

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



Charlotte village

**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.  
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## The New Dawn (Monrovia)

Thursday, 14 February 2013

### **Liberia: Taylor's Man Gets 30 Months in Jail**

An investigator recruited by ex-President Charles Taylor's defence team will spend 30 months in jail (about 2 1/2 months) for tampering with prosecution witnesses in the Taylor's trial, Justice Teresa Doherty ruled Friday at UN backed Special Court for Sierra sitting in The Hague.

Prince Taylor, no relation to Mr. Taylor, was arrested last year and convicted on 25 January 2013 on five counts of contempt of court.

The first four counts alleged he had "otherwise interfered" with witnesses who had testified against former president Taylor.

The fifth count alleged that Prince Taylor had interfered with Eric Koi Senessie at a time when he was a potential witness in contempt proceedings before the Chamber.

Ex-President Taylor was convicted in April of war crimes and crimes against humanity for his role in supporting rebels during Sierra Leone's civil war, the first time a head of state has been found guilty by an international tribunal since the Nazi trials at Nuremberg.

He is currently appealing the court's decision to sentence him for 50 years.

"The message...must be clear and must be emphatic," said presiding Judge Teresa Doherty on Friday during the sentencing. "Justice can only prevail when witnesses can speak out without fear or favour."

The sentence was lower than recommended by the prosecution. In imposing the sentence, Justice Doherty referred to a number of aggravating factors, but also noted Prince Taylor's previous good record, his service to justice during his seven years as a Special Court investigator, and his father's plea on his behalf at Thursday's sentencing hearing.

Charles Taylor was sentenced to 50 years in prison for supporting RUF rebels in Sierra Leone's civil war. The court ruled he had funded and armed the notoriously brutal rebel group, often in return for so-called blood diamonds.

The rebels used drugged child soldiers they had abducted from their families to commit atrocities including rape, enslavement, beheading, disembowelment and maiming. Some 50,000 people died in the war, which ended in 2002.

Taylor's legal team launched appeal proceedings against the sentence in January. The UN-backed court was established to try those deemed to bear "greatest responsibility" for crimes committed in the West African war. Under the Special Court's Rules, both the Prosecution and the Defense have the right to appeal.

Associated Press  
Friday, 15 February 2013

### **International Criminal Court urges Chad, Libya to arrest Sudanese President if he visits**

THE HAGUE, Netherlands —The International Criminal Court is urging Chad and Libya to arrest Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir and extradite him to face trial if he visits over the weekend.

The written order issued Friday is the court's latest attempt to have al-Bashir detained since he was indicted for crimes including genocide in Sudan's Darfur region.

The court's prosecutor asked for the order following reports that al-Bashir could travel to Chad and Libya for meetings.

Chad is one of several nations al-Bashir has visited without being arrested since he was indicted.

The Hague-based court issued arrest warrants for al-Bashir in 2009 and 2010, but has no police force of its own to detain suspects.

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## Russian Legal Information Institute (RAPSI)

Monday, 18 February 2013

### **Sudan untroubled by ICC arrest warrant of president**

Yulia Troitskaya.

The Sudanese government is not concerned about the request of the International Criminal Court to arrest President Omar al-Bashir during his visit to Chad and Libya, Undersecretary of the Sudanese Foreign Ministry Rahmatallah Mohamed Osman told journalists.



Al-Bashir attended the summit of the Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD) in Njamena, Chad. He is also likely to go to Libya for the second anniversary of the revolution which overthrew Muammar Gaddafi.

"The ICC's request is of no significance, because Sudan has never had anything to do with the court or its decisions," Rahmatallah Osman said.

On Friday, the ICC judges issued an order at the request of Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda reminding Chad of its obligations under the court's founding document "to execute the pending Court's decisions concerning the arrest and surrender of Omar Al-Bashir." The UK has supported this request.

The ICC issued warrants for the arrest of al-Bashir in 2009 and 2010. He is charged with ten counts of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide which he allegedly masterminded in Sudan's western region of Darfur, where rebel groups have been fighting government troops since 2003. However, African Union countries refused to heed the court's ruling. Al-Bashir has visited African members of the ICC many times since then.

## The Africa Report

Thursday, 14 February 2013

### Stopping rape? Clear the guns first



*Zainab Bangura, UN special representative on sexual violence in conflict, speaking after her mission to the Central African Republic/UN  
Photo©Eskinder Debebe*

Imagine being charged \$100 for a medical certificate issued by a doctor proving that you have been raped before you can go after the culprit — and then during his trial having to feed the man who raped you.

Recounting such stories, Zainab Bangura, the UN Secretary-General's special representative on sexual violence, allows a glimpse of the passion and energy she is known for.

Up until 2002, women and girls in her country, Sierra Leone, were subjected to widespread and systematic sexual violence, including rape and sexual slavery.

#### **Take away the guns"**

As a women's rights campaigner and activist, she documented, reported and monitored such crimes and other human rights violations.

When the Special Court for Sierra Leone set up jointly by the Government and the United Nations opened, to try those responsible for crimes during the civil war, she testified as an expert witness.

Bangura's resume is impressive: She has worked as an international civil servant, was responsible for the peacebuilding commission in her country and served as foreign minister and health minister.

"I come into this job" at the UN, she said, "with both perspectives — being an activist on one side, knowing what the real experience is on the ground, and at the same time I have been a government minister and the voice of the government in the international arena."

#### **Gathering evidence**

Bangura is the second person to hold the post. Her Swedish predecessor, Margot Wallström, ended her two-year term in May 2012.

During Wallström's stint, the office was able to push for a so-called "naming and shaming" list through a UN resolution that authorizes the publication of detailed information on perpetrators.

The resolution also gives the Security Council the option to enforce sanctions on groups or nations in order to stop ongoing sexual crimes.

Wallström also pushed for legal reforms, convincing military courts in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) to try cases of sexual violence.

She got 250 prosecutions.

"I am extremely lucky my predecessor laid down a very good foundation for me," says Bangura, "and I have extremely capable staff."

### **Engaging governments**

The UN envoy already has her hands full with the escalating crises in the Central African Republic, DRC, Syria and Mali, where there are reports of increases in sexual violence against women and girls.

With a small staff and limited resources, she is actively enlisting the help of UN agencies. But for Bangura, sexual violence in conflict is not just a UN issue.

The UK recently pledged \$1.6 million to support the activities of her office.

More broadly, she says, "member states have the primary responsibility to protect the people." So she works with governments and regional organisations on a regular basis to address the problem.

"You need to work with the government to be able to have a very strong and constructive dialogue on the issue and to be able to make sure they provide the political leadership at the national level."

She adds: "It's only government that will be able to take action to put an end" to sexual crimes.

### **Biggest perpetrators are in uniform**

Bangura is also trying to establish dialogues with national armed forces and armed groups.

Her first fact-finding mission was to the Central African Republic (CAR), a country that has experienced years of political violence and instability and where scores of women and girls are under the control of armed groups.

She described the CAR as "one of the worst countries" she has experienced, with very few resources and international actors focusing on the issue.

"If we can make a difference in the CAR," she explains, "I think it will be much easier in the other countries."

Bangura's visit was timely. The recent peace agreements drafted by the main parties to the conflict had a glaring omission: There was no mention of human rights or sexual violence. So she negotiated with the two sides.

As a result, "We had an agreement both from the government's side and the armed groups that they will mainstream the issue of sexual violence.

"We've asked for very specific actions that we expect from them."

She also insisted that sexual crimes be investigated and that commanders send a message to their troops that sexual violence must stop.

The police force is also often guilty of such crimes, Bangura notes. "We have a lot of evidence where prisoners are sexually violated when they're arrested and detained, and when they're being forced to give evidence, or confess. The biggest perpetrators are people in uniform."

In countries where military and police personnel are seconded to work with the UN, Bangura believes they should be trained to "detect when and where sexual violence is taking place to prevent it.

But also so they do not commit sexual violence when they are in a peacekeeping mission."

### **Breaking the culture of silence**

Prevailing cultural norms are often an obstacle to addressing issues of sexual violence. Most women in war zones find it difficult to say they have been sexually abused.

In these often "traditional societies," silence prevails, says the UN representative. Women are frequently stigmatized, even threatened. In Libya a law obliges a rapist to marry his victim in order to "save her honour."

Often, Bangura believes, "culture just wants to forget about it and not deal with it."

Working amid continued insecurity is also challenging. She says that she cannot stress enough that "insecurity breeds sexual violence."

When a state apparatus collapses, she says, armed elements become the law and use rape as a war tactic.

Bangura is adamant: One cannot deal with sexual violence without peace or security.

So women in war zones often give her a similar message to share with world leaders: "Tell them to take the guns from the armed groups. We don't feel safe. We are not secure."

*Jocelyne Sambira writes for United Nations Africa Renewal magazine*