

**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:**

Friday, 13 January 2012

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

Local News

Senegal Rejects Hissene Habre's Extradiction to Belgium / *For di People* Page 3

International News

Cindor Reeves Leaves Canada / *Macleans* Page 4

ICC Considers Providing Legal Aid for Gbagbo Defense / *Voice of America* Pages 5-6

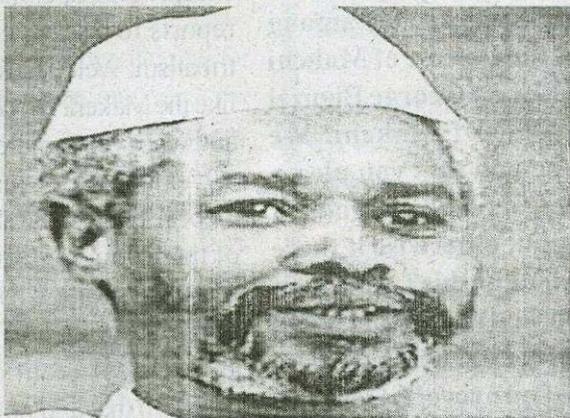
Liberia: Did Taylor Decide Key Senate Vote? / *New Democrat* Page 7

Senegal: Stop Stalling with Habré Extradition / *Human Rights Watch* Pages 8-9

For di People
Friday, 13 January 2012

Senegal rejects Hissene Habre's extradition to Belgium

A SENEGALESE court has rejected a Belgian request to extradite Chad's ex-President Hissene Habre to face trial for alleged atrocities during his rule.



Chad sentenced Hissene Habre to death in absentia in 2008

Mr Habre, 69, has been living in Senegal since he was ousted in 1990.

He is accused of killing and torturing tens of thousands of opponents between 1982 and 1990. charges he denies.

Senegal's president said this month he expected the extradition would be

imminent - and the appeal court's decision was due to a procedural error.

Reed Brody, a lawyer with the US-based group Human Rights Watch which has backed the case against Mr Habre, said the ruling was not definitive.

.After years of wrangling, the African Union recently

urged Senegal to either put Mr Habre on trial or send him to a country which would do so. Senegal arrested Mr Habre in 2005, after he was charged by Belgium with crimes against humanity and torture. Alleged victims filed complaints under Belgium's universal jurisdiction law, which allows Brussels judges to prosecute human rights offences anywhere

A 1992 Truth Commission in Chad accused him of being responsible for widespread torture and the death of 40,000 people during his eight-year rule. Last year, Senegal stopped plans to repatriate Mr Habre to Chad following a plea from the UN

Macleans (Canada)

Thursday, 12 January 2012

Cindor Reeves leaves Canada

By Michael Petrou

Cindor Reeves, a man who risked his life to bring one of the most blood-soaked tyrants of the last 25 years to justice, has left Canada following a deportation order against him.

Reeves was once the brother-in-law of Charles Taylor, a Liberian warlord and then president of the country who is now on trial in The Hague, accused of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Taylor is there in large part because Cindor Reeves helped the Special Court for Sierra Leone build its case against him. Reeves did this at great personal risk, and without asking for anything in return. The Special Court put Reeves and his family in a witness protection program in Europe. Unhappy there, Reeves came to Canada and applied for refugee status. When he did so, Reeves lost the protection of the Special Court, which effectively abandoned him.

The Canadian government intervened in Reeves' case, arguing he should be barred from living here because of his alleged involvement in crimes against humanity. Not a shred of evidence has been produced to suggest that Reeves personally harmed anyone. He helped Taylor smuggle guns and diamonds between Liberia and Sierra Leone. He's never denied this. Reeves' application was rejected and he received a removal order last year.

(It's a long and complicated case. Those unfamiliar with it should scroll through the many stories I've written about it these past five years.)

Reeves left Canada on his own accord, before he had played out every card that might have delayed his departure. His wife and children had already been granted refugee status here under the perverse reasoning that their relationship to Reeves made it too dangerous for them to return to Liberia. There was a slim chance that Reeves might have been granted a stay of deportation for similar reasons, but Reeves was convinced this government would not rest until he was gone. He feared being jailed here, or handcuffed and escorted onto a plane. I think he wanted to preserve some dignity and control over his own fate.

No news story I have ever covered — at least in Canada — has more saddened, angered and disillusioned me than this one. Reeves is a good and brave man whose life has been shattered because of government and bureaucratic incompetence and malice. The same goes for his wife and children who must now live without him. It's a moral stain on this administration and on the civil servants involved.

Oddly, perhaps, Reeves holds no ill will toward Canada or Canadians. In one of our last conversations, he repeatedly said what a great country Canada is and how happy he was that at least his children might live here.

I worry that writing about where Reeves is and where he might be headed might endanger him, so I won't. I'll publish more details if this changes.

Voice of America
Monday, 9 January 2012

ICC Considers Providing Legal Aid for Gbagbo Defense

Richard Dicker of Human Rights Watch says it is a basic human right that all accused get representation by defense counsel

James Butty



Ivory Coast's former president Laurent Gbagbo waits for judges to arrive for his initial court appearance at the International Criminal Court in The Hague December 5, 2011.

Photo: Reuters

Ivory Coast's former president Laurent Gbagbo waits for judges to arrive for his initial court appearance at the International Criminal Court in The Hague December 5, 2011. Gbagbo appeared at the International Criminal Court on Monday, facing charges of crimes against humanity, including murder and rape, the first former head of state expected to be tried by the court since its inception in 2002.

A human rights lawyer said it is not uncommon for a high-profile individual like former Ivorian President

Laurent Gbagbo, facing charges before the International Criminal Court, to get legal assistance.

The ICC clerk is quoted as saying Gbagbo will get legal aid for his trial.

The former leader was taken to The Hague last November to face trial for four counts of crimes against humanity for his alleged role in Ivory Coast's post-election violence.

His lawyers reportedly told the court that they have no resources with which to conduct his defense.

Richard Dicker, director of the international justice program at the U.S.-based Human Rights Watch, said former Liberian President Charles Taylor got similar treatment during his trial before the ICC.

"Crucial to any accused receiving a fair trial is that he or she receives legal representation from effective legal counsel defense attorneys. That's a basic human right. And, if in fact the accused does not have funding to pay himself for that legal representation, then the court that is trying the individual subsidizes or makes the payment to the defense attorneys," he said.

Dicker said he shares what he calls the well-founded skepticism of any Ivorian who might question the notion that Gbagbo does not have the money to pay for his own defense.

But, he said it is a common practice in U.S. domestic legal practice and even international practice for a court to provide legal aid for a defendant who might not have the resources.

"We've seen this claim of poverty made, for example, by former Liberian president Charles Taylor. Charles Taylor received very high quality legal defense that cost quite a bit of money, but because Mr.

Taylor alleged impoverishment, and because the court was unable to identify and seize assets that Mr. Taylor may have had stashed away somewhere, the court paid for Taylor's defense," Dicker said.

A statement by the ICC clerk reportedly said the financial aid granted by the court will cover only the preliminary stages of Gbagbo's case while the court investigates his financial status.

Dicker said the court made the right decision, at least for now, because it is a basic human right that all accused must have representation by defense counsel.

"What I make of the order you cited coming from the ICC about Laurent Gbagbo is that the court is trying to identify possible assets of Laurent Gbagbo that could be used to pay for his defense in the interim until such determination is made, rather than Gbagbo not receive the benefit of legal counsel,' Dicker said.

Dicker said, as serious as the charges against Gbagbo are, ICC sentencing guidelines prohibit the imposition of capital punishment, or the death penalty.

New Democrat (Liberia)

Thursday, 12 January 2012

Liberia: Did Taylor Decide Key Senate Vote?

Joe K. Roberts

Recriminations, finger-pointing and blame-throwing have followed the election of the new senate leadership, with Bong County senator Jewel Howard Taylor who lost by a single vote, indicting her already indicted husband for war crimes husband, Charles Taylor, holding him responsible for instructing one of his loyalist senators to vote against her.

National Patriotic Party (NPP) Bong County Chairman Marvin Cole, who is also a staffer in Sen. Taylor's office, claims that newly elected senator Sando Johnson, regarded as the Taylor family spokesman, was instructed from The Hague to dump Mrs. Taylor in the Senate Pro-Tempore race with Bassa County Senator Gbezongar Findley.

"Before the ballots were cast on Monday in the Senate, Bomi Sen. Sando Johnson publicly announced that he got clear instructions from Mr. Taylor not to vote for Sen. Taylor because she was the first from the opposition bloc to congratulate President Sirleaf on her re-election," Cole said Tuesday at the Capitol Building.

Cole quoted Sen. Johnson as saying former President Taylor pointed out that his ex-wife's action put the lives of thousands of Liberian youths, who protested the results of the presidential election at risk, and that her decision did not represent the interest of the NPP.

When contacted Wednesday at the Capitol, Bomi County Sen. Sando Johnson told this paper that before the senate vote, he announced in the senate that he would not be voting on party lines. He would vote for the best-qualified candidate, he said.

"That's a complete lie intended for Sen. Taylor to gain popularity with President Sirleaf at my expense, because I have not spoken with Mr. Taylor, so how could I have received instructions from him not to vote for our standard bearer, and I am the vice chairman for the NPP," he questioned.

"The reason she lost is because she did not lobby well with senate colleagues. She should be very grateful for the 14 votes she obtained; that made the election comparative," he said.

Other NPP executives have in recent times claimed telephone contacts with Mr. Taylor, now awaiting his verdict, for political decisions.

When he resigned as chairman emeritus from the NPP late 2011 claiming the party had no vision, Mr. Cyril Allen said Mr. Taylor had called him and begged him not to resign but (to) hang in there and act like a godfather for the party.

Mr. Allen then criticized Sen. Taylor over her decision to endorse President Sirleaf's victory in the 8 November presidential runoff election, but said it was unilateral and represented her personal view.

Human Rights Watch

Thursday, 12 January 2012

For Immediate Release

Senegal: Stop stalling with Habré extradition

Fourth Belgian extradition request expected after technical rejection; Hillary Clinton report awaited on progress in bringing ex-Chad dictator to justice

The Senegalese government should stop delaying the extradition of former Chadian dictator Hissène Habré to Belgium, a coalition of human rights organizations said today.

On January 10, the Court of Appeals of Dakar again declared a Belgian extradition request inadmissible because legal papers the court received from the Senegalese government were not in order. It was the second such decision in six months.

“It’s time for the Senegalese government to stop playing games and to send Hissène Habré to Belgium to face trial,” said Jacqueline Moudeïna, lawyer for Habré’s victims and coordinator of the International Committee for the Fair Trial of Hissène Habré. “Habré’s victims have been fighting for justice for 21 years and all they have gotten from Senegal is the run-around.”

Habré is accused of thousands of political killings and systematic torture when he ruled Chad from 1982 to 1990, before fleeing to Senegal.

The government of Senegal has repeatedly refused, then agreed under pressure, and finally refused again to prosecute him. His victims are now seeking his extradition to Belgium, which made its first request in 2005.

The International Committee for the Fair Trial of Hissène Habré – which comprises the Chadian Association for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights (ATPDH), the Association of Victims of Crimes of the Regime of Hissène Habré (AVCRHH), the African Assembly for the Defense of Human Rights (RADDH0), Human Rights Watch, and the International Federation of Human Rights (FIDH), among others – said that they hoped and expected that Belgium would quickly file a new extradition request.

The committee noted that the United States Congress had in December expressed its “concer[n] that Hissene Habre has not been extradited for prosecution” and requested US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to report to Congress by February 6 on “steps taken by the Government of Senegal to assist in bringing Habre to justice.” The Congressional statement came as the Congress approved US\$50 million in development assistance for Senegal.

“I was jailed by Hissène Habré for four years and Senegal has prolonged my suffering for more than two decades,” said Clément Abaifouta, president of the AVCRHH, who, as a prisoner under Habré, was forced to dig graves for more than 500 fellow inmates. “But I still have faith that Hissène Habré will be tried one day and that, in the courtroom, he will have to explain why I was arrested and tortured.”

Habré was first indicted in Senegal in 2000, but after political interference by the Senegalese government that was denounced by two UN human rights rapporteurs, the country’s courts said that he could not be tried there. His victims then filed a case in Belgium. After years of investigation, in September 2005, a

Belgian judge requested his extradition. Senegal asked the African Union (AU) to recommend a course of action, and in July 2006, the AU called on Senegal to prosecute Habré “on behalf of Africa.”

Years of stalling ensued, even after international donors fully funded the US\$11.9 million trial budget in November 2010. In May 2011, Senegal walked out of talks with the AU over the trial and made clear that it would not prosecute Habré. On July 10, President Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal reversed a decision announced two days earlier to expel Habré to Chad, where he has been sentenced to death in absentia.

Belgium made a second extradition request on March 15, 2011. On August 18, the Dakar Appeals court declared the request inadmissible on the ground that the extradition request was not accompanied by the underlying papers, such as the Belgian arrest warrant, and had not been properly filed. However in that ruling, the court referred only to a follow-up diplomatic note sent by Belgium, and not the March 15 request, which was apparently never transmitted to the court by the Senegalese government.

On September 5, Belgium filed a third request. On January 10, 2012, the Court of Appeals again declared the request inadmissible on procedural grounds, stating that the 2005 arrest warrant attached to the extradition request was not an authentic copy. Belgian officials have assured the Committee that the warrant handed to the Senegalese ministry of foreign affairs on September 5 was correctly certified by the Brussels district court, the Ministry of Justice, and the minister of Foreign Affairs. It was not immediately clear whether the Court of Appeals had in front of it the same papers handed to the ministry on September 5.

The government of Chad announced in July 2011 that it was in favor of extraditing Habré to Belgium. Although Rwanda recently announced that it was also willing to try Habré in its courts, the Committee said it believed this option would lead to many more years of delay before the trial could be held, as survivors and potential witnesses die each month

Files of Habré's political police (Direction de la Documentation et de la Sécurité, DDS), which were discovered by Human Rights Watch in 2001, revealed the names of 12,321 victims of human rights violations, including 1,208 who were killed or died in detention.