

**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:

Monday, 29 July 2013

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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Providence Journal

Friday, 26 July 2013

Rebuilding Liberia: Warlord Charles Taylor's New England ties

By Philip Marcelo

Journal staff writer

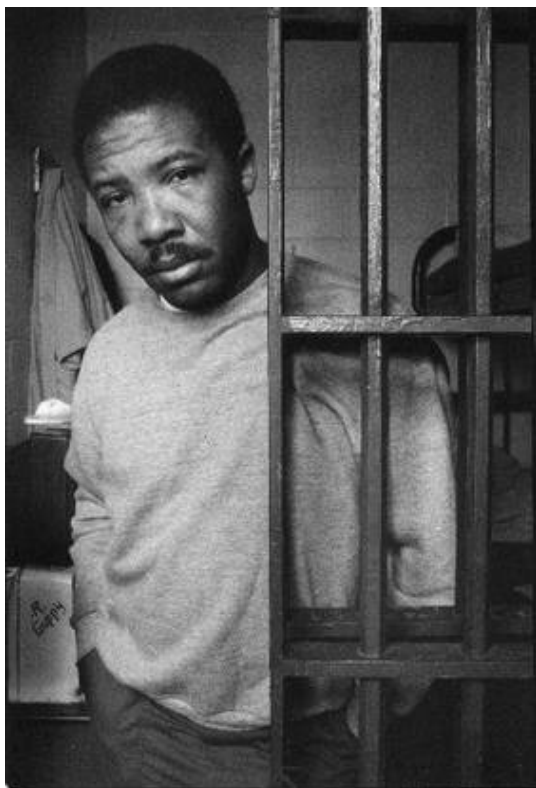
Editor's note: Journal Staff Writer Philip Marcelo will be traveling to Liberia in August to report on that country's progress 10 years after the end of a devastating civil war. This is the latest installment of an online and print series called "Rebuilding Liberia: The R.I. Connection."

PROVIDENCE, R.I. -- Rhode Island has a large and active Liberian community.

But outside of that community, many may not remember that the family of former Liberian President Charles Taylor - the notorious warlord at the center of that nation's nearly 15 years of civil war - also counted itself among its ranks.

At one point, Taylor's then-wife -- Enid Tupee Taylor -- lived in Pawtucket, as did a sister and brother. Another brother and another sister lived in Providence.

But most of the family returned to Liberia when Taylor rose to power there in the late 1980s and early 1990s.



Taylor fought a years-long civil war before being elected Liberia's president and serving from 1997 to 2003. Eventually, he was forced to resign, and was arrested and tried by a United Nations court for war crimes. He is now serving a 50-year sentence.

But before his bloody rein, Taylor had a colorful background that is as much a part of New England lore as it is of Africa.

Steven LaBadessa/Providence Journal archives

Charles M. Taylor is shown in 1985 in his cell at the Plymouth, Mass., county jail, where he was held while facing extradition to Liberia. He later escaped and fled to Africa, where he led a civil war in Liberia. He is now in prison for war crimes.

It's a story that's been richly told in the pages of The Providence Journal over the years.

Here's a piece Thomas J. Morgan did last year, when Taylor was sentenced for war crimes, that lays out the local lore.

Former Projo scribe Michael Corkery, now of The Wall Street Journal, also did a gem of a profile in 2003 as Taylor's turbulent presidency was destabilizing much of West Africa.

FROM THE JOURNAL ARCHIVES:

7.26.2003: R.I. Liberians' high hopes for Taylor lost to bloodshed

7.8.1990: Taylor will free Liberia from dictatorship, his kin in R.I. vow

8.6.1990: Liberia's rebel leader Doe's foe: The evolution of Liberian revolutionary

The short version is this:

Taylor, a native Liberian, was educated at Bentley College in Waltham, Mass.

As president of a leading group for Liberians living in the United States, he was a prominent voice among those opposing the administration of Liberian President William Tolbert in the late 1970s.

When Tolbert was overthrown and executed in a military coup in 1980, Taylor returned to Liberia to serve in the new administration.

But his time as purchasing director in Liberian President Samuel K. Doe's regime was short-lived: Taylor was accused of embezzling nearly a million dollars and fled to the United States.

The U.S. attorney in Boston eventually charged Taylor with diverting the stolen money to a fictitious corporation in New Jersey and had him arrested in 1985.

Taylor ultimately was imprisoned at the county jail in Plymouth, Mass., while waiting extradition. Somehow, he obtained a hacksaw and managed to escape.

Leaving his family behind in Rhode Island, he returned to Africa, and spent the next four years building an army to overthrow his old boss, President Doe.

That army, the National Patriotic Front of Liberia, was notorious for being trained and funded, in large part, by the late-Muammar Gaddafi, the deposed dictator of Libya.

Taylor's army also sent units of often drug-induced child soldiers into battle, setting a tragic precedent for future African conflicts and leaving a lost generation of youths in its wake.

I'll have more to say in later on Liberia's civil war years and this lost generation.

For now, it's enough to consider the lasting legacy of Charles Taylor, a former New Englander who propelled a civil war that still ranks among Africa's bloodiest conflicts ever.

Sunday, 28 July 2013

Odd News: The Almanac

-SNIP-

In 2009, former Liberian President Charles Taylor, on trial at The Hague for war crimes, denied he had ordered cannibalism during a savage civil war in neighboring Sierra Leone.

-SNIP-

Providence Journal

Saturday, 27 July 2013

Rebuilding Liberia: Former head of U.S. Embassy recalls civil war years

Journal Staff Writer Philip Marcelo will be traveling to Liberia in August to report on that country's progress 10 years after the end of a devastating civil war. This is the latest installment of an online and print series called "Rebuilding Liberia: The R.I. Connection."

PROVIDENCE, R.I. -- Two months into what would be a three-year stint as head of the U.S. Embassy in Liberia, William H. Twaddell, Providence resident and Brown University graduate, faced his first crisis: the kidnapping of 500 West African peacekeepers by rebel forces.

It was 1992, the heat of Liberia's First Civil War, one of Africa's bloodiest conflicts.

Out of nearly 40 diplomatic missions that had existed pre-war in Liberia, the U.S. Embassy was one of about three that remained, ensconced behind the walls of its central Monrovia compound.

"It was a very tense time," Twaddell recalled one recent morning at Brown, where he is a member of the board of trustees. "We had mortars coming into our compound. Stray bullets flying around. We were not a target, but it was a big, built up city."

Twaddell, as "chief of mission," was the de-facto U.S. ambassador. The official title, he explains, indicated that the U.S. did not have formal relations with the Liberian national government at the time.

That first year, he helped as former President Jimmy Carter successfully negotiated the release of the peacekeepers.

Their captor? A New England-educated Liberian whose name would become synonymous with the country's destruction: **Charles Taylor**.

Later, Twaddell would help evacuate thousands of U.S. citizens from the country, including his wife, as Taylor's rebel army made one of its strongest surges into the capital city of Monrovia. (Taylor would not succeed in taking the capital for another four years.)

I could spend an entire blog post on Twaddell's extensive resume.

Instead I'll hit a few highlights: after graduating Brown University in 1963, Twaddell volunteered for the Peace Corps in Brazil, served in the Army, and became a D.C.-based reporter for The New York Daily News. All that, before a distinguished, 30-plus year career in the Foreign Service that included ambassadorships in Nigeria and Mauritania.

Today, he is interim CEO of Dorcas International Institute, one of the largest organizations in Rhode Island working with immigrants and refugees.

Related



William H. Twaddell

Photo: Courtesy of Brown University

Twaddell says one of his lasting impressions of those years in Liberia was how children, sometimes as young as 8 years old, were so thoroughly involved in the violence.

Thousands served as soldiers in the various rebel armies, most notoriously Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia.

"It was a ruthless, calculated system of getting these kids on board and perpetrating acts of violence, sometimes in their own communities. It put them beyond the pale," he said. "It was executing elders, oftentimes members of their own family, in order to gain allegiance and impose this system of obedience and fear."

Twaddell recalled the killing of three American nuns by one of Taylor's child soldiers.

"One of the most tragic things was that the nuns had known the young man. I don't know if he was drugged up or ordered to do it, but they had known him," Twaddell said. "That was the thing about Taylor: he really shattered the fabric of that country. By getting these kids to do what was beyond the imaginable."

There's much more to the wide-ranging interview I had with Twaddell, including more anecdotes of his time in Liberia, his thoughts on his accomplishments there and how the country is recovering today.

For now, I'll leave you with this New York Times magazine piece from 1995 that captures the insanity of those years.

It opens, of all places, at a cookout at the U.S. Embassy in Liberia, hosted by Twaddell. His guests: the rival factions in Liberia's first civil war.

Washington University in St. Louis

Tuesday, 16 July 2013

Crimes Against Humanity Must Be Prosecuted for International Criminal Court to Succeed

Successful prosecutions of crimes against humanity must occur at the International Criminal Court (ICC) if it is to succeed in its mandate to punish the perpetrators of atrocities and deter others from committing such crimes, argues Leila Sadat, JD, international law expert and professor of law at Washington University in St. Louis.

Sadat's research, arguments and analysis were laid out in detail in "Crimes Against Humanity in the Modern Age," published in the most recent issue of the American Journal of International Law. The research also will be part of a blog debate on the subject convened by the American Society of International Law.

Sadat recently was appointed a special adviser on crimes against humanity (CAH) for the International Criminal Court. She is the leading force behind the elaboration and adoption of a new international treaty for the prevention and punishment of crimes against humanity.

Sadat is also director of WUSTL's Whitney R. Harris World Law Institute and the Henry H. Oerschelp Professor of Law.

Sadat's research establishes that crimes against humanity prosecutions are critically important tools for atrocity prevention, at both the ad hoc international criminal tribunals and the ICC. It establishes that they have evolved from the paradigm of state totalitarianism typified by the Nazi regime, many of whose leading members were tried at Nuremberg, to internecine struggles for power between political factions that attack civilians with impunity. Sadat argues the ICC statute should be interpreted with this new paradigm in mind.

Sadat's article said the early case law of the court may weaken the effectiveness of CAH charges at the ICC.

"Vexing concerns about prosecutorial overreaching, interstate politics and judicial efficiency may well need to be addressed at the ICC, but the Court's CAH jurisprudence is not the place to do this," she wrote.

Radio Free Europe

Monday, 29 July 2013

Interview: What's Daily Life Like For ICTY Detainees?

The United Nations Detention Unit in the leafy suburb of Scheveningen outside The Hague is no ordinary prison. The average age of the people inside is well above 60. They also tend to be better educated and have fewer previous criminal convictions than average prisoners.

Since 1995, this place has housed 141 individuals accused of war crimes during the conflicts in the former Yugoslavia. It was here the former Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic passed away, and it is from its



cells that other key figures from the wars such as Bosnian Serb suspects Ratko Mladic and Radovan Karadzic are preparing their defenses in front of the tribunal.

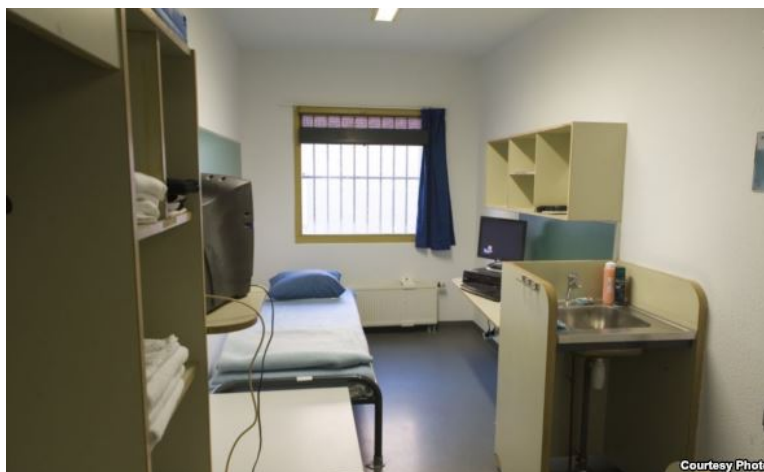
Inmates have the opportunity to cook for themselves, and have access to a supplier who can provide Balkan specialties, as well as fresh meat and fish.

RFE/RL's Rikard Jozwiak talked to the commanding officer for the detention unit, Fraser Gilmour, on what daily life looks like for the unit's current 26 detainees.

RFE/RL: What does a normal day look like for someone detained at The Hague detention center?

Fraser Gilmour: They are unlocked at 7 o'clock in the morning. They have free access to the wing that they're resident on throughout the day, and then when it comes to early evening, about half past eight, they are locked up again for the evening. Throughout that time, during the hours of unlock, they have access to the common areas on their residential wing, where there is the opportunity for them to mix with one another in a recreation room. There is the opportunity for them to cook for themselves should they wish. They are supplied with three meals a day, but they have the opportunity to add to that by cooking for themselves if they purchase additional foodstuffs.

Cells are equipped with televisions but inmates do not have Internet access



They also have a program of events throughout the day where they would have the opportunity for fresh air, the opportunity for sports. There are also classes, etc., in which they can enroll and participate. Generally, a lot of them would tend to spend a lot of time preparing for their cases.

RFE/RL: Can the detainees purchase traditional Balkan food?

Gilmour: They can purchase regular foodstuffs that are available through the host prison shop, so that includes fruit and vegetables, tinned produce, drinks, and that kind of thing. But, in addition, we have put in place resources so that they can purchase from a Balkan supplier, so a supplier in the Netherlands that would facilitate them to purchase specialties from the region. And we also have made arrangements that they can purchase fresh meat should they wish and occasionally fresh fish, so they can have quite a range of produce they can purchase and subsequently cook if they wish.



RFE/RL: How much is their daily allowance?

Inmates can use desktop computers to aid in their defenses, but Internet access is not included.

Gilmour: It is a small amount of money that they are provided to cover issues like communication with their families, [for instance through] the purchase of telephone cards so that they contact their families and maintain those family links. [These links] are very important for someone in a detention environment and particularly for our detainees, considering the distance they are from their friends and families.

ALSO READ: 'Decisions Have Shaken The Tribunal,' ICTY Prosecutor Says

[It's important] in the detention environment [for detainees to have] contact with those close links and those support networks which will provide them support through the time in detention and hopefully, if they are convicted or if they are acquitted, then also provide that support so they can return to normal life thereafter with limited damage to those support networks.

RFE/RL: How often can relatives and friends come to visit?

Gilmour: We are quite generous with our visiting facilities. You would tend to find in a national jurisdiction that it would not be uncommon for a detainee or even a convict for that matter to be permitted a maximum of...one hour of visiting per week. We permit up to seven consecutive days of visiting in each 30-day period. This is bearing in mind the things I was mentioning in relation to communications and also the distance their families have to travel in order to visit their loved ones.

RFE/RL: Do the detainees have access to TV, including Balkan channels, and can they use the Internet?

Gilmour: We do provide television in their cells. We also have satellite television from the former Yugoslavia, from all of the different countries of the former Yugoslavia. There is no Internet access. We

do provide detainees with desktop computers, but that is principally in relation to the fact that this is an e-court and much of the documentation that comes with the case is provided in digital format, so it is really a tool to assist them in their defense rather than an opportunity for social networking or social benefits.

RFE/RL: The ICTY is slowly winding [down]. For how long are you planning to host detainees in the detention unit?

Gilmour: We are actually at a bit of a stage in change within the history of the ICTY. We are presently at the start of the MICT, the Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals, and the MICT will take over the work of the ICTY as it progresses and also the work of the ICTR, the Rwandan tribunal, in order to continue the process of the work which has been started by the ICTY. So the MICT will be responsible for the enforcement of all sentences, so at present we already have a couple of convicts within the unit -- four -- who are MICT detainees as [MICT] are responsible for the enforcement.



An examination room caters to the inmates' medical needs

We are ostensibly just a remand institution, which means we only hold those during the pretrial, trial, and appeal phases, and therefore as the tribunal comes to a close all our convicts will go and serve their sentences in tertiary states. So the tribunal has agreements with a number of different countries at

present within Europe -- all of them are within Europe at the moment -- to enforce any sentences and those agreements have also been ratified by the MICT.

Global Post

Friday, 26 July 2013

U.N-backed court to end 1st trial of top Khmer Rouge leaders in Oct.

A U.N-backed court established to try former top Khmer Rouge leaders for war crimes and crimes against humanity said Wednesday it will conclude the first trial of the regime's surviving leaders in October.

A statement by the Trial Chamber of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia said closing statements in Case 002/01 will begin Oct. 9 and run until Oct. 22.

On trial are Nuon Chea, known as Brother No. 2 in the Khmer Rouge, and Khieu Samphan who was head of state in Democratic Kampuchea.

The charges in Case 002/01 focus on crimes against humanity related to the forced movement of the population from Phnom Penh in April 1975 and later from other regions and the execution of Khmer Republic soldiers at Toul Po Chrey in northwestern province Pursat.

The statement said the co-prosecutors have been allocated three days, the civil party lead co-lawyers one day and the defense teams for Nuon Chea and Khieu Samphan have been allocated two days each to present their closing statements.

One additional day is reserved for rebuttal.

The trial hearings in Case 002/01 ended Tuesday after sitting for 212 hearing days since the opening statements on Nov. 21, 2011.

Ninety-two individuals gave evidence during the hearings, including three expert witnesses, 52 fact witnesses, five character witnesses and 32 "civil parties."

During the hearings, parties to the case filed more than 290 written motions that resulted in more than 250 written or oral decisions.

Since the ECCC began in 2007, four senior leaders and one "most-responsible person" were charged and brought to trial.

So far, only Kaing Guek Eav, alias Duch, head of the regime's central prison, was convicted and sentenced.

Ieng Sary, the former foreign minister, died of old age and his wife Ieng Thirith, former minister of social affairs, was judged unfit to stand trial.

The Khmer Rouge regime is blamed for the deaths of at least 1.7 million Cambodians from 1975 to 1979.