

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



Flashback to 2002: Skulls in Tombodu, Kama'a (Kamara) Chiefdom, Kono District.

**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, 22 February 2011

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.  
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**Local News**

WikiLeaks: Charles Taylor May Have \$400 Million Out of Reach / *The News* Page 3

**International News**

WikiLeaks: Charles Taylor May Have \$400 Million Out of Reach / *Telegraph* Pages 4-5

A Warlord's Last Chance / *Foreign Policy* Pages 6-9

What Goes Around Comes Around, as the Devil Comes to Roost in Libya / *Sierra Express Media* Pages 10-11

UN Asks Mongolia More Job in Cote d'Ivoire / *UB Post* Page 12

Congo provides justice without theatrics / *Business Day* Pages 13-14

# WikiLeaks: Charles Taylor May Have \$400 Million Out Of Reach

Charles Taylor, the former Liberian president, could have as much as \$400 million hidden away out of reach of prosecutors, according to leaked US diplomatic cables. Some reports place Charles Taylor's hidden funds at \$400 million. Photo: AP

US officials were told that if Mr Taylor is found guilty of war crimes, the international court in The Hague might only be able to recover a fraction of his wealth. On Friday judges in The Hague adjourned indefinitely the three-year-old trial of Mr Taylor on charges of arming rebels who killed and maimed Sierra Leone citizens.

Instead of closing it, as scheduled, Mr Taylor's lawyers were granted leave to appeal an earlier decision refusing the late filing of a de-

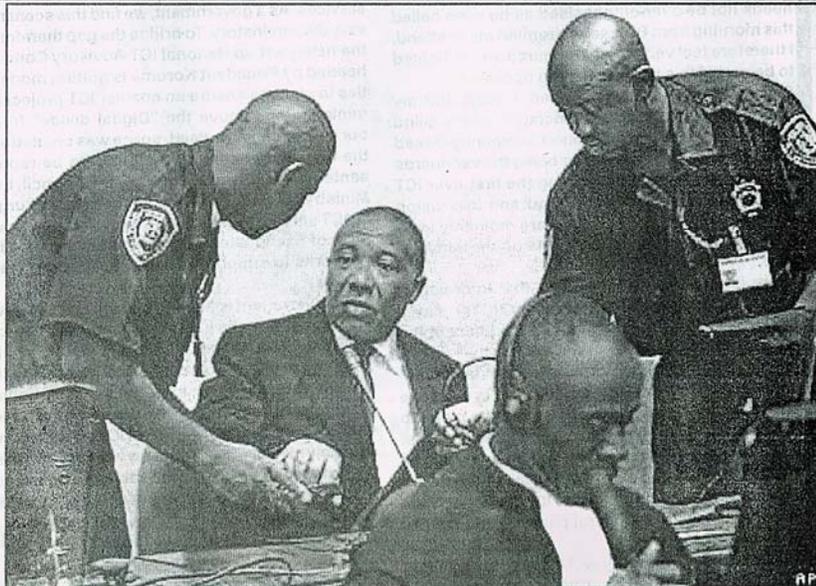
fence document.

A leaked cable sent from US officials in the United Nations in October 2007 reported the concerns of Stephen Rapp, who was the Special Court for Sierra Leone prosecutor at time, about Mr Taylor's alleged missing millions Mr Rapp is now President Barack Obama's Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes Issues.

The cable, leaked by the WikiLeaks website and handed to The Daily Telegraph, said: "On the issue of Taylor's hidden funds, Rapp reported that victims often raise the subject of reparations from Taylor's sizeable resources.

"He noted that the Court could recover about \$3 million, if Taylor's funds could be located. Some reports place his hidden funds at \$400 million.

"The UN Office of Crime and Drugs as well as the World Bank are exploring ways to track the funds and both President Sirleaf of Liberia



and Sierra Leone President Koroma are watching with interest." Nigeria was trying to help to find some of the assets, the US officials added.

The cable said: "The Nigerian representative present said that her government is making efforts to penetrate the web that Taylor wove to hide his

assets but that it has proven difficult to trace his accounts."

In a later cable sent in 2009, US diplomats in Liberia's capital Monrovia

suggested Mr Taylor should be tried in the US if he was "acquitted in The Hague or given a light sentence".

The cable said: "The international community must consider steps should Taylor not be sent to prison for a long time. "We should look at the possibility of trying Taylor in the United States. All legal options should be studied to ensure that Taylor cannot return to destabilise Liberia."

"Building a case in the United States against Taylor for financial crimes such as wire fraud would probably be the best route. "There may be other options, such as applying the new law criminalising the use of child soldiers or terrorism statutes."

Mr Taylor, 62, has pleaded not guilty to 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The Sierra Leone civil war claimed some 120,000 lives in the 10 years to 2001, with Revolutionary United Front rebels, dubbed Mr Taylor's "surrogate army", mutilating thousands of civilians.

## Telegraph

Friday, 11 February 2011

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By Christopher Hope, Whitehall Editor

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## Foreign Policy

Monday, 21 February 2011

### A Warlord's Last Chance

**Why Liberian ex-president Charles Taylor thinks there was an international conspiracy against him.**

**BY JOHNNY DWYER | FEBRUARY 21, 2011**



Charles Taylor has always been an opportunist.

In the late 1980s, the Liberian warlord-turned-president used the killing of his mentor, Gen. Thomas Quiwonkpa, as a springboard to launch his own revolution. In 1997, he deployed the same rebel army that had torn Liberia to pieces during the civil war as a political machine to mobilize votes for a popular election. And several years into his presidency, Taylor leveraged the bloodletting in Sierra Leone to turn the world's attention to the region and find an audience with the United States.

So as his war crimes trial at The Hague winds down, it should come as no surprise that Taylor is finding opportunity in a final moment of adversity. During closing arguments on Feb. 9, when the prosecution hoped to wrap up more than two years of testimony from 115 witnesses, Taylor used the occasion instead to rehash the narrative of his political demise: that he is the victim of an international conspiracy.

The drama came during closing arguments, when Taylor's defense counsel, Courtenay Griffiths, stormed out of the court, followed soon after by his client, to boycott a proceeding the defense has decried as biased since the trial opened nearly four years ago. (This was a repeat performance; Taylor's original counsel opened the trial by walking out on the first day of the proceedings in 2007.) From the first day of his trial, Taylor's defense has claimed that the proceedings are rigged against him. Specifically, the Liberian ex-president has charged that the United States, Britain, and a legion of other entities from the IMF and the World Bank to Human Rights Watch and journalists like the Washington Post's Douglas Farah, engaged in a conspiracy to remove him from power.

For a man accused of nearly a dozen crimes against humanity, from terrorism, murder and rape to sexual slavery and the conscription of child soldiers, the notion of Taylor's victimhood appears remarkable. Taylor, who rose from beginnings as a rebel and warlord in Liberia to win the nation's presidency, is the first African head of state to be tried before an international tribunal for crimes against humanity; the charges he faces stem from his alleged involvement with the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), a rebel group that terrorized neighboring Sierra Leone throughout the 1990s, killing and displacing thousands, hacking the arms and hands off of countless others.

But there is some history -- and a shade of fact-- behind Taylor's conspiracy theories. Over the last three years of research for my book, I have used the Freedom of Information Act to request the declassification of 564 U.S. diplomatic cables relating to Charles Taylor -- more than 3,000 pages of documents. Several of the documents appear to implicate the Liberian president in the crimes for which he now stands trial, but they also illustrate an effort akin to what Taylor describes: a campaign orchestrated by the United States through the U.N. Security Council to use sanctions and diplomatic pressure to destroy his regime. Where Taylor sees conspiracy, others may simply see politics at work. In either light, the State Department cables illustrate that once Taylor disobeyed Washington on Sierra Leone, the U.S. government pursued Taylor, his inner circle, as well as members of his family -- including his son Chucky, an American citizen, who is currently serving a 97-year sentence for torture committed under his father's administration -- with nearly every political means at its disposal.

The most recent fodder for Taylor's defense has come in the form of two U.S. diplomatic cables released by WikiLeaks -- supposed proof of this international conspiracy against Taylor. The courtroom walkout stemmed from the court's rejection of Taylor's closing argument brief -- a document Taylor's counsel submitted 20 days late, a delay the team attributed waiting for the court to rule on motions related to material disclosed in the cables.

Griffiths called the matter of the cables "central to our case" in an interview with Radio France International after he left the courtroom, saying, "Mr. Taylor had, since 2000, been saying that certain powerful countries were out to get him." The content of those cables, the defense claims, raises "inescapable and axiomatic concern that the impartiality and the independence of the court may have been compromised."

The two cables, both from 2009, do provide insight into U.S. interests in bringing Taylor to trial. One cable, attributed to U.S. Ambassador to Liberia Linda Thomas-Greenfield, recommended: "The international community must consider steps should Taylor not be sent to prison for a long time. We should look at the possibility of trying Taylor in the United States." The cable continues, "All legal options should be studied to ensure that Taylor cannot return to destabilize Liberia."

The defense holds these statements up as evidence that the court has improperly close connections to Washington. This is not a new charge: Americans have played a central role in the Special Court for Sierra Leone since its conception, funding the tribunal with more than \$76 million since it became operational in 2002. David Crane and Alan White, both ex-Pentagon officials, served as the court's first prosecutor and chief investigator, respectively, building the case against Taylor. Though neither the Special Court nor ex-government men answered to Washington, Taylor's sympathizers always viewed their leadership as inseparable from the aims of the U.S. State Department. Crane eventually unsealed the indictment of Taylor -- much to the consternation of officials in the U.S. embassy in Monrovia -- while the Liberian president attended peace talks in Accra, Ghana, in June 2003. At that time, Taylor accused the U.S. government of attempting to effect a coup when he was out of the country.

Cables declassified under my request provide more discrete evidence of the international effort to marginalize Taylor. Among the most striking documents is a cable, drafted in December 2000. Under the subject "Liberia: Undermining Charles Taylor," Washington indicated that it was working on a "long-term

campaign" against Taylor and solicited the Monrovia embassy's input and "assistance in developing information required to weaken and discredit the Taylor regime internationally." The cable goes on to explain that the United States hoped to rally support for sanctions against Taylor's government. "The success of our efforts at the UN will depend in large measure on our ability to convince other UN members of what we already know -- that Charles Taylor is instigating cross-border conflict, trafficking arms, looting resources (Liberia's and neighboring nations') and, in general, sowing instability throughout West Africa."

The cable marked a turning point in the U.S. government's strategy toward Taylor. Previously, Foggy Bottom had tried, unsuccessfully, to engage the Liberian president, encouraging him to rein in his support for the RUF. The Clinton administration had even enlisted high-profile help, including the diplomat Howard Jeter and the Rev. Jesse Jackson, as special envoys on the issue. Taylor reveled in the attention, but it had little impact on his actions. After the efforts of those emissaries failed, Under Secretary of State Thomas R. Pickering flew to Monrovia in July 2000 to offer Taylor one "last chance" to fall in line on the issue, according to a cable. Despite being confronted with evidence that arms were flowing in from Liberia and diamonds were flowing out of Sierra Leone, Taylor evaded the charges, instead trying to charm the diplomat, borrowing a reference from Patton to say he was "not as big a SOB [son of a bitch] as had been reported."

After the cable, which was signed by the then-deputy assistant secretary of state for African affairs, William M. Bellamy, the Clinton administration pursued a new strategy: to discredit the regime publicly. Describing Taylor as being "in a category by himself" among African strongmen, the cable makes clear that in order for sanctions to pass through the Security Council, the United States needed to position the Liberian president as a "a cunning and effective warlord whose brutal rule terrorizes millions in Liberia and Sierra Leone."

To develop the State Department's campaign, Bellamy sought further information from the embassy in Monrovia on sources of Taylor's power, income and support, his vulnerabilities and fears, an assessment of how functional his political network was -- and notably, whether there was an opposition that should be supported. Foggy Bottom also requested detailed evidence of Taylor's connections to the RUF, arms and diamond trafficking, and timber exploitation. "Demonstrating conclusively that Taylor is the driving force behind much of the violence and deepening human misery in the region is an important, ongoing [U.S. government] priority," the cable reads.

When I interviewed him on Feb. 14, Bellamy, who is currently the director of the National Defense University's Africa Center for Strategic Studies, emphasized that the cable was not in any way connected to the subsequent formation of the Special Court. When the cable was written, he explained, "We were not even sure that this court was going to get up and running."

"I don't think there was a policy to make an example of Taylor, to hold Taylor up to the international community to say 'Look at what can happen to you if you do the kinds of things Charles Taylor did,'" he said. "It was specifically to find a way to stop the bleeding, to get this crisis under control in West Africa."

Regardless the intention, however, the December 2000 cable marked the beginning of a protracted and, ultimately, successful campaign to isolate Taylor. A little more than a year later, another cable, titled "Our Game Plan on Liberia," outlined a strategy for a "post-Taylor era in Liberia." The United States, working closely with the U.N. Security Council, ratcheted up the pressure on Taylor with sanctions while depriving his government of the lifeblood the Liberian state has relied on for much of its existence: cash from donor nations like the United States. American aid to Liberia during Taylor's administration, which was largely humanitarian assistance, withered from \$37 million in 1997 to \$6 million in 2003.

A July 2002 State Department cable illustrates just how adamant Foggy Bottom became about not engaging Taylor during those years. When the chair of the Sierra Leone sanctions committee, Ambassador

Adolfo Aguila-Zinser of Mexico, suggested dialing back the pressure on Taylor in favor of "limited, constructive engagement," U.S. diplomats at the United Nations were nonplussed. "[Aguila-Zinser's] lack of experience and detailed knowledge of the region could produce unwanted results," the cable reads. It suggests a State Department briefing "might help Aguilar-Zinser to reformulate his views based on reality."

Although the cables do demonstrate Washington's resolve to unseat Charles Taylor, they also implicate Taylor, at times dramatically, for his involvement with the RUF. A May 2000 cable describes a visit from the Clinton administration's special envoys, Jeter and Jackson, to discuss Sierra Leone with Taylor. After Jackson closed the meeting in prayer, the delegation stepped from the room in the Liberian executive mansion to see RUF leader Sam Bockarie waiting outside. Upon seeing Taylor, Bockarie saluted.

In another December 2000 cable, the Monrovia embassy detailed its intelligence on Taylor's role in Sierra Leone. According to a redacted source, "The RUF was essential for Liberia's defense ... Charles Taylor created the RUF during the Liberian Civil War and set up Foday Sankoh as its leader because ex-GOSL [Government of Sierra Leone] had allowed ECOMOG [the West African peacekeeping force] to attack [Taylor's] NPFL positions from bases in Sierra Leone."

Taylor even admitted his role in the conflict, according to an October 2002 cable attributed to U.S. Ambassador John W. Blaney, who has declined comment. As a one-on-one meeting with Taylor showed, the relationship between the George W. Bush administration and Liberia had grown so tense that Blaney found it necessary to assure Taylor that the United States had no intention of assassinating him. Taylor's response was telling, according to the cable: "He said quietly that this was good to hear and a very important message ... He went on to launch a long defense for his past behavior. Yes, he had been involved in Sierra Leone, and deeply regretted it. But Washington did not understand the context of that involvement."

While a fascinating footnote to history, these cables will make little difference in the outcome of Taylor's long and tortuous trial. It's not clear what impact an international conspiracy would have on the verdict, even if the defense managed to prove it. And in fact, that hasn't been the defense's strategy -- aside from broad, sweeping rhetoric. Until the emergence of the WikiLeaks cables, Taylor's defense strategy never explicitly sought to unearth facts of the alleged conspiracy against him -- perhaps because proof of international conspiring against Taylor would beg the question of why the West found it necessary to do so. The answer is simple: Taylor was a brutal warlord.

Instead of seeking to prove a conspiracy, Taylor's attorneys sought to dispute evidence presented by the prosecution and, through the former Liberian president's testimony, to distance Taylor from responsibility for the crimes alleged in the indictment. This effort has been problematic. The defense testimony attempted to present an alternate narrative to events alleged in the indictment. Yet as supposedly questionable as the prosecution's witnesses were, the defense's witnesses raised even more red flags. On Feb. 3, the prosecution accused Taylor's team of seeking to bribe witnesses who testified against the former Liberian president to recant their statements.

But Taylor did succeed in one thing, perhaps, in all this: yet another delay in the case that has dragged on for nearly four years already. The conclusion of Taylor's trial is postponed indefinitely -- the only hearing scheduled is a disciplinary session for Taylor's attorney on Feb. 25.

That should give Taylor more than enough time to put in a few more parting words for his enemies.

## Sierra Express Media

Monday, 21 February 2011

### **What goes around comes around, as the devil comes to roost in Libya**

**Author:** SEM Contributor

Governor Clarkson was apocalyptic in delivering his prayers for Sierra Leone. In one of his solemn prayers for the country, Sierra Leone, he echoed that whosoever destroyed or planned an attack on the country will perish before his death or fall from grace to grass. In one of the popular statements of former Liberian president, Charles Taylor, he remarked that, "Sierra Leone will taste the bitterness of War". Innocent as the country was, nobody knew where the handiwork of evil was coming from.



In less than a year, Sierra Leone was invaded by the Revolutionary United Front led by Foday Sankoh. Later, the whole world knew that the architects of the crisis in both Liberia and Sierra Leone was hatched in Libya. The country was embroiled in a war that devastated millions of people. The people of Sierra Leone prayed for freedom and called on the backers to desist from supporting such heinous plots. The backers ignored the plea. The war of Foday Sankoh slaughtered thousands of innocent people and millions were displaced. The question that begged for answer was, Why Sierra Leone? Where was this plot machinated? *(Photo: Ibrahim Sourie Mansaray)*

The recent events in Libya have reverberated through the minds of those who had never thought of such a revolution against one of the so-called revolutionaries, Gaddafi. In terms of political instability in Africa, it is undeniable that in almost all the cases in Africa, it is evident the major problem is leadership. In this context, Africa has seen its freedom heroes turn into dictators, while plundering of natural resources, politics of exclusion and deprivation to tilt the balance of power continues to dominate the public sphere.

In the 1990s, Libya became the haven of so-called revolutionaries. The former Liberian President, Charles Taylor and his protégé, Foday Sankoh launched a rebellion in both Sierra Leone and Liberia. Their aspirations were from Libya. The "Green Book" became the symbol of liberation. There was political instability in Africa with most so-called liberators securing support from Gaddafi. In the 80s, Gaddafi launched a deadly war in Chad for the Aouzi strip. Many people were killed on both sides.

Gaddafi has been a bag of mixed blessings for the continent of Africa. What he preaches in his Green Book is in complete contrast on what he operates. His army has been infested with spies, his sons control various and equipped sets of the army more than the regular army. The appearance of his son on national television marked a complete picture of the way and manner Gaddafi has been ruling the country. The latest report of Gaddafi ordering his air force to fire on protesters manifested his callous and bleak vision for his people and country.

Considering Gaddafi's role in the instability of Sierra Leone, the destruction of lives will ever haunt his soul, image and his conscious. Indeed, during the 90s, Sierra Leone had its life threatening political and economic conditions. These include bad governance, lowly educated population, poor economic conditions and a host of other vices. With all these factors, the people of Sierra Leone never wanted a change that would involve loss of lives, property and mass migration. It is no hidden secret that some African leaders still cherish the ideal of dancing with the devil. The visit of Gaddafi to Sierra Leone in 2007 was heavily criticized by prominent journalists like Olu Gordon, Philip Neville and a host of others. Their protests were based on the destruction of the country by the handiwork of Gaddafi. Though their cries fell on deaf ears, his visit was approved by the erstwhile leadership of Tejan Kabba.

Gaddafi had been a spoiler in every facet. At the United Nations General Assembly, Gaddafi openly threw the UN charter and praised the role of the Somali pirates. As if that was not enough, Gaddafi called on Nigerians to have two countries on religious grounds. Whilst calling on Nigeria to have two countries, Gaddafi condemned Southern Sudan for calling for independence and remarked that would send a bad signal to other African countries.

True to the words of Governor Clarkson, it is an undeniable fact that Sierra Leone is blessed. Those who have struck catastrophe on the country have perished and will continue to do so. The people of the country are friendly, hospitable and accommodating and yet some people have paid the people with killing and mayhem.

The Almighty God has blessed the country and its people, and though the country may have bad people as in all cases in life, those with intentions of bringing mayhem, havoc and destruction will follow the likes of Foday Sankoh, Sam Bockarie and others.

Gaddafi, the thousands of lives lost in Sierra Leone as a result of the war will follow you wherever you go. Indeed the chickens have come to roost.

*By Ibrahim Sourie Mansaray*

## UB Post

Tuesday, 22 February 2011

[http://ubpost.mongolnews.mn/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=5801&Itemid=36](http://ubpost.mongolnews.mn/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5801&Itemid=36)

### **UN Asks Mongolia More Job in Cote d'Ivoire**

The United Nations sends a request to Mongolia to involve it in its peacekeeping mission in Cote d'Ivoire. As result of recent presidential election in the Ivory Coast, the African country has now two presidents and two governments and is in armed conflict between opposing parties.

Due the current situation in Ivory Coast, the United Nations decided to increase the number of its blue helmets to serve in this country by two thousand and requested Mongolia to send a 850-men battalion to the African country.

In addition, Mongolia was asked to participate in guarding the UN staff in Iraq. The National Security Council of Mongolia is expected to meet soon to pass a decision on UN request.

Moreover, a source said Mongolia considers expanding its mission to Sudan from medical to military. On February 17, Mongolian Guard Force that maintained security at the Special Court of Sierra Leone formally handed over responsibility for the Court's security to the country's Leone Police.

Mongolian blue helmets, working in cooperation with Special Court's Security Section and the Sierra Leone Police, have maintained security at the Special Court since its inception in 2002.

In addition to securing the Court's premises in Freetown, they have provided security during the movement of detainees and prisoners within and outside of Sierra Leone.

The Mongolian peacekeepers, who serve as part of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), took over the Special Court's security from Nigerian peacekeepers in January 2006. Since then, a total of 2,300 Mongolian peacekeepers have served at the Court.

At a colourful ceremony in front of the Special Court's courthouse, a Mongolian peacekeeper handed over the court flag to a member of Special Court Security who handed it to a Special Court Police officer. At present, there are over 400 Mongolian soldiers and troops deployed to UN-mandate and other international operations.

## Business Day

Tuesday, 22 February 2011

<http://www.businessday.co.za/articles/Content.aspx?id=135024>

### **Congo provides justice without theatrics**

NICOLE FRITZ

THE world of international criminal justice has offered lots of theatrics in recent weeks. Courtenay Griffiths, lead defence counsel for Charles Taylor on trial in The Hague before the Special Court for Sierra Leone, stormed out of court, refusing to reappear. His client took the opportunity to excuse himself too.

Then there was the International Criminal Court's (ICC's) prosecutor, Luis Moreno Ocampo, never one for understatement, intoning: "The world needs legal limits. We need a platform to live together. That is the International Criminal Court."

The African Union Commission's chairman Jean Ping, equally adept at the rhetorical flourish, opined: "Frankly speaking, we are not against the International Criminal Court. What we are against is Ocampo's justice — the justice of a man."

The disinterested observer might conclude that with all these egos in play, and with so many elevated platforms to play on, the world of international criminal justice probably has little room for justice. But there was another development last week — far less noted — which speaks to what international criminal justice, absent the big egos, might yield. Eleven soldiers from the Democratic Republic of Congo went on trial, accused of raping more than 60 women on New Year's Day. in the town of Fizi in South Kivu province.

The accused have not only been charged with rape and imprisonment but, given the systematic nature of the crimes, have also been charged with crimes against humanity. What's noteworthy here is that these trials are not being heard far from the affected communities — as is the case with Taylor's trial or any of the cases likely to be heard by the ICC. Rather, they are being heard before an innovative mobile gender court in Fizi's neighbouring town of Baraka.

Nor, as so often happens with crimes of this kind, have these cases taken years to come to trial. It has taken less than two months since the crimes were committed for the trials to commence.

It isn't merely low-level officers being prosecuted, which might suggest this type of innovative prosecution procedure is suitable for less powerful actors but that higher-level authorities still need to command the type of expensive trials reserved for Taylor or Slobodan Milosevic. Among the soldiers prosecuted is commanding officer Lt-Col Mutware Kibibi. The attack on the population of Fizi is said to be the largest single atrocity involving the government's army.

Quite apart from the innovative mobile gender court, it is the Congolese government's co-operation in the process — aimed at holding its own troops to account — that makes these trials so remarkable. Typically, government actors, when accused of grave human rights violations, use state machinery not to secure accountability but to avoid it. It is why international criminal justice often happens only outside the country where the crimes were committed. In this instance, in the arrest and prosecution of Kibibi, the Congo's government is making good on its promise of a "zero tolerance policy will be enforced on the spot in Fizi".

Several factors help explain the Congolese government's stance. Chief among them is the fact that the Congo has attracted international approbation for its reputation as the "rape capital" of the world and that it can't look to international assistance in countering vicious attacks on its civilian population by several different militia groups when its own army engages in similar atrocities.

But it would also be hard to paint the efforts of the mobile gender court as alien to the interests of the Congo's population, as a number of African leaders have tried to do of, by contrast, the efforts of the ICC. Since its start in October 2009, the Congo's mobile gender court has conducted about 10 trials a month and has secured 94 rape convictions. It has also trained 150 judicial police officers, 80 lawyers and 30 magistrates. As the mobile gender court is integrated in the Congo's justice system, the skills and resources invested by outside donors not only secure convictions and accountability but point the way to a fully functioning, comprehensive domestic judicial system for the Congo.

The mobile gender court also points the way to enhanced delivery of international criminal justice, which is almost always preferably secured, if properly done, before local courts and affected local communities — very, very far from the grandstanding of Griffiths, Ocampo and Ping.

- Fritz is director of the Southern Africa Litigation Centre.