

**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:

Tuesday, 14 May 2013

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

Local News

Appeal Judgement In Prince Taylor Contempt / <i>Concord Times</i>	Page 3
Taylor's Appeals Judgement Today / <i>Independent Observer</i>	Page 4

International News

Lessons From Sierra Leone / <i>The Tribune</i>	Pages 5-6
Africa Must Act to Stop The West.../ <i>The Chronicle</i>	Pages 7-8
War Criminals Will be Booked No Matter How Long They Run / <i>Newstime Africa</i>	Pages 9-10
Právo: Czech Rep Pays for Membership of Nonsensical Institutions / <i>Prague Daily Monitor</i>	Pages 11-12
Dallaire a Vice for the Children / <i>The Catholic Register</i>	Pages 13-14

Appeal judgement in Prince Taylor contempt delivered today

The Appeals Chamber, consisting of Justice Emmanuel Ayoola (presiding), Justice Renate Winter and Justice Jon Kamanda, will deliver its appeal judgement in the case of Independent Counsel versus Prince Taylor today Tuesday, 14 May 2013.

Judgement will be delivered from The Hague and will be streamed to the Special Court's courtroom in

Freetown, a release from the Special Court for Sierra Leone states.

Prince Taylor, a former Special Court defence investigator, was found guilty on 25 January 2013 on five counts of contempt of court for interfering with witnesses. He was sentenced on 8 February 2013 to serve two and half years in prison.

The defence has appealed on four grounds against the judgement, and on two grounds against the sentence.

TAYLOR'S APPEALS **JUDGEMENT TODAY**

The Special Court Appeal Chamber, consisting of Justice Emmanuel Ayoola (Presiding), Justice Renate Winter and Justice Jon Kamanda will deliver its judgment in the case of Independent Counsel vs. Prince Taylor today at 12:30pm. Judgment will be delivered from The Hague and will be streamed to the Special Court's courtroom in Freetown.

Prince Taylor, a former SCSL defence investigator was found guilty on 25 January 2013 on five counts of contempt of court for interfering with witnesses. He was sentenced on 8th February 2013 to serve two and half years in prison.

The defence has appealed on four grounds against the judgement and on two grounds against the sentence.

The Tribune (Nigeria)

Monday, 13 May 2013

Lessons from Sierra Leone

Sierra Leone's tragedy was a foretold calamity. The foundation was laid by Siaka Stevens, the country's third prime minister from 1967 to 1971 and its first president from 1971 to 1985. He was the one who took his country from a multi-party state to a one-party state. He was also the one who took the nation from the acme of prosperity to the nadir of poverty. He subjugated the parliament and chained the judiciary. He was the state and ruled as he wished; the opposition was effectively cowed and those who refused to be cowed were either executed or exiled.

The Sierra Leonean first president's favourite saying was "a cow eats where it is tethered" and he lived this axiom to the hilt. His 17-year rule was mainly for personal aggrandizement. There was no line between the public treasury and his personal purse, he disbursed as he willed. Through his corrupt practices, he perverted all state institutions and brought them to their knees. When he had enough of pillaging and pillorying the country, he stepped down in 1985 and handed over to Major General Joseph Momoh.

If Stevens laid the foundation for Sierra Leone's crash, Momoh completed the exercise and superintended over the eventual destruction of the state. He continued with and encouraged the plundering of the state resources to the extent that the state could not pay its civil servants and the entire state infrastructure collapsed. Eventually, all the public schools closed down as teachers refused to work when they were not paid, only the rich could afford to engage private teachers or send their children to foreign schools, other children and youths roamed the streets. When the heat got fiercer, the professionals fled Sierra Leone and went looking for greener pastures in other countries.

At this time, the most lucrative enterprise in the country was smuggling diamonds. The illegal business became more intense after De Beers, a private company who had partnered the government in running the National Diamond Mining Corporation. Although the Momoh-led administration embarked on some anti-smuggling measure, the government lacked the political will to walk the talk. The extreme poverty in the country and the seeming cluelessness of the government in addressing the rising economic crises in the country gave rise to a rebel group supported by Mr Charles Taylor, the Revolutionary United Front (RUF). The incapability of the government to quell the insurgency as well as solve the economic problem led to some junior officers in the army led by Captain Valentine Strasser staging a coup d'état that ousted General Momoh from power in 1992. The junior officers later established the National Provisional Ruling Council (NPRC).

Historians believe that the Sierra Leonean war would have ended shortly after it was started by the RUF which specialised in looting, raping and killing if not that the Sierra Leone Army (SLA) which was expected to quell the uprising also embarked on looting, raping and killing.

According to a source, "After retaking captured towns, the SLA would perform a 'mopping up' operation in which the towns people were transported to concentration camp styled 'strategic hamlets' far from their homes in Eastern and Southern Sierra Leone under the pretence of separating the population from the insurgents. However in many cases, this was followed by much looting and theft after the villagers were evacuated." Not unexpectedly, this pitched the people against the soldiers and gave rise to a grassroots militia group known as Kamajors. The Kamajors fought both the RUF and the soldiers to a standstill but the war still raged with the RUF in effective control of most parts in the Eastern and Southern regions of the country. It was not until ECOMOG peace keepers joined in the effort in 1993 that they were able to push the rebels to the Sierra Leone—Liberia border.

In 1995, the government engaged Executive Outcomes, a paramilitary group from South Africa. With superior military skills, the EO outmatched the rebels and destroyed their main operation base. The RUF admitted defeat and agreed to sign the Abidjan Peace Accord on November 30, 1996. The ceasefire agreement enabled the country to conduct parliamentary and presidential elections with Ahmed Tejan Kabbah emerging as the new president.

But the new government was hasty in disengaging the EO in February of 1997. The rebels seeing that the EO had left resumed hostilities again at the end of March. The country was back in war and it was not until 2002 before a lasting solution to the war was found.

The war finally ended when the United Nations demanded that the Liberian government should expel all RUF members, stop its support to the Force as well as its encouragement of illicit diamond trade. The compliance of the Liberian government with the directives clipped the wings of the RUF and led to its disintegration and its willingness to sign a new peace treaty which it abided by.

On 18 January 2002, President Kabbah declared the eleven-year long Sierra Leone Civil War, which had consumed about 50,000 people, officially over.

The Chronicle
 Sunday, 12 May 2013

Africa must act to stop the west - Barton-Odro Email this

The First Deputy Speaker of Ghana's Parliament, Ebo Barton-Odro, has told the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) that the time had come for Africa to act swiftly to stop the West from dictating to the continent, when it comes to legal matters that have an international character.

"If we have the necessary legal systems in place, it will help prevent small magistrate courts in the European countries from making orders that our heads of states should be sent to the International Court of Justice," the Ghanaian legislator stressed, noting "that is very key."

The First Deputy Speaker, who is the leader of a five-member Ghanaian delegation to the Second Ordinary Session of the Third Parliament of the Pan-African Parliament, made this observation on Tuesday, when contributing to a debate on the floor of the continent's Consultative and Advisory body.

His argument was provoked by a debate on the Activity Report of the Pan-African Parliament, presented by the President of the PAP, Bethel Nnaemeka Amadi.

President Amadi, in his presentation, told the Assembly that the PAP was working in collaboration with the African Court to strengthen existing laws that deal with human rights issues.

Barton-Odro, who doubles as Member of Parliament for Cape-Coast North, said the achievement of having strong courts in Africa to stop the west from making orders to heads of state in the continent, was "not to say the courts are going to be compromised."

"If we do the right thing," he said, "African courts would be respected, and we would have the right to enforce our own human rights."

Leaders in the African continent are mostly hauled before the International Court of Justice for trial on abuse of human rights because of weak legal systems that exist.

They have often been imprisoned or detained on foreign soils other than their home country, or other states in the African continent, whereas, the situation in Europe or America was different.

The former President of Liberia, Charles Taylor, is the first African leader to be prosecuted at the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague. He is currently serving a lengthy jail sentence in a British prison, after being found guilty of aiding and abetting Sierra Leone war crimes.

The former Head of State of La Cote d'Ivoire, Laurent Gbagbo, is also being tried on four counts of crimes against humanity, murder, rape, and other forms of sexual violence and inhumane acts committed by his people during the civil war that nearly tore the West African country apart.

Several cases involving leaders of the African continent are still pending before the ICC.

Countries in the West have always strived for their nationals to be tried on their home soil whenever their nationals violate human rights laws, because of the strong legal systems they have in place.

This, according to Barton-Odro, needs to be replicated in Africa, to show the world that the continent had come of age.

Sharing his views with The Chronicle on the transformational drive of the PAP into a body with legislative powers, the former Deputy Attorney-General said: “that was a necessity.”

He said when that is achieved, the continent would be able to combat cyber crimes, drug trafficking and other numerous problems individual member countries were struggling to address.

Newstime Africa

Saturday, 11 May 2013

War criminals will be booked no matter how long they run

A Coalition for Justice in Liberia (CJL) two days symposium geared toward training staffers on how to unearth and report gross human rights abuses, including war related massacres taking place around the world, ended here last week with both participants and facilitators pledging to work together in order to end a “culture of impunity” by perpetrators of genocides. Most of the speakers at the ceremony vowed that war criminals that are living in the US and Europe will eventually be booked no matter how long they will run or evade justice.

The conference was held at the Brooklyn City Center (City Hall) and brought together a group of hardcore international human rights activists, lawyers and representatives, some from the US Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security and Naturalization based in Washington D.C. They were: Kathy Roberts, Legal Director, Center for Justice and Accountability (CJA), Yonina Alexander, Legal Fellow (CJA), Dr. Christopher Hayden of the U.S. Department of Justice, and Dr. Abbey Weiss, Clinical Psychologist, Center for Victims of Torture (CVT) among others.

Liberian Human rights journalists were also among the panelists at the forum; among them were CIVITAS’ Director Mr. Hassan Bility and former Associated Press correspondent James Kokulo Fasuekoi. Mr. Bility who presently runs CIVITAS, a human rights group based in Liberia, suffered severe torture at the hands of Charles Taylor’s securities prior to the fall of Taylor’s regime. Bility spoke about his ordeals in the former dictator’s prison and the process which led to his released. Taylor had agreed to free Journalist Bility but only if he Bility would agree to leave Liberia. Mr. Bility was later flown to Ghana, and then to the U.S. after the U.S. Embassy in Monrovia reached a compromise with the former warlord.

Journalist and author, Mr. James Fasuekoi who covered the civil war for more than a decade before escaping the country two years after Taylor became president, introduced a new dimension to the event. He screened vivid photographic slides of child-soldiers, mass starvation, massacres, warlords and rebel commanders, which brought fresh memories of the war. Some of Fasuekoi’s war-images were so tasteless and ghastly that some members of the audience had to turn away from the screen. Among panelists for day two were University of Liberia Political Science Professor Alaric Tokpa and Mr. Tony Leewaye, a Minnesota based Liberian community mobilizer and social worker. Mayor Tim Wilson, Mayor of the City of Brooklyn Center was among U.S. officials who graced the event.

During the conference, participants /presenters spoke of gross human rights abuses including genocides carried out in Liberia with a focus on “people” whose actions one way or the other, led to the carnage and mayhem that characterized the 14 years brutal war. Other places where gross human rights violations have occurred in the past such as the East African country of Rwanda and Guatemala in South America were placed under the spotlight and U.S. human rights activists and lawyers attending the forum briefed the audience on the level of progress they have made so far in those countries in terms of prosecuting perpetrators of abuses and massacres via international justice systems.

It can be record that in early 2012, former leader of the defunct Liberia Peace Council, Dr. George S. Boley was deported to his native Liberia after US Immigration authorities found him guilty for his role in the alleged massacres of scores of civilians by his rebel Liberia Peace Council which seized a large portion of the southeastern region then occupied by Taylor’s rebel National patriotic Front of Liberia during the country’s civil war.

Earlier, during opening remarks, founder and interim president of the Coalition for Justice in Liberia, Miss Lovetta Tugbeh, lamented the plights of vulnerable women and children throughout Liberia the wars and described both groups as the “most victimized.” “Soldiers [rebels] forced men to rape their daughters in front of others...mothers were forced [by rebels] to have sex with their sons; sisters with brothers,” Miss Tugbeh told the audience.

She urged the US States Department of Justice as well as the Department of Homeland to work hand in hand with rights groups in and out of the U.S. in order to track down and subsequently prosecute “perpetrators of heinous crimes against humanity” and not allow them use the U.S. as safe heavens.

Speaking further, the young rights activist assured the audience and victims of war that her new organization would not only limit itself to the provision of rehabilitation and trauma counseling for raped and war victims, but would also strive make free medical services available to them.

Former chairman and commissioner of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Liberia, Mr. Jerome Verdier was expected to speak on the topic: “Human Rights in Liberia & Stopping the Culture of Impunity.

However, Mr. Verdier along with several other guests including survivals of the July 1990 Lutheran Church and the June 1993 Carter Camp genocides that were expected to give testimonies, failed to appear. Both Mr. Sayon Nyanwleh and Mr. James Kpanneh Doe served as organizers and moderators for the occasion.

© 2013, Newstime Africa. All rights reserved. Newstime Africa content cannot be reproduced in any form – electronic or print – without prior consent of the Publishers. Copyright infringement will be pursued and perpetrators prosecuted.

Coalition for Justice in Liberia War criminals

Prague Daily Monitor

Monday, 13 May 2013

Právo: Czech Rep pays for membership of nonsensical institutions

The Czech Republic annually pays over three billion crowns for its membership of some 500 international organisations and institutions, some of which are rather exotic and seem nonsensical for the country, the daily Pravo writes Wednesday.

It cites an example of the International union for the Sun-Earth relations to which the Czech Republic pays 9000 crowns a year as a membership fee.

Besides, there is no survey of the exact number of such organisations and their benefit for the Czech Republic.

This is why the centre-right coalition government of Petr Necas (Civic Democrats, ODS), which calls itself the "government of budget responsibility," decided a year ago to check how much money was spent from the budget on the membership of international organisations.

Last June, the cabinet asked the ministers and heads of state institutions to submit a survey of their membership fees by October 2012, Pravo writes.

However, the list of international organisations in which the Czech Republic participates was completed only recently and the government should debate it soon. It includes 472 unions, federations, commissions, associations and agencies to which the country paid 3,3 billion crowns in 2011. A total of 473 Czechs work in them, according to the survey, but their actual number may be up to 550, the paper adds.

The document worked out by the foreign and finance ministers, Karel Schwarzenberg and Miroslav Kalousek (both TOP 09), respectively, for the government shows that the ministries are often not sure how many Czechs work in these international organisations and what benefit the membership of them brings.

Kalousek and Schwarzenberg have criticised the ministries for staying in some organisations only out of habit, Pravo says.

Consequently, the government wants to reassess the country's membership of international organisations. The Czech Republic may either leave some of them or at least try to lower the annual fees, Pravo says.

The government also agreed some time ago that the ministries would not accept any new membership without its consent. Besides, as from 2014, the membership fees will not be sent by the Foreign Ministry but each ministry will pay them alone from its budget, Pravo notes.

It writes that the highest fees are naturally paid to the most significant organisations, such as NATO, the U.N, international banks and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

Pravo recalls that the defence sector paid over 0.5 billion crowns to NATO two years ago and the Czech Republic will also allocate 400 million crowns to NATO's new seat in Brussels.

The membership of The Council of Europe (CE) cost about 69 million crowns in 2011, and The World Health Organisation (WHO) and The International Labour Organisation (ILO) received 29.7 and 27 million crowns, respectively, from the Czech Republic.

While the membership of these organisations is definitely of key importance, the names of other institutions may raise doubts, Pravo says.

The Czech Republic, for instance, pays 11 million crowns for its membership of the Centre for the International Standard Serial Number (ISSN). Besides, it is a member of The International Association for Wind Engineering (IAWE), The von Karman Institute for Fluid Dynamics and the European Organisation for Astronomical Research in the Southern Hemisphere. However, fees to these organisations are considerably lower, Pravo writes.

The Foreign Ministry wants to set an example to other sectors, and this is why it has lately announced that it will leave The Hague Academy of International Law, The Peace Implementation Council for Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Pompidou Group as well as the Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL) and The Special Court for Sierra Leone.

However, the Justice Ministry has criticised the decision to withdraw from the Lebanon Tribunal since no membership fees are paid to it and moreover, the Czech Republic has had its representative in it since January.

The Catholic Register

Saturday, 11 May 2013

Dallaire a voice for the children

Written by Ruane Remy

Canadian Senator Roméo Dallaire asks Anzoyo Tsukia, “Is Joseph Kony the devil incarnate?” A rosary hanging from her neck, she replies that Kony looks normal but everything he does is diabolical. Tsukia is a former child captive of the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA), a guerrilla group led by Kony, a warlord who terrorized Uganda for 20 years. Now on the run in central Africa, Kony has a \$5 million bounty on his head and is wanted by the International Criminal Court.

The conversation between Dallaire and Tsukia occurs in a scene from *Fight Like Soldiers, Die Like Children*, a documentary about children forced either to fight as soldiers or to become sex slaves and “bush wives” during conflicts in places such as the Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan. The direct analogy with Satan is not far fetched. The film mentions the tactics of the LRA, why it was so successful at guerrilla warfare and why Kony freely used child soldiers for 25 years. But the use of child soldiers extends far beyond the now-famous warlord.



Senator Roméo Dallaire with Bwira Kapoto, a former child soldier, at the UN transit camp for ex-combatants in Goma, Congo. - Photo by Peter Bregg, used with permission of White Pine Pictures

Dallaire, as he treats each child interviewed as a soldier — a sign of respect for both the lives they’ve lived and the scars that linger — is haunted himself. During the 1994 Rwandan genocide, under his command as force commander of UN troops, 800,000 people were slaughtered over 100 days while the international community looked the other way.

But this documentary is not a repeat of *Shake Hands with the Devil: The Journey of Roméo Dallaire* (2004), made by director Patrick Reed, who also directs *Fight Like Soldiers, Die Like Children*.

And despite appearances, this film is not an ode to the retired general as it follows him along some of the frontlines in Africa, meeting demobilized child soldiers and running the Romeo Dallaire Child Soldiers initiative. This initiative aims to end the use and recruitment of child soldiers through research, advocacy and security-sector training. (For more information, visit www.childsoldiers.org.)

It becomes apparent early on that the part of Dallaire that was forged in Rwanda cannot exist peacefully anywhere else, if peace is even an option. His obsession with ending the practise of child soldiers, in combination with his growing celebrity as an author on the atrocities of war, is what makes him the most effective spokesman thus far at calling international attention to the dire situation of children as tools of war and what can be done about it.

There are about 250,000 child soldiers in 30 conflict zones worldwide, according to a White Pine Pictures press release. Even government forces in some conflicts have used child soldiers.

This movie is almost completely void of graphic images, but enough horror lies in knowing that, below the normalcy of daily life, there is great tragedy, behind the innocent faces of the kids who escape from the likes of Kony, there are great crimes committed both against them and by them. But throwing children

in jail is

not the answer, says Dallaire. First, it's against the UN convention on the rights of a child, he told The Catholic Register. These children also had no choice but to do as their masters commanded and were often the subject of extreme psychological manipulation.

"They're going to have a hell of a rough time, depending on how their rehabilitation program goes and how they're reintegrated," said Dallaire. "My concern is recruitment, it is trafficking where an ex-child soldier is a very valuable resource for other people. So you end up a Sierra Leone child soldier fighting in Cote d'Ivoire because they've got all kinds of experience... That's a vulnerability they have depending on how psychologically they're being reintegrated."

The adrenaline rush of combat is stronger than sex, said Dallaire in the film. Indoctrinating children into this lifestyle is not just a crime against humanity, but a sin. The high element of sin, he said, also comes from the sexual abuse of girls.

"Although the use of child soldiers is a crime against humanity, that dimension (of sexual abuse) to me is worse than simply a crime. It is a sin because the impact of that is everlasting. You actually end up breeding children out of it. And the girls are totally rejected by their communities, their societies. They have been affected in their inner being as women," said Dallaire. "The International Criminal Court recognizes rape as a crime against humanity. They consider it torture."

The film does demonstrate, by example of those who are free, that the inherent goodness and positivity of youth still exists within.

Hope in this film also lies with the Catholic Church at the Holy Martyrs of Uganda Cathedral. The "Catholic Church plays a vital role here, offering some serenity to a ravaged population," said Bishop Richard Mady of the diocese of Doruma-Dungu.

Yet, serenity is constantly threatened. To fight back, some people in the most terrorized zones are mobilizing. In the film, one father organizes an attack on a band of LRA members to rescue his son and daughter. And other villages are arming the able-bodied — including the children.

By the end of the documentary, viewers will wonder if the use of child soldiers can be stopped without ending conflict first. But considering that warlords like Kony restock their armies with children, the answer may lie with keeping kids safe.

Fight Like Soldiers, Die Like Children will be in theatres in Toronto on May 17, Vancouver on May 31 and Winnipeg on June 17 with more openings to follow.