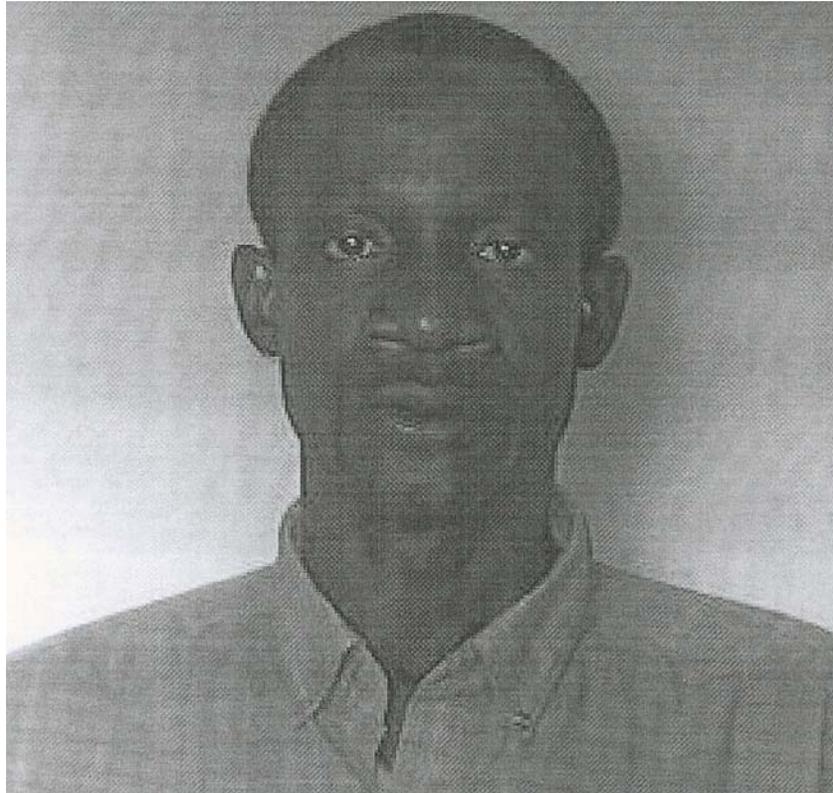


**SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE  
OUTREACH AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE**



The late Issa Mansaray, horticulturist of Facilities and Maintenance Unit, died and buried on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> September.

**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, 7 September 2010

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

### Local News

Radio Operator Could be Taylor's Final witness / *Concord Times* Pages 3-4

### International News

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UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary / *UNMIL* Pages 7-13

Liberia's Sirleaf to Seek Segal Advice on War Sanctions / *Agence France Presse* Page 14

Dirty Looking Stones / *Hard News* Pages 15-17

International Criminal Court Distributes 200,000 Booklets in Kenya / *Afrique en ligne* Page 18

Ndahimana Trial Begins at ICTR / *The Hague Justice Portal* Page 19

Bemba Lacks Fund for Fair Trial / *News24* Page 20

# Concord Times

Tuesday, 7 September 2010

## Radio Operator Could be Taylor's Final witness

*By Alpha Sesay*

A former radio operator in the Special Security Services (SSS) unit in Liberia, who has refuted the evidence of prosecution witnesses and Revolutionary United Front (RUF) radio operators, could be the final witness to testify as a defense witness for Charles Taylor, defense lawyers for the former Liberian president have informed the Special Court for Sierra Leone judges in The Hague.

When court resumed on Friday morning for the commencement of the cross-examination of Taylor's 20th witness, DCT-008, the presiding judge of the Trial Chamber Justice Julia Sebutinde informed the court of an email that the judges had received from lead counsel for Taylor, Courtenay Griffiths. The email stated that the present witness, DCT-008, could be the final witness that would testify for the defense. Justice Sebutinde further asked the defense to indicate whether this email also meant that the defense was disposing of a pending motion that is before the judges relating to allegations of payments made by prosecutors in an amount of over 30,000 USD to a potential defense witness, DCT-097.

In the motion, defense lawyers allege, with documentary evidence, that prosecutors had paid huge sums of money to DCT-097, a former member of the RUF, who according to many witnesses was the main person who transported blood diamonds from Sierra Leone to Taylor in Liberia. Prosecutors had contacted the former RUF fighter to testify against Taylor and, in the process, had allegedly sent him huge sums of money for his cooperation, defense lawyers say. The motion alleges prosecutors only stopped the payments to the RUF fighter when he could not tell them what they wanted to hear. Now a potential defense witness who was scheduled to testify for Taylor, the RUF fighter identified by Pseudonym DCT-097, has given defense lawyers money gram receipts of payments he received from prosecutors. Defense lawyers have, through the motion, asked the judges to order prosecutors to make a full disclosure of all payments to the witness, as well as disclosure of all exculpatory evidence that would point at Taylor's innocence based on

statements that were made by the witness.

After conferring with other members of the defense team, defense counsel Morris Anyah told the judges that the defense still want a decision on the motion because defense lawyers intend to establish that prosecutors have been paying witnesses to testify against Taylor.

Anyah informed the court that at the end of DCT-008's evidence, Mr. Griffiths would address the court on the next steps of the defense case, adding, "Except as otherwise instructed, this will be the last live witness for the defense."

Defense lawyers did not say why they have decided against having DCT-097 to testify as a defense witness.

As the cross-examination of DCT-008 commenced on Friday morning, Chief Prosecutor Brenda Hollis raised several questions relating to the role of the SSS in Liberia, the various places where communication radio sets were installed in the country, and communications that took place between the witness and RUF rebels in Sierra Leone. Ms. Hollis also questioned the witness about the personal relationship he had with Taylor.

The Chief Prosecutor noted that he had a close relationship with Taylor and that, on occasions, they both discussed security issues. The witness said that was never the case.

"I was never close to Charles Taylor...I never sat with Taylor for any discussions on security matters...I told you...that the only time I spoke with him was in 2003 when some of our men went missing in the Lofa forest," the witness said.

An area of disagreement during the cross-examination on Friday was the location of radio communication sets inside the Executive Mansion of Liberia when Taylor was the president of the country. In the witness's testimony, he has stated that the SSS radio communications department was based on the 4th floor of the Executive Mansion from where SSS radio operator Sun Light worked. This account, prosecutors say, goes contrary to what Taylor and Yanks Smythe, another defense witness who also worked as radio operator, told the court in their testimonies. These two men stated that the radio communication sets were installed on the 5th

floor of the Executive Mansion. As Ms. Hollis suggested that Sun Light used communication equipment on the 5th floor of the Executive Mansion to communicate with the RUF in Sierra Leone, DCT-008 insisted that Sun Light did not work on the 5th floor but on the 4th floor of the Executive Mansion.

"It is also correct that in 1997, Sun Light worked on the 5th floor and communicated with the RUF component of the junta in Sierra Leone, is that not correct?" Ms. Hollis asked the witness. "It is not true that Sun Light worked on the 5th floor of the Executive Mansion," the witness responded.

On Monday, the witness testified in direct-examination that Taylor's former Vice President Moses Blah ordered the execution of a Sierra Leonean rebel commander in Liberia who was already a subject of an indictment issued by the Special Court for Sierra Leone in 2003.

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

Giving his account of the circumstances surrounding Bockarie's death, defense witness DCT-008 told the court that in 2003, a radio operator 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 earlier that the order to execute Mr. Bockarie was handed down from Taylor to his SSS Director Benjamin Yeaten, who took men to the Liberia-Ivory Coast border and executed Bockarie along with his bodyguards and family members. When 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 Taylor about it, the former Liberian president told him that it was a military operation and there was no need for Mr. Blah to get involved.

Taylor, during his testimony, denied these claims and told the

court that he had only sent Blah to stop Mr. Bockarie from entering into Liberia with armed men and to have him arrested. It was Blah's handling of the situation that had led to the death of the RUF commander. DCT-008 corroborated Taylor's account in his testimony on Monday.

"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. Taylor has dismissed these allegations as lies.

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 Yeaten. Defense witnesses have said that Jungle was a member of the RUF who had a close relationship with Yeaten without Taylor's knowledge. DCT-008 on Monday 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.

## Charlestaylortrial.org (The Hague)

Monday, 6 September 2010

### **Liberia: Witness Disagrees That Charles Taylor's NPFL Had a Small Boys Unit**

Alpha Sesay

As his cross-examination moved into a second week, Charles Taylor's 20th defense witness today disagreed with prosecutors that Mr. Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) rebel group had a Small Boys Unit (SBU) during Liberia's civil conflict.

Prosecutors allege that the SBU comprised of children, who were forcefully conscripted and used for combat purposes by Mr. Taylor's rebel forces in Liberia. These children did not only fight in frontlines, but were also used to man NPFL checkpoints and served as bodyguards to NPFL rebel commanders, prosecutors say.

It is also alleged that this practice was replicated by Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels in Sierra Leone, who Mr. Taylor is alleged to have controlled and supported during the 11 year conflict in Sierra Leone. Mr. Taylor has denied these allegations.

In his testimony as a defense witness for Mr. Taylor, DCT-008 has told the court that the NPFL did not use children in combat or to man checkpoints. According to the witness, commanders only lived with their younger brothers, who helped them perform domestic chores, and these were the ones called SBUs. They neither took part in combat, nor were they made to man checkpoints or to serve as bodyguards to rebel commanders, the witness said.

Today, Chief Prosecutor Brenda Hollis challenged the witness on the NPFL's use of SBUs.

When asked whether "it is true that the NPFL did indeed have a unit called SBU," DCT-008 said, "No."

When the prosecutor stated that "these SBUs were used at checkpoints," the witness said, "No."

"My testimony is that the NPFL did not have any unit called the SBU. The SBU was the name given to those young boys who were with their big brothers and sisters, but they were not part of the NPFL," DCT-008 said.

"They were not soldiers, they were not gun carriers," he added.

Ms. Hollis read a portion of the statement made to defense lawyers by Mr. Taylor's first witness, Yanks Smythe, a Gambian member of the NPFL who later attained Liberian citizenship and was appointed Liberian ambassador to Libya and Tunisia. In the statement, Mr. Smythe was quoted as saying to defense lawyers that the "SBUs were underaged but part of the NPFL rank."

When this was presented to the witness with a suggestion that he also knew of the SBUs being part of the NPFL, DCT-008 said, "I don't know that, I don't know of a unit called SBU and there was no unit in the NPFL called SBU."

Put to him again that Mr. Smythe said in his statement that "SBUs will bear arms to protect gates or checkpoints but not to go to the frontlines," the witness said, "I don't know that."

The witness also refuted allegations that Mr. Taylor personally had SBU's assigned to him, telling the court, "Mr. Taylor to my knowledge never had SBU's around him."

Ms. Hollis also quoted John T. Richardson, a former member of the NPFL and National Security Adviser to Mr. Taylor who in a 1994 news interview said, "The NPFL used children to fight for their own protection."

The witness still insisted, "I am not aware of that."

Earlier in the morning, the witness attempted to make corrections to certain aspects of his testimony given to the court last week about being present when RUF commander Sam Bockarie said that Vamunya Sherif, a previous prosecution witness and a member of Mr. Taylor's security apparatus, had sold arms and ammunition to the RUF. The witness also told the court last week that the Special Security Services (SSS) communications office was located on the 4th floor of the Executive Mansion, an account that is contrary to that given by Mr. Taylor himself that the communications office was located on the 5th floor of the mansion.

Today, as his cross-examination was about to recommence, the witness told the court, "I want to make a correction on my testimony regarding Vamunya Sherif and also some clarification concerning the 5th floor."

Both Ms. Hollis and the presiding judge of the Trial Chamber, Justice Julia Sebutinde, told the witness that any clarifications to his earlier testimony will be made during re-examination by defense lawyers. Evidence Over the Course of Charles Taylor's Trial

Ms. Hollis took further steps to suggest that the witness had notes in his room which he uses to cross-check his daily testimony, a suggestion which the witness denied and to which defense lawyers objected.

"Do you have notes in your room? Because this is the second time you have said you want to clarify something...because when you go back and study your notes, you realize you have deviated from your notes and you come back and try to rescript your evidence," Ms. Hollis questioned the witness.

"I do not have any notes in my room," the witness responded.

When defense lawyers objected to this line of questioning, the presiding judge upheld the defense objection and cautioned Ms. Hollis not to put such questions to the witness when there was no evidence to support suggestions that the witness did indeed have notes in his room.

DCT-008's cross-examination continues on Tuesday.

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

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

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

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

**UN News in Liberia**

**UNMIL News**

**UN Envoy on UNMIL's Drawdown**

[The Informer]

- UN Envoy to Liberia, Ms. Ellen Margrethe Løj says UNMIL's drawdown is associated with operational cost, saying the mission spends around US\$500 million a year.
- She said limitations of local and institutional funding are also taken into account and that ethnic clashes were a threat to peace with potential consequences for West Africa.
- Ms. Løj noted that the Security Council will vote to keep a proposal of the 9,400 soldiers and police officers currently in Liberia until after the 2011 elections.
- According to her, UNMIL is building the capacity of the Liberia National Police (LNP) and the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) which according to her bear greater responsibility of maintaining security in Liberia when the mission is closed.
- She praised the support of other partners who have greatly worked in restoring peace to Liberia and intoned that instability to one Africa nation means a setback to the others.
- Madam Løj said although progress has been made to increase the security sector of the country, it was still fragile.

**UNMIL Pakistani Contingent Provides Skill Training for 15 in Tubmanburg**

[The Informer]

- Fifteen persons in Tubmanburg, Bomi County have received basic skills training in Driving and Auto Mechanics.
- The training was carried out by the 13<sup>th</sup> Pakistani Engineering Battalion of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), based in Tubmanburg.
- The Pakistanis said the training was part of their social and corporate responsibilities to the people.
- Commander Lt. Col. Ejaz Hussain encouraged the beneficiaries to see the training as a lift serving opportunity.
- He called on them to build on the skills and use them to support the development drive of their country.
- Col. Hussain noted that intense scrutiny was made out of a number of applications before coming up with the 15 finalists.
- The participants expressed thanks and appreciations to the Pakistanis for the training and described it as one that was done in time, giving the level of development Liberia is experiencing.

**UN Boss on Liberia's Corruption Fight**

[Heritage]

- UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has asserted that there is an increased perception of impunity in Liberia as a result of limited adherence to the over 500 recommendations captured in the 33 audit reports conducted and published by the General Auditing Commission (GAC).
- He said "While the lack of basic internal controls was a common audit finding, the substance of the audits was overshadowed by the political and acrimonious public debate about the Commission's credibility,

resulting in limited implementation of the recommendations in the audits and increased perceptions of impunity.”

- Mr. Ban’s statement was contained in his recent 21<sup>st</sup> Progress Report on the United Nations Mission in Liberia to the Security Council.
- He further stressed that attacks against the GAC could undermine the fight against corruption in the country: “sharp public disputes between the Commission and audited entities could undermine the Government’s anti-corruption drive.”

## Other UN News

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

#### **UNDP-sponsored Environmental Session Ends**

- A one-day working session to review and mainstream energy and environmental issues into developmental policies in Liberia has ended in Monrovia.
- The event was organized by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in collaboration with government.
- UNDP Technical Advisor on Energy and Environment said the working session was intended to allow stakeholders develop a workable strategy for Liberia.
- According to Mr. James Murombedzi, the strategy when developed will help address some of the environmental challenges facing post-conflict Liberia.
- Mr. Murombedzi believes there’s a need for stakeholders to understand the country’s environment in order to formulate appropriate economic policies.
- The one-day event was attended by representatives from the Ministries of Planning, and Internal Affairs as well as the Environmental Protection Agency.

#### **IOM, Partners Develop Operating Procedures**

- The International Organization for Migration (IOM) and its partners Friday developed a standard operating procedure and referral system for trafficking cases.
- IOM counter-trafficking expert Freddie Goe said the document clearly defines procedures in the handling of cases involving trafficking.
- According to Mr. Goe, once a case of trafficking is identified by members of a community, the first point of contact is the police.
- Mr. Goe said the police would then investigate the case, charge the alleged perpetrator if necessary and forward the case to court for prosecution.
- He said once the case gets to court, it would be the obligation of stakeholders to ensure the perpetrator faces the law and the victim accorded proper care.
- Mr. Goe said the document carved by the stakeholders at the just-ended three-day session would be forwarded to the Labor Ministry for validation and subsequent implementation.

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

#### **UNDP Renews Support for Liberia’s Development Programme**

- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) said it is in full support of Liberia’s development programme.
- UNDP county director Dominic Sam said UNDP is partnering with the Food and Agriculture Organization and others to improve the agricultural sector of Liberia.
- He expressed satisfaction for the level of commitment shown by Liberian farmers toward the advancement of capacity and productivity.
- Mr. Sam spoke in Barnesville when the UNDP certificated at least 40 Liberians for successfully completing two weeks entrepreneurship management training which was also supported by the UN development agency.

## **Local News on Liberian issues**

### **Delta Air Breaks 20-year Record, President Sirleaf Says It Is an Opportunity for Commerce**

[Daily Observer, Front Page Africa, Liberia Journal, New Democrat, The Analyst, The Inquirer]

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has described the decision of the US air carrier, Delta Airlines to begin direct flight from Liberia to the US as an opportunity that will open the skies over Liberia for advancement in a number of areas.

- President Sirleaf said the decision of the airline will open opportunities in the areas of commerce, business, tourism and travel, stressing that the beginning of the flight to the country after 20 years is a significant milestone for the nation.
- The President spoke Sunday at the Roberts International Airport when Delta Airlines launched its inaugural flight to the country after the aircraft touched down in the country from Ghana.
- Earlier, Delta's senior vice president Perry Cantarutti said the airline is the only international airline to begin the operation of flight between the US and Liberia.
- For his part, the Charge d'Affaires of the US Embassy near Monrovia, Mr. Karl Albrecht congratulated the Liberian Government for attracting the operation of the airline to Liberia.

### **New Dutch Company Visits Freeport**

[Daily Observer, Front Page Africa, Heritage, In Profile Daily, National Chronicle, The Analyst, The Independent, The Informer, The Inquirer]

- A high power delegation of the Dutch Company, APM Terminals Friday paid a courtesy call on the management of the National Port Authority (NPA).
- NPA managing director Matilda Parker informed the delegation that employees' welfare remains basic among her administration's priorities.
- In response, the head of the Dutch delegation, A. P. Moller-Maersk said his organization was committed to rehabilitating the Freeport of Monrovia.
- Mr. Nils Anderson highlighted the significance of cooperation and cordiality as important factors in driving home the partnership.
- He assured the NPA Management of his institution's preparedness to live up to expectation.
- The visit came days after Ms. Parker expressed concerns over the agreement between Liberia and APM Terminals.

### **Gbarpolu Superintendent, Deputy 'Chopped' Over US\$52,000**

[Heritage]

- Gbarpolu County Legislative Caucus has linked Superintendent Gertrude Lamin and her deputy for Development, Moses Monlonpolor to 'financial scandal'.
- According to the Caucus, chaired by Senator Daniel Naathen, Superintendent Lamin and her deputy Monlonpolor allegedly siphoned over US\$52,000 meant for development projects in the county.
- Senator Naathen averred that several development projects have been left abandoned by authorities in the county at the detriment of the Liberian Government and the people of Gbarpolu.
- The Gbarpolu Legislative Caucus chair claimed the superintendent and her deputy placed on the Internal Affairs Ministry Payroll, which is being managed by them, several ghost names.
- As a result, he further claimed, the superintendent and her deputy allegedly pocket over L\$100,000 monthly in bogus payment.

### **Bomi, Gbarpolu in Dispute over Diamond-Rich Areas**

[Heritage]

- The Inter-Ministerial Committee set up to probe claims over two disputed diamond-rich areas between Gbarpolu and Bomi counties have reserved ruling into the matter to allow for further consultations with stakeholders.
- The two disputed diamond-rich areas, Yomo Town and Sawmill have been in contention for over 10 years.
- The decision follows a fact-finding mission recently dispatched to the areas to hold talks with leaders and residents of the two counties.
- Citizens of Gbarpolu County told the fact-finding mission that the disputed areas belong to them.
- According to prominent traditional leader, Chief Jallah Lone, 108, the disputed areas became a part of Gbarpolu County as far back as the administration of former President William V. S. Tubman.

### **To Address Job Creation, Others, Major Business Forum Kicks off Tomorrow**

[Heritage, Liberia Journal, the Monitor, The Informer, The Inquirer, The New Republic]

- A two-day Monrovia Business Forum under the theme: "Investment Attraction and Job creation for Economic Empowerment in Liberia" for both Ghanaian and Liberia entrepreneurs, starts tomorrow Tuesday and ends on 8 September 2010.
- The Liberian Embassy in Accra and Liberia's National Investment Commission in collaboration with two Ghanaian companies, Sharp Eye Media Limited and EMPRETEC are organizing the two-day Business Forum, under the auspices of Liberia's Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Commerce and Industry.

- According to a Foreign Ministry release, the Monrovia Forum will address the issue of job creation in Liberia through the collaborative effort of Ghanaian and Liberia entrepreneurs.
- It will further help in the creation of employment opportunities for Liberians and also look at capacity building in their various endeavors in Liberia.
- Over 50 Ghanaian entrepreneurs from Manufacturing Mining, ICT, Road Construction, Real Estate, Health, Education, Waste Management, Fishing Industry, Agriculture, etc, have expressed interest to be part of the Monrovia Forum.

### **LCC Wants Dual Citizenship Bill Pass**

[The Independent, The Inquirer, The Punch]

- The Liberia Council of Churches (LCC) has endorsed the passage of the dual citizenship bill.
- The LCC said it took the decision after series of consultations and collaboration with other denominations.
- In the position statement read by its president, Bishop David Daniels, the LCC called on the Liberian Government to recognize dual citizenship saying that Liberians who have become citizens of another country should not lose their citizenship back home.
- The LCC wants the law to be applied to people who are citizens of Liberia by birth.

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

#### **President Sirleaf off to Rwanda for Kagame's Inauguration**

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has left the country for Rwanda to participate in the inauguration of President Paul Kagame.
- The President left the country Sunday to participate in the ceremony which takes place today.
- President Kagame was re-elected following presidential elections in August this year.
- While President Sirleaf is away, Public Works Minister Samuel Kofi Wood will coordinate the affairs of government in collaboration with Vice President Joseph Boakai.
- The President returns Tuesday September 7.

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

#### **President Sirleaf Announces Plans to Refurbish RIA**

- President Ellen Johnson has announced plans for the refurbishing of the Roberts International Airport (RIA) in the coming months.
- The President said the refurbishing of the airport will focus on its storage facilities.
- Madam Sirleaf said upon completion the airport will have what she called "cooled change management reserved temperature sensitive products".
- The Liberian leader also noticed discrepancies between import and export transactions at the RIA which she said was unacceptable.
- She spoke at RIA during the launch of Delta Airlines direct flight to Liberia.
- President Sirleaf said getting the airlines to Liberia was not an easy task and called on every Liberian to give the airline the needed support it needs.

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

#### **Anti-Corruption Czar Disagrees With 30% Gender Equity**

- The chairperson of the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) has differed with the minimum 30 percent gender equity bill presented to the Legislature for enactment.
- Cllr. Frances Johnson Morris said the minimum 30 percent representation of women in politics and decision making is not enough.
- According to her, the move by the sponsors of the bill to ask for 30 percent representation signals that women are behaving inferior to their male counterparts.
- Cllr. Morris said it was now important for women to compete with men and seek fifty-fifty percent of elected positions and representation in politics.
- She made the statement Friday at the launch of the Liberian Women's Manifesto at the close of a two-day national political forum for women.
- The LACC boss said women are capable of making a lot of difference in the governance process, citing President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.
- The chairperson of the Women Legislative Caucus, Margibi Senator Clarice Jah said the Women Manifesto is a strategic plan that will guide women in the 2011 elections.

#### **New INHRC Nominees Tremble before Senate**

- Two new nominees of the Independent National Human Rights Commission (INHRC) say reconciliation will be paramount to the implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) report.

- INHRC chairman-designate LeRoy Urey and nominee Sundaiway Amegashi said the TRC report mainly called for reconciliation, unity and security of the state.
- They spoke Friday at a confirmation hearing before the Senate's Committee on Judiciary, Claims, Petition and Human Rights.
- Cllr. Urey told the Senate's panel if confirmed he will uphold the position with trust, credibility and fear for God.
- The other nominee, Sundaiway Amegashi said the prosecution of human rights violators of the Liberian civil war will lead to chaos and disunity.
- The appearance of the two INHRC nominees comes days after President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf withdrew the nominations of Cllrs. Punchu Bernard and Dempster Brown.
- Under the TRC Act, the INHRC is to ensure the full implementation of its recommendations.

### **New Dutch Company Visits Freeport**

### **Delta Air Breaks 20-year Record, President Sirleaf Says It Is an Opportunity for Commerce**

### **Education Ministry Announces Administrative Measures**

- The Education Ministry has announced series of administrative measures that will affect both private and public institutions in the country.
- The Ministry said as of now the Liberian flag and the flag of the county in which a school operates will be posted on both sides of the blackboard in all classrooms.
- The Ministry also wants faith-based institutions to abide by the mandate.
- The Ministry wants all school administrations to note that all first periods will be preceded by the recitation of the pledge to the flag of Liberia.
- The Ministry said it regrets any convenience the new measures may cause.

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

### **Sacked Finance Ministry Official Breaks Silence**

- The former comptroller general at the Finance Ministry who was recently at the centre of a check scandal has finally broken silence.
- Mr. James Boker said he is troubled that his reputation is ruined as a result of the allegation.
- He is requesting an indictment against him so that he can quickly face court trail.
- He spoke of his innocence and said he will pursue legal redress to clear his reputation.
- Mr. Boker also denied reports that he fled the country after the theft charges were brought against him.
- About two years ago government sacked Mr. Boker after a check scandal emerged at the Finance Ministry and was forwarded to the Justice Ministry for prosecution.

### **"Fight Against Corruption Undermined" Says CENTAL**

- The Advocacy and Legal Advice Centre (ALAC) of the Transparency group CENTAL says public reluctance to report corruption is undermining the fight against the vice.
- The coordinator of ALAC, Mrs. Onike Freeman noticed the public is yet to understand that it has an obligation to report and attest to cases of corruption no matter where they occur.
- Mrs. Freeman said though the President has issued Executive Order Number 22 in support of the whistleblowers statue, people are still afraid to come out.
- She said without the cooperation of the public to report, it would be difficult for advocacy groups to help in the fight against corruption.
- The ALAC boss encouraged people to take advantage of the group's hotline service on which people can call and report corruption from their places of work.
- Mrs. Freeman called on the Legislature to speedily pass the whistleblowers protection bill so that people can feel protected in their endeavour to expose corruption.

### **More Single Barrel Guns in Gbarpolu Forest**

- A prominent son of Gbarpolu County has spoken about the proliferation of single barrel guns in the county.
- Mr. Boston Cooper said the guns are mainly found in the hands of hunters roaming the Gbarpolu forest.
- He called on government to investigate how these guns infiltrated the county.
- Mr. Cooper said the exodus of hunters in the Gbarpolu forest was fast contributing to the destruction of the county's wildlife reserve.

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

**LCC Wants Dual Citizenship Bill Pass**

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

**Bob Johnson Says Delta's Flight to Liberia another Milestone**

- The founder and chairman of the RJL Group of Companies has described the arrival of Delta Airlines to Liberia as another milestone to the economic development of Liberia.
- Mr. Robert Johnson said the airline will attract more investors to the Liberian economy.
- He said Delta's contribution to the social economic development of the country will soon be appreciated by ordinary Liberians.

**International Clips on Liberia**

**Liberia Sets Voter Registration for 2011 Presidential Election**

[www.voanews.com](http://www.voanews.com)

Liberia is scheduling voter registration ahead of next year's presidential election. President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf is running for re-election and is expected to face a repeat of her 2005 challenge from former FIFA World Footballer of the Year George Weah. Liberian Electoral Commission Chairman James Fromoyan says voter registration, or V.R., is the first indicator of how prepared Liberians are for next year's election. "A successful V.R. is crucial because it will be a mirror through which the rest of the electoral process will be gauged. It will be transparent, simple, easily-accessible, and scrupulously carried out so as to avoid the inclusion of foreigners and minors," he said. Fromoyan says it is up to Liberians to actively take part in this registration so the resulting voter rolls will be accepted by everyone. "The only way this can be achieved is for all Liberians at 18 years or above to participate from January 10 to February 6, 2011 to claim a collective ownership," he said. "When this is done, we all will be proud of the final registration roll that represents the wishes of eligible voters."

**Liberia stability fragile, needs world help: UN Reuters**

The United Nations must resist pressure to cut back its mission in Liberia too soon, or risk instability before elections next year, its top official in the country told Reuters. A big U.N. force has overseen the nation since the end of fighting in 2003 and cuts are being sought because of the operation's cost, U.N. Liberia mission chief Ellen Margrethe Løj said at the weekend. But limitations of local funding and institutions must be taken into account and ethnic clashes were a threat to stability with potential consequences for all of West Africa, Løj said. The U.N. Security Council will vote this week on a proposal to keep the 9,400 soldiers and policemen now in the country until elections are held at the end of next year, before re-assessing cuts to the mission. "The Security Council is definitely looking to the possibility of (the mission) being further reduced as soon as possible because it is a very costly operation and we have now been here for seven years," Løj said. "But we have to look at that in relation to the capability of the Liberian institutions to operate independently on their own. It is relatively a very big mission but it is also a country where the national capacity is extremely limited," she said.

**Carter Centre Congratulates Liberia on Passage of Freedom of Information Bill**

[www.cartercenter.org](http://www.cartercenter.org)

The Carter Centre congratulates the Liberian National Legislature for its unanimous passage of the Freedom of Information (FOI) bill. The Carter Centre also commends the FOI Consortium, comprised of representatives of more than 10 civil society organizations and government agencies including the Ministry of Information, Culture, and Tourism, for its commitment to advancing the right of access to information in Liberia. Access to information is a fundamental human right and critical for development, good governance, and for holding government accountable. Liberia's House of Representatives passed the FOI bill on July 22, 2010, two years after the bill was submitted, and the Senate concurred on Sept. 2. The bill now moves to President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf for her signature. With the passage of the FOI bill, Liberia will join the international community of more than 90 countries around the world with statutory rights of access to information and is poised to become a leader in Africa. The Carter Centre urges all Liberians to exercise their new right to public information when the law goes into effect.

**Facing moratorium and criticism in Indonesia, Sinar Mas looks to Liberia for new palm oil opportunities**

[www.climateark.org](http://www.climateark.org)

Singapore's Golden Agri-Resources, a holding of the embattled Sinar Mas Group, said it will form a partnership with the government of Liberia to establish a 220,000-hectare plantation in the West African nation, reports the Jakarta Globe. The 25-year \$1.6 billion joint venture will establish oil palm estates in south eastern Liberia. Golden VerOleum, a subsidiary of Golden Agri-Resources, is leading the project, which is seeking additional outside

investors. The announcement comes as Golden Agri-Resources faces mounting criticism from green groups over its environmental performance in Indonesia. Last week Burger King announced it would sever ties with PT Smart, a subsidiary of Golden Agri-Resources, after an audit showed the firm had cleared tropical rainforest and peatlands in Borneo and Sumatra in violation of Indonesian law and the company's own standards. PT Smart has already lost General Mills, Unilever, Kraft and Nestle as customers and is under pressure from other major buyers, including Cargill, to improve its operations.

## International Clips on West Africa

### Guinea

#### **Guinean leaders in plane fuel loss scare AFP**

Guinean leader Sekouba Konate and other officials had "a big scare" when their plane began losing fuel in mid-air, forcing it to make an emergency landing, one of those aboard said on Saturday. The incident happened Friday shortly after the plane provided by the Libyan government to take the Guineans from Tripoli to Casablanca in Morocco took off, Konate's top aide Tibou Kamara told AFP. "At least 20 minutes after take-off it began losing fuel," he said. "It staggered in the air, causing a big-scare among the Guinean delegation aboard," Kamara said. "The pilot, with great courage and a lot of luck turned round and made an emergency landing in Tripoli." The Guineans on the plane included Kamara, who is secretary general to the presidency with the rank of minister, and Foreign Minister Bakary Fofana, as well as Konate, the head of the ruling junta.

### Sierra Leone

#### **Philadelphia man charged with seeking death of rape victim AP**

A man convicted of raping a fellow immigrant from Sierra Leone in suburban Philadelphia has now been charged with trying to hire another prison inmate to kill her. Thirty-seven-year-old Foday Kanu is scheduled to have a preliminary hearing Tuesday in Montgomery County. The former Broomall resident is serving a 16- to 32-year sentence on convictions of rape and sexual assault. Prosecutors allege that Kanu approached another Graterford Prison inmate in April and offered \$5,000 to kill the victim before his next court appearance, at which he planned to seek a new trial. Prison authorities allege that they intercepted two letters from Kanu to a relative also seeking the death of the woman. Defense attorney Jack McMahon said at a hearing last week that he knew nothing about the pending charges.

#### **30 Sierra Leone, 9 Liberian Army Cadet Recruits Commissioned. <http://news.sl>**

In keeping with the Strengthening of diplomatic ties and sustaining bi-lateral relationships, His Excellency the President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma on Friday 3rd September 2010 commissioned 39 combined recruits of Sierra Leonean and Liberian army cadet officers at the Armed Forces Training Centre, Benguema outside Freetown. The officers comprising of 8 men and 1 female from Liberia joined 28 Men and 2 females of the RSLAF entered for a one-year cadet training at Benguema on the 9th July, 2009. In his State Address at the colorful ceremony, President Koroma expressed delight to officiate another passing out parade since he resumed office in 2007. He described the event as remarkable considering the historical and cultural aspects which bind the two countries together. He said the RSLAF has proved to be a cornerstone not only to Sierra Leone but the Africa Continent at large, citing instance of our army personnel taking part in the African Contingent Assisting the drive to ensure stability within the region.

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## Agence France Presse

Friday, 3 September 2010

### **Liberia's Sirleaf to seek legal advice on war sanctions**

MONROVIA — Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf is seeking legal advice on a truth and reconciliation commission report which recommends she be banned from occupying public office for 30 years.

In a report to parliament released Thursday, Sirleaf said that implementing recommendations on prosecutions and public sanctioning should not be the "sole responsibility of the presidency".

A part of the TRC report which also suggests six former warlords including ex-president Charles Taylor be prosecuted for gross violation of human rights has been "referred to the National Bar Association to study it and advise on the way forward."

This was Sirleaf's first report to parliament on the TRC process, a year after the commission's controversial findings were released, despite an act creating the commission requiring this be done quarterly.

Sirleaf's name was among those on a list of people the TRC accused of having been the financiers and supporters of the different warring factions in Liberia between 1989 and 2003.

Up until now she has not discussed the recommendation concerning herself, and she has announced she will seek a second term in power in 2011 elections, despite initially vowing to step down after only one.

The commission was set up after a succession of bloody civil conflicts that ended in 2003, in which over 200,000 people were killed. Sirleaf was elected in the first post-war poll in 2005.

Regarding a TRC recommendation that all those who suffered war atrocities be compensated with money, Sirleaf said the cost of this would make it impossible.

She proposed that consideration be given to community type reparation within institutions and public facilities -- such as hospitals, schools, churches, mosques -- that were destroyed during the years of conflict.

## Hard News

Tuesday, 7 September 2010

<http://www.hardnewsmedia.com/2010/09/3672>

### Dirty looking stones



Despite solemn rhetoric, blood diamonds and child soldiers continue to enact a sub-human trail of tragedy and savagery in the dirty wars of Africa

Meha Dixit Delhi

The Hague is currently the centre of all the drama where the former Liberian President, Charles Taylor, infamous for his association with the

notorious Sierra Leone's Revolutionary United Front (RUF), is on trial. He is accused of selling 'blood diamonds' and purchasing weapons for the RUF during the civil war in Sierra Leone (1991-2002). Taylor has pleaded not guilty to 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity - murder, sexual slavery, rape, torture, and using child soldiers. In 2007, Taylor became the first head of state in Africa to face an international court on the allegations of war crimes when his trial began in the Hague before the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL).

In July 2009, Taylor decided to defend himself. Denying all charges, Taylor audaciously portrayed himself as a peacemaker. If this was not enough, the Hague became the stage for added melodrama. Enter Naomi Campbell.

Campbell, a British supermodel, is alleged to have received a diamond from Taylor in 1997. For sometime the supermodel evaded the issue. In a recent interview she declared, "I don't want to be involved in this man's case." Prosecutors say Campbell's testimony is important since it would prove that Charles Taylor "used rough diamonds for personal enrichment and arms purchases".

Since the commencement of the trial, Taylor has persistently denied that "he ever owned or traded in diamonds". Recently, Campbell was ordered by the court to give evidence on July 29, in the Charles Taylor war crimes trial. In her evidence to the SCSL, the model admitted receiving "dirty-looking stones" after a dinner at Nelson Mandela's residence in Pretoria in 1997 where Taylor was also present. The model claimed she did not know who sent her the diamonds. However, actor Mia Farrow and Campbell's former agent Carole White - both of whom were present at the dinner - contradicted Campbell's version that she did not know who gave her the diamonds.

This whirligig of evidence and counter-evidence has attracted much public attention. However, it is yet to be seen what course Taylor's trial takes - the man whose hands are muddied in the blood diamond trade and recruitment of child soldiers.

An armed conflict is often like a deadly communicable disease spreading across landscapes, maiming the limbs of civilisations, devouring thousands, or rendering them homeless and displaced. Among the worst affected are children. Besides the physical hazards, children are likely to experience lasting psychosocial damage. In conflict zones, children often get trapped into the culture of guns and drugs, some eventually ending up as child (below 18) combatants or are used by rebel factions to work in diamond or other mines to fund the war.

Child soldiers are not new phenomena. However, the enormity of the problem in contemporary times is unparalleled, both in the numbers of young people involved and the extent and magnitude of this practice. Almost all continents have witnessed the use of children and youth in combat. However, to understand the phenomena of child soldiers, it is imperative to understand the crucial question: Who is a child soldier?

A 'child soldier' is any person under 18 years of age who is part of any kind of regular or irregular armed force or armed group in any capacity, including but not limited to cooks, porters, messengers and anyone accompanying such groups, other than family members. The definition includes girls recruited for sexual purposes and for forced marriage. It does not, therefore, only refer to a child who is carrying or has carried arms. (*Cape Town Principles 1997*)

The end of the Cold War spawned an era of intra-state armed conflicts in various parts of the world. Parts of Africa, Asia, Latin America, Middle East and Europe are still experiencing intra-state conflicts resulting in high civilian casualty rates, mostly involving women and children. Wars often leave lasting scars within peoples' minds, especially children, and with schools and basic infrastructure ruined, children are deprived of leading a healthy and normal life. Those at the refugee or displaced people's camps are at risk of being recruited in armed groups.

Child combatants spend their early life within armed forces or factions and often end up with no education and skills. At times families and communities fail to accept them, either due to the atrocities committed by them or the fear of brutal retribution for the abuses perpetrated by them. Demobilisation, Disarmament and Re-integration (DDR) programmes often exclude child soldiers. Besides, these programmes are mostly gender-biased.

Apart from failing to cope with the social and economic needs of their citizens, a number of 'failed' African states have been unsuccessful in providing good governance. This offers a fertile ground for incessant conflicts and exerts pressure on young people, considering that Africa is a continent of the young, and African children and youth constitute the majority of African citizens. Deep discontentment with the political and economic structures has also propelled young people into joining armed groups in many African states. By several indicators, Africa has been judged as the most 'insecure' region in the world. According to the *Failed States Index 2009*, Somalia, Sudan and Sierra Leone figure in the 'alert' category with Somalia and Sudan finding themselves in the first and the third place respectively (*The Fund for Peace 2009*).

All the above factors are linked to increased risk of armed conflict. The ragbag of pervasive poverty, poor infrastructure, weak administration, plethora of cheap weapons and conflict minerals including blood diamonds, implies that armed conflicts in these countries are hard to circumvent or bring to a halt. With burgeoning child soldiers, conflicts become even more intractable. Consequently, it is imperative to analyse armed conflicts not just from the perspective of State security but human security as well. Human security and State security are interlinked. Several armed conflicts are sustained through the involvement of child soldiers. And in a number of conflict zones, the conflicts are funded through mineral wealth.

For instance, blood diamonds were largely responsible for sustaining the war in Sierra Leone. And now it is the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) where the conflict is being funded through mineral wealth. Children are being made to work in the mines in horrible, sub-human conditions.

Uncannily, laptops, smart phones and digital cameras are created from minerals that are fuelling the bloody conflict in Congo. The conflict is funded partly through the sale of mineral ores which contain tantalum, tungsten, tin and gold. Tantalum from Congo is used in making electrical capacitors that are present in computers, phones and gaming devices.

Child soldiers as well as conflict minerals are used to sustain conflicts, and this in turn often leads to spilling over of the hostilities into neighbouring states. Also, movement of child soldiers across borders may threaten State security. The DDR processes, which exclude child soldiers, are likely to deteriorate human security since these neglected children are vulnerable to being re-recruited. Therefore, it is essential to focus on human security to ensure State security.

To deal with the problem of child soldiers, several international and regional legislations have been adopted. These include the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (2002), African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, and the 1998 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. However, international laws are often scarcely known or understood by people in several regions of the world. Therefore, as Alcinda Honwana (author of *Child Soldiers in Africa*) argues, it is essential to spread awareness regarding these laws at the national as well as local level. It is important to reconcile international laws with local understandings.

For tackling conflict diamonds, the Kimberley Process (KP) was launched to stop "the flow of conflict diamonds - rough diamonds used by rebel movements" to fund "wars against legitimate governments". The KP began in May 2000 when Southern African diamond-producing states gathered in Kimberley, South Africa, to thrash out ways to end "the trade in 'conflict diamonds' and ensure that diamond purchases" were not being used to fund violence.

The UN General Assembly, in December 2000, adopted a resolution supporting "the creation of an international certification scheme for rough diamonds". In 2003, the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) came into force. The KPCS document has laid out "the requirements for controlling rough diamond production and trade". The KPCS "imposes extensive requirements on its members to enable them to certify shipments of rough diamonds as conflict-free".

The trade in diamonds has fuelled devastating conflicts in a number of countries such as Angola, Cote d'Ivoire, the DRC and Sierra Leone. In most of these nations children and youth were used for work in the diamond mines. In post-conflict Sierra Leone, a number of former child soldiers ended up in the Kono diamond mines. Former child soldiers in Sierra Leone were subsequently engaged in heavy labour in diamond mines under harsh conditions.

In the discourse on child soldiers, young people who participate in combat are often represented as victims in need of protection and passive actors in contemporary warfare. This representation denies these young people their agency as political actors and conflict stakeholders. In a number of African conflicts, it has been observed, for many young people, one of the root causes for their involvement in combat was their exclusion from the economic, political and social structures of their States. Therefore, in such cases, it is not advisable to treat young people as mere victims in combat. For their successful reintegration into society, it is imperative to address their grievances and involve them in peace initiatives.

Successful reintegration of child soldiers into civilian life is only possible if the war ceases. This is because as long as wars persist, it is likely that children and youth, especially those who are economically, socially or politically disadvantaged or marginalised, will continue to be recruited in armed forces or groups - either by volition or through coercion.

*The writer is writing her doctoral thesis on 'Human Security and Post Conflict Reintegration of Child Soldiers: Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) Programmes in Mozambique and Sierra Leone', School of International Studies, JNU, Delhi*

## Afrique en ligne

Tuesday, 7 September 2010

<http://www.afriquejet.com/news/africa-news>

### **International Criminal Court distributes 200,000 booklets in Kenya**

The Hague-based International Criminal Court (ICC) has distributed 200,000 copies of a publication, titled 'Understanding the ICC', in Kenya.

It said in a statement Monday, which was made available to PANA in New York, that the publication was estimated to reach 20 million people in Kenya.

The booklet, which is circulated with one of the most popular newspapers in the country, explains the court's mandate, structure and mode of operations.

It also answers questions frequently asked by participants during informative sessions held by court officials in Kenya.

Commenting on the booklet, ICC Registrar Silvana Arbia said 'the court is committed to make all necessary efforts to inform the public about the court's mandate and work.

'With the information presented in the booklet, I hope many Kenyans will find answers to their questions,' she noted.

According to her, 'A well-informed public can contribute to ensuring lasting respect for international justice and through its enforcement, the prevention of crimes.'

The registrar had Saturday concluded a four-day official visit to Kenya, where she met relevant national authorities to discuss the operational and legal framework needed to conduct registry activities in Kenya.

## The Hague Justice Portal

Tuesday, 7 September 2010

### Ndahimana Trial Begins at ICTR

The trial of Grégoire Ndahimana has commenced at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda.



On 6 September 2010, the trial of Grégoire Ndahimana commenced before the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR). Ndahimana is accused of genocide, complicity to commit genocide, extermination as a crime against humanity.

Ndahimana was the *Bourgmestre* of Kivumu commune, Kibuye *prefecture* in Rwanda. He is accused of planning the massacre of at least 2,000 Rwandan Tutsis during the 1994 genocide. According to the indictment he prepared and planned the massacre at Nyange Parish in which over 2000 people were killed, as part of a plan to exterminate the Tusti population. He is alleged to have taken part in the planning with Athanase Seromba, who was sentenced to life imprisonment by the ICTR in 2008, and Fulgence Kayishema, who remains a fugitive of the court.

Ndahimana was arrested on 10 August 2010 in North Kivu in the Democratic Republic of Congo and then transferred to Arusha on 21 August 2009. He was arrested by Congolese armed forces during a combined operation by the ICTR, the United Nations Mission in the DRC (MONUC) and the DRC law enforcement agencies. On 28 September 2009 he pleaded not guilty to all charges at his initial appearance before the ICTR.

Jean Bosco Uwinkindi and Idelphonse Nizeyimana are the two remaining accused awaiting trial at the ICTR detention centre.

News24

Monday, 30 August 2010

### **Bemba Lacks Fund for Fair Trial**

The Hague - Lawyers for former Democratic Republic of Congo vice president Jean-Pierre Bemba have complained to the International Criminal Court they cannot conduct a fair defence because prosecutors have seized his assets.

Bemba is charged with five counts of murder, rape and pillage for allegedly commanding a militia responsible for atrocities in the Central African Republic in 2002-2003. He has not entered a plea.

The defence says Bemba has asked the court for a loan, but the amount granted did not cover legal fees or investigation expenses.

Despite his frozen funds, the court has declared that Bemba is not indigent and therefore not entitled to full funding.

The argument came on Monday during a hearing on a trial date. The presiding judge said a date would be announced soon.