

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



Historic 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:

Wednesday, 7 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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Ex-rebel denies giving Charles Taylor diamonds

A Sierra Leone ex-rebel has denied at a war crimes trial giving "blood diamonds" to former Liberian President Charles Taylor.

Issa Sesay, who is serving a 52-year jail term, said Mr Taylor had not been in charge of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebel group during the war.

Mr Taylor is accused of using diamonds to fuel a conflict in Sierra Leone that cost tens of thousands of lives. He has pleaded not guilty to 11 charges.

The UN-backed war crimes tribunal in The Hague has spent more than two years hearing the case, with seven months spent with Mr Taylor himself on the stand.

Sesay, 40, was sentenced in October 2009 by the same special court, which was set up to try suspects from the civil war.

Murders and rapes

Mr Taylor, 62, is suspected of selling diamonds and buying weapons for Sierra Leone's RUF rebels, who were

notorious for hacking off the hands and legs of civilians during the 1991-2001 civil war.

Tens of thousands of people died in the interlinked conflicts in Sierra Leone and Liberia.

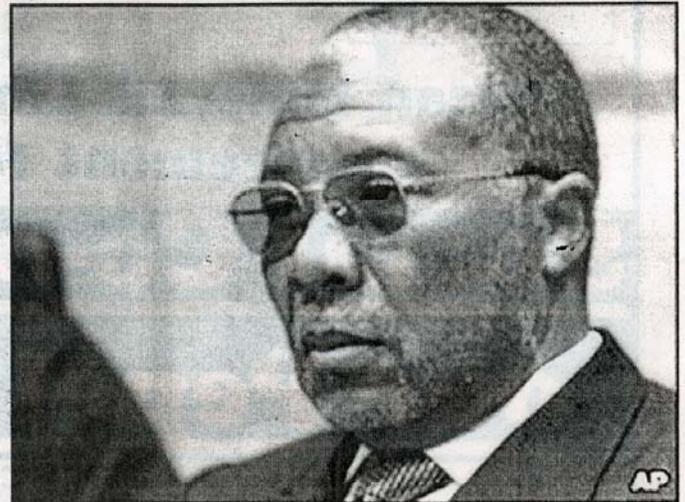
Sesay, the highest profile witness to testify for Mr Taylor's defence, said he had never given Mr Taylor gems and that, as far as he knew, neither had other leaders.

"No, I don't remember giving diamonds to Mr Charles Taylor," he told the court.

He also denied receiving weapons or ammunition from Mr Taylor, and said the first time he met him was in May 2000.

Sesay did acknowledge that some rebel commanders had been responsible for murders and rapes during the conflict, and said that the amputation of limbs had occurred.

But it had not been the policy of the rebel group to use such actions, he said. Prosecutors have ordered supermodel Naomi Campbell to appear as a wit-



Mr Taylor is on trial in The Hague

ness on 29 July, after claims that she received a diamond from Mr Taylor at a reception in South Africa in 1997. Ms Campbell has previously declined to provide testimony. In an interview on the Oprah Winfrey Show, she neither confirmed nor denied that she received the gem, instead

saying: "I don't want to be involved in this man's case. He has done some terrible things, and I don't want to put my family in danger."

US actress Mia Farrow, who Ms Campbell allegedly told about the gift, may also testify.

ISSA SESAY DEFENDS CHARLES TAYLOR

Ex-Sierra Leone rebel leader, serving 52-year sentence, testifies at Charles Taylor trial

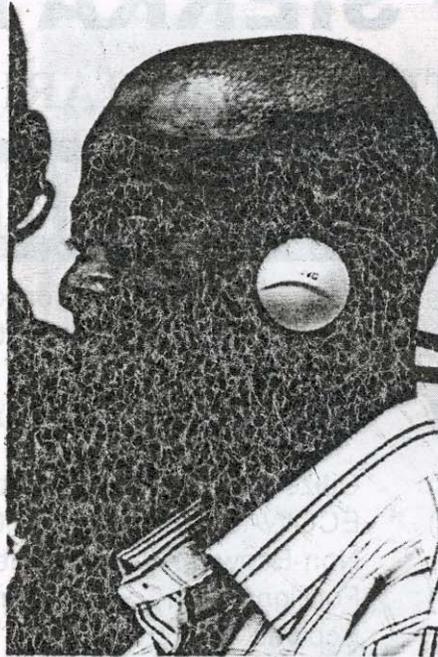
By The Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands - A former Sierra Leone rebel serving a 52-year prison sentence told a war crimes tribunal Monday that he never gave so-called "blood diamonds" to former Liberian President Charles Taylor.

Issa Sesay was a surprise witness for the defence in the case of the former Liberian leader. Charles Taylor is accused of supporting the rebels during Sierra Leone's 11-year civil war in exchange for diamonds and other natural resources from the west African country. The war killed an estimated 500,000 people, with some of the worst atrocities committed by child soldiers who were drugged to desensitize them. Sesay said he had no knowledge of other rebel leaders giving Taylor gems, and said the leadership of the Revolutionary United Front was "strained."

Taylor has denied possessing any diamonds as a result of the war. But prosecutors have summoned supermodel Naomi Campbell to testify later this month about reports that she received diamonds from Taylor during a 1997 reception in South Africa.

Asked by defence attorneys about the atrocities attributed to the rebel force during the war, Sesay acknowledged that some rebel commanders committed murder, rape and enslavement of their



enemies, and that instances of amputating limbs occurred. But he said it was not the rebel's policy to terrorize civilians to force them into submission.

Sesay is the highest profile witness to appear for Taylor's defence in the case, which has gone on for more than two years. Taylor himself was on the stand for seven months.

With his conviction last year, Sesay received the longest prison sentence of the eight rebel commanders brought before the Special Court for Sierra Leone. He is serving his sentence in Rwanda. Taylor's is the last case to come to trial by the special court. He has pleaded not guilty to 11 counts of war crimes.

CharlesTaylorTrial.org (The Hague)

Tuesday, 6 July 2010

Sierra Leone: Former Rebel Leader Continues to Distance Charles Taylor From Sierra Leonean Rebel Crimes

Alpha Sesay

In his second day of testimony, a former Sierra Leonean rebel leader continued to distance Charles Taylor from wrongdoing during the country's bloody 11-year conflict, pointing instead to the United Nations and other Liberian rebel groups who did more to further the rebel cause through weapons supplies and other assistance than the former Liberian president ever did.

He also told the court that Mr. Taylor was not responsible for an arms drop-off that is at the center of allegations related to supermodel Naomi Campbell.

Issa Sesay, currently serving a 52-year sentence for war crimes and crimes against humanity for his role in the Sierra Leonean conflict, again appeared before the Special Court for Sierra Leone this week -- but this time as a witness for Mr. Taylor.

Mr. Sesay -- the former interim leader of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), the rebel group which Mr. Taylor is alleged to have controlled and supported - today explained in detail how West African peacekeepers and Liberian rebels assisted his own rebel forces with arms and ammunition during the war.

Transfer of Charles Taylor for trial for war crimes in the Hague.

Mr. Sesay today testified to an arms trade between the RUF and United Liberation Movement for Democracy in Liberia (ULIMO), a rival rebel faction which fought against Mr. Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) rebel group. In 1997, RUF leader Foday Sankoh had allegedly given one of his top commanders, Sam Bockarie, USD 7000 to buy ammunition from ULIMO forces as the group had come under fire from a government-aligned militia group, the Kamajors. Mr. Sankoh was arrested and imprisoned not long after handing over the money.

Mr. Taylor's lead counsel, Courtenay Griffiths, then read aloud sections of the "salute report" - a report prepared by Mr. Bockarie, already highlighted during the trial, that described RUF activities while Mr. Sankoh was in jail.

"Upon your departure, I initiated contact with ULIMO as per your instructions. We re-commenced a mutually beneficial relationship...I used the \$7000 you gave me to purchase materials from ULIMO," Mr. Griffiths read to the court, promoting a reaction from Mr. Sesay.

"This is the \$7000 that I was talking to you about when I was explaining to the court that Mr. Sankoh gave to Sam Bockarie to purchase materials from ULIMO," Mr. Sesay said.

Mr. Sesay explained that the arms trade between RUF and ULIMO continued from late December 1996 up to sometime in 1998 after the removal from power of the military junta which had overthrown the Sierra Leonean government in 1997.

Mr. Sesay said that apart from using the money left by Mr. Sankoh to make payment to ULIMO, RUF also sold produce harvested by civilians from farms. The money made from produce sales was used to pay for more ammunition. At the time, disarmament had not yet been completed in Liberia, he said. ULIMO

fighters and their commanders came with arms and ammunition on a regular basis, and other items were also used to make payment to them.

"They'll ask for money, generators, tape recorders...it came to a time, even if you gave them anything, they'll take it if you don't have money. It became very rampant," he said.

In response to a question as to whether they received any arms and ammunition from Taylor at this time, Mr. Sesay said "No. At this time we did not even have any contact with Charles Taylor."

"It was not possible [to contact Taylor]. At this time ULIMO was controlling from Foya right up to Bomi. It was not possible to get any contact with Charles Taylor or the NPFL," he added.

When asked whether they had any radio communication with Mr. Taylor, he said "No. We hadn't any radio contact with Mr. Taylor."

Mr. Sesay also told the court that Mr. Sankoh had said he had given \$50,000 to another RUF commander called Kposowa to purchase arms and ammunition from West African peacekeepers based in Liberia.

"When Mr. Sankoh came, he told me that he had given money to Kposowa to buy ammunition..." Mr. Sesay said.

Mr. Sesay also discussed an arms drop-off in a Sierra Leonean airstrip which is at the center of allegations involving Naomi Campbell. Prosecutors say that rebels had given Mr. Taylor diamonds in August 1997 to exchange for weapons during his travels in South Africa the following month - during which he is alleged to have sent rough diamonds to Ms. Campbell after a star-studded dinner hosted by then South African president, Nelson Mandela. The month after he returned, an arms shipment arrived for rebel forces.

Today, Mr. Sesay said that Mr. Taylor was not responsible for that shipment of arms, but an associate of his was.

"Ibrahim Bah arranged for flight to land at Magagba between Meken and Magburaka," Mr. Sesay said.

Speaking about the RUF's association with Mr. Bah, the witness said that he (Bah) was a close friend of Mr. Sankoh, the two men having met while they underwent revolutionary training in Libya.

Former Rebel Leader Testifies for Charles Taylor

"Ibrahim Bah was Mr. Sankoh's very close friend...he was a runner for Mr. Sankoh ...Ibrahim Bah was like an agent for the RUF," Mr. Sesay said.

Mr. Sesay also denied allegations that Mr. Sankoh had given instructions to his top commander, Mr. Bockarie, to take orders from Mr. Taylor when Mr. Sankoh was arrested and imprisoned in 1997.

He also denied that Mr. Taylor ordered a merger between the RUF and disgruntled Sierra Leonean soldiers who had overthrown the country's elected government and formed the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC). Mr. Sesay, who was one of the RUF leaders at that time, today told the court that such instructions did not come from Mr. Taylor, but from Mr. Sankoh while he was incarcerated in Nigeria.

Mr. Sesay's testimony continues on Wednesday.

MmegiOnline

Wednesday, 7 July 2010

<http://www.mmegi.bw>

Naomi Campbell faces jail time if she ignores subpoena

An international court has subpoenaed reluctant supermodel Naomi Campbell to testify this month in the war crimes trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor about a 'blood diamond' he allegedly gave her. The court has warned the supermodel that she could be jailed for up to 7 years if she refuses to testify.

Prosecutors want Campbell to say whether Taylor gave her a rough, or uncut, diamond as a gift during a celebrity-packed 1997 reception in South Africa hosted by then-President Nelson Mandela. They contend her testimony will support their contention that Taylor lied when he testified that he never possessed rough diamonds. Prosecutors assert that Taylor dealt in so-called blood diamonds - meaning those mined in a war zone, where the proceeds are used to finance an insurgency. The Special Court for Sierra Leone issued the order forcing Campbell to testify after she avoided prosecutors for a year, and made it known she had no wish to be part of the case.



She was ordered to appear in court in The Hague on July 29 at 9 am "or to show good cause why you cannot comply with this subpoena". Refusal could lead to prosecution for contempt, which carries a maximum 7-year prison sentence and a fine of 2 million Sierra Leone leones, or about \$510, according to the subpoena released by the court. The appearance of Campbell, as well as of actress Mia Farrow and the model's former agent Carole White, who do not appear to have resisted testifying, will add a touch of glitz to a case already seen as a landmark, the first time a former African head of state has been put on trial by an international court.

The court said the summons will be delivered to Campbell's lawyer in London, Gideon Benaim, who has told the court he will accept it. Nonetheless, the subpoena said, British authorities may be asked to "ensure that, you, Naomi Campbell, appear at the time and place indicated above". Prosecutors had complained to the judges that they had tried unsuccessfully to contact Campbell several times since June 2009, when they received information that Taylor had given her the rough diamond.

"The prosecution has shown that there is at least a good chance that the information to be provided by Ms. Campbell would be of material assistance to its case," said in an earlier ruling last week. It cited Campbell's public statements that she "does not want to be involved in the case". Taylor is accused of supporting rebels in Sierra Leone's 1991-2002 civil war, which claimed an estimated 500,000 victims of killings, systematic mutilation or other atrocities, with some of the worst crimes committed by child soldiers who were drugged to desensitize them. In return for helping the rebels, prosecutors say Taylor plundered the neighbouring country of its timber and mineral wealth, including gems that became known as blood diamonds.

His trial is being held in The Hague for fear of renewed violence if hearings were conducted in Sierra Leone. After several false starts, it began in earnest in January 2008. Taylor's own testimony took seven months. Defence attorneys objected to the request to summon Campbell, arguing that the prosecution had concluded its case 18 months ago and that Campbell's story is irrelevant since she cannot testify to any connection between the diamond and Taylor's alleged involvement with Sierra Leone rebels. The court ruled last week, however, that the prosecution could summon the three women. Farrow already has given a written statement to the court that Campbell told her about the gift, but the judges refused to accept the statement when the prosecution tried to introduce it as evidence last January (hence the need for verbal testimony). Taylor says the story is "totally incorrect". (Sapa-AP)

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 6 July 2010

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

UN News in Liberia

UNMIL was not reported in the news today.

Local News on Liberian issues

President Sirleaf Breaks Grounds for Maritime Headquarters

[The Inquirer, Heritage, Parrot, New Democrat, Front Page Africa]

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has broken grounds for the construction of the headquarters of the Bureau of Maritime Affairs in Marshall City, Montserrado County.
- President Sirleaf said the construction of the office is a challenge to Maritime Commissioner Binyan Kesselly to reactivate the maritime programme that will be reflective of the role Liberia plays as a nation.
- The President said although Liberia has lost the Regional Training Institute to Ghana the programme should not only become a source of revenue for the budget but rather one that should be able to attract others beyond the borders.
- She said the process will be a form of transformation that will create farm to market roads in that part of the country.

US Congressional Team Pushes for Threshold Bill

[The News, The Inquirer, Heritage]

- The head of the visiting US congressional delegation has urged Liberian authorities to ensure the passage of the threshold bill.
- Congressman David Price of North Carolina said the Legislature and President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf must work together to finalize the threshold bill.
- Congressman Price warned that the passage of the bill is tied to the successful conduct of the 2011 elections.
- According to North Carolina lawmaker, it was important to ensure fair representation in the House of Representatives by the number of people in each constituency.
- He made the statement in an interview with reporters after the signing of an agreement to equip the refurbished library and archives of the Legislature.
- The US\$250,000 agreement was signed by Congressman Price, House Speaker Alex Tyler and Senate President Pro-tempore Cletus Wotorson.
- US Ambassador Linda Thomas Greenfield hailed the agreement, saying it was America's commitment to Liberia's democratic recovery.

US Congressman Fears Charles Taylor's Return

[Heritage, Front Page Africa]

- A US congressman has warned any return of former President Charles Taylor to Liberia would lead to the destruction of the country.
- Congressman Patrick Kennedy of Rhode Island feared, if Mr. Taylor returns as a political figure it would not mean well for Liberia internationally.

- Congressman Kennedy made the remark while commenting on the highly criticized domestic popularity of President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf with respect to foreign travels.
- According to the American congressman, he has observed that some Liberians don't appreciate the foreign travels of President Sirleaf.
- He informed those skeptical of the President's travels that they have helped to gain international support from several institutions.
- The Rhode Island lawmaker identified the World Bank, International Monetary Fund and the USAID as institutions that continue to help Liberia.

Executive Mansion: Loan Committee Exists

[The News, Heritage]

- The Executive Mansion has announced the existence of a Debt Management Committee to oversee any loan to be negotiated by the country.
- The committee comprises the Ministries of Finance, Planning and Economic Affairs, the Central Bank of Liberia, and the Civil Society.
- Presidential Press Secretary Cyrus Badio said any borrowing by government will have to be channeled through the committee.
- Although the existence of the committee was not publicly known, Mr. Badio clarified it was part of the process that led to the relief of Liberia's huge debt.
- Mr. Badio said government has reached an agreement with the International Monetary Fund that Liberia can only acquire loans equal to a certain percentage of its Gross Domestic Product.
- He did not state the percentage but said borrowing would be through what he called concessional loans naming road construction, agriculture, ports and electricity as areas the concessional loans will cover.

No Borrowing beyond US\$40 Million - HIPC Delegation Gives Highlights

[The Informer]

- Finance and Planning Ministers Augustine Ngafuan and Amara Konneh yesterday returned to the country, relating details of Liberia's HIPC Completion Point success and benefits, but noted that the country will not borrow any loan beyond US\$40 million.
- Addressing a joint press conference at the Roberts International Airport, the ministers, who led the country's HIPC delegation to the US, said the issue of Liberia's international debt burden was now history.
- Liberia became the 29th country of the world to reach the completion point under the HIPC Initiative on 29 June 2010, making the post war country eligible for 100% debt relief.

Education Ministry Issues Warning to High Schools

[The Inquirer]

- The Education Ministry says it would reduce the level of any senior high school that does not have seventy five percent of its instructors holding Bachelor degrees.
- Minister Othello Gongar said such senior high school would be reduced to a junior high level.
- Minister Gongar made it clear that the measure will affect both public and private senior high schools in the country.
- He however did not say when the measure will take effect, but said it was intended to ensure the provision of quality secondary education.
- Minister Gongar also disclosed measures have been taken to address the issue of delay in placing recruited teachers on government's payroll.

NEC Halts All Electoral Activities Until...

[Heritage, New Democrat]

- The National Elections Commission (NEC) has finally announced that all electoral activities leading to the conduct of the 2011 elections will be halted until the Threshold Bill is passed.
- NEC noted that all activities leading to the successful conduct of the elections is now at the standstill.
- The pronouncement was made by the commission's acting chairman Elizabeth Nelson.
- Cllr. Nelson said she believes that the clause in the Liberian Constitution that calls for a 50+1% vote must be changed to prevent expensive elections.
- According to her Liberia should revert to a simple majority system, something she described as common sense and is widely practiced in nearly all electoral processes around the world.

Two Found Guilty in US\$1 Million Transfer Trial

[The Informer, The News, Heritage, New Democrat, Front Page Africa]

- Jurors have found Richard and Mars Passawe guilty of theft, forgery, economic sabotage and criminal facilitation.
- The jurors set free Gbotee Peabody, the third defendant in the E-Jee Sirleaf case, for lack of evidence.
- The men were tried for dubiously requesting the transfer of over US\$1 million from the Central Bank of Liberia to EcoBank.
- During the trial at Criminal Court 'C', the men said it was Charles Sirleaf, the son of President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, who allegedly planned the entire transfer.
- But Mr. Sirleaf dismissed the claims as false and misleading.
- Defense lawyers excepted to the verdict and announced they would make use of the law.
- Final judgment is expected Friday.

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

Liberia Expresses Interest in Top ECOWAS Post

- Liberia has announced its interest in the Vice Presidency of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).
- Presidential Press Secretary Cyrus Badio said President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf is making a strong case for Liberia's election to the post.
- Mr. Badio said President Sirleaf has reminded her colleagues that Liberia is a founding member of ECOWAS but has not held any statutory position.
- He said the organization will also elect seven commissioners, the President of the ECOWAS Parliament, among others.
- The leadership of the sub-regional organization will meet in an extraordinary session in December to settle on the leadership issues.

US Congressional Team Pushes for Threshold Bill

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

US Congressman Fears Charles Taylor's Return

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

Executive Mansion: Loan Committee Exists

US Diplomat Wants Liberians Learn from 'America's Mistakes'

- US Ambassador Linda Thomas Greenfield has called on Liberians to learn from the mistakes of America realizing that civil war can end.
- Ambassador Greenfield encouraged Liberians to work together in pursuance of better peace which she said will not be achieved in the absence of commitment, unity and handwork.
- The US diplomat called on Liberians to also learn from Abraham Lincoln's warning that says "A house divided against itself can not stand".
- Ambassador Greenfield spoke Monday at the 234th Independence Day celebrations of the US held in Monrovia.
- The American envoy and President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf then toasted to the good health and prosperity of their two countries.
- President Sirleaf said Liberia and the US are bound by kinship that cannot be broken.
- The President observed that the 2011 Elections will be a defining event for Liberia and could bring lasting peace and development.

Opposition Party under Fire for Moratorium Call

- The House Committee Chairman on Investment has described as unfortunate calls by the opposition Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) for a moratorium on foreign borrowing by government.
- Representative Moses Kollie believes CDC chairman Geraldine Doe Sherriff made the call out of ignorance.
- According to him, Senator Sherriff and the CDC failed to realize that Liberia already has a legitimate instrument to guide foreign borrowing.
- Representative Kollie said there is no need to craft another measure for foreign borrowing because of the Public Financial Management Act.

- The Lofa lawmaker said the Act which was endorsed by the Legislature and signed into law by the President, guides the process of international borrowing.

Education Ministry Issues Warning to High Schools

'Irresponsible and erroneous', NPP Chairman Emeritus Described US Congressman Statement

- The Chairman emeritus of the former ruling National Patriotic Party (NPP) has angrily reacted to a statement by US congressman Patrick Kennedy.
- Chief Cyril Allen described as irresponsible and erroneous statement by Congressman Kennedy that the return of former President Charles Taylor would destroy Liberia.
- He said the statement by the visiting US congressman is an attempt to intimidate Liberians.
- Chief Allen said it was against the rule of law for Congressman Kennedy to make such remark while ex-President Taylor is standing war crimes trial in The Hague.
- The NPP Chairman emeritus said Congressman Kennedy stepped beyond his bounds to have made such an embarrassing comment against Mr. Taylor.

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

Inspection Ends on ADB Projects in Maryland

- A Joint County Project Monitoring Committee has ended its first assessment of the African Development Bank (ADB) sponsored projects in Maryland County.
- The committee headed by Superintendent Gblehbo Brown Wednesday monitored the renovation and construction of five schools and two clinics.
- Superintendent Brown said he was impressed that actual construction works are ongoing though the projects are far from completion.
- Superintendent Brown urged workers to do more to meet the target dedication in December.
- The Liberia Agency for Community Empowerment is implementing the projects in Harper, Pleebo and Karluway Districts.
- The ADB is also sponsoring the rehabilitation of feeder roads and the highway linking Maryland to River Gee.

Nimba Group Challenges Report of Special Presidential Probe Committee

- Reports from Nimba County say a group calling itself "Nimba Way" has challenged the report of the Musa Bility Commission on the Nimba County land dispute.
- The group said it believes that the report is marred by ghost claims saying that more than one person were sharing benefits for a parcel of land.
- It made reference to the YMCA school that is being claimed by two persons who are soon to receive benefits.
- The group also challenged the composition of the commission alleging that Mr. Bility himself is a party to the land conflict.

Two Found Guilty in US\$1 Million Transfer Trial

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

President Sirleaf Breaks Grounds for Maritime Headquarters

Government Remains Committed to Supporting the Blind, Says Acting Information Boss

- Acting Information Minister Norris Tweah has committed the Liberian government to remaining supportive of programmes of the blind.
- Minister Tweah said government is cognizant of the immense contributions made by blind institutions in Liberia.
- He said the blind and other people with disabilities should not see themselves as liabilities on society but rather as partners in the transformation of the country's damaged infrastructure.
- The acting Information Minister spoke at the close of a three-year strategic training programme organized by the African Union of the Blind in collaboration with the Liberian National Blind Association.

International Clips on Liberia

International Reporting Project to send journalists to Liberia

<http://gazette.jhu.edu>

The destination of the SAIS International Reporting Project's next Gatekeepers Editors Trip will be Liberia. Gatekeepers are senior journalists who determine editorial content at any type of media organization. The trip to

Liberia, scheduled for November 7 to 18 for up to 12 U.S. journalists, will focus on issues such as health, environment, economic recovery and development, women's rights, refugee resettlement and the search for political stability after a 14-year civil war that left an estimated 200,000 people dead in the country of 3 million. Gatekeepers will meet with a wide cross section of Liberians to learn how the country and the region are recovering from the 1989–2003 conflict that has required the continuing presence of U.N. peacekeepers. The IRP is an independent program run by journalists for journalists, and is based at SAIS. It is funded by private nonpartisan foundations and individuals.

Liberia Gold, Diamond Output Falls in 1Q; Rubber, Cocoa Rise Bloomberg

Liberian gold production fell 68.5 percent in the first quarter of 2010 compared with the fourth quarter of last year, the Central Bank of Liberia said. Total gold produced in the period was 5,412 ounces, compared with 17,175 ounces during the previous quarter. The value of the precious metal dropped to \$1.56 million in the quarter, from \$4.92 million in the last three months of 2009. Diamond production for the period fell 49.2 percent to 4,920 carats in the first quarter from 9,693 carats in the previous quarter amid a slowdown in demand for the gem. Rubber, Liberia's main export commodity, had first quarter output rise 55.1 percent to 13,460 metric tons, compared with 8,678 tons in the fourth quarter of 2009. Cocoa, the second-biggest export product, rose 9.1 percent to 1,735 metric tons at the end of March from 1,590 metric tons in the December quarter due to the start of small scale farm production. "For the period under review, the value of rubber rose by \$9.2 million to \$43.2 million," the Bank said. "Export value from cocoa beans was recorded at \$1.4 million, from \$1.1 million registered during the previous quarter."

Liberia's Foreign Remittances, Trade Increase in First Quarter Bloomberg

Liberia's foreign remittance inflows rose \$19.5 million to \$234.8 million in the first quarter, compared with the last three months of 2009, the Central Bank of Liberia said in an e-mailed bulletin released Monday. The West African nation recovering from 14 years of civil war that ended in 2003, reported foreign trade increased 13 percent to \$162.7 million in the first quarter, from the fourth quarter of 2009. Total export proceeds were \$55.1 million and import expenditures were \$107.6 million, leading to a trade deficit of \$52.5 million in the first quarter of 2010. "The persistent trade deficit position of the economy suggests that there is a need for diversification of the export sector with emphasis on active logging, iron ore, cocoa and coffee activities," the Monrovia-based bank said.

International Clips on West Africa

Guinea

Guinea security forces break March with tear gas Reuters

Security forces in Guinea fired teargas to disperse a protest against alleged electoral fraud, called in defiance of a government ban on public demonstrations, a Reuters witness said on Monday. Dozens of marchers, most of them women, had taken to the streets of the capital city Conakry to peacefully protest against what they said was fraud in the June 27 election. Former Prime Minister Cellou Dalein Diallo won the poll with nearly 40 percent of the vote and will go forward into the July 18 run-off with second-placed Alpha Conde, according to provisional results released last week. But losing parties in the poll, widely seen as the West African state's best chance in half a century of securing democratic civilian rule, said they have evidence of rigging such as ballot-stuffing and falsified voters' cards. "I will not accept any public order disturbance by people contesting things for which they have no proof and while the Supreme Court has not pronounced its verdict," caretaker prime minister Jean-Marie Dore told state television late on Sunday.

Guinean PM calls for respect of Supreme Court verdict on election results Xinhua

Guinean Prime Minister Jean Marie Dore warned people against holding street demonstrations, as Guineans wait for the decision of the Supreme Court on the country's landmark presidential elections. "The Supreme Court ruling should be respected and I hope that the population will not be swayed by the politicians to start disrupting public order," the prime minister said. According to the Guinean National Independent Electoral Commission (CENI) which announced results of the first round of presidential elections on Friday, former Prime Minister Mamadou Cellou Dalein Diallo got 39.72 percent of the votes while Alpha Conde, from the opposition, came in second with 20.67 percent. The provisional results are being challenged by Sidya Toure of the Union of Republican Forces (UFR) who also served as a prime minister between 1996 and 1999. He came in third with 15.60 percent of the votes. The results are also being challenged by Cellou Diallo who has announced his intention to refer the issue to the

Supreme Court. A run-off will be held on July 18 in case none of the candidates gets an absolute majority in the first round.

Ivory Coast

UNOCI trains 40 officers of the gendarmerie school in Toroguhé on maintenance of law and order African Press Organization

Fifty-seven officers and non-commissioned officers from the Gendarmerie School in Toroguhé, near Daloa, were trained on techniques for maintaining law and order by the UN Police (UNPOL) from 28 June to 2 July 2010. The Training Cell of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) provided classes on the techniques for intervention and crowd control to the Ivorian Gendarmerie's trainers for five days. The Jordanian Special Forces organized coordinated exercises with officers of this part of the Ivorian army, assigned to provide security to persons, institutions and properties. For Commander Patrice Jourden of UNOCI, Coordinator of the training session, the participants displayed professionalism and were fully "involved in the exercise, whose aim was to improve their expertise." The notion of the respect of human rights and dignity was repeated throughout the training because the UNOCI experts felt it was important to teach the participants the importance of using force in an appropriate manner. Lieutenant-Colonel Alexandre Apalo Touré, Commander of the Gendarmerie School in Toroguhé, congratulated the devotion of UNOCI's trainers in the implementation of their task. The Superior Officer and his collaborators used the opportunity of UNOCI's presence to express their will to create, with the agreement of their leaders, a "village of law and order maintenance." At the end of the training session, the Gendarmerie School's trainers received UNOCI's certificates of participation.

Trafigura CEO Ruling Must Be Reviewed, Dutch Supreme Court Says Bloomberg

A Dutch court must re-examine whether Trafigura Beheer BV Chief Executive Officer Claude Dauphin should be prosecuted over the export of waste to Ivory Coast in 2006. The Dutch Supreme Court said the Amsterdam Appeals Court has to review its 2008 ruling, which barred the prosecution of Dauphin, citing insufficient evidence. The lower tribunal used a "limited interpretation" of European Union rules against exporting waste to countries including Ivory Coast, the court in The Hague said in a ruling on its website today. Residents of Abidjan claimed the dumped waste caused deaths and illness. An Ivory Coast appeals court in 2008 dropped criminal charges against Trafigura and a U.K. judge said that he had "concerns" about media reporting on the case because "experts" were "quite clear" that the dumping couldn't have caused the most serious health problems. A ship hired by Trafigura, the Probo Koala, left Amsterdam port in July 2006 after a waste-disposal company rejected the ship's waste. The waste was given to an Ivorian company, Compagnie Tommy, which dumped the waste near the country's commercial capital, Abidjan.

Sierra Leone

Sierra Leone's Olufemi Terry wins Caine writing prize <http://news.bbc.co.uk>

The Sierra Leonean writer Olufemi Terry has won this year's Caine Prize for African Writing, regarded as Africa's leading literary award. The prize was given for his story *Stickfighting Days* - the judges said it presented a heroic culture that was Homeric in its scale and conception. They described Olufemi Terry as a talent with an enormous future. Terry was born in Sierra Leone, grew up in Nigeria, was a journalist in Somalia and Uganda, and now lives in Cape Town. The prize, of £10,000 (\$16,000), is given annually for a short story published in English by an African writer.

ICC

Tuesday, 6 July 2010

Daily Report

Trial Hears Lubanga Told Child Soldier To Get Women, Vehicles and Cows

By Wairagala Wakabi

Former Congolese rebel leader Thomas Lubanga told child soldiers to get women, cows, and vehicles, reassuring them that “everything belongs to soldiers,” according to testimony heard today at his trial at the International Criminal Court (ICC).

A witness who worked with several former child soldiers made this claim today while testifying about one of the children he helped to get demobilized from the Union of Congolese Patriots (UPC). This witness, who was an intermediary of prosecution investigators in the Democratic Republic of Congo, was today cross-examined by defense attorney Marc Desalliers, who asked him to explain the circumstances of his first meeting with the un-named former child soldier.

And so the witness – whose court name is ‘intermediary 321’ – went on to recount the words he recalled the young fighter telling him.

“The child went on to say that he worked with Thomas Lubanga for quite some time and he said that Thomas Lubanga told him that soldiers should be in possession of all and sundry, that is to say women, vehicles, cows; that everything belongs to them,” the witness said. “He [Lubanga] also told them that after the war they would have a better life.”

The intermediary said the child told him that he was one of the soldiers who were closest to Mr. Lubanga, and that he was among the soldiers who guarded a weapons drop-off point. The intermediary said the child subsequently took him to this area and explained to him how aeroplanes dropped weapons into the area.

At the time, the intermediary worked with a Non-Government Organization (NGO) that helped child soldiers to quit military service and get reunited with their families. The first meeting between the child soldier and the intermediary took place at the offices of the NGO, whose name was not given in open court.

“Was this child demobilizing on his own volition or was it his military group which was demobilizing him?” asked Mr. Desalliers.

The witness replied that the child had deserted the UPC’s armed group after realizing that he was getting no benefit from the service yet he was undergoing a lot of suffering in the UPC. He thus escaped from the UPC and went to the office of the United Nations Military Observer Mission in Congo (MONUC). Staff at MONUC then took the boy to the agency where the witness worked.

The witness said that after the boy escaped from the UPC, he was afraid that if he were apprehended he would be killed and his fellow soldiers would eat his body. “That is what their commander told them. He said that if someone were to desert, they would be caught, killed, grilled and eaten.”

The intermediary gave most of his evidence in closed session so it was not possible to know what child soldier he was talking about. But judges at Mr Lubanga’s trial have heard from a number of defense

witnesses that 'intermediary 321' bribed and coached witnesses to claim that they were former child soldier in the UPC. The intermediary has denied any wrongdoing.

Mr. Lubanga, the alleged former head of the UPC, is on trial at the ICC over the recruitment, conscription and use of child soldiers in armed conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo. He has denied the charges, which prosecutors claim he committed during 2002 and 2003.

Judges ordered the prosecution to produce 'intermediary 321' to give evidence, after a number of defense witnesses implicated him in various acts of corrupting evidence. Among others, some witnesses claimed that this intermediary bribed some individuals who were never child soldiers to lie to investigators that they were former members of the UPC. Some of these individuals reportedly went on to testify as prosecution witnesses and to claim that they were conscripted into the UPC.

Mr Lubanga's defense is expected to continue examining the intermediary tomorrow.

Radio Netherlands Worldwide

Tuesday, 6 July 2010

Relatives seek genocide charges against Srebrenica peacekeepers



Arnhem, Netherlands

By Sebastiaan Gottlieb

Three Dutch peacekeepers may face genocide charges in relation to the 1995 Srebrenica massacre. Relatives of two men killed by Serbian forces at Srebrenica today filed a complaint with the Dutch prosecutor's office charging three

Dutchbat commanders with complicity in genocide, war crimes and murder.

Commander Thomas Karremans, Deputy Commander Rob Franken and personnel officer Berend Oosterveen, were in charge of the Dutch peacekeeping battalion in the United Nations protected area of Srebrenica during the 1992-1995 Bosnian war. Up to 8,000 Bosnian Muslim men and boys were killed during a five day period after the UN peacekeepers handed them over to forces led by Serbian general Ratko Mladic.

Today's complaint says the commanders knew that the deportation of Rizo Mustafic and Muhamed Nuhanovic from the base would ultimately lead to their death at the hand of the Serbian soldiers. Therefore, the complaint reads, "these actions can be qualified as genocide and/or war crimes, and/or murder."

The Dutch prosecutor general will now review the complaint and decide whether or not to pursue an investigation into the charges.

Evidence

The remains of the father and brother of Hassan Nuhanovic were found in mass graves in 2007 and 2010. The body of Rizo Mustafic has never been recovered. Lawyer Liesbeth Zegveld argues that Franken and Karremans knew what was going to happen to the men when they were sent from the compound. She told Radio Netherlands Worldwide:

"There can be little doubt about it. At the time, they expressed their fear for the fate of the men on several occasions. These Dutch soldiers feared a mass execution."

It is now up to the Public Prosecutors in Arnhem to decide whether the three Dutchbat officers will stand trial. Ms Zegveld believes there is a good chance that the case will go to court:

"I expect that given the evidence available, the Public Prosecutions Service will see sufficient grounds to prosecute."

Life sentence

If the Public Prosecutor decides to go to court, it will be up to the judges to decide whether the three are guilty as charged. In that case, the maximum sentence they face is life imprisonment.