

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



National Railway Museum at Cline Town

**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**

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

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## The Lawyer

Monday, 22 October 2012

### **Charles Taylor's defence silk quits Garden Court for 25 Bedford Row**

By Sam Chadderton

The lead counsel in the Charles Taylor war crimes trial has moved sets ifrom Garden Court Chambers to 25 Bedford Row.

Courtenay Griffiths QC was the lead defence counsel for former Liberian president Taylor during the landmark case in The Hague. Griffiths was also involved in the Keith Blakelock murder trial, the Brighton, Harrods and Canary Wharf bombing cases, and the Damilola Taylor murder trial.

Griffiths is regarded as one of the top criminal silks in both the UK and international courts and his practice includes claims against the police and public authorities, inquests, fraud, terrorism, murder, serious public order and drugs.

He is the former head of Garden Court Chambers and is also a recorder.

A spokesman for 25 Bedford Row said: "This is an excellent and exciting addition to our chambers."

Garden Court Chambers declined to comment.

At 25 Bedford Row Griffiths joins a number of high-profile silks, including George Carter-Stephenson QC, who recently led Chris Daw in acting for John Terry in the footballer's disciplinary proceedings before the Football Association.

It is also the set of John Cooper QC, who overturned the conviction of Paul Chambers in the 'Twitter Joke' trial (27 July 2012).

## Daily Observer

Monday, 22 October 2012

### Reparations from Liberia Key in S/Leone Polls

Written by Stephen Binda

Contrary to reports that Sierra Leone could possibly demand reparations from Liberia following the guilty verdict of former Liberian President Charles Taylor for aiding and abetting the commission of crimes against humanity in that neighboring country, a top official of the Sierra Leonean government has disclosed that his country has no such intention.

“Absolutely not! We as a government do not have any intention of demanding reparation from our Liberian brothers,” Deputy Minister of Information and Communications, Mr. Sheka Tarawalie, told the Daily Observer in an exclusive interview at the weekend in Monrovia.

The Sierra Leonean Information Minister’s assurance comes following months of intense micro-debates across the Liberian society [and even in the international sphere] that the government of that West African state would demand millions in reparation for atrocities that were aided and abetted by former President Charles Taylor.

Mr. Taylor, currently facing a 50-year jail sentence in The Hague, was convicted earlier this year for backing rebels who killed tens of thousands of unarmed civilians during the more than 10-year Sierra Leonean's civil war.

Speaking exclusively with this newspaper, the Deputy Minister of Information and Communications said while it is true that lives and properties were destroyed, it is time for both countries to take the path of reconciliation.

“The Taylor issue is history for us now,” he said. “We both share the same dreams and aspirations and that is what we should be working towards now. What we are more interested in is to ensure that both countries’ relationship can deepen so that our citizens can have a better life to live.”

But this doesn’t mean that Liberia is off the hook since opposition leader Julius Maada Bio of the Sierra Leone People’s Party (SLPP) vowed in earlier this year at an international forum to ensure that Liberia pays millions to Sierra Leone in reparations if elected president in the upcoming November 17 elections.

Julius Maada Bio “dropped the bombshell while speaking at London’s Chatham House to the Royal Institute of International Affairs that he planned to institute a legal claim for reparations at International Court in The Hague against Liberia’s Government and other Governments he alleges were the ones behind Sierra Leoneans taking up arms to kill their fellow Sierra Leoneans”, a source said.

At the end of the day, the victor of the Sierra Leone polls will determine Liberia’s fate with regard to the reparations issue.

Deputy Minister Tarawalie, who is on a state visit, disclosed that Sierra Leone considers Liberia a role model in terms of its post conflict development.

He cited peace, security and development as few of the progress steps his government has copied from Liberia. He pledged his government's continuous support to Liberia's recovery and called for more collaboration.

Speaking about the pending November elections, he boasted of his government winning, citing five years of development initiatives, some of which include roads, bridges and improved civil servant salaries, among others.

Sierra Leone is rich in natural resources, including iron ore, bauxite, and diamonds but was at war for most of the 1990s and is struggling to rebuild. It has found oil though it is unclear yet whether their oil deposits are in commercially viable quantities.

**BBC**

Monday, 22 October 2012

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-20026256>

### **The Freetown I see**



Joseph, the president of the amputee football club Joseph, the president of the amputee football club, says that despite his misfortune during the war, he is grateful that he still plays football with the passion he had for it as a child. Life goes on.

Earlier this year I spoke to photographer Lee Karen Stow about her project in Sierra Leone where she has been training women to work in the industry.

Frances Ngaboh-Smart was one of those who took part in Lee's first course in 2007 and has since made a new life as a photographer, using the camera to express her thoughts and dreams. But more than that she has received commissions from NGOs, the Special Courts Sierra Leone, and more recently the Commonwealth Secretariat of London.

In 2010, Frances published her first photographic body of work entitled *Nya Jee Salone* (My Mother Sierra Leone) which has since sold out, providing income for rent, food and her family's welfare. She has also studied at the Pacific North West Arts School in Washington State with National Geographic photographer Sam Abell.

She also mentors young people in Sierra Leone, helping them to face tough choices of their own.

Frances at her exhibition in Hull



Prior to the work with Lee in 2007 Frances was struggling to find work and watched as some of her friends went into prostitution, a path taken by those fighting to survive. "Something I would never forget was losing my friend to one of the effects of poverty; forced prostitution," says Frances. "Just like me she was raised by a single parent that held firmly to the view that education is better than silver and gold.

"But as early as age 15 when she lost her mother and had no relative to make her continue her education, she resorted to selling her body to provide for her basic needs. Before she knew it, she got pregnant. As a consequence of not getting prenatal medical care she lost her life to maternal mortality in the hands of a traditional birth attendant.

"Against this backdrop photography introduced into my life a purpose, because I feel that I have lived deeply and fully. I can recognize a well-made over face to cover domestic violence. I can tell a teenage drop-out girl and know the reason why it happened. I can sense sexual abuse when it is coming, and know the areas that need allocation of budget or aid. In short I know the story; I am the story and can highlight it better through pictures."

Frances' work is currently on show the University of Hull, sponsored by WISE (Wilberforce Institute for the Study of Slavery and Emancipation) University of Hull, Women with Cameras and the Black History Partnership.

*[Frances Ngaboh-Smart currently works in Court Management. To see more of her photos, follow the link at the beginning of the article.]*