

**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:**

Wednesday, 18 January 2012

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

Local News

Justice Richard Lussick Elected Presiding Judge of Trial Chamber II / <i>OPA</i>	Page 3
...De War Don Done? / <i>Awareness Times</i>	Page 4

International News

...Justice Richard Lussick Elected Presiding Judge of Trial Chamber II / <i>StarAfrica.com</i>	Page 5
Liberian Despot Charles Taylor Worked with US Intelligence / <i>The Telegraph</i>	Pages 6-7
Liberian Despot Taylor Was an American Spy / <i>The Australian Eye</i>	Page 8
Former Liberian Dictator Charles Taylor Worked for U.S. Intelligence Agencies... / <i>Daily Mail</i>	Pages 9-12
Rise and fall of Liberian Ex-President Charles Taylor / <i>Boston Globe</i>	Page 13



Special Court for Sierra Leone
Outreach and Public Affairs Office

PRESS RELEASE

Freetown, Sierra Leone, 18 January 2012

Justice Richard Lussick Elected Presiding Judge of Trial Chamber II

Justice Richard Brunt Lussick of Samoa has been elected Presiding Judge of Trial Chamber II. He succeeds Justice Teresa Doherty, whose one-year term ended on 17 January 2012.

Pursuant to Rule 27 of the Special Court's Rules of Procedure and Evidence, the Presiding Judge of the Trial Chamber is elected for a renewable term of one year. It has, however, been the practice of the Trial Chambers to rotate the position of Presiding Judge at the end of each one-year term.

Justice Lussick was appointed a Judge at the Special Court in 2004. Prior to joining the Court, he held a wide variety of positions within the Samoan judiciary, including Acting Chief Justice, Judge of the Court of Appeal, Acting President of the Land & Titles Court, Supreme Court Judge, Chairman of the Public Service Appeals Board, District Court Judge, and Coroner. From 1995-2000 he served as Chief Justice of the Republic of Kiribati. He is a past Vice President of the Commonwealth Magistrates and Judges Association.

Justice Lussick previously served as Presiding Judge of Trial Chamber II from 2006-2007 and from 2009-2010.

Trial Chamber II is currently considering their judgement in the trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor.

#END

The Special Court is an independent tribunal established jointly by the United Nations and the Government of Sierra Leone. It is mandated to bring to justice those who bear the greatest responsibility for atrocities committed in Sierra Leone after 30 November 1996.

January 18th 2002 - January 18th 2012

De War Don Done?

As some Sierra Leoneans seem to have forgotten recent past, we go into Sierra Leone Web archives of 10 years ago

Friday 18th January 2002: At a symbolic ceremony in Lungi on Friday to burn nearly 3,000 weapons collected from Sierra Leone's warring factions, President Kabbah declared that disarmament in the country was at an end — and that the war was over. Kabbah also announced the lifting of the curfew, which has been in effect since the restoration of civilian rule four years ago.

The president spoke before a crowd which included visiting dignitaries, government leaders, representatives of the RUF and CDF, United Nations officials, diplomats, and 1,000 local residents and school children. Since January of last year, over 46,000 combatants have turned in some 14,500 weapons and 1.3 million rounds of ammunition.

But despite the success of Sierra Leone's disarmament programme, Kabbah warned that there still were threats to peace in the sub-region, including the illicit arms trade and the illegal trafficking in natural resources — especially diamonds, which have been widely blamed for fuelling Sierra Leone's ten years of civil conflict.

And although the process of disarmament was now formally over, he said, the formidable tasks of reintegration and rehabilitation have only just begun. Noting the paucity of funds pledged so far to help train and reintegrate former combatants into society, Kabbah appealed to the international community to remain engaged in Sierra Leone, and to help the country to consolidate the peace.

This week the Sierra Leone government signed an agreement with the United Nations to set up a Special Court which will prosecute those accused of war crimes during the conflict.

Questions have been raised in recent days as to whether the timing of the agreement might disrupt the fragile reconciliation process, but Kabbah insisted that both justice and reconciliation were "major components" of peace.

"One cannot speak about the need for national reconciliation, and at the same time ignore or dismiss the moral and constitutional imperative of upholding the rule of law," he said.

"The Special Court is about accountability. It is about justice...In our situation it is a means of dealing with impunity. It is also a means of ensuring that at all times, the human rights of every individual, including those who are caught up in armed conflict, are respected and protected."

Of the heads of state who were invited to Friday's ceremony, only President John Kuffuor of Ghana showed up. Liberia was represented by Vice President Moses Blah, while Senegal, Mali and Libya sent their foreign ministers. Nigeria was represented by Minister of Defence Theophilus Danjuma.

Statements made at the ceremony for the symbolic burning of weapons: RUF interim leader Gen. Issa Sesay thanked UNAMSIL for having given "us the courage to lay down our arms." He added: *"We are not only burning [tools] that were taking lives, we are producing ashes out of (them) which will [forge] a new consciousness and determination to foster greater unity and hope of a better and brighter future of all Sierra Leoneans. As we destroy the weapons that have been collected and [smoke rises from the fire to the skies], let this be indication of the declaring intention of all former fighters that violence and discord are indeed ended in Sierra Leone."*

Ghanaian President John Kuffuor said the successful disarmament

of combatants was "a significant milestone and moral victory for the people of Sierra Leone and the international community." He noted, however, that *"ten years of fighting have robbed this country of human and material resources which could have been used to alleviate poverty."* Said Kuffuor: *"Let us resolve to give the children of Sierra Leone a chance to grow up in a peaceful country."* Nigerian Defence Minister Theophilus Danjuma said proliferation of small arms, most of which are manufactured outside the African continent, constitute "weapons of mass destruction" in Africa and must be tackled "at the source...so we urge the producing countries that flood the market to search their hearts and have pity on us."

U.N. Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ambassador Oluyemi Adeniji commended the leadership of the RUF and CDF "who committed themselves to see the disarmament process through to the end". Adeniji noted that "while this day symbolises an end, it also symbolises a beginning — a new beginning for more than 46,000 men and women of this nation." He appealed to the international community to support the reintegration programme because "financial resources required face a serious shortfall."

As Sierra Leoneans prepared Friday to celebrate the end of disarmament with the symbolic burning of weapons, British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw hailed the role of Britain, working together with ECOWAS and UNAMSIL, in bringing the conflict to an end. "Sierra Leone is emerging from the nightmare of a decade old civil war, which has left the country and its people severely scarred," he said. "The process of healing and rebuilding must now begin." Straw welcomed the signing of an agreement this week to set up a Special Court to prosecute those accused of war crimes committed during the country's decade-long civil war. *"Bringing to justice those most responsible for gross violations of human rights and crimes against humanity will send a powerful message to Sierra Leoneans and around the world about the international community's resolve not to allow such activities to go unpunished,"* he said.

The minister said he was "greatly encouraged" about the number of ex-combatants who had disarmed. *"It is clear to me that the vast majority of Sierra Leoneans are fed up with war and yearn for peace,"* he said. "I applaud the Revolutionary United Front's decision to give up the gun in favour of a political process, leading to elections in May. I urge all Sierra Leoneans to grasp this opportunity to work together, and help to rebuild their country and realise its great potential."

The United Nations refugee agency, UNHCR, will begin repatriating Sierra Leonean refugees in Liberia next month for the first time since war erupted in their country a decade ago, a UNHCR spokesman said in Geneva. Because of limited assistance available in eastern Sierra Leone, the agency is not promoting a massive repatriation of the 38,000 refugees in Liberia, but will facilitate the return of those requesting it. So far, 2,069 Sierra Leoneans have indicated they are ready to go back. Many of the refugees are eager to return home to vote in the upcoming election, the spokesman said. UNHCR staff and Sierra Leone government officials are visiting the six refugee camps in Liberia this week to meet with refugee leaders and discuss the conditions in the areas of return. The majority of Sierra Leonean refugees in Liberia come from eastern Kono and Kailahun Districts.

StarAfrica.com

Wednesday, 18 January 2012

<http://www.starafrika.com/en/news/detail-news/view/special-court-for-sierra-leone-justice-213783.html>

Special Court for Sierra Leone / Justice Richard Lussick Elected Presiding Judge of Trial Chamber II

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone, January 18, 2012/African Press Organization (APO)/ -- Justice Richard...

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone, January 18, 2012/African Press Organization (APO)/ -- Justice Richard Brunt Lussick of Samoa has been elected Presiding Judge of Trial Chamber II. He succeeds Justice Teresa Doherty, whose one-year term ended on 17 January 2012.

Pursuant to Rule 27 of the Special Court's Rules of Procedure and Evidence, the Presiding Judge of the Trial Chamber is elected for a renewable term of one year. It has, however, been the practice of the Trial Chambers to rotate the position of Presiding Judge at the end of each one-year term.

Justice Lussick was appointed a Judge at the Special Court in 2004. Prior to joining the Court, he held a wide variety of positions within the Samoan judiciary, including Acting Chief Justice, Judge of the Court of Appeal, Acting President of the Land & Titles Court, Supreme Court Judge, Chairman of the Public Service Appeals Board, District Court Judge, and Coroner. From 1995-2000 he served as Chief Justice of the Republic of Kiribati. He is a past Vice President of the Commonwealth Magistrates and Judges Association.

Justice Lussick previously served as Presiding Judge of Trial Chamber II from 2006-2007 and from 2009-2010.

Trial Chamber II is currently considering their judgement in the trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor.

Provided by PR Newswire

The Telegraph

Tuesday, 17 January 2012

Liberian despot Charles Taylor worked with US intelligence

Charles Taylor, the former Liberian despot charged with war crimes, worked with American intelligence agencies during his rise to power, the US government has confirmed.



By Nick Allen, Los Angeles

Taylor, the first ever African head of state to face an international tribunal, has been indicted for fomenting a bloody civil war in the neighbouring West African country of Sierra Leone which claimed some 120,000 lives in the 10 years to 2001.

He has been accused of terrorising civilians, recruitment of child soldiers, accepting "mayonnaise jars" stuffed with diamonds, and even cannibalism.

Rumours of CIA involvement in his brutal career were fuelled in July 2009 when Taylor himself told his trial, at the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone in The Hague, that US agents helped him escape from a jail in Boston in 1985 and provided arms for a planned coup in Liberia.

That suggestion was initially denied by the CIA as "completely absurd."

But the Defence Intelligence Agency, the Pentagon's spy arm, has now disclosed that its agents, and those of the CIA, did work with Taylor from the early 1980s.

The confirmation came in a response to a Freedom of Information Act request made by the Boston Globe newspaper.

Pentagon officials disclosed that US connections with Taylor were contained in at least 48 secret documents compiled over several decades, but declined to give any further details about the exact length or nature of the relationship.

According to former intelligence officials Taylor could have been considered useful in the 1980s for collecting information on Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi, and attempts by the Soviet Union to gain influence in Africa during the Cold War.

Before becoming one of the world's most notorious and brutal rulers Taylor had been a student at Bentley College, just outside Boston, from 1972 to 1977. He earned a degree in economics.

He first came to the attention of authorities in the US when he was arrested during a protest outside the Liberian Mission in New York in 1979.

Taylor, who was born in Liberia, supported a coup in his home country by Samuel Doe the following year and joined the new government. He then fled back to the US after being accused of embezzling almost \$1 million, and began fighting extradition to Liberia from a maximum security jail in Plymouth, Massachusetts.

According to Taylor himself, he then received help from the CIA. He told the Special Court for Sierra Leone that a plan was hatched for him to join another planned coup in Liberia, headed by military leader Thomas Quiwonkpa. Taylor claimed he was "100 per cent positive" the CIA was providing the weapons.

He claimed a guard at the jail came to his cell late at night, opened the door and took him to a window where sheets were tied to the bars allowing him to climb down. According to his version a "Government car" then drove him to New York, before he made his way to Mexico on his own passport. News reports suggested he had escaped from the jail.

The Quiwonkpa coup failed and, according to Taylor, the would-be leader's "flesh was eaten by the military leaders at the time."

After undergoing training in Libya under Gaddafi, Taylor founded the National Patriotic Front of Liberia and after engaging in civil war became president in 1996.

During the Sierra Leone civil war that followed Revolutionary United Front rebels, described as Taylor's "surrogate army", mutilated thousands of civilians.

Taylor is accused of funding atrocities there in return for "blood diamonds." The former leader, who has compared himself to Jesus, denies the charges.

The Australian Eye

Tuesday, 17 January 2012

Liberian despot Taylor was an American spy

By Nigel Shelbourne

By Nick Allen in Los Angeles

Charles Taylor, the former Liberian despot charged with war crimes, worked with American intelligence agencies during his rise to power, the US government has confirmed.

Taylor, the first African head of state to face an international tribunal, has been indicted for fomenting a bloody civil war in the neighbouring West African country of Sierra Leone that claimed some 120,000 lives in the 10 years to 2001.

He has been accused of terrorising civilians, recruitment of child soldiers, accepting “mayonnaise jars” stuffed with diamonds, and even cannibalism.

Rumours of CIA involvement in his brutal career intensified in July, 2009, when Taylor told his trial, at the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone in The Hague, that US agents helped him to escape from a jail in Boston in 1985 and provided arms for a planned coup in Liberia.

That suggestion was initially denied by the CIA as “completely absurd”.

But the Defence Intelligence Agency, the Pentagon’s spy arm, has now disclosed that its agents, and those of the CIA, did work with Taylor from the early 1980s. The confirmation came in a response to a Freedom of Information Act request made by the Boston Globe newspaper.

Pentagon officials disclosed that US connections with Taylor were contained in at least 48 secret documents compiled over several decades but declined to give any further details about the exact length or nature of the relationship. According to former intelligence officials, Taylor could have been considered useful in the 1980s for collecting information on Muammar Gaddafi and attempts by the Soviet Union to gain influence in Africa during the Cold War.

Taylor was a student at Bentley College, just outside Boston, from 1972 to 1977 and earned a degree in economics.

In 1980, he supported a coup in his home country by Samuel Doe and joined the new government, but fled back to the US after being accused of embezzling almost \$1?million. He began fighting extradition to Liberia from a maximum security jail in Plymouth, Massachusetts.

According to Taylor, he then received help from the CIA in escaping from the jail using sheets tied to the bars. He made his way to Mexico on his own passport.

After training in Libya under Gaddafi, Taylor founded the National Patriotic Front of Liberia and became president in 1996 following a civil war.

Taylor denies the war crimes charges.

The Daily Telegraph

Daily Mail

Wednesday, 18 January 2012

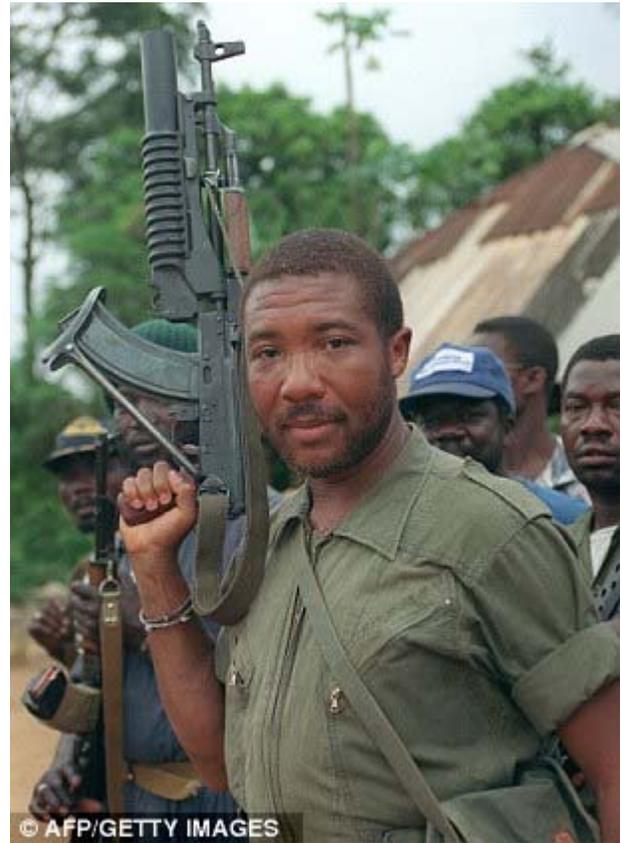
Former Liberian dictator Charles Taylor worked for U.S. intelligence agencies while becoming Africa's most notorious warlord

Charles Taylor worked for U.S. intelligence agencies during his rise to become one of Africa's most notorious dictators.

The former Liberian despot was employed by the Pentagon's spy arm from the early 1980s onwards for an undisclosed number of years, according to reports.

It is thought he was hired in order to get information on the former Libyan leader Colonel Gaddafi, possibly including details about the Lockerbie bombing.





The link between Taylor and American intelligence agencies has long been rumoured but it was confirmed in response to a Freedom of Information request from the Boston Globe which had been put in six years ago.

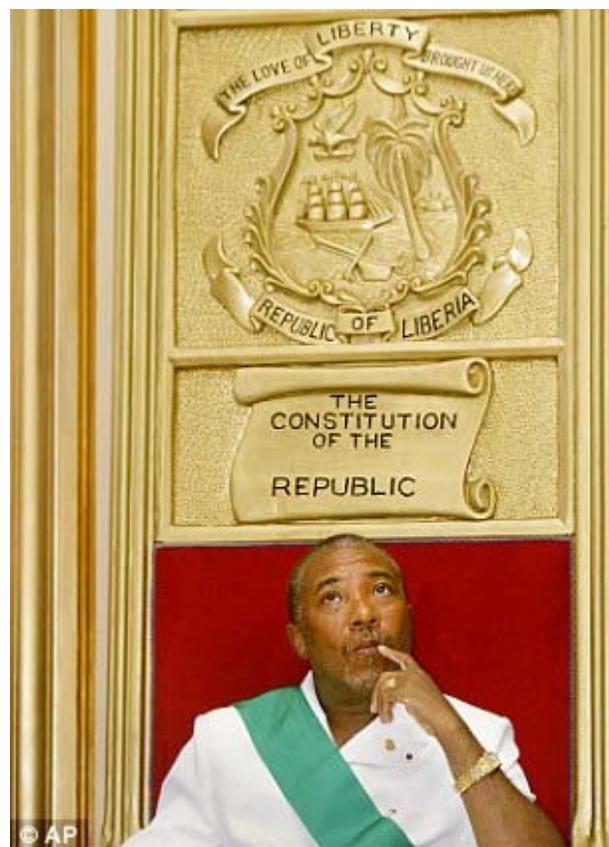
The Defence Intelligence Agency, the Pentagon's spy wing, admitted there was a relationship but refused to elaborate, claiming it could harm U.S. national security.

It also revealed that there were at least 48 documents covering several decades on Taylor, but did not comment further.

The disclosure immediately raised questions over Taylor's escape from a prison in Boston in 1985.

He had fled there from Liberia amid accusations he embezzled £680,000 and was arrested and put in jail.

Taylor then managed to flee the U.S., even though four others who fled with him were recaptured, and begin his rise to become the country's leader.



Former intelligence officials said that over time Taylor would have been used by the U.S. for information on everything from African issues to arms sales in the Soviet Union.

The relationship appears to have ended by 1997 when Taylor assumed power in Liberia following a series of bloody civil wars.

The 63-year-old is now awaiting sentence in a special UN court in The Hague after admitting to a string of war crime charges including murder, rape and using child soldiers during a war with neighbouring Sierra Leone whilst he was president.



Allan White, a former U.S. Defence Department investigator who helped prosecute Taylor, told the Boston Globe that the disclosure was something he had long suspected.

He said: 'I think the intelligence community's past relationship with Taylor made some in the U.S. government squeamish about a trial, despite knowing what a bad actor he was'.

During Taylor's trial the model Naomi Campbell gave evidence and denied claims he had given her a 'blood diamond' in 1997 as they both visited Nelson Mandela in South Africa.

She claimed she did not realise it was a diamond as they were 'very small, dirty-looking stones' and she was used to seeing them sparkle.

Boston Globe

Tuesday, 17 January 2012

Rise and fall of Liberian ex-president Charles Taylor

1972: Charles G. Taylor, 24, arrives in Boston on student visa; attends Bentley College, works in South Boston, and lives for the next decade mainly in Roxbury.

1980: Joins new Liberian government after Samuel Doe mounts successful coup with Taylor's help.

1983: Flees to Boston after being charged with embezzling government funds.

May 24, 1984: Arrested in Somerville and jailed in Plymouth.

Sept. 15, 1985: Escapes from Plymouth House of Correction.

December 1989: As head of rebel army, launches incursion into Liberia from Ivory Coast, setting off a series of civil wars.

1996: Consolidates power in Liberian capital of Monrovia.

1997: Elected president of Liberia.

2002: Investigated by UN Special Court for Sierra Leone for alleged role in instigating atrocities.

2003: Indicted on war crime charges, Taylor flees to Nigeria; turned over to UN court three years later.

2007: Trial begins in The Hague.

March 2011: Trial concludes, awaiting a verdict.

