added genocide charges.

Earlier Wednesday, Human Rights Watch called on Chad to either deny entry to Mr. Bashir or arrest him.

Sudanese officials say they do not believe Chad will attempt to arrest the president. The countries are trying to patch up relations after years of hostility.

Upon his arrival in Chad Wednesday, Mr. Bashir told reporters that Chad and Sudan have resolved their differences and are in a new phase of relations.

Before the visit, Sudan said it had expelled several prominent Chadian rebel leaders who were living in its territory. That move is seen as a concession to Chad. Sudan and Chad have often traded accusations of supporting each other's rebel groups.

The ICC has no authority to enforce warrants and can only try to persuade member states to turn over a suspect for prosecution.

The semi-official Sudanese Media Center said President Bashir will hold meetings with Chad's president and Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi during his stay.

Darfur has experienced seven years of war and instability since rebels took up arms in 2003, accusing Sudan's government of neglecting the western region.

ICC prosecutors say President Bashir has masterminded a campaign of murder, rape and other crimes against civilians in Darfur. Sudan denies the charges and refuses to recognize the court.

The United Nations says fighting and related violence in Darfur has killed 300,000 people and displaced more than 2.7 million. Sudan puts the death toll at 10,000.

Agence France Presse

Wednesday, 21 July 2010

## **International court 'must prosecute' Mugabe militia**

By Richard Ingham

VIENNA — The International Criminal Court must probe alleged crimes against humanity after Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe's youth militia launched a campaign of rape during 2008 elections, a campaign group said Wednesday.

Witness statements by rape victims, vetted by a team of international lawyers, suggest the ruling ZANU-PF unleashed "sexual terror" against women who supported the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC), it said.

The charges were made by AIDS-Free World, an advocacy group co-founded by the UN's former special envoy for AIDS in Africa, Stephen Lewis, after an 18-month investigation.

A legal dossier will be handed to the ICC in The Hague next month, in the hope that the court's prosecutor can launch proceedings for crimes against humanity, Lewis said.

"What we are calling for collectively is serious intervention at every level," Lewis said at a press conference at the world AIDS forum in Vienna.

He urged the UN Security Council, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the African Union to end their "criminally delinquent" silence.

"We know as we are sitting here that it's going to happen again," said Lewis.

"There's not the slightest question that Mugabe has his youth corps and his war veterans, and they are ready to do it again and the world is silent. How is it possible that he's allowed to get away with it?"

The probe, *Electing to Rape: Sexual Terror in Mugabe's Zimbabwe*, was released in Johannesburg last December.

It detected a surge in rape ahead of the first round of Zimbabwe's blood-stained presidential elections that reached a crescendo before the second round.

So far, 70 personal accounts, checked by lawyers who made six trips to southern Africa and supported by certified affidavits, have been collected, AIDS-Free World said.

In 300 hours of testimony, victims identified 241 men who raped them, and estimated the total acts of rape to be 380.

But this is just the tip of the iceberg, as many other rape victims are too fearful -- or too sceptical of getting any redress against their attackers -- to come forward, said the report.

"Every victim supported the MDC, and in every attack the perpetrators were clearly identifiable as ZANU-PF youth militia or war veterans," the term for former fighters in the war against white minority rule, AIDS-Free World said.

Activists were raped in front of their families or abducted by ZANU-PF youths who marched them to militia bases or camps in the countryside, where they were repeatedly assaulted, sometimes over days, the document said.

"Many women were forced to watch their husbands, children and parents killed or tortured before they were raped," it said.

"Nine of the women believe they were infected by HIV/AIDS as a result of the rapes, and an additional 17 women also tested positive in the months following the rapes, raising the possibility that their rapists infected them. Ten women reported that they became pregnant by their rapists."

During their ordeal, the ZANU-PF men repeatedly accused the women of being "sell-outs," of "giving the country back to the whites" or being the "whores" or "puppets" of MDC candidate Morgan Tsvangirai.

Police were indifferent to the few women who had the courage to file a complaint, and not a single rapist has been prosecuted, it said.

The MDC said more than 300 people were killed in pre-election violence.

Mugabe claimed victory in the disputed elections, which eventually led to a unity government.

It is meant to draft a new constitution that will pave the way to fresh elections, but the reform process is running about a year behind schedule.

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Lubangatrial.org  
Wednesday, 21 July 2010

## **Prosecutors at ICC Oppose Lubanga Release, Claim He Might Flee**

By Wairagala Wakabi

Prosecutors at the International Criminal Court (ICC) have asked appeals judges to overturn a trial chamber order for the release of Congolese war crimes accused Thomas Lubanga.

The prosecutors would like the appeals chamber to order the continued detention of Mr. Lubanga, the alleged former head of the Union of Congolese Patriots (UPC) whose militia used child soldiers in inter-ethnic fighting during 2002 and 2003.

In an appeal filed on July 16, 2010, ICC prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo stated that Mr. Lubanga might flee if he were released.

On July 15, 2010, trial judges ordered that Mr. Lubanga should be released unconditionally. However, the judges added that if prosecutors appealed the release order within five days, Mr. Lubanga would stay in detention until the appeals chamber issued a ruling.

Earlier on July 8, 2010, the trial chamber presided over by Judge Adrian Fulford ordered that proceedings in the case be stayed on grounds of abuse of court process. This was after the prosecution failed to implement an order from judges to reveal to the defense the identity of an individual who helped identify and contact witnesses who testified against Mr. Lubanga.

The prosecution submitted that revealing the identity of this individual who goes by the court name of 'intermediary 143' would have endangered him since no protective measures had been instituted for him.

In the appeal, ICC prosecutor Moreno-Ocampo argues that the appeals chamber has previously recognized in similar circumstances that releasing an accused pending appeal against the release decision could defeat the purpose of the appeal. It could also defeat the prosecution's appeal against the decision to stay proceedings.

"Where the release of the accused has been ordered, suspensive effect is required in order to avoid preempting the subject of the appeal – i.e. the decision whether to release the accused – and rendering its outcome moot," he added.

The prosecutor argued that Mr. Lubanga's release would have adverse and possibly dire consequences on witnesses and the elicitation of evidence.

Quoting an appeal chamber ruling of October 2008, the prosecutor contended that throughout the proceedings, the accused had been detained on the basis of repeated findings that his detention was necessary to ensure his appearance at trial, and that there existed the real possibility that the court was likely to be unable to ensure his presence at trial if he was released.

"In its decision on release, the [trial] chamber did not purport to conclude that the risk of flight has abated or indeed address risk of flight at all. Thus, the previous findings regarding the possibility of flight are undisputed and undiminished," stated Mr. Moreno-Ocampo's appeal.

The prosecutor also argued that the ICC was able to obtain custody of Mr. Lubanga because he was already in the detention in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), a circumstance he claimed was not

likely to recur. He mentioned that Bosco Ntaganda – the other suspect in relation to the charges Mr. Lubanga faces, of conscripting, recruiting and using child soldiers in armed conflict – remained at large more than four years after the issuance of the arrest warrant against him.

“There is thus a clear and present danger that if the accused is released, but the appeals chamber subsequently overturns the decision, the court will not be able to regain custody of the accused,” Moreno-Ocampo stated.

In addition, the release of the accused was founded on a decision of the trial chamber for stay of proceedings against Mr. Lubanga which the prosecution was contesting, Moreno-Ocampo said.

The prosecution is arguing in a separate appeal that it did not willfully refuse to comply with an order of the judges or express that its protection duties justified non-compliance with that order. Further, it is submitting that the stay of proceedings was not necessary.

The court is currently on the summer judicial recess which ends on August 9, 2010. It is not clear when the appeals judges will offer an indication of when the prosecution’s appeal will be considered.