

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



The Aberdeen Bridge

**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, 6 June 2012

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

**International News**

Charles Taylor at The Hague, David Lawley-Wakelin.../ <i>The Independent</i>	Pages 3-4
Chief Prosecutor Allays Fears.../ <i>The Analyst</i>	Pages 5-6
ICC Prosecutor Urges UN to Consider Sudanese Arrests / <i>Voice of America</i>	Page 7
Victims' Legal Representatives Sworn in / <i>Naharnet</i>	Page 8

The Independent  
 Wednesday, 6 June 2012

## **Charles Taylor at The Hague, David Lawley-Wakelin and Tony Blair's 'moral decline and fall'**

By Emanuel Stoakes

Last week, Charles Taylor, the first former head of state to be convicted by an international tribunal since the judgement of high-level Nazis in Nuremberg, received a long-overdue conviction at the Hague for "aiding and abetting, as well as planning, some of the most heinous and brutal crimes recorded in human history." Liberia's ex-President (pictured), looking broken and old, now faces the prospect of spending the rest of his natural life in a British jail for his offences, a luxury that many West Africans, cruelly maimed, raped, enslaved or murdered in Sierra Leone's civil war did not enjoy.

Elsewhere, our octogenarian head of state celebrates the diamond anniversary of her ascension to Majesty. This sixth of June, she will have shared a table with Mahinda Rajapaksa: the President of Sri Lanka, a man allegedly responsible for appalling war crimes. Rajapaksa denies these claims. This comes after Her Maj condescended to host Bahrain's Hamad Al- Khalifa among an assorted salad of autocrats, alleged human rights abusers and other, less controversial, leaders earlier in the month. The Bahraini Sheikh haunted the gilded halls of quasi-power while the on-going suffering of his people was, one must assume, allowed to drift discreetly into Mrs Windsor's Royal memory hole.

Not far from the venue for this genteel gathering, the man whose intervention in Sierra Leone many believe ended Taylor's brutality in the civil war, was accosted by an impromptu protester, David Lawley-Wakelin. The imputations lanced in the direction of Blair by the uninvited "massive chump" (to quote Tom Chivers' sneering Telegraph blog) reminded us of the former Prime Minister's ever-controversial role in the invasion of Iraq, albeit via unproven allegations of corruption and conspiracy. It also drew attention to Blair's post-prime ministerial activities- an issue that we should be thankful to Mr Lawley-Wakelin for reminding us of, and to which we will return.

The academic Chris Mahony, who worked at the Special Court for Sierra Leone (the Court set-up initially to indict those responsible for abuses in the civil war) wrote in the Atlantic recently that Taylor's sentencing by The International Criminal Court "advances, incrementally, international criminal justice" while reminding us of the nature of the international justice system. Mahony argues however, that the latter is a project "that is developing in such a way as to reflect global power, not the ideals of global justice."

While celebrating Taylor's acquaintance with The Hague and his well-deserved punishment, Mahony referred to his conviction as "an aberration, the exception that proves the rule" about the workings of institutionalised global justice, given that "International courts are unable to exercise jurisdiction over many of the most powerful criminals" in the world.

Pointing to a pertinent example, he referred to statements made by David M Crane, the American lead prosecutor at the Special Court for Sierra Leone, which indicted Taylor and intended to seek the prosecution of Muammar Gaddafi, a man considered by Crane to be "the centre point" of a "long-term criminal conspiracy" that ultimately led to the killing of tens of thousands of people during the civil war.

In an important piece produced by The Times last year journalist Soraya Kishtwari wrote that Professor Crane explained to her that "indicting Gaddafi would have been the "death knell" for the courts as the countries objecting would have pulled funding...Asked why he believed there was opposition from the international community to act on the evidence he had uncovered, he said: "Welcome to the world of oil."

This brings us back, aptly, to Tony, 2012. It was during Blair's rapprochement with Gaddafi that this alleged prevention of justice occurred. The "deal in the desert" now seems like typical Blairism: questionable "good intentions" mixed with Realpolitik. As a result a weapons program was defenestrated by Gaddafi, who nonetheless continued mistreat his own people. Britain's entry into Libya lent false respectability to the regime of Muammar the "Mad Dog" and Libyan cash peregrinated in the direction of BP and the London School of Economics. Our credibly alleged role in "extraordinary rendition" followed hard after.

For the greater "good", no doubt, Blair also unctuously sidled up to Egypt's great oppressor Hosni Mubarak, whom he described not long ago as an "immensely courageous" man and a "force for good". Mubarak was last week effectively sentenced to life in prison for multiple crimes committed against his own people(although, as Robert Fisk rightly reminds us, his greater offences –like those of Saddam Hussein during the time he received western support- were not counted in his fateful for verdict political reasons).

Some ineffable "good", one presumes, may be being done by Blair and his crew behind-the-scenes in Kazakhstan, as John Rentoul appeared to speculate in these pages. This, in response to Nick Cohen's recent piece in the Observer concerning the former Prime Minister's employment by President Nursultan Nazarbayev, whose regime reportedly "shoots strikers, burns the offices of opposition parties and kills their leaders." Cohen, a Euston Manifesto signatory, trumpeted the millions allegedly paid to Blair by Nazarbayev as the latest dividends of the former Prime Minister's "moral decline and fall." On the face of it, you'd be hard pressed not to agree.

"Excuse me, this man is a war criminal!" Lawley-Wakelin asserted before being bundled out of Leveson last week, another statement with which many would concur–vehemently. But Blair will almost certainly never suffer the fate of Taylor, to whom he cannot be honestly compared; even if Iraq was a war of aggression–"the supreme international crime" to quote American jurors present at the Nuremberg.

Benjamin Ferencz, former chief prosecutor at the latter trials, made a compelling case in 2006 that the invasion of 2003 comfortably fits such a description, something that is hardly a fringe view among legal experts.

It is worthy of note that Ferencz's legal work for the commission that established the International Criminal Court is still considered textbook.

However, for the ICC to actually prosecute individuals suspected of a major international crime, the court requires, generally speaking, significant state co-operation, or jurisdiction afforded it by the United Nations Security Council. Thus, the balance of power in the world being as it is, Blair or Bush will never sit in The Hague, barring some miracle.

Don't be fooled: Charles Taylor's deserving conviction was no watershed for the rule of international law, as necessary and important as it was. In international relations, lamentably, power still maintains its grip on the reins of justice.

## The Analyst (Monrovia)

Tuesday, 5 June 2012

### **Liberia: Chief Prosecutor Allays Fears - Says Nation Owes No Liabilities to Sierra Leone**

By Peter Quaqua, 5 June 2012

The conviction and sentencing of former Liberian President for aiding and abetting the ruinous war in Sierra Leone has brought trepidations at home since it was proven that the ex-president used Liberian territory and highest public office to foment carnage and mayhem in the sisterly country. Much of the fear had bordered what some skeptics thought would be possible reparations to Sierra Leonean war victims to be underwritten by Taylor, and by extension Liberia. But, according to reports filed by Peter Quaqua from The Hague, Liberians have reason the sigh with relief because it is now made clear that Liberia would not take responsibility for their ex-President's "sins".

The Chief Prosecutor of the UN backed Special Court for Sierra Leone has allayed fears of Liberians that the Country would be made to pay for damages to Sierra Leone following the conviction of their former president, Charles Taylor.

Some Liberian commentators had suggested that the Country would pay reparation to Sierra Leone in the wake of the guilty verdict and sentencing of Mr. Taylor.

But responding to a question shortly after the sentencing judgment of Mr. Taylor in The Hague, Ms. Brenda Hollis said, Liberia has no responsibilities in the case. "It's not Liberia versus Sierra Leone, its Sierra Leone [Prosecutor] versus Charles Gankay Taylor."

She further advised Sierra Leoneans that they should seek apology and reparation from those who hurt them; "that's how the law works," Hollis said. Adding, "Our job was to prosecute; finding compensation for victims is a different program."

The American lawyer however encouraged the Sierra Leone Government and people to take the court document and pursue other ways of bringing relief to victims of the war by seeking, for instance, to freeze Mr. Taylor's assets and get the money to Sierra Leone.

Hollis said the victims of the brutal war in Sierra Leone should not be allowed to beg for the rest of their lives.

"The sentence that was imposed today does not replace amputated limbs. It does not bring back those who were murdered; it does not heal the wounds of those who were victims of sexual violence and does not remove the permanent emotional and psychological and physical scars of those enslaved or recruited as child soldiers."

Charles Taylor was indicted for war crimes and crimes against humanity in Sierra Leone while sitting as president of Liberia. He was convicted on 11 charges of aiding and abetting the rebels who committed heinous crimes in the decade long civil war.

At 64, Taylor got a virtual life sentence of 50 years in prison, but the prosecution has given hint that they might appeal the sentence, suggesting that the judges was lenient. The prosecution earlier asked for 80 years sentence.

Brenda argued, "It is important in our view that those responsible for criminal misconduct on a massive scale are not given a volume discount."

Taylor's lead lawyer, Courtenay Griffiths, restated his conspiratorial theory in the prosecution of his client. Mr. Griffiths thinks the prosecution of Mr. Taylor was selective – a view held by many Liberians.

It will perhaps take prosecutors some public awareness campaign to dismiss the notion that western powers [America and Britain] had their hands behind the sentencing of Charles Taylor.

Chief Prosecutor Brenda Hollis is expected in Liberia this week-end to provide some explanation and a bit of convincing - maybe a lot of convincing to 'change the minds and attitudes' of Liberians over what Courtenay referred to as "the white man's justice." The weak and the poor" he says must stand up for their own justice in Africa.

Meanwhile, Mr. Taylor's defense is also preparing an appeal. Indications are that this process might drag for at least another year or so.

## Voice of America

Tuesday, 5 June 2012

### ICC Prosecutor Urges UN to Consider Sudanese Arrests

Larry Freund

The prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, Luis Moreno-Ocampo, has urged the U.N. Security Council to consider asking countries to arrest Sudanese officials indicted by the court for crimes in Darfur.



*International Criminal Court prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo gestures during a news conference in The Hague, Netherlands, Tuesday Jan. 24, 2012.*

The International Criminal Court, the ICC, has indicted four Sudanese officials for war crimes in Darfur, including Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir and Defense Minister Abdel Raheem Hussein. But none of the officials have been arrested.

The court's chief prosecutor told the Security Council that carrying out the court's arrest warrants would produce a dramatic change in Darfur and the failure to arrest the four men is a direct challenge to the Security Council's authority.

He said it is not the responsibility of U.N. peacekeepers in Sudan, known as UNAMID, to make the arrests. "Instead, the Council can in due course evaluate other possibilities including asking U.N. member states or regional organizations to execute arrest operations in furtherance of the arrest warrants issued by the International Criminal Court," he said.

Sudan's ambassador, Daffa-Alla Elhag Ali Osman rejected the prosecutor's suggestion, accusing him of ignoring the U.N. Charter. "We condemn and denounce in the strongest terms the recommendations of the prosecutor asking the Security Council to take other legal measures to implement what he calls arrest warrants, and his incitements of the Council to call upon states in this organization and in other regional organizations to do the same," he said.

The representative of the United States, Jeffrey DeLaurentis, said his country is gravely concerned about the situation in Sudan and the role that continuing impunity for crimes committed in Darfur has played in forestalling a just and enduring peace. "We encourage the Council to consider creative approaches and new tools. As members of the Security Council, we can and should review additional steps that can be undertaken to effectuate the ICC's work in Darfur, execute outstanding arrest warrants, and insure compliance by states with relevant international obligations," he said.

At the end of the Security Council discussion, ICC prosecutor Moreno-Ocampo told the Security Council he is putting Sudan's ambassador on notice that by denying the charges against the Sudanese officials, he could also be participating in the crimes. Osman responded the prosecutor's remarks were a violation of political and diplomatic norms, and were the statement of a terrorist.

Rebels in Darfur took up arms in 2003, accusing the government of neglecting the western Sudanese region. The U.N. estimates the conflict has killed about 300,000 people and displaced more than 2.5 million.

The International Criminal Court indicted the Sudanese president for war crimes and crimes against humanity in 2009, saying he masterminded a campaign of murder, rape, and other crimes against civilians in Darfur.

Naharnet

Tuesday, 5 June 2012

## **STL: Victims' Legal Representatives Sworn in**

By Naharnet Newsdesk

The lead legal representative and the two co-legal representatives designated by the Registrar of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon to represent the victims of the February 14, 2005 attack have been sworn in, the STL announced in a statement issued on Tuesday.



The three legal representatives will represent the 58 people who were granted the right to participate as victims in the proceedings by the Pre-Trial judge.

The victims' legal representatives signed a declaration that they will exercise their duties "with integrity and diligence, honorably, freely, expeditiously and conscientiously".

They also committed to "scrupulously respect professional confidentiality and the other duties imposed by the Code of Professional Conduct for Counsel Appearing Before the Tribunal".

"This designation underlines a milestone in victim participation in the STL proceedings," said Alain Grellet, the Chief of the Victims' Participation Unit of the Registry of the STL.