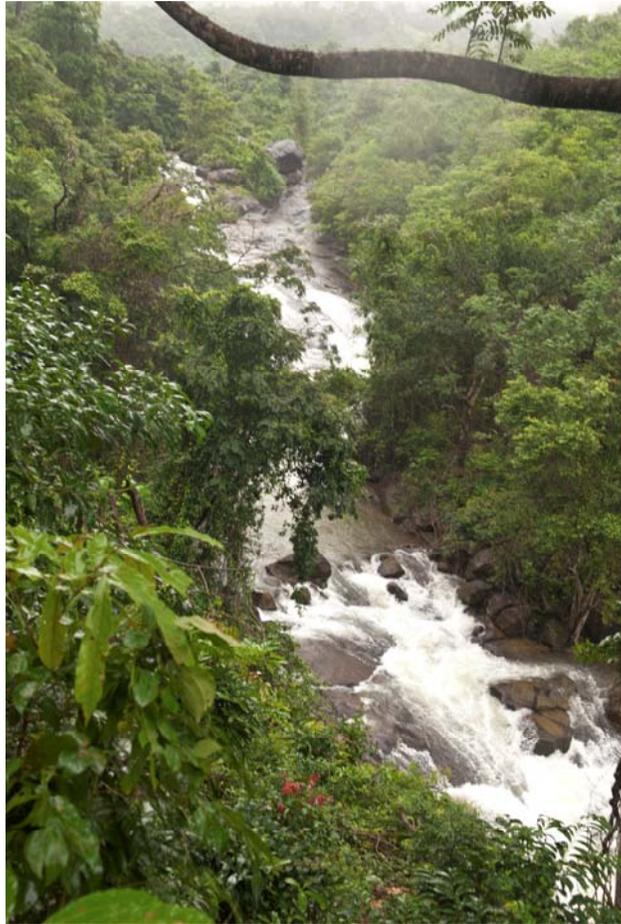


**SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE  
OUTREACH AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE**



**PRESS CLIPPINGS**

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

**as at:**

Monday, 6 September 2010

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

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## Defence concludes direct examination of witness

By Alpha Sesay

Defence lawyers for Charles Taylor concluded the direct examination of the former Liberian president's 20th defence witness.

The witness's direct examination was concluded mostly in private session as defence lawyers focused on discussing certain issues and submission of exhibits that, if discussed in public, would disclose the identity of the witness and the identities of other protected prosecution witnesses.

The witness, DCT-008, a former radio operator in Taylor's Special Security Services (SSS) unit has testified mainly about radio communications that took place between RUF commanders in Sierra Leone and members of Taylor's security forces, including former SSS Director Benjamin Yeaten. As the direct examination of the witness was concluded this

morning, prosecutors made an application that the judges issue an order for defense lawyers to disclose all written statements that have been made by the witness to defense investigators. Chief Prosecutor Brenda Hollis told the judges that the witness's testimony has gone contrary to most of the things stated in his written statement. The statements disclosed so far have been grossly inadequate, Ms. Hollis told the court.

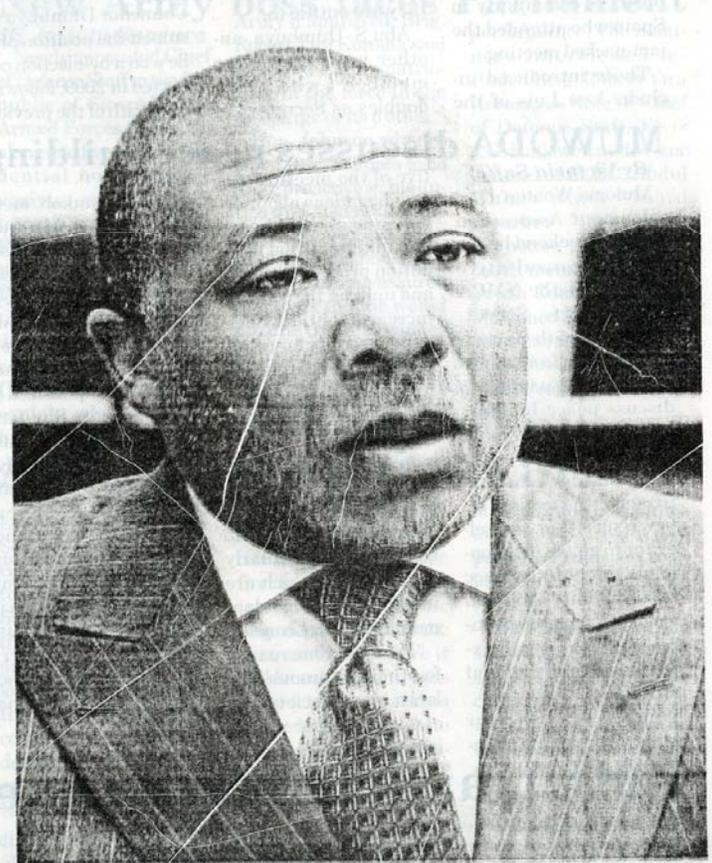
Ms. Hollis said to the judges, "In general, what we have is a witness whose testimony is totally different from what he had told the defense." "We ask that you order the defense to disclose the full statements immediately," the Chief Prosecutor told the judges.

Defense counsel for Taylor, Morris Anyah, objected to the prosecution application, telling the

judges that the prosecution has "no automatic rights to the defense witness statements" and that because the prosecution had not established the irreparable damage that the non-disclosure of the witness's statements would cause, there is no need for the order to be granted. "The prosecution is not entitled to disclosure, they have not met the necessary legal steps and the witness's statements should not be disclosed."

After retiring for about 30 minutes to deliberate on the issue, the judges ruled against the prosecution application, stating that prosecutors had not given sufficient justification for the disclosure of all the statements made by the witness.

"We agree with the defense that the prosecution has not satisfied the requirement that the witness's statements be dis-



closed," presiding judge of the Trial Chamber Justice Julia Sebutinde said.

"We dismiss the [prosecution] application," she concluded. After the

delivery of the judges' ruling on the issue, prosecutors made another application that they be given until Friday morning to prepare for the commencement of

the cross-examination of the witness. Defense lawyers stated that they have no objection to the prosecution application, and the application was granted.

# Charles Taylor's Trial

## Liberian Radio Operator Disputes The Evidence Of RUF Radio Operators

**C**harles Taylor's 20th defense witness, a former radio operator first in the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) rebel group and then in the Special Security Service (SSS) unit of Mr. Taylor's government, today disputed the evidence of several Revolutionary United Front (RUF) radio operators, who in 2008 testified before the Special Court for Sierra Leone about radio communications that took place between the RUF and Mr. Taylor's government in Liberia.

According to the witness, who is testifying under protective measures and is therefore only identified by pseudonym DCT-008, RUF radio operators lied when they alleged in their testimonies that RUF commanders sent regular radio messages to Mr. Taylor about the RUF's activities in Sierra Leone and that Mr. Taylor and his SSS Director Benjamin Yeaten sent regular instructions to the RUF through the radio operator called Sun Light, who operated the radio communication set that was installed at Mr. Yeaten's residence called Base One.

In July 2008, a former RUF radio operator, TFI-567, told the court that in December 1998, when RUF rebels dislodged Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) peacekeepers and captured the diamond rich town of Kono, radio communications took place between the RUF radio operators based at RUF headquarters in the Sierra Leonean town of Buedu and Liberian authorities through the radio operator Sun Light, who was in charge of the Base One radio set in Liberia.

When DCT-008 was asked about this today, he told the court, "It didn't happen so. I have my doubts because Sun Light never visited Sierra Leone to know what was happening there. Sun Light did not give any report on RUF operations... Sun Light did not have any contacts with the RUF organization. He was only communicating with Sam Bockarie [RUF commander] on behalf of Benjamin Yeaten."

TFI-567 also told the court that when he travelled to Liberia, together with another RUF radio operator, Memunatu Deen, who was already coordinating RUF activities in Monrovia, SSS Director Mr. Yeaten took them to see Mr. Taylor at the Executive Mansion around 10:00PM on a particular night.

When defense lawyers asked DCT-008 whether he was aware of this, the witness said, "It is not to my knowledge and moreover, Memunatu Deen's operation in Liberia was very covert, it was secret and the Government of Liberia did not know that Memunatu Deen was in Monrovia and carrying out such operations, and it is not to my knowledge that Memunatu Deen and Benjamin Yeaten went to see President Taylor."

He also said that he was not aware of "Charles Taylor receiving visitors at the Executive Mansion late in the night."

This prompted a question from Justice Richard Lussick of the Trial Chamber. Justice Lussick asked, "Yesterday, you said that in all your time at the Executive Mansion, you never even got to see the president. So how would you know if he received visitors?"

In response, the witness said, "This is why I said that it is not to my knowledge that the president received visitors late at night."

"Memunatu Deen never told me anything concerning her visit to the president of

Liberia," he added, noting also that neither Mr. Yeaten, nor any other person informed him of such visit.

The witness also refuted the evidence of another RUF radio operator, TFI-585, who testified in 2008 that when rebel forces invaded Sierra Leone's capital of Freetown in 1999, Mr. Yeaten spoke to RUF commander Mr. Bockarie. During this conversation, the SSS Director expressed gratification at news of the invasion of Freetown, telling Mr. Bockarie that he'll visit RUF headquarters in Buedu in two days. Mr. Yeaten also told Mr. Bockarie to turn on his satellite phone as Mr. Taylor wanted to speak with him, the witness told the court in 2008.

Disputing this claim, DCT-008 today told the court, "I am not aware of that. For the time that I was at 50's [Yeaten] house, 50 never spoke to Sam Bockarie on the radio, in fact, 50 never spoke to anybody on the radio, whether for family or government issues."

He also said that he was not aware of the SSS Director making any trip to Buedu.

DCT-008 also responded to the testimony given by the overall RUF signal commander, Mohamed Beretay Kabbah, who in 2008 testified that whenever an ECOMOG fighter jet left from the Roberts International Airport (RIA) in Monrovia with a target to bomb RUF positions in Sierra Leone, Sun Light would inform RUF radio operators in Buedu that the "Iron Bird" was on the way, thus helping RUF rebels to plan their escape. Sun Light also used the code "448" when informing RUF radio operators about the ECOMOG fighter jet, Mr. Kabbah said in 2008. DCT-008 described this account as false.

"First of all, I do not know the code 448 to be reference to an ECOMOG jet. And when Base One was communicating with Buedu, there was no communication regarding ECOMOG jet," the witness told the court.

"We had our own code that referenced an enemy plane and it was 15-2. During the NPFL days, when ECOMOG was carrying out air raids against the NPFL, the NPFL radio communication used "Iron Bird" but this was not expedient as it could reveal what we were talking about... and when we went into government, Iron Bird was cancelled and we used the code 15-2."

The witness added, "Base One was situated in Kongor town in Monrovia. The RIA where ECOMOG was is far away from Base One... Base One had no knowledge of ECOMOG jets. Yes, we could hear a plane when moving but we had no knowledge of where it was going, so the issue of communication regarding the movement of ECOMOG jets never occurred.

When asked by Judge Lussick whether it was "possible for somebody at RIA to get in touch with Base One either by radio or telephone," the witness said, "Yes."

"We had a radio at RIA. It was possible," he said.

The witness, however, said that there was no time that the radio operator at RIA informed Base One that an ECOMOG jet had take off for Sierra Leone.

The witness disputed claims that the RUF used to communicate with Mr. Taylor through Sun Light. He said that Sun Light never had access to the president of Liberia and so there is no way such communications could have taken place through Sun Light.

**Credit charlestaylortrial.com**

We Yone

Friday, 3 September 2010

# Special Court Staff Lack Medicare

**By We Yone Staff  
Writer**

Report reaching We Yone states the Special Court for Sierra Leone is presently incapacitated in terms of providing Medicare for its staff.

The report states the Special Court for Sierra Leone use to have medical staff who were responsible to administer medication to members of staff when the need arise.

“For some time now this medical staffs have not been seen at work”, the report states, though it could not confirm whether their absence is responsible for the death of a Ghanaian member of staff of the Special Court for Sierra Leone who died in his office on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September after suffering a heart attack. The Ghanaian member of staff Samuel Eyeson is reported to have died because he could not get first aid treatment when he suffered the heart attack, the report states, pointing out that this is not the first time Samuel Eyeson had suffered a heart attack while on duty.

“Some time ago when he suffered a heart attack the medical staff

at the office were able to give him prompt first aid treatment which went a long way to save the life of the Ghanaian members of staff”, the report asserts, adding further that in this instance there were no medical personnel at work to give first aid treatment to Samuel Eyeson before taking him to the hospital.

Efforts made to ascertain the veracity of information that medical personnel at the Special Court for Sierra Leone are not regular and were not around when Samuel Eyeson suffered the heart attack proved futile as the security personnel at the New England Ville office were quite uncooperative in allowing We Yone reporter to talk to any member of the Public Information Unit.

Nonetheless, speculations are rife that the family of Samuel Eyeson may sue the Special Court for Sierra Leone for negligence if it is proved beyond all doubts that his death resulted from failure to have first aid treatment administered to him.

## Concord Times (Freetown)

Thursday, 2 September 2010

### Sierra Leone: New Revelation At the Special Court - Moses Blah Ordered Maskita's Execution

Alpha Sesay

Freetown — The Special Court for Sierra Leone has heard that Charles Taylor's former vice president, Moses Blah, ordered the execution in Liberia of the former Revolutionary United Front (RUF) commander, who was already the subject of an indictment issued by the court in 2003.

When notorious RUF commander Sam Bockarie alias 'Maskita' was executed while entering Liberia from Ivory Coast in 2003, allegations were that his execution had been ordered by Taylor, then president of Liberia.

However, giving his account of the circumstances surrounding Bockarie's death, defense witness DCT-008 told the court that in 2003, a radio operator in Charles Taylor's Special Security Services (SSS) using "the call sign Lima Tango told me that Sam Bockarie had been killed as he was trying to enter Liberia with armed men."

Prosecution witnesses have testified before Special Court judges in The Hague that the order to execute Bockarie was handed down from Mr. Taylor to his SSS director Benjamin Yeaten, who took men to the Liberia-Ivory Coast border and executed the RUF commander along with his bodyguards and family members. When Mr. Blah testified in 2008, he told the court that he was in Nimba County when Bockarie was executed, and Yeaten had met him there and told him of an operation that they had just executed.

When Yeaten took him to his vehicle, Blah said he saw the corpse of Bockarie at the back of the truck. He explained that when he took Bockarie's remains to Monrovia and informed Mr. Taylor about it, the former Liberian president told him that it was a military operation and there was no need for Blah to get involved.

Taylor, during his testimony, denied these claims and told the court that he had only sent his former vice president to stop Bockarie from entering into Liberia with armed men and to have him arrested. It was Blah's handling of the situation that led to the death of the RUF commander as DCT-008 corroborated Taylor's account.

"What Lima Tango told me was that Sam Bockarie had a group of armed men, uncountable number of armed men, and he was trying to return to Liberia but at this time, the Liberia security tried to stop him and at this time, the group [Liberian security] was led by Moses Blah," DCT-008 told the court.

"He Moses Blah was ordered to arrest Sam Bockarie but when they got there, Sam Bockarie resisted arrest, and he [Blah] said, 'Do not waste time with that man, if he resists arrest, just kill him and bring his body to me'; and so they killed him and took the body to him [Blah]."

"He [Blah] brought the body to Monrovia and took it to the Striker Funeral Home," he added.

Prosecutors allege that Bockarie was killed on his return from Ivory Coast after being sent to fight in that country by Taylor. When Bockarie was returning to Liberia with men whom he had commanded in Ivory Coast and with a Special Court for Sierra Leone indictment already issued, Taylor ordered his execution to cover any tracks of his close relationship with the former Sierra Leonean rebel commander, prosecutors allege. But Taylor has dismissed these allegations as lies.

When asked to tell the court what the Liberian government said about the death of Bockarie, DCT-008 explained, "What I heard from the government through the defense minister...was that Sam Bockarie, after he had left Liberia, attempted to come to Liberia with a fighting force, which the government of Liberia wanted to stop and when he opened fire on the government security, they killed him."

DCT-008 also spoke about the circumstances surrounding the death of Daniel Tamba aka Jungle, who according to prosecutors was Taylor's liaison with the RUF in Sierra Leone. Prosecutors say that when Jungle later returned to

Liberia, Taylor ordered his execution, and he was shot in the back by his own comrades who were acting on orders handed down by Taylor to SSS director Benjamin Yeaten.

Defence witnesses have said that Jungle was a member of the RUF who had a close relationship with Yeaten without Taylor's knowledge. DCT-008 testified that after the disarmament in Liberia, Jungle was one of the Liberian members of the RUF who refused to be disarmed in Sierra Leone and instead returned to Liberia, where they became part of Taylor's security forces.

Explaining his account of how Jungle died in Liberia, DCT-008 said, "What I heard about his death was that he died by a friendly fire, from a friendly gun."

"He was engaging the enemy forces, he was hit by a BZT at the back. While the BZT was giving them cover, the BZT mistakenly hit him in the back," he said.

When asked about Yeaten's reaction to Jungle's death, the witness said, "What I observed was that after this had happened...Ben [Yeaten] came to Monrovia constantly crying that he had lost Jungle. He was very sad."

The witness also gave an extensive account of radio communications between the RUF in Sierra Leone and "Base One", the radio that was stationed at Yeaten's residence in Liberia. The witness spoke about how radio operators in Liberia including Yeaten's radio operator called Sun Light communicated with RUF radio operators, who included Memunatu Deen, Sebatu, and Dauda Aruna Fornie. These communications were based on the relationship that existed between Yeaten and Bockarie, and these contacts were not to Taylor's knowledge, the witness said.

He added that when RUF commander Sam Bockarie left Sierra Leone and relocated to Liberia in late 1999, all communications between Yeaten's operators and the RUF ceased.

DCT-008-'s testimony continues today

## Charlestaylortrial.org (The Hague)

Thursday, 2 September 2010

### **Liberia: Defense Lawyers Conclude the Direct Examination of Witness Dct-008**

Alpha Sesay

Defense lawyers for Charles Taylor today concluded the direct examination of the former Liberian president's 20th defense witness.

The witness's direct examination was concluded mostly in private session as defense lawyers focused on discussing certain issues and submission of exhibits that, if discussed in public, would disclose the identity of the witness and the identities of other protected prosecution witnesses.

The witness, DCT-008, a former radio operator in Mr. Taylor's Special Security Services (SSS) unit has testified mainly about radio communications that took place between RUF commanders in Sierra Leone and members of Mr. Taylor's security forces, including former SSS Director Benjamin Yeaten.

As the direct examination of the witness was concluded this morning, prosecutors made an application that the judges issue an order for defense lawyers to disclose all written statements that have been made by the witness to defense investigators. Chief Prosecutor Brenda Hollis told the judges that the witness's testimony has gone contrary to most of the things stated in his written statement. The statements disclosed so far have been grossly inadequate, Ms. Hollis told the court.

Ms. Hollis said to the judges, "In general, what we have is a witness whose testimony is totally different from what he had told the defense." "We ask that you order the defense to disclose the full statements immediately," the Chief Prosecutor told the judges.

Defense counsel for Mr. Taylor, Morris Anyah, objected to the prosecution application, telling the judges that the prosecution has "no automatic rights to the defense witness statements" and that because the prosecution had not established the irreparable damage that the non-disclosure of the witness's statements would cause, there is no need for the order to be granted.

"The prosecution is not entitled to disclosure, they have not met the necessary legal steps and the witness's statements should not be disclosed."

After retiring for about 30 minutes to deliberate on the issue, the judges ruled against the prosecution application, stating that prosecutors had not given sufficient justification for the disclosure of all the statements made by the witness.

"We agree with the defense that the prosecution has not satisfied the requirement that the witness's statements be disclosed," presiding judge of the Trial Chamber Justice Julia Sebutinde said.

"We dismiss the [prosecution] application," she concluded.

After the delivery of the judges' ruling on the issue, prosecutors made another application that they be given until tomorrow (Friday) morning to prepare for the commencement of the cross-examination of the witness.

Defense lawyers stated that they have no objection to the prosecution application, and the application was granted. The court took an early adjournment and the cross-examination of DCT-008 commences on Friday.


**United Nations**      **Nations Unies**

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

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**UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary**  
**3 September 2010**

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

**UN News in Liberia**

**UNMIL News**

**Margrethe Løj Pays Tribute to Ghana - For Unwavering Commitment to Peace in Liberia**

[The Analyst]

- UN top envoy in Liberia, Ellen Margrethe Løj has hailed Ghana's long-standing commitment to the restoration of peace and security in Liberia, describing it as "very special."
- Awarding UN Peacekeeping Medal to Ghanaian peacekeepers at two separate ceremonies, the first in Monrovia and the second Buchanan, Ms. Løj paid glowing tribute to Ghana for its sacrifices and contributions towards the consolidation of peace in Liberia which has been forthcoming since ECOMOG in the 1990's.
- SRSG Løj stated that the Ghanaian dedication "has given Liberians the hope of experiencing the same peace that Ghanaians enjoy."
- In Buchanan, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) decorated a 700-strong Ghanaian contingent named the 'Scorpion' and expressed special appreciation for the troops stationed in LAC, who were working with the LNP to restore law and order in the plantation.

**Some Liberian Laws are Obsolete – UNMIL Official**

[In Profile Daily]

- The Child Protection Advisor of United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), David Moussa Ntambara says some laws in Liberia, particularly on human trafficking are obsolete and ineffective.
- According to Mr. Ntambara, child labor and human trafficking was still visible in the country and should therefore be discouraged by every sector of society.
- He spoke at a three-day seminar on the formulation of the Standard Operation Procedure (SOP) and the National Referral System on counter-trafficking.
- The meeting brought together 32 stakeholders from government institutions including Justice and Labor ministries.

**Other UN News**

**Three UN Agencies Pledge Support to Rural Women in Agriculture Sector**

[Heritage]

- Three agencies of the United Nations have pledged their support to rural women in the agricultural sector of the country.
- The three agencies include the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Food and Agricultural Organization and the World Food Programme.
- Speaking at a one-day forum on "Contracting of Rural Women – Purchase for Progress (P4P) Roll Out" Thursday in Monrovia, UNDP community programme manager Aderemi Aibinu said the three agencies will work closely with government in increasing food production in the country.
- Mr. Aibinu observed that the biggest problem in the agricultural sector in Liberia, more especially for women, is access to market, something which he said the three UN agencies together with the Liberia Government will tackle.
- The UNDP official further observed that women are the biggest players in agricultural sector, and if the area is to get improved, problems confronting women activities must first be addressed.

- For their part, the Rural Women thanked the three UN agencies for their commitment towards improving the agricultural sector of the country.

## Local News on Liberian issues

### **President Sirleaf Applauds Libya on National Day**

[Heritage, Public Agenda, New Vision]

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has expressed conviction that the bond of friendship and brotherly relations, subsisting between Liberia and Libya will continue to be cemented in the years ahead.
- According to a Foreign Ministry release, President Sirleaf made the statement in her congratulatory message to the President, Government and People of Libya on the jubilant occasion marking the 41<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of that country.
- In the message to her Libyan counterpart Colonel Mummar Gaddafi, the Liberian leader extends heartfelt congratulations and warmest felicitations on behalf of the Government and People of Liberia and in her own name.
- She recalled with admiration Colonel Gaddafi's courageous initiatives and vanguard effort in the establishment of a Union Continental African Government, aimed at harnessing the continent's vast natural and human resource potentials to advance the socio-economic conditions of all Africans.
- President Sirleaf then prayed that the Almighty God endows Colonel Gaddafi with wisdom and good health as he leads his people to greater economic prosperity and development.

### **GOL Gives US\$25,000 for Former Leader's Burial**

[Daily Observer]

- The Government of Liberia (GOL) has given US\$15,000 to the family of the National Transitional Government of Liberia chairman David Kpomakpor for his burial.
- An additional US\$5,000 was given to his son for airfare and US\$5,000 to the Liberian delegation headed by Cllr. Philip A. Z. Banks.
- Deputy Information Minister Norris Tweah said the amount was received on behalf of the Kpomakpor Family by a pastor (not named) who served as one of the caretakers of the former chairman during the period of his illness.
- Deputy Minister Tweah further indicated that Government has vowed to undertake all financial expenses associated with the late transitional chairman's burial as requested by members of his family.

### **Senate Concurs with House on FOI Bill Passage**

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

- The Senate Thursday concurred with the House of Representatives on the passage of the much publicized Freedom of Information (FOI) Bill.
- The FOI Bill was submitted to the Legislature in 2007 for scrutiny and subsequent passage into law.
- The FOI Bill is intended to give journalists, including ordinary citizens among others the legal rights to demand information from both public and private authorities across the country.
- Speaking to newsmen following the passage of the Bill, Senate president pro-tempore Cletus Wotorson said the Bill was passed after thorough scrutiny.
- Although the FOI Bill provides the legal grounds for people to demand information from authorities where it has been impossible, Senator Wotorson said the Act does not give journalists unrestricted rights to 'stick' microphones or recorders into any body's face.
- He said the FOI Act covers the issues of privacy and confidentiality which means that certain information will still be kept secret from the media and the general public.
- He said that information that is declared protected under the FOI Act from exposure to the public is clearly outlined in the FOI document.

### **Legislature Ratifies Chevron Oil Exploration Deal**

[Front Page Africa, The Inquirer]

- The Senate Thursday ratified the second Addendum to Production Sharing Contract for Block LB-11, second Addendum to Production Sharing Contract for Block-12 and Block-14 to effectuate the Deeds of Assignment through which 70 percent of the interest in Oil Block LB-11, 12 and 14 would be transferred to Chevron Group.

- Senate president pro-tempore Cletus Wotorson said the ratification of the Chevron - Government Agreement, Liberia will commence the drilling of offshore oil along the costal belt of the country soon.
- Senator Wotorson, a Geologist, said why it is yet unclear about the presence of oil on the costal belt of Liberia, the potential of oil in the country is very important as there are indicators on the Liberian shores that suggest that indeed Liberia will be an oil producing country as soon as possible.
- Chevron is an American Corporation with a global presence and one of the super major oil companies engaged in every aspect of the oil, gas and geothermal energy industries, including exploration and production.

### **INHRC Chairman-designate Faces Senate Today**

[Liberia Journal, Parrot]

- The new nominee of the Independent National Human Rights Commission (INHRC), Cllr. LeRoy Urey is expected to face the Senate today for confirmation.
- Cllr. Urey's nomination follows the withdrawal of two nominees to the Commission by President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.
- The newly nominated commissioner-designate will assume the chairmanship of the INHRC if confirmed by the Senate.

### **Foreign Minister Akerele Extols Egypt**

[In Profile Daily, Public Agenda, New Vision]

- Foreign Minister Olubanke King Akerele has extolled the Government of Egypt for its numerous assistance to Liberia.
- Speaking at a farewell reception held recently at the Foreign Ministry in honor of the out-going Egyptian Ambassador to Liberia, Mr. Ahmed Fadel Yakoub, Minister Akerele recounted Egypt's bilateral assistance towards Liberia's developmental programmes.
- She lauded Ambassador Yakoub for his efforts in cementing the bilateral and cordial relations subsisting between Liberia and Egypt which brought mutual benefits to the two countries over the years.
- According to the Foreign Minister, Liberia – Egypt relations is marked by mutual respect, good neighborliness and friendly cooperation in the spirit of South-South Cooperation for the benefit of the two nations and peoples.
- Outgoing Egyptian Ambassador Yakoub paid special tribute to President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf for efforts in supporting regional and sub-regional initiatives in sustaining peace and stability in Liberia and the West African sub-region.

### **PUL Hails Senate on FOI Act, Holds Edward Wilmot Blyden Forum Today**

[Public Agenda]

- The Press Union of Liberia (PUL) has described as political redemption the concurrence vote taken Thursday by the Senate to enact the Freedom of Information Act.
- The PUL says the Senate's action is not only redeeming, but historic in that it lifts the country far above other countries in the sub-region in enhancing the democratic space.
- The Union says it has no doubts that President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf will sign the Act into law in order to stamp Liberia's authority as a campaigner for an open society.
- Meanwhile, four panelists will on today address the August edition of Edward Wilmot Blyden Forum.
- International Youth Advocate, Kimmie Weeks will be joined by three educators to do "An Appraisal of the Liberian Educational System amidst the Mass Failure of Students."
- Other panelists are University of Liberia Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Momolu Getawah; Deputy Education Minister for Instruction, Dr. Mator Kpangbai and Mrs. Ellen Fatu Varfle of the National Teachers' Association of Liberia.
- The PUL says it is calling the forum ahead of the opening of schools in the country to debate some of the challenges affecting the educational system for policy makers to take cue.

### **Police Arrest Man with Single Barrel Gun in Paynesville**

[New Vision]

- The Liberia National Police (LNP) has arrested and charged a man with illegal possession of firearm.
- Karyo Richards was allegedly carrying a locally made single barrel gun on board a taxicab on GAS Road in Paynesville.
- Police spokesman George Bardue said Richard has admitted to being in possession of the gun but said it was given to him by two unknown men in Paynesville who attempted to rob him.

## **Political and Election Reporting: DBC Senior Fellow to Conduct Symposium in Liberia**

[Front Page Africa]

- A senior fellow at the DuBois Bunche Centre for Public Policy at Medgar Evers College has received funding from the US-based Ford Foundation to travel to Liberia to conduct a symposium on political and election reporting ahead of the country's 2011 elections.
- Mr. Jonathan Hicks is the host of Urban Focus, a weekly radio programme in conjunction with DBC on Medgar Evers College Radio and former political reporter for The New York Times.
- The journalism symposium, "Preparing for 2011," will take place between 22 November and 2 December of this year, and will be anchored at the University of Liberia in a partnership with the DuBois Bunche Centre (DBC) and the Press Union of Liberia.
- The forum is designed to bring together working journalists and mass communications students in Liberia to hear presentations from experts on election coverage and to interact with political leaders and elections officials within Liberia.

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

#### **President Sirleaf Threats to Dismiss Officials If...**

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has threatened to dismiss members of the Executive if they continue to publicly differ with government.
- The President said it was wrong for public officials to agree on issues in cabinet and subsequently differ in public.
- Deputy Information Minister Norris Tweah said the President has mandated those with descending views to avert their act.
- Minister Tweah said Madam Sirleaf wants those engaged in the act to express their dissatisfaction in-house rather than public.
- The President's latest comment comes after National Port Authority's managing director Matilda Parker disagreed on several components of the APM Terminals agreement with the Freeport of Monrovia.

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

#### **Legislature Ratifies Chevron Oil Exploration Deal**

*(Also reported Radio Veritas, Truth FM, Sky FM, and ELBC)*

#### **PUL Hails Senate on FOI Act, Holds Edward Wilmot Blyden Forum Today**

*(Also reported Radio Veritas, Truth FM, Sky FM, and ELBC)*

#### **LDI on Elections Commission's Timetable**

- The Liberia Democratic Institute (LDI) has released what it calls a "critical appraisal of the elections timetable" by the National Elections Commission (NEC).
- LDI's executive director Dan Saryee said NEC's electoral timetable lacks completeness and adequacy.
- He said the 10 days period provided for hearing or objection of appeals for voters is unrealistic, considering the bad road condition across the country.
- Mr. Saryee said hearing will be centralized meaning no matter where objections or appeals originate, Monrovia will determine the fate of voters.
- The LDI boss also commented on the six-day period allotted for exhibition of provisional registration describing it as inadequate.

*(Also reported Radio Veritas, Truth FM, Sky FM, and ELBC)*

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

#### **In Economic Sabotage Case, Court Disqualifies State Witness**

- The 11<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court in Bomi County has disqualified one of the state witnesses in the Albert Bropleh economic sabotage case.
- The witness, Rufus Browne, is the Liberia Telecommunications Authority's (LTA) comptroller who state prosecutors relied on to provide details of financial transaction under the administration of Mr. Bropleh.
- The court disqualified witness Browne after defense lawyer filed a motion for his disqualification on grounds that he Browne and another witness were seen interacting in and out of court against the law.
- Former LTA boss Albert Bropleh is on trial for allegedly stealing US\$70,000.

## **International Clips on Liberia**

**Chevron joins with Nigerian firm to explore Liberian offshore oil reserves**

## **The Associated Press**

The head of Liberia's state-owned oil company says it has signed an agreement with Chevron Corp. to begin explorations off the country's coast. Fodee Kromah, president of the National Oil Company of Liberia, said Thursday that Chevron has been brought on to carry out the offshore exploration. The U.S. oil giant has secured a 70 per cent stake in the project. Kromah says the deal will benefit Liberia. Chevron is required to pay the government a 5 per cent royalty fee and 30 per cent yearly income tax. In addition, they will give Liberia more than \$3 million per block as a signing bonus and another \$10 million for community work.

## **Golden Agri to Set up US\$2.2 Billion Liberian Palm Venture www.ictmag.info**

Singapore region lubricator shaper Golden Agri-Resources said on weekday its supplementary Golden VerOleum would modify a US\$1.6 1000000000 (\$2.2 billion) partnership with the polity of Liberia in a region lubricator project. "The Government of Liberia and Golden VerOleum today foretell a partnership for the cultivation of sustainable region lubricator by the consort and by African smallholders and farmers, works processing and value-added manufacturing," the consort said in a render statement.

## **International Clips on West Africa**

### **Guinea**

#### **Electoral campaign for Guinea's presidential runoff set for 5 September APA**

The electoral campaign for Guinea's presidential runoff is set for 5 September, a reliable source told APA on Thursday. The two frontrunners - Alpha Conde and Cellou Dalein Diallo – will have two weeks to canvass votes ahead of the 19 September runoff. Accordingly, Cellou Dalein Diallo's Democratic Forces Union of Guinea (UFDG) plans to deploy a campaign team which will travel to every region of Forestry Guinea as from Sunday. The team's mission is to canvass voters in this region who mainly voted in the first round for Alpha Conde and Papa Koly Kourouma, leader of the Republicans' Rally and close friend to former junta leader, Moussa Dadis Camara. Papa Koly Kourouma's support to Alpha Condé, leader of the Guinea People's Rally (RPG) could strengthen the latter's political base in the region. Meanwhile, a member of the UFDG party executive feels that the electorate in Forestry Guinea will not respect the voting instructions given by Papa Koly Kourouma. The two presidential frontrunners recently paid separate visits to Moussa Dadis Camara in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso to present him their condolences, and also to seek his support in the forestry region which is home to more than 15% of voters registered on the electoral roll.

#### **Guinea presidential candidates vow peaceful campaign AFP**

The rival candidates for the second round of Guinea's presidential election, due on September 19, committed themselves Friday to a "peaceful political campaign" in a signed accord. The vote in the West African nation, which has thus far known only military or despotic rule, will pit Cellou Dalein Diallo, who won 43.69 percent of the first round results, against veteran opposition figure Alpha Conde (18.25 percent). The two candidates on Friday signed a six-page "protocol of understanding for a peaceful election in Guinea" in the presence of Burkina Faso's President Blaise Compaore, mediator in the Guinean crisis which began with a military coup in 2008 on the death of hardline ruler Lansana Conte. Diallo and Conde "undertake to lead a peaceful political campaign, with mutual respect and in line with the code of good conduct to which they are parties, in order to preserve the cohesion and unity of the country." They also agreed scrupulously to respect the outcome of the vote.

#### **Burkinabe President Tries to Mediate Differences between Guinea's Presidential Candidates VOA**

The president of Guinea's Research Institute on Democracy and Rule of Law, a non-governmental organization, told VOA Burkinabe President Blaise Compaore is mediating talks between Guinea's two presidential candidates. Attorney Thierno Balde said the ongoing talks are aimed at preventing violence, as well as resolving all outstanding issues, ahead of the 19th September second round presidential vote. "When President Blaise Compaore came to visit General Sekouba Konate two weeks ago, they agreed that he will invite the two leading candidates to Ouagadougou to hold talks and to agree on the process which will lead to the elections on September 19th," he said. Backed by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), President Compaore is helping

Guinea's efforts to return to constitutional rule. There has been reported tension between the two presidential aspirants and their supporters during campaigns ahead of the vote.

## **Ivory Coast**

### **Ivory Coast commission produces final voter list Reuters**

Ivory Coast's electoral commission said on Thursday it had produced a final voter list for the first time, raising the chance that an election which has been delayed six times in five years might go ahead. The poll, now scheduled for October 31, is needed to end years of turmoil in the once economically successful West African country, following a failed 2002 rebellion against President Laurent Gbagbo that deterred investment and ravaged the economy. "The list is finalised. We are respecting the schedule," electoral commission spokesman Nicolas Coulibaly said. Voter register has been the main sticking point between Gbagbo and the opposition, and the battle over it in the courts has been long and tortuous. While Ivory Coast appears closer to the poll than ever, sceptics say there remains a chance Gbagbo's camp will reject the list and further delay the process. "For us, the list is final, but it's the politics which decides if this goes ahead. We're just technicians," said Coulibaly.

### **UNOCI calls for completion of definitive voters list African Press Organization**

The United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) on Thursday in Abidjan called for the definitive voters list to be completed, stating that the electoral process was entering a crucial week. Speaking at UNOCI's weekly press conference, the mission's spokesperson, Hamadoun Touré, said that the list was a key-phase for the holding of presidential election. According to the spokesperson, the mission will closely follow the fixing of polling stations and offices as well as the computerization of data validated or rejected during appeals process regarding the provisional voters' list. UNOCI, he added, will pay particular attention to the establishment of premises and polling offices for which it provided assistance through the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) by mapping their location.

## **Sierra Leone**

### **Government urged to repeal bad press laws <http://newafricaanalysis.co.uk>**

Journalists have urged the government to follow the example of the Ugandan Supreme Court and repeal laws that curtail freedom of speech. In August, the Ugandan government abolished sedition laws that had previously been used to prosecute and criminalise journalists and politicians. Campaigners described the win as a victory for those who felt that they could not previously freely express themselves. The country's association for journalists (SLAJ) have been campaigning for similar laws in the country to be overturned. 'Sierra Leone should conform to the norms of civilised standards and repeal the Criminal and Seditious Libel law', said Umaru Fofana, president of SLAJ. 'This is as bad a law today as it has always been, and it is bad for journalists and non-journalists alike' he continued. In '08, SLAJ sought a judicial review at the Supreme Court of the country's criminal and seditious libel law as contained in the 1965 Public Order Act. However the court ruled against the case claiming that the law does not put journalists in imminent danger.

### **Anvil Group receives contract to safeguard health care in Sierra Leone [www.news-medical.net](http://www.news-medical.net)**

UK based security company, The Anvil Group, has been awarded a contract by a long-standing client to safeguard the health and security of its international workforce during a construction project in Sierra Leone. "For this contract, we have utilised operatives with hostile environment experience, where it is essential for professionally trained medics to have specialist security training in addition." The medical and security professionals, known as MIRA (Medics in Remote Areas) will be on standby to administer healthcare to all employees located in the West African country, where medical facilities and quality of care falls seriously short of U.S. and European standards. The Anvil Group has been a regular supplier of security services to this particular client in a number of high risk locations, ranging from close protection to identifying secure long-term accommodation for key workers. However, the assignment in Sierra Leone is the first to call for individuals offering a combination of medical and security expertise.

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## Kenya Broadcasting service

Monday, 6 September 2010

### US calls on Kenya to cooperate with ICC



*Ranneberger pledged the continued U.S. support for the implementation process of the draft constitution.*

The United States has asked Kenya to cooperate with the International Criminal Court (ICC) in dealing with the perpetrators of 2007 post-election violence.

U. S. Ambassador to Kenya Michael Ranneberger on Sunday said there was need for the Kenyan government to collaborate with ICC on the technical issues so as to enable them to begin prosecution work.

At a press conference held in the coastal town of Malindi, the envoy commended the government for setting a good example in the implementation of the draft constitution, saying Kenyan officials should continue working together.

Ranneberger pledged the continued U.S. support for the implementation process of the draft constitution until everything is in place.

"The U.S. is happy about the decision made by Kenyans to promulgate the new constitution and will continue to support the implementation process ," he said

The ambassador spoke after the government signed 16 articles of understanding to allow ICC to set up local offices to ease the work of collecting and bringing together evidence, and tracking down post-election violence suspects.

On a separate occasion, the envoy met with Malindi District Commissioner Arthur Mugira on issues of security, drug abuse and sex tourism.

He asked the government to prosecute all child traffickers promoting sex tourism in order to protect the integrity of the country.

"The legislative should introduce tough laws that would protect children from trafficking or else some tourists will begin shunning away from visiting the country due to the bad image," he said.

Ranneberger noted the fight against sex tourism required joint efforts of all stakeholders in the hotels, NGOs, the government and the private sector.

He said there has been progress since the formation of the organizations to fight against child trafficking two years ago.

## Foreign Policy

Friday, 3 September 2010

### **What's a war crimes prosecutor doing at Kagame's presidential inauguration?**

By Colum Lynch

The International Criminal Court prosecutor, Luis Moreno-Ocampo, has sharply criticized nations, diplomats, and political leaders that have lent legitimacy to suspected war criminals like Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir. In March, he derided international monitors who participated in a U.N.-backed vote that led to Bashir's reelection. "It's like monitoring a Hitler election," he said at the time.

But the Argentine prosecutor will send his deputy, Fatou Bensouda of the Gambia, to Kigali to attend Monday's inauguration of Rwanda leader Paul Kagame, whose army has been accused in a recently leaked U.N. report of committing massive war crimes and possibly genocide in eastern Congo in the 1990s.

Moreno-Ocampo authorized the visit in the hopes of using it to press African leaders to support the court's efforts to hold Bashir and other alleged criminals accountable. "We will meet some African heads of state in Kigali and discuss how to stop the ongoing genocide in Darfur," Moreno-Ocampo said in a statement to *Turtle Bay*. "There is no solution in Darfur without the involvement of African leaders."

But the move has drawn criticism from some of the court's most passionate defenders, who say that Bensouda's appearance sends the wrong signal to Congolese victims of alleged Rwandan crimes and to Darfuri civilians who will face dire conditions if Rwanda carries through on its threat to withdraw 3,500 U.N. peacekeepers from Darfur to protest the U.N. report.

"It's a bad decision," Richard Dicker of Human Rights Watch, one of the court's leading defenders, told *Turtle Bay*. "This is not about guilt or innocence, which only a court could decide. It's about association and perception."

Bill Pace, a lawyer who oversees the Coalition for the International Criminal Court, an association of more than 2,500 pro-ICC NGOs, said "it's fine" for Fatou to attend the inauguration if she uses her visit to press Rwanda -- which is not a member of the court -- to support the ICC.

Pace said that while he hoped perpetrators of war crimes in Congo would be held accountable, the ICC has no jurisdiction over crimes, like the alleged ones in Congo and Rwanda, committed before the court was established.

The ICC has been facing intense opposition from African leaders, who have complained that the tribunal has focused primarily on African crimes, carrying out investigations in Congo, Sudan, Uganda, and Central African Republic and now preparing a new probe into Kenyan violations.

In July, an African Union summit in Kampala, Uganda, decided that "African Union member states shall not cooperate with the ICC in the arrest and surrender of the president of Sudan." It also rejected a request by Moreno-Ocampo to set up a liaison office with the African Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to help improve cooperation and understanding of the court's mandate.

Moreno-Ocampo maintains that the allegations that he is singling out Africa are unfair, noting that most of his African investigations have been launched at the request of the governments where the crimes occurred. The Sudan probe, however, was authorized by the U.N. Security Council. He had hoped to use the Kagame inauguration, which will draw heads of state from throughout Africa, to restate his case for supporting the court.

## Hirondelle News Agency

Thursday, 2 September 2010

### **Prosecution gives up in Dominique Ntawukulilyayo's case**

The prosecution will not appeal in the case of former Rwandan Deputy Governor, Dominique Ntawukulilyayo sentenced to serve 25 years imprisonment early August, after being found guilty of genocide by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR).

"We are not appealing in the case of Ntawukulilyayo," Chief of Prosecution Richard Karegyesa told Hirondelle News Agency Thursday. He declined to give details, including disclosing reasons behind the prosecution's move.

When contacted for comment on the matter, Officer in Charge of Appeals, Christin Graham said, "Those are internal issues of the prosecution. We cannot divulge to journalists."

Ntawukulilyayo had expressed his intention to appeal against both conviction and sentence passed against him. The Appeals Chamber had already directed him to file the notice of appeal by not later than September 6.

Furthermore, the Chamber has granted him extension of time of 45 days to file his appellate brief from the date of receiving French version of the judgment. The French translation of the judgment is expected by December 10, 2010. Trial Chamber III gave its judgment in English language on August 3.

Karegyesa said, however, that the prosecution would appeal in the case of former Rwandan businessman, Yusuf Munyakazi, who was sentenced to 25 years in jail after being found guilty of genocide and crimes against humanity (extermination) on June 30. According to him, they have already lodged a notice of appeal against the sentence.

In his part, Munyakazi has also expressed his intention to appeal against conviction and sentence imposed on him. His move was, however, frustrated after his lead counsel Prof. Jwani Mwaikusa, was shot dead by unknown assailants in Dar es Salaam mid July 2010.

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