

**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:**

Tuesday, 3 August 2010

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

Yenga is a Threat to Salone Sovereign... / *Concord Times* Page 3

### International News

Charles Taylor's Lawyers Want to Delay Naomi Campbell's War Crimes... / *Telegraph.co.uk* Page 4

Charles Taylor's War Crimes Trial... / *Telegraph* Pages 5-6

Naomi Campbell to Testify in Blood Diamond Trial / *AFP* Pages 7-8

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary / *UNMIL* Pages 9-15

Rwanda Tribunal Sentences Former Governor to 25 years / *Radio Netherlands Worldwide* Page 16

The Truth Commission / *Mb.Com* Pages 17-18

# Yenga is a threat to Salone sovereign

....RSLAF legal adviser warns



*Head of Salone Army,  
Brig. Gen Nelson Williams*

Chief legal adviser of the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF) has urged government to take serious actions in addressing the long standing disagreement between Sierra Leone and Guinea over the town of Yenga; a situation he said poses serious security threat to the

*By Mohamed Massaquoi*

country's sovereignty under international laws and norms.

Colonel I.M. Kamara, who was addressing lawyers, human rights groups and members of the force at a three-day workshop on international humanitarian law organized by the Sierra Leone Institute of International Law in Freetown, said the maritime wing of the RSLAF has been strictly monitoring activities on the high seas where Guinean soldiers dressed in plain clothes most often attack Sierra Leonean traders and cart away their

*Contd page 3*

## Yenga is a threat to Salone sovereign

*From page 1*

goods and personal belongings.

Kamara said Yenga was not the only territory occupied by Guineans but that a good number of towns and villages along the northern region of Sierra Leone have also been encroached upon.

"Guinean soldiers always dressed in plain clothes but well armed most of-

ten attack our traders, and when our soldiers arrest them the Guinean government would file in an appeal that they are legitimate security forces," Colonel Kamara explained.

"I think it is time for the authorities at the top political level to address this situation once and for all. In fact the problem is not only limited to

Yenga, it has further be revealed that Guineans are rapidly extending their tentacles into the country through farming and the building of houses in our territories." The military legal adviser further urged the government of Sierra Leone to make an official complaint to the International Court of Justice for proper adjudication.

Telegraph.co.uk  
Monday, 2 August 2010

## Charles Taylor's lawyers want to delay Naomi Campbell's war crimes testimony

Lawyers for Liberian ex-president Charles Taylor want to delay the supermodel Naomi Campbell's testimony, due on Thursday, about a "blood diamond" he allegedly gave her, according to court papers.



Model Naomi Campbell Photo: James McCauley / Rex Features

Miss Campbell has been subpoenaed to appear in court Thursday after evading prosecution attempts to interview her about whether she received a rough diamond from Taylor after a dinner party in South Africa in 1997. Prosecutors say her testimony will support their contention that former Liberia leader Taylor lied when he testified that he never possessed so-called blood diamonds, those mined in a war zone where the proceeds finance an insurgency.

But, in his motion dated July 30 to the Special Court for Sierra Leone, defence lawyer Courtenay Griffiths said the prosecution has disclosed too little information for him to prepare his cross examination, violating Taylor's right to a free trial.

Mr Griffiths claimed the prosecution was either withholding information it is obliged to disclose in advance, or that it is calling Miss Campbell to testify "entirely based on conjecture."

He said the model has publicly denied the story.

Prosecutors say the information came from actress Mia Farrow and Miss Campbell's former agent Carole White, who also are due to appear on the witness box. According to prosecutors, they say Taylor's men came to Campbell's room after a party hosted by then-President Nelson Mandela "with a gift of a rough diamond or diamonds."

Prosecutors say Miss Campbell has refused to talk to them, and is being forced to appear under a subpoena.

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 desensitise them. Taylor's trial in The Hague began in January 2008.

## Telegraph

Tuesday, 3 August 2010

### Charles Taylor's warcrimes trial: factfile

Blood diamonds are at the heart of the trial of Liberia's ex-president Charles Taylor in the Special Court for Sierra Leone.



Former Liberian President Charles Taylor Photo: AP

#### **The accused:**

Charles Ghankay Taylor, 62, was the president of Liberia from 1997 to 2003.

He is accused of arming neighbouring Sierra Leone's Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels in exchange for "blood diamonds" - so called for being mined in rebel-held regions of Africa and sold to fund warfare.

The RUF is blamed for mutilating thousands of civilians who had their hands and arms severed in one of the most brutal wars in modern history, which claimed some 120,000 lives from 1991 to 2001.

Taylor has pleaded not guilty to 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity for murder, rape, conscripting child soldiers, enslavement and pillaging.

The first African leader to be tried before an international tribunal, he was arrested in Nigeria in March 2006 - three years after he was overthrown in a rebellion.

#### **The trial:**

The trial started in earnest in The Hague in January 2008 after the UN agreed that Taylor be moved from Freetown for fear that his presence in Sierra Leone could destabilise the region.

The prosecution called its 91st and final witness in January 2009. Taylor took the stand in his own defence in July last year.

In June, the court authorised the prosecution to call supermodel Naomi Campbell about an uncut diamond she allegedly received from Taylor after a dinner hosted by South African president Nelson Mandela in 1997.

**The diamonds:**

The prosecution claims that Taylor wanted "to take political and physical control of Sierra Leone in order to exploit its abundant natural resources ... diamonds".

He allegedly took diamonds he had received from Sierra Leone rebels on a trip to South Africa "to sell ... or exchange them for weapons".

While there, he met Campbell at the Mandela dinner and sent men with a rough diamond to her bedroom that night, according to prosecutors.

The model's evidence would "contradict (Taylor's) testimony that he has never been in possession of rough diamonds," the prosecution says.

AFP

Tuesday, 3 August 2010

## Naomi Campbell to testify in blood diamond trial

By Mariette le Roux (AFP)

THE HAGUE — The spotlight in Charles Taylor's war crimes trial shifts Thursday to supermodel Naomi Campbell when she testifies about an uncut diamond he allegedly sent to her room after they met at a 1997 dinner.

Prosecutors say the feisty model's evidence will disprove the former Liberian president's claim that he never possessed rough diamonds, but Taylor's lawyer says it is "nothing but a cheap publicity stunt".

"Already the public gallery, we are told, is packed out. It has never been the case throughout the proceedings," defence lawyer Courtenay Griffiths told AFP.

"It (the media attention) will bring to the public mind again all the negative things said about Charles Taylor over the years," he claimed of the prosecution's motive.

Taylor's defence has applied to the Special Court for Sierra Leone for a last-minute delay of 40-year-old Campbell's testimony, saying they had not been given a summary of her evidence and could not prepare a response.

A decision may only be given on the day of the scheduled hearing.

Prosecutors claim that Taylor, 62, had men deliver a so-called "blood diamond" to Campbell's room after he met the model at a celebrity dinner hosted by then South African president Nelson Mandela in 1997.

It is relevant because Taylor, accused of seeking to "take political and physical control of Sierra Leone in order to exploit its abundant natural resources ... diamonds", has denied ever dealing in or possessing rough diamonds.

"Ms Campbell is a material witness ... as it was to her that the accused chose to give the diamond he supposedly did not have," a prosecution filing states.

Campbell's former agent Carole White and actress Mia Farrow, who both attended the dinner, are to testify about the late-night gift next Monday.

White claims she was present when the diamond was delivered, while Farrow says Campbell told her about it the next morning over breakfast.

Campbell herself has refused to talk to prosecutors, citing fears for her family's safety, which prompted them to get a court subpoena for her testimony.

A spokesman for the court said more than 200 journalists from around the world had sought accreditation for Thursday's hearing.

Some will be disappointed, with only 40 seats available in the public gallery of the courtroom and 36 in the media centre.

Taylor has been on trial in The Hague since 2008 on 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity for his alleged role in the 1991-2001 civil war in Sierra Leone -- accused of arming rebels in return for illegally mined diamonds.

Campbell's testimony, due to open at 9:00 am (0700 GMT) on Thursday, should take "one to two hours", prosecutor Brenda Hollis told AFP, adding that investigators still had "no statements" from the model.

Added Griffiths: "We can't see that her evidence has any relevance whatsoever.

"She has made two public statements to the effect that she has not received any diamond from Mr Taylor whatsoever. This does not support the case they are trying to make.

"He (Taylor) denies having given her any diamonds."

Campbell's lawyer Gideon Benaim stressed that "Naomi has not done anything wrong".

"She is a witness and not on trial herself. Whilst she would rather not be involved in this case at all, she will nevertheless attend to assist the court as requested," he told AFP in a written response to questions."

## UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 2 August 2010

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

### UN News in Liberia

#### UNMIL

#### **UNMIL and partners committed to building confidence in Liberian justice system, says UN Deputy Envoy** [Public Agenda, New Vision, Liberia Journal]

- UN Deputy Envoy Henrietta Mensa-Bonsu has extolled Rwandan police officers serving with the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) for their high degree of professionalism and discipline during the discharge of their duties.
- These qualities, Ms. Mensa-Bonsu noted, have been useful in strengthening the capacity and skills of Liberia National Police (LNP).
- She made these remarks when she awarded UN peacekeeping medals to these UNMIL Rwandan police officers for their contribution to peace and stability in Liberia.
- On the need to further consolidate the rule of law and justice system, the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General (DSRSG) for the Rule of Law said these sectors remain the corner stone for peace and security in Liberia.
- "Although some challenges still remain, these challenges are surmountable, and we shall overcome them gradually."
- Ms. Mensa-Bonsu pledged UNMIL's and its national and international partners' commitment to strengthening the Liberian Police component to build public confidence in the justice system and to encourage people to be law-abiding citizens.
- She expressed confidence that, "a strong and functioning police force will help to ensure peace and security in Liberia."

#### Other UN News

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

#### **UNFPA Ends Training for Journalists in Fistula Reporting**

- There are increasing calls for mass media reportage on fistula in Liberia.
- The calls were made at the end of a two-day workshop for 15 Liberian journalists trained in fistula reporting.
- The United Nations Population Fund-Liberia Fistula Programme organized the training on obstetric fistula.
- Fistula is an abnormal connection between two human organs leading to continuous leakage while obstetric fistula concerns child delivery.
- UNFPA Assistant Resident Representative Philderald Pratt said it is important for journalists to report on fistula in an effort to spread the campaign.
- The Programme Director of the Liberia Fistula Project, Dr. John Mulbah said increased media reportage of the condition would help reduce the cases.
- Meanwhile, University of Liberia Mass Communications Professor James Wolo said the media must get involved in fistula reporting to provide awareness about the condition.

### Local News on Liberian Issues

#### **New Appointments in Government**

[Liberian Express, Daily Observer, New Democrat, The News, New Vision, Liberia Journal]

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has made new appointments in Government, subject, where applicable to confirmation by the Honorable Liberian Senate.

- Those appointed are Morris Dukuly, Consultant & Liaison to the National Legislature; Omega Sawyer, Larkayta Township Commissioner, Margibi County; A. Mombo Trueh, Jloh Statutory District Superintendent, Grand Kru County; and Tiklo-Nah Jebor, Jloh Statutory District Development Superintendent, Grand Kru County.
- Others appointed are James Tappeh, Senjeh District Commissioner, Bomi County; Joseph Kemokai, Suehn Mecca Statutory District Superintendent, Bomi County; Abraham Barvo, Relieving Commissioner, Bomi County and Abraham Boima Hogkin, Klay Township Commissioner, Bomi County.
- The rest are Magdaline H. Fahnbulleh, Tewor District Commissioner, Grand Cape Mount County; Kaison Kiadii, Garwula District Commissioner, Grand Cape Mount County; Lawrence Brown, Porkpaa District Commissioner, Grand Cape Mount County; Morris Kawah, Kongo Mano River Township Commissioner, Grand Cape Mount County; James G. Kiazolu, Acting Mayor of Robertsport, Grand Cape Mount County and Roland Duo, Coordinator, Special Projects, Office of the National Security Advisor.

### **Vice President Boakai Launches the Completion of New Health Ministry**

[Daily Observer, New Democrat, The News, In Profile Daily]

- Vice President Joseph Boakai has formally launched the completion of the new Health Ministry on Tubman Boulevard.
- The Chinese government has agreed to complete the building.
- The new Health Ministry was abandoned in the 1990s by the Chinese government after the late President Samuel K. Doe turned to recognize Taiwan rather than following the one-China Policy.
- The Chinese Embassy in Liberia said China has agreed to complete the work after many appeals from President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and in continuation of the demonstration of true partnership between Liberia and the China.
- Chinese Ambassador Zhou Yuxiao said the renovation work will be done at a cost of US\$ 4 million.
- The project is expected to be completed within a year's time.

### **House Deputy Speaker's Indictment Withdrawn?**

[Liberian Express, New Democrat, Liberia Journal]

- Government has reportedly withdrawn its indictment against House Deputy Speaker Tokpa Mulbah.
- According to state sources, the action was sparked by procedural errors.
- It is not clear who is to be blamed for the alleged error.
- Sources said the indictment was drawn up but prosecution did not pray for a writ for service of the legal instrument.
- When an indictment is drawn up against an accused, the sources said, the writ of arrest is served with the knowledge of the prosecution.
- Sources close to the prosecution said state lawyers were surprised that the accused even filed a bond when they had not asked the court to serve the indictment on him.

### **Finance Minister on Transparency Measures**

[Liberian Express, The Analyst, In Profile Daily]

- Finance Minister Augustine Ngafuan says government has put in place adequate measures to ensure transparency in all sectors of the Liberian society.
- Minister Ngafuan said under the Public Financial Management Act of 2009 the issue of transparency is highly focused.
- He noted that the law requires that copy of agreement between government entities and donors be submitted to the Ministers of Finance and Planning within seven days.
- The Finance Minister spoke at a one-day Aid Management workshop at the Samuel K. Doe Sports Complex in Painesville.

### **PUL Ends Media Roundtable, Adopts New Code of Conduct**

[Liberian Express, The Informer, The Monitor, The New Republic, In Profile Daily, New Vision, Liberia Journal]

- A two-day media and editors meeting with the objective to formulate guidelines for elections coverage for journalists ended Saturday in Monrovia with the adoption of a new code of conduct.
- The twelve-count code consists of high ethical standards to guide journalists and media entities covering the 2011 General and Presidential Elections.
- The roundtable were held under the auspices of the National Elections Commission (NEC) and the Press Union of Liberia (PUL) with funding from the International Foundation for Electoral System (IFES) under the theme "Promoting Free and Fair Elections through Professional Reporting".

- At the close of the program, a senior NEC Public Affairs Officer Nathan Mulbah commended the media for the cardinal role it plays in promoting free and fair elections in Liberia.

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

#### **Senate President Pro-tempore Allays Fears Over FOI Bill**

- Senate President Pro-tempore Cletus Wotorson says there is no need for government officials to fear the proposed Freedom of Information (FOI) Act.
- Senator Wotorson said government officials must not get afraid of the FOI bill because certain classified information will not be revealed.
- According to him, the FOI bill will come with a level of responsibility if enacted.
- The Senate President Pro-tempore made the statement when the bill was forwarded to the Senate by the House of Representatives.
- The House of Representatives a week ago passed the draft FOI Act after two years of scrutiny.
- The FOI bill is intended to ensure unhindered access to public documents with the exclusion of issues relating to national security threat and certain trade deals.

#### **House Deputy Speaker's Indictment Withdrawn?**

#### **Finance Minister on Transparency Measures**

#### **Whistleblower Writes President Sirleaf on Uranium**

- A whistleblower has written an open letter to President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf for what he considers the existence of uranium in Liberia.
- Hemion Freeman claimed that the mineral can be found in Grand Cape Mount, Sinoe and Bong Counties.
- According to him uranium is being illegally extracted from the country by some mining companies under the disguise of exploring gold and iron ore.
- The Liberian whistleblower recalled how in the late 1980s his alarm led to the arrest of two Americans who illegally extracted uranium from Liberia.
- He said the regime of former President Samuel K. Doe arrested the Americans with 100 pounds of uranium while they were en route to the US.

#### **Corporate Responsibility Forum Ends First Workshop**

- The newly established Corporate Responsibility Forum has ended the first in a series of capacity building workshops in Monrovia.
- The workshop discussed issues of concern to major corporate entities including human rights at the workplace.
- The Chairman of the forum, Joseph Matthews of ArcelorMittal, said ensuring human rights protection is crucial to business operations.
- According to him the business executives are finding ways to strengthen their individual policies in national interest.
- Mr. Matthews said human rights need to be incorporated in the business policies for co-existence.

#### **Cocopa to Construct Rubber Processing Plant**

- The management of the Cocopa Rubber Plantation in Nimba County has announced plans for the construction of a rubber processing plant in Liberia.
- Cocopa acting General Manager Charles Trippe said the company's initial goal is to get Cocopa replanted and begin a cooperative parallel project with farmers.
- He said the company intends to build the capacity of local farmers by helping them grow more rubber that will get better prices.
- Mr. Trippe also announced plans to hire more rubber tappers who have the experience and are prepared to work hard.
- According to the Cocopa acting General Manager, rubber theft remains a problem for both his company and local farmers.
- He however believes through collaboration with the local farmers, the instances of rubber theft could be minimized.

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

#### **President Sirleaf Directs Cabinet to Work with Civil Service Agency**

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has directed all cabinet ministers to work with the Civil Service Agency to review the application of the policy on salary and allowances to ensure that all civil servants are in the right grades to receive fair compensation for the jobs they do.

- The President instructed the ministers at a special cabinet meeting in Monrovia when the Director General of the Civil Service Agency Dr. William Allan made a presentation on basic salary and allowance consolidation.
- According to Cabinet Director Momo Rogers, the President called on the ministers not to dodge the hard decisions of making the necessary adjustments so that fairness and equity can exist at all levels in the pay grades of government employees.
- President Sirleaf said government is focused on how to ensure transparency, fairness and equity in pay and benefits across the civil service.

### **Vice President Boakai Launches the Completion of New Health Ministry**

#### **NPA to Sign MOU with Port of Georgia**

- The National Port Authority (NPA) is to shortly sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Port of Georgia, USA.
- Speaking at the third quarterly gathering of businesses in Liberia, the Managing Director of the NPA, Ms. Matilda Parker said the agreement will provide avenue for resource exchanges between personnel of the two ports.
- She said some universities have already expressed interest to train staff of the NPA.
- Ms. Parker also noted that despite the infrastructural development at the port the challenges are still enormous.

### **PUL Ends Media Roundtable, Adopts New Code of Conduct**

#### **Traditional Leaders want July 31 Set Aside as National Holiday**

- The leadership of the National Traditional Council of Liberia (NTCL) has proposed that July 31 each year be observed as a working holiday in Liberia.
- Speaking during the weekend, the head of the NTCL, Chief Zanzan Karwar said the day should be set aside because it is a day that Liberia regained its traditional respect and dignity.
- Chief Karwar said Liberians must take their tradition seriously noting that any country without a tradition cannot make progress.
- He spoke during a parade of traditional leaders during the weekend aimed at reflecting on the rich cultural heritage of the country.
- The match was organized by the NTCL and funded by the Cellcom GSM Company.

## **International Clips on Liberia**

#### **Liberian VP Boakai receives Nigerian investors APA**

The Vice President of Liberia, Joseph N. Boakai, received an eight-member delegation from the Chicason Group of Companies of Nigeria on Monday at his Capitol Building office in Monrovia. According to Vice President Joseph Boakai, Liberians are appreciative of the critical interventions Nigeria made in the country during its dark days; hence investors from Nigeria would always be welcomed. Vice President Boakai recalled the lead role Nigeria played in the West African Peace Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) operation in Liberia in 1990, as well as the ECOMIL operation that preceded the deployment of the 15,000 strong United Nations Peacekeeping force in Liberia in 2003. Vice President Boakai also observed that Nigerian airlines were the first to come to Liberia after the civil conflict subsided. Vice President Boakai also cited the recent Memorandum of Understanding reached by the Liberian and Nigerian Governments, under which Nigeria has deployed doctors and teachers in Liberia at the expense of the Nigerian Government.

#### **Naomi Campbell wants protection before war crime testimony <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com>**

Supermodel Naomi Campbell has applied for banning media coverage surrounding her as she prepares to give testimony in the war crimes trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor. Campbell is to appear in a court in The Hague on August 9 to answer questions about whether she was given a "blood diamond" by former Liberian dictator, Daily Mail online reported. Prosecutors believe her evidence could be relevant to Taylor's trial for war crimes during the 1990s civil war in neighbouring Sierra Leone in which tens of thousands died. He faces 11 charges relating to backing rebels in Sierra Leone, all of which he denies, including using child soldiers as young as ten to carry out massacres, murder and rape. But for Campbell's appearance at the Special Court for Sierra Leone,

in the Netherlands, her legal team have asked that she be given 'protective measures'. These could include a blanket ban on the disclosure of any information relating to the 40-year-old's appearance, except what is revealed in public testimony, and a ban on the media filming or following her. Such measures are usually reserved for those whose identity cannot be revealed for reasons of national security.

**Trip to Liberia leaves Duquesne students stunned, hopeful**  
[www.pittsburghlive.com](http://www.pittsburghlive.com)

Those who think the American health care system is in crisis may want to spend some time with Olivia Hess and Kayla Breindel. On a recent trip to Liberia, the Duquesne University graduate students said, they watched helplessly as a man died in a hospital where workers deal constantly with broken or missing equipment. "We are so lucky to have the health care system we do," said Breindel, 23, of Weedville in Elk County. Breindel and Hess, 23, of Sarver in Butler County, were two of five physician assistant students who traveled to the Liberian capital of Monrovia for two weeks in July and treated patients in ELWA Hospital and other medical facilities. The group — which included Amanda Candelmo of Monaca in Beaver County; Michael Lynn of Scott; and Laura Berkebile of Johnstown — was led by Mark Freeman, assistant professor of the university's physician assistant program. Liberia was ravaged by two civil wars, in 1989 and 1999 that decimated the nation's economy. Many of the country's 3.5 million people live in abject poverty. The students spent time at the Monrovia hospital and traveled on bumpy dirt roads to orphanages and an ambulatory clinic set in the countryside.

**Sir Bobby Robson's son Paul gives fans' tribute shirts to football kids in Liberia**  
[www.mirror.co.uk](http://www.mirror.co.uk)

On a dusty makeshift pitch in the slums of Liberia, the faces of some of the world's poorest youngsters light up as they are each handed a very special football shirt. As they run off with a ball at their feet, Sir Bobby Robson's son Paul looks on from the sidelines with tears in his eyes. The shirts he has just handed out are some of the thousands of Newcastle United tops left at St James' Park by fans paying tribute to England's most popular manager. This weekend, on the first anniversary of Sir Bobby's death, Paul tells how his family are giving the shirts to African children to continue his father's legacy. And in a moving interview, Paul opens his heart for the first time over the loss of a "perfect dad". "To the world he was Sir Bobby the football manager and, of course, soccer was his life," Paul says. "But to me he was my dad, my friend and my inspiration. My warmest memories are of him standing at the side of the school field with other dads cheering me on while I played rugby.

## **International Clips on West Africa**

### **Guinea**

**Guinea Presidential Candidate Diallo Plans Mining Deal Review if Elected**  
[www.bloomberg.com](http://www.bloomberg.com)

**Guinea** presidential candidate Cellou Dalein Diallo, who got the most votes in the first round of voting in June, plans a review of mining deals made in the West African nation if he wins a second ballot. Diallo would review the agreements "to make sure that the interests of Guinea were defended," the candidate told reporters in the capital, Conakry, yesterday. He declined to give further details. Guinea, the world's biggest bauxite producer, began reviewing mining deals in late 2008, Mines Minister Mahmoud Thiam said June 24. Companies including United Co. Rusal, the world's largest aluminum producer, and AngloGold Ashanti Ltd., Africa's biggest gold producer, operate in the country. Former Prime Minister Diallo, who received 43.7 percent of votes in the June 27 first round, will face Alpha Conde, who received 18.3 percent, in a run-off election. No date has been set, though Diallo said the vote could be Aug. 22 "at the latest."

**Guinea ex-PM backs underdog in presidential run-off**  
**Reuters**

Guinea's former Prime Minister Lansana Kouyate has thrown his support behind underdog presidential candidate Alpha Conde heading into a run-off vote, sources in Kouyate's party told Reuters on Monday. The move is unlikely to bring Conde the votes required to beat favourite Cellou Dallein Diallo, who came first in the initial round of elections in June and has formed powerful alliances since, but it could position Kouyate for a leadership role in the bauxite exporting nation's new government. "We expect Kouyate to take the head of this alliance and in the case of a win in the legislative polls, we expect he would take the presidency of the national assembly," one of the sources said on condition of anonymity. Guinea's election is seen as its best chance at drawing a line under decades of authoritarian rule since independence from France in 1958, and could help cement fragile gains in stability in a region rocked by three civil wars in a decade. Diallou, who took nearly 44 percent of the vote in first round elections

held in June, will face second-place finisher Conde, with 18.25 percent in the first round, in run-off elections expected later this month.

### **Guinea must review mining deals, Diallo says**

**Reuters**

Guinea must review billions of dollars worth of mining deals signed since a coup in 2008 to make sure the West African state is getting its fair share of revenue, election front-runner Cellou Dallein Diallo said. Contracts signed by multinationals such as Rio Tinto, Vale, and Chalco should be reviewed fairly, in a way that encourages foreign investment vital for the country's development, he said. "We will do things in a calm manner. And if we find Guinea has been taken advantage of we will open talks with our partners," UFDG party head Diallo told Reuters late on Saturday. "We must protect (investors) because we need them to create employment, to create wealth in the country. These investors should be encouraged, protected and reassured by a government that does not discriminate but which is transparent and fair." Guinea's election is seen as its best chance at drawing a line under decades of authoritarian rule since independence from France in 1958, and could help cement fragile gains in stability in a region rocked by three civil wars in a decade.

### **Guinea hopeful Rio deal will speed iron ore project**

**Reuters**

A deal between Rio Tinto and Aluminum Corp of China Ltd could speed up development of Guinea's Simandou iron ore deposits, but the government of the West African state has not yet approved it, Mines Minister Mahmoud Thiam told Reuters. Aluminum Corp of China, known as Chalco (2600.HK: Quote), signed a \$1.35 billion deal with Australia-based Rio last week for the project, which Rio claims is the world's largest undeveloped deposit of iron ore. It is one of a flurry of mining deals in Guinea signed in recent months and comes in the midst of elections that, if smooth, could end a political crisis there since a 2008 coup put the country in the hands of a military junta. Guinea is already the world's top supplier of aluminium ore bauxite, but is eager to diversify. "Anything that will advance the development of Simandou is good for Guinea and this accord, if finalised, has the potential to do that," Thiam said in an interview late on Friday. He said, however, Guinea's government was waiting for paperwork from both Rio and Chalco before deciding whether the joint-venture deal is legal.

### **Ivory Coast**

#### **Ivory Coast to triple gold output by 2015**

**Reuters**

Ivory Coast will triple gold output by 2015 to about 20 tonnes per year as three new mines start up, including Randgold Resources' (RRS.L: Quote) Tongon development, a government official told Reuters. The West African state, the world's top cocoa grower and a modest producer of oil, is eager to diversify its economy in part by developing its mining sector which now makes up just 1 percent of gross domestic product. "From here to 2015, production of gold in Ivory Coast will be at least 20 tonnes per year because of the new mines," Mbe Adou, general director of mines and geology said in an interview late on Friday on the sidelines of an industry conference. "Today, the ambition of Ivory Coast is to ensure our minerals extraction sector has an impact on the national economy," he said.

### **Sierra Leone**

#### **Sierra Leone needs 89 million dollars for elections**

**Xinhua**

The Sierra Leonean National Electoral Commission (NEC) has asked for 89 million U.S. dollars to organize general and municipal elections in 2012. The Chief Electoral Commissioner, Christiana Thorpe, told the media on Friday that both the government and its development partners "are expected to contribute 50 percent of the required budget to ensure a free, credible and transparent election process." The contract of the commissioner was recently approved by the parliament for a further five years.

#### **\$2 Million Contract to Terra Energy & Resource Technologies, Inc. for a Country-wide Natural Resource Survey of Sierra Leone**

<http://www.marketwatch.com>

Terra Energy & Resource Technologies, Inc. /quotes/comstock/11k!tegr (TEGR 0.06, 0.00, 0.00%) , a natural resource exploration technology company, signed a services contract with the Ministry of Mineral Resources of the Government of Sierra Leone for the application of its satellite-based STeP(R) technology to survey the country of Sierra Leone for various natural resources. The contract sets forth a two stage delivery of the results with a \$600,000 advance payment, followed by two equal progress payments over nine months. The agreement was signed by Hon. Alhaji Alpha Kanu, the Minister of Mineral Resources of Sierra Leone. As part of the agreement, Terra is expected to post a performance bond and secure an advance payment guarantee related to the delivery of phase one of the two-phase report.

**Darfur disaster: 3 Sierra Leonean peacekeepers killed in accident**  
[www.cocorioko.net](http://www.cocorioko.net)

COCORIOKO has now confirmed that three army personnel of the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF ) serving on UNAMID ( the African Union/United Nations Hybrid operation in Darfur), Sudan, lost their lives yesterday in a road accident at Nyala, the capital of South Darfur state in the western part of the Sudan. Three others were severely injured and are in intensive care. According to reports received by COCORIOKO, the soldiers were part of a unit assigned to provide armed security escort to the UNAMID Deputy Joint Special Representative (DJSR), Mr Mohamed Yunis from Nyala International Airport to Sector South of Nyala and the KALMA IDP Camp, where he was visiting. The unit was under the command of SL 1247 Lt. S.M.Lebbie of the RSLAF. At an intersection leading to the UNAMID Headquarters at Sector South, a big truck collided with the lead escort vehicle carrying the Sierra Leonean peacekeepers. The following officers were killed: Lt SM Lebbie SL 1247 –RSLAF-FRU; RSLAF/18166941 Sgt E. Koroma and RSLAF/18177897 L/C A. Bangura – FRU. The three officers critically injured and in intensive care are RSLAF/18170284 L/C Marah B- FRU, RSLAF/18171947 L/C Bangura A – 5Bde and RSLAF/18181242 L/C Momoh G – FRU.

**Sierra Leone overhauls educational system**  
[www.bbz-hss-shanghai.com](http://www.bbz-hss-shanghai.com)

Sierra Leone has announce a radical overhaul of its educational system based on recommendations of a five-man commission of inquiry set up in May last year. In a white paper issued here on Friday, the Sierra Leonean Government said it was phasing out the two shift system and implementing an 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. shift system. It ban private lessons by teachers on school premises and instituted a performance contract for head teachers in primary schools as well as principals of secondary schools. It also ban cultism in schools and universities, implemented dress code for pupils and teachers, and restructure the previous six years primary, three years for junior secondary schools, another three years for senior schools and four years for university. According to the Education Minister, Dr. Minkailu Bah, the five-man commission was set up as a result of the poor performance of pupils in two public examinations, namely the basic education certificate exams and the West African senior school certificate exams in 2008, when more than 90 percent of students failed.

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## Radio Netherlands Worldwide

Tuesday, 3 August 2010

### Rwanda tribunal sentences former governor to 25 years

By Julia Romasevych



*Arusha, Tanzania*

(Photo: Interpol)

The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) today convicted Dominique Ntawukuriryayo of genocide and sentenced him to 25 years in prison. The judges acquitted the former deputy governor of complicity in genocide and direct and public incitement to commit genocide.

Ntawukuriryayo, 68, was deputy governor - or sub-prefect - of the Gisagara préfecture during the Rwandan genocide of 1994. An estimated 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus were killed in the hundred day massacre.

ICTR prosecutor Hassan Jallow had sought a life sentence for Ntawukuriryayo for aiding and co-ordinating the killing of up to 25,000 Tutsis at Kabuye Hill in Gisagara. He was charged with genocide, complicity in genocide and direct and public incitement to commit genocide in 2005.

Between April 20th and 23rd 1994, hundreds of thousands of Tutsis and their families sought refuge at Gisagara market. The ICTR judges found that Ntawukuriryayo promised the refugees that they would be fed and protected at nearby Kabuye Hill, prompting them to go there. However, later that day, Ntawukuriryayo transported soldiers to Kabuye and they joined other assailants in an extensive attack which left an estimated 25,000 Tutsis dead.

Ntawukuriryayo fled to France in 1999 where he lived until his arrest in Carcassone on October 16th, 2005. Eight months later he was transferred to the detention centre of the ICTR in Arusha, Tanzania.

The former deputy governor pleaded not guilty to all charges against him when he made his first appearance before the court in June 2008. Ntawukuriryayo is the third fugitive to be apprehended in France.

#### **ICTR**

Since its establishment in 1994, the ICTR has completed 51 cases and acquitted eight people. It has convicted and sentenced former government officials, military officials, militiamen, priests, radio broadcasters and intellectuals from the former extremist Hutu regime for their role in the genocide.

Twenty-three cases are still in progress and three other trials will start in the coming months.

Ten suspects are still at large, including the genocide's alleged main financier Felicien Kabuga who is believed to be hiding in Kenya.

The court is scheduled to close at the end of 2012 but no decision has yet been taken on what will happen with any remaining suspects when it does. Initial plans to transfer the cases to Kigali were dropped because of concerns that the suspects would not receive a fair trial in Rwanda.

**Mb.Com**

Tuesday, 3 August 2010

<http://www.mb.com.ph/articles/270469/the-truth-commission>

## **The Truth Commission**

By DR. FLORANGEL ROSARIO BRAID

Executive Order No.1 mandates the Commission to “put a closure” to cases of corruption by filing “appropriate cases against those involved, if warranted, and to render a comprehensive final report on or before December 31, 2012. It shall primarily seek and find the truth, and toward this end, investigate reports of graft and corruption of such scale and magnitude that shock and offend the moral and ethical sensibilities of the people.” The cases are those perpetrated by public officials and accomplices, including those in the private sector.

It is explicit enough but not for critics who say that it has no muscle as it cannot prosecute, and has no power to summon witnesses. But DoJ Secretary De Lima argues that like other quasi-judicial bodies, the TC can subpoena witnesses.

Which is also what is within the power of the 30 or so Truth Commissions that have been set up by governments in Uganda, Bolivia, Argentina, Uruguay, Zimbabwe, Nepal, Chile, Chad, Germany, El Salvador, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, Haiti, Burundi, South Africa, Ecuador, Nigeria, Guatemala, Peru, Panama, Yugoslavia, East Timor, Sierra Leone, Ghana, and the Philippines in 1986. The goal was to establish what happened in the past, examine patterns of abuses, and recommend measures for the rebuilding of society.

Normally, commissions do not have power to prosecute. In the early years (the 70’s), they were set up as a response to human rights violations (killings, tortures, disappearances) after the end of a civil war or political unrest. Unlike court proceeding, the commission hearings are not adversarial. There was then little public testimony due to fear of retribution. Subsequently, more public hearings were held, rendering the commission greater public legitimacy. My information primarily comes from the analysis by Erich Brahm (2005) and colleagues posted on Internet, who provided historical antecedents - goals, and perceived “success or impact” and future prospects of Truth Commissions.

Why a Truth Commission? Unlike most of the 30 countries which primarily focused on human rights violations, our commission will limit itself to fact-finding on graft and corruption. Three others with TC’s that have or will soon share a similar mandate are Kenya, Sierra Leone, and Liberia. Human rights groups in Kenya have clamored for the setting up of an independent truth and reconciliation commission that will, among others, try judges accused of corruption. Sierra Leone’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission will address corruption, and Liberia’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission released a report recommending sanctions against their popular President, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf for her reported support for warlord former President Charles Taylor during the 1980’s.

Like other countries undergoing a transition from a governance that had much to account for in terms of transparency and accountability, we need to ferret out the truth, heal our trauma, so that we can move forward. This would mean removal of so-called “enclaves of authoritarian power,” whether found in executive orders, patterns of impunity, and replace them with democratic alternatives. This means identifying “institutional failures – whether in judicial systems, procurement systems, the military or police forces.” According to the mandates of other Truth commissions, this means “facilitating democratic consolidation, constructing a human rights culture, and re-building of trust.” The outcomes could then provide a “pressure point” around which our civil society sectors can advocate for change – change in our legal system by promoting “restorative justice,” coming up with new measures of civil liberties – rule of law, protection of freedom of expression.

It will send a clear signal that the new government wants to break away from the past by effecting needed structural changes in our social and political institutions. Calling perpetrators to account for past misdeeds, and showing that they too are vulnerable, is seen as an act of empowering victims of the abuses.

Three attributes that influence a commission's effectiveness, according to Brahm, are the nature of the mandate, the public nature of the commission, and the make-up of the commission. The time-frame should not be less than 6 months but could extend to two years. While the mandate should be comprehensive, it should not be too broad such as in Chad's TC which tackled both corruption and human rights. An overly expanded mandate could stretch resources and result in incomplete findings. The commission must be perceived as independent – demonstrated by the composition of its members and staff which will be involved in the investigation.

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