

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



Kids at yesterday's African Child's Day commemoration at Paddy's.  
See more pictures in today's 'Special Court Supplement'.

## **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:**

Friday, 17 June 2011

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

Campbell Knew Diamonds Were From Warlord, Says Charity Boss / <i>The Daily Telegraph</i>	Pages 3-4
ICC Prosecutor Asks Victims for Comment on His Plan to Open Ivory Coast Investigation / <i>AP</i>	Page 5
HRW Encourages More Pressure From ICC / <i>United Press International</i>	Page 6

**Special Court Supplement**

Yesterday's African Child's Day in Pictures / <i>OPA</i>	Pages 7-9
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# The Daily Telegraph (London)

Thursday, 16 June 2011

## **Campbell knew diamonds were from warlord, says charity boss**

BYLINE: Aislinn Laing

THE Nelson Mandela charity boss who accepted alleged "blood diamonds" from Naomi Campbell has contradicted the supermodel's claim that she did not know they came from Charles Taylor, the Liberian warlord.

Jeremy Ractliffe told a South African court yesterday that Miss Campbell told him she was given the diamonds by "the African leader who sat next to her" at a dinner party in 1997.

Charles Taylor, Liberia's president at the time was the only African leader at the dinner hosted by then president Mandela in Pretoria.

He is being tried on 11 counts of war crimes in neighbouring Sierra Leone, including charges of murder, rape and sexual slavery, and is accused of trading in "blood diamonds" to pay for a war carried out by Sierra Leonean rebels. It is alleged that he gave some of those gems to Miss Campbell.

Called to give evidence at Mr Taylor's trial at the Special Court for Sierra Leone in The Hague last August, Miss Campbell said that she had no idea the diamonds came from Mr Taylor, but that fellow guests on the trip had suggested as much to her the morning after the dinner.

Mia Farrow, the American actress, and Carole White, Miss Campbell's former agent, both told the court that the Streatham-born supermodel told them they came from Mr Taylor.

In a statement read to a court in Alexandra, Johannesburg, Mr Ractliffe said Miss Campbell told him and his wife Gayle how she was given the "dirty-looking stones" the evening after the dinner.

"Naomi Campbell told us that late on the night of September 25, two people whose names she did not know came to her room and handed her three diamonds as a present from the African leader who had sat next to her at the dinner party," he said.

"She appeared to be at a loss as to what to do with them." said Mr Ractliffe.

"She suggested that they could possibly be given to the fund," he said. "I told her that I did not want to involve the fund in anything that could possibly be of dubious origin, or even illegal.

"Reluctantly, I offered to keep the stones for her and to see what could be done with them. I thought there would be no harm in simply leaving them where they were (in a safe in his home) until Naomi either asked for them back, which seemed unlikely, or life presented an opportunity where I could have used them for the good of the fund."

After Miss Campbell revealed at The Hague that Mr Ractliffe still had the diamonds, he handed them over to police.

He is facing charges of illegally possessing uncut diamonds, which carries a maximum penalty of 10 years imprisonment or a £22,000 fine. Magistrate Renier Boshoff ruled that the state had not used a qualified

expert to determine the stones were diamonds, despite an official from the Diamond Regulator declaring they made up 5.9 Carats and were worth 25,000 rand (£2,200).

The judge's verdict in the case against Mr Taylor is expected later this year.

Conflicting stories How model was contradicted

Naomi Campbell's account:

"I had a knock on my door, I opened and two men gave me a pouch and said, 'a gift for you'. I was not sure who they were. The next morning, I opened the pouch. I saw a few small, dirty-looking stones. I told Ms Farrow and Ms White, and they said it must be Mr Taylor, and I said I thought (that it) was."

Carole White's account:

"Ms Campbell leaned back (at dinner) to tell me very excitedly that (Charles Taylor) was sending her diamonds and he was nodding and laughing."

Mia Farrow's account:

"As I recall it (the next morning) she was quite excited and said, in effect, 'oh my god, in the middle of night I was awakened by knocking at the door. It was men sent by Charles Taylor and he sent me', as I recall, 'a huge diamond.'"

Jeremy Ractliffe's account:

"Naomi Campbell told us that two people came to her room and handed her three diamonds as a present from the African leader who had sat next to her at the dinner party."

GRAPHIC: Naomi Campbell claimed that the diamonds came as a gift in the middle of the night  
STUART RAMSON /AP

The dinner party in 1997 was attended by Jemima and Imran Khan, Naomi Campbell, Charles Taylor, Nelson Mandela and Graca Machell

The Associated Press

Friday, 17 June 2011

### **ICC prosecutor asks victims for comment on his plan to open Ivory Coast investigation**

The prosecutor of the International Criminal Court on Friday urged victims of atrocities in Ivory Coast to tell judges what they think of his plan to open an investigation into crimes against humanity and war crimes in their country.

In a statement posted on the court's website, Luis Moreno-Ocampo said he will soon ask judges at the world's first permanent war crimes court for permission to launch a formal investigation in Ivory Coast. The request is expected to come as early as next week.

Thousands of people were killed after former President Laurent Gbagbo refused to cede power to opposition leader Alassane Ouattara after losing elections last November.

After a monthslong standoff accompanied by widespread violence, Gbagbo was detained by pro-Ouattara forces on April 11.

Ouattara was sworn in May and has asked the international court to investigate crimes committed during the post election crisis. He has said that his supporters are not above the law.

A United Nations investigation concluded that at least 3,000 people were killed during the conflict and both forces supporting Gbagbo and Ouattara were guilty of abuses.

Moreno-Ocampo said victims have 30 days to give judges their views on whether the Hague-based court should open an investigation.

He added that if judges authorize a probe victims will be able to take part in the case and request reparations at a later stage.

# United Press International

Thursday, 16 June 2011

## **HRW encourages more pressure from ICC**

The prospect of action by the International Criminal Court could trigger governments to conduct internal criminal investigations, Human Rights Watch said.

Human Rights Watch issued a 29-page report suggesting a "course-correction" for the ICC prosecutor. The report examines the ICC's preliminary examination period whereby prosecutors consider engaging national leaders.

Human Rights Watch said the prospect of ICC action might encourage authorities to conduct internal investigations into possible crimes. At the same time, the group said, this would signal potential or would-be criminals that their actions are under scrutiny.

"The ICC prosecutor's ambitious commitment to use his decision whether to investigate as a spur to national trials is a potential boost for justice," said Elizabeth Evenson, senior international justice counsel at Human Rights Watch.

The rights group recommends the ICC issue interim reports on so-called situations under analysis. Those areas include countries like Afghanistan where the ICC is considering opening an investigation.

More than 100 countries are party to the ICC. Its prosecutor has opened investigations into Sudan and other conflict-torn countries. It recently asked to investigate the situation in Ivory Coast, where leaders have suggested they would conduct an examination of post-election violence.

# Special Court Supplement

## Outreach activity on the Day of The African Child at Paddy's Beach Bar and Restaurant



