

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



**PRESS CLIPPINGS**

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

**as at:**

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

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# New Contempt Proceedings at UN Special Court

*By John Momoh*

Five persons are being charged to appear before the UN Special Court in two separate cases for interfering with prosecution witnesses who testified before the Court, according to the Coalition for Accountability and Justice (COJA).

Speaking to this press in an exclusive interview yesterday, the Coordinator of COJA Sulaiman Jabati stated that it is an issue being raised by the organisation and Manifesto 99, two civil society organizations working directly with the UN-backed Special Court, adding that they are two separate contempt cases involving interference with Special Court witnesses - that is between the independent Prosecutor versus Ibrahim Bazy Kamara, Santigie Borbor Kanu, Hawa Papa Bangura and Samuel Kargbo on the one hand.

He said it also involves the Independent Prosecutor versus Eric Koi Senessie on the one hand, and the Independent Prosecutor versus

Hassan Papa Bangura. He said although the Special Court convicts have been tried, found guilty and sent out of the country to serve their prison sentences, they as civil right defenders are looking into the degree of how the above individuals interfered with prosecution witnesses that may have impacted their trial and that of the ex-Liberia President Charles Taylor currently wrapping up at The Hague, Holland.

According to the COJA boss, Eric Koi Senessie - a former member of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) - is charged with 9 counts of attempting to induce Prosecution witnesses who testified against Charles Taylor to recant their testimony.

He added that in the case relating to the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC), trial that ended with the conviction of AFRC leader's Ibrahim Bazy Kamara, Santigie Borbor Kanu, Samuel Kargbo and others, Kamara faces

a third count of knowingly disclosing the identity of a protected witness.

He said these convicts knowingly and willfully interfered with the Special Court's administration of justice by otherwise interfering with a witness who has given testimony before a Chamber in violation of Rule 77 (A) (iv). Jabati noted that a person convicted of these offences under Rule 77 of the Rules of the Special Court could serve a maximum term of seven years imprisonment, a fine of up to two million Leones.

In the views of the COJA boss, the contempt proceedings which started in February 2011 at the UN Special Court and are on course, prove wrong those critics that have been alleging that the UN-backed Special Court has been closed. He noted that the Special Court is still alive, adding that it can be possible to add more years to the prison terms of convicts in Rwanda and other places.

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

# Charles Taylor's National Patriotic Party has endorsed Liberia's main opposition for the upcoming elections

**L**iberian ex-president and warlord Charles Taylor is currently on trial at the Hague for war crimes. But that has not prevented his political party endorsing the main opposition challenging President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf in the upcoming October polls. The National Patriotic Party (NPP) said in a press release that it had voted to support the opposition Congress for Democratic Change (CDC), rather than Sirleaf's Unity Party, which it backed in 2005 presidential elections. Both parties had lobbied for the NPP's support, but spokesman Gus Knolden said "the propositions from the CDC were best."

The west African nation, still recovering from a devastating 1989-



*Charles Taylor - Party supporting main opposition*

2003 civil war, is scheduled to go to vote on October 11. But the election could be pushed to November 8 following an August 23 referendum on

constitutional reform. Sirleaf, 72, is seeking a second term and will face off against the CDC's Winston Tubman, who beat out football legend

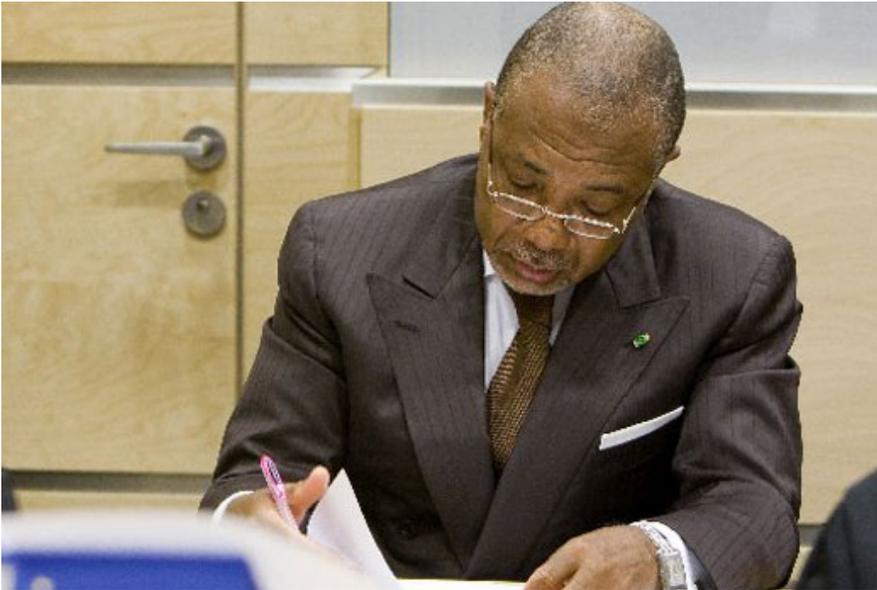
George Weah, a former AC Milan and Chelsea striker, to become the party's flagbearer. The NPP, which won 41 percent of votes in 2005 polls, is one of several opposition parties which have joined with the CDC ahead of the election. The party was formed in 1997 following the end of the first Liberian war, and Taylor won elections that year with 75 percent of votes. Taylor's ex-wife, Jewel Taylor, is the current party chairman. Opposition to Taylor's regime led to another outbreak of war in 1999, and he stepped down under pressure in 2003, the year he was also charged for war crimes over his role in a civil war in neighbouring Sierra Leone. He is currently waiting judgement in the Hague.

## Africa Review

Tuesday, 9 August 2011

### **Liberia: Taylor's party teams up with George Weah**

By TAMBA JEAN-MATTHEW



*Charles Taylor sitting in the ICC courtroom in The Hague Photo / FILE /*

Charles Taylor's former ruling party has joined George Weah's political bandwagon in the bid to oust incumbent Liberian president Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf in the election set for October this year.

This brings to six the number of parties that have coalesced with the ex-footballer's Congress for Democratic Change (CDC).

Officials of Taylor's National Patriotic Party made the revelation in Monrovia at the weekend following an official ceremony to seal the merger.

Officials of both parties agreed that they shared a common political platform in as far as the upcoming election was concerned.

The two sides accused President Johnson-Sirleaf of failing to deliver on the pledges made during and after the 2005 election.

Among other things, they cited youth unemployment and the economic hardship affecting most ordinary Liberians.

#### **Running mate**

Since the beginning of this year, the opposition and civil society organisations have been taking the ruling party to task over corruption at the Finance ministry and the Bureau of the Budget, demanding that those heading the institutions be replaced.

Taylor's party still has a large following but lacks a presidential candidate. Its leader is incarcerated at the International Criminal Court at The Hague where he awaits the verdict on war crimes and crimes against humanity charges.

## Radio Netherlands Worldwide

Tuesday, 9 August 2011

### US war crimes prosecutor 'assessing' ICT

By David Bergman in Dhaka



Washington, United States of America

(Photo: ECCC)

*Nicholas Koumjian, a senior war crimes prosecutor who most recently was in charge of the prosecution of Charles Taylor, former President*

*of Liberia, at the Special Court for Sierra Leone, is in Dhaka on behalf of the US's war crimes ambassador-at-large, Steven Rapp, to 'assess developments' in the International Crimes Tribunal.*

The ICT was set up in March 2010 to enable the prosecution of those alleged to have committed international crimes during the 1971 War of Independence. On Monday Koumjian met Md Shahinur Islam, the registrar of the ICT, as well as the judges.

Islam told New Age that the prosecutor was undertaking a 'needs assessment' study of the ICT.

On Tuesday he meets with Abdul Hannan, head of the ICT's investigation agency which is collecting evidence of alleged war crimes.

Hanan also told New Age that he understood Koumjian was involved in undertaking a 'needs assessment.'

It is expected that Koumjian will meet the law minister, Shafique Ahmed, as well as members of the local defence team.

The US state department told New Age, 'Nick Koumjian is in Dhaka to engage with the International Crimes Tribunal and other concerned parties to assess developments since the last visit of the US Ambassador-at-Large, Stephen Rapp, in May 2011.'

The war crime's prosecutor's visit to Dhaka comes just one month after the ICT amended its Rules of Procedure in light of comments made in a letter by

Ambassador Rapp, which was sent to government ministers after his first visit in January.

In early July, following the publication of the amendments, the ICT's registrar stated that the trials would now take place under 'universally recognised standards', though Human Rights Watch argued that the ICT's legal regime continues to fail to bring 'some areas of the law and rules into compliance with international standards'.

Rapp himself has made no comment about the adequacy of the amended procedural rules.

On 10 August the ICT is due to frame charges against Delwar Hossain Sayedee, the first of the seven men detained to face formal charges for international crimes.

Last Friday Toby Cadman, a British lawyer instructed by local lawyers to represent the five leaders of the Jamaat-e-Islami accused of war crimes, was prevented from entering Bangladesh.

Prior to his involvement at the Special Court in Sierra Leone, Koumjian had been involved in war crimes prosecutions at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, and at the war crimes tribunal in Cambodia.

*This article was first published in the New Age newspaper published from Dhaka*