

**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:**

**Friday, 9 August 2013**

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.  
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**Local News**

Sierra Leone Deports Former Taylor Associates Days Before Trial / *Independent Observer* Page 3

Questions and Answers on Ibrahim Bah/Balde / *The Voice* Page 4

**International News**

Accused arms dealer Richard Chichakli faces US court / *Associated Press* Pages 5-6

Chad: To Trap a Dictator / *Human Rights Watch* Pages 7-10

# Sierra Leone deports former Taylor associate days before trial

Mon, Aug 5 2013

By Tommy Trenchard

FREETOWN | Mon Aug 5, 2013 4:15pm EDT

FREETOWN (Reuters) - Sierra Leone deported an associate of former Liberian president Charles Taylor last week, sparing him a trial for crimes committed during the 1991-2002 civil war due to begin on Monday, to the dismay of human rights campaigners.

Ibrahim Bah has been named by United Nations experts as an intermediary for Taylor's arms deliveries to Sierra Leone's Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels, who became notorious for using child soldiers and hacking off the limbs of civilians.

Taylor was sentenced to 50 years in prison last year by the U.N.-mandated Special Court for Sierra Leone for providing weapons and supplies to rebels who committed war crimes during the 11-year conflict in which more than 50,000 people died.

Bah has been subject to a U.N. travel ban and asset freeze since 2004 for his alleged links to arms and diamond trafficking but has avoided prosecution.

He had been due to stand trial on Monday on charges

including false imprisonment, kidnapping and assault in 2000 in Sierra Leone's diamond-rich Kono district, in a case brought by a private citizen with support from human rights campaigners.

However, Sierra Leone's President Ernest Bai Koroma ordered Bah's deportation to his native Senegal on July 27.

"We do not need a reason," Sierra Leone's Controller of Immigration Operations Abdulai Timbo said in response to a request from Reuters for the grounds of his deportation. "The president does not want him here. He is persona non grata."

Justice Minister and Attorney General Frank Kargbo said he was not aware that Bah was due to appear in court on Monday and the accusations had no bearing on the decision to deport him.

Judge Tonia Mbawa issued an arrest warrant for Bah on Monday when he failed to appear in court, a rights campaigner said.

"The government and attorney general gave us their word they would support us in this case. This is a bad day for justice," said Ibrahim Tommy, head of the Cen-

tre for Accountability and the Rule of Law (CARL), which was supporting the plaintiff.

In an interview with Reuters at the weekend, Bah admitted supporting Taylor's rebel National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) but denied dealing in weapons. He described himself as a "revolutionary brother" of RUF leader Foday Sankoh, who died in 2003 while awaiting trial for war crimes.

"I never bought or sold arms in my life. I fought alongside the NPFL but I never fought inside Sierra Leone a single minute," Bah said.

While Bah was not tried by the Special Court for Sierra Leone, which the U.N. mandated with pursuing those most responsible for crimes during the war, groups including Human Rights Watch (HRW) have urged Sierra Leone to prosecute him in its own courts.

"Bah's deportation represents a real step backward for Sierra Leone," Elise Keppler, associate international justice director at HRW, told Reuters.

"The government has in effect blocked the private prosecution against Bah and ignored the interests of victims who suffered heinous crimes in which (he) is implicated during the country's civil conflict," she said.

# Questions and Answers on Ibrahim Bah/Balde



*Revolutionary United Front rebels patrol through downtown Freetown on June 7, 1997.*

## 1. Who is Ibrahim Bah?

Ibrahim Bah is a Senegalese national living in Sierra Leone. During the Sierra Leone civil war, from 1991 to 2002, Bah allegedly provided arms and materiel to the rebel Revolutionary United Front (RUF), according to a United Nations panel of experts and the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone. During the conflict, the RUF committed widespread and systematic abuses, including murder, mutilation, amputation, torture, rape, and forced abductions.

Bah has been under a UN-imposed travel ban since 2004 for his alleged role in illegal arms and diamond dealing and for supporting the former Liberian President Charles Taylor's effort to destabilize Sierra Leone.

Although Bah was not prosecuted by the Special Court for Sierra Leone, testimony was given in the case of Prosecutor vs. Charles Taylor on Bah's involvement in the conflict. The court found that Bah was a close associate of Taylor, who was convicted by the court in 2012 for his role in providing arms and other assistance to the rebels. The decision states that: "Bah was a trusted emissary who represented the RUF at times and the Accused at times, and served as a liaison between them at times. He was a businessman who helped arrange arms and diamond transactions, and did not maintain an ongoing affiliation as a subordinate or agent with either the RUF or the Accused."

Bah was believed to be living in Burkina Faso, but a report issued by the UN panel of experts on May 31, 2013, found that he had been living in Sierra Leone since 2008.

## 2. What is the criminal prosecution against Bah?

On July 5, a Sierra Leonean citizen from the diamond-rich Kono district of eastern Sierra Leone filed a private criminal prosecution against Bah for the following offenses under Sierra Leonean law: conspiracy, false imprisonment, kidnapping, wounding and wounding with intent,

assault occasioning actual bodily harm, and threatening to kill.

In Sierra Leone, a criminal case may be brought by a private citizen instead of the state. In such cases, it is generally the responsibility of the complainant to gather the relevant evidence and present it to the court.

The state may also assist in the case by investigating the issues or gathering relevant evidence. It may also take over the prosecution if it determines that the case involves an issue best handled by the government. Alternatively, the state may determine that the case should not proceed and terminate the prosecution, discharging the case.

## 3. What are the next steps?

Bah was served with information on the case on July 15. The next step should be an appearance by the defendant in court for the charges to be read to him and for him to enter a plea.

An appearance is typically scheduled within several days of when a defendant is served. July 18 was initially scheduled as the day when the appearance was expected to take place, following the case's assignment to a judge. However, no developments occurred on that day. On July 29, the matter was raised in court and a lawyer for Bah said that Bah had not been aware of any proceedings to move the case forward and requested an adjournment. The complainant and the defendant agreed to adjourn until August 5, when Bah is now scheduled to make his initial appearance.

## 4. Why didn't the prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone indict Bah?

The Sierra Leone government and the United Nations established the Special Court for Sierra Leone to prosecute those "bearing the greatest responsibility" for crimes committed during Sierra Leone's conflict. The court has completed trials of nine people associated with Sierra Leone's three main warring factions, including Taylor.

The Special Court for Sierra Leone is winding down operations, although the court's prosecutor is not prevented from bringing a case against Bah. Human Rights Watch has urged the Sierra Leone authorities to prosecute, through the regular courts, those allegedly responsible for serious crimes committed during the conflict whom the Special Court has not tried. This would ensure wider accountability for the crimes.

## 5. Why hasn't the Sierra Leone government taken action against Bah?

Human Rights Watch and others have urged the Sierra Leone government to open a criminal investigation of Bah for his alleged role in crimes committed during Sierra Leone's conflict. It is unclear why the Sierra Leone government has not done so.

A number of possible criminal offenses could be brought under Sierra Leone domestic law. However, the country's law does not include some serious crimes that violate international law, such as crimes against humanity. Sierra Leone should adopt laws incorporating these crimes.

Associated Press  
Friday, 9 August 2013

### Accused arms dealer Richard Chichakli faces US court

*A MAN extradited from Australia to the US will represent himself on charges he conspired with a notorious Russian arms dealer to buy planes to move weapons to the world's bloodiest conflicts.*

At a pretrial conference in New York today, Syrian-born Richard Chichakli told US District Judge William H Pauley III that he will represent himself at his November trial.

The 53-year-old is accused of conspiring with arms dealers including former Soviet air officer Viktor Bout, who's dubbed the Merchant of Death.

Chichakli, a US citizen, had been living in Melbourne under an alias and working as a cleaner for almost three years before authorities arrested him in January.



*Richard Chichakli, arrested in Melbourne, is accused of being an associate of notorious Russian arms dealer Viktor Bout. He faces trial in the US. Source: The Australian*

His cover was blown after he attempted to apply for a job as a Victorian Protective Services Officer and a fingerprint check connected him to an Interpol red alert.

A judge today warned Chichakli it was unwise to represent himself, but Chichakli said he preferred it even after consulting with lawyers about his decision at the judge's request.

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He told the judge he has two doctorates, four master's degrees and nine bachelor's degrees.

"I'm a highly educated person," he said. "I am the best fit to address this court about questions accusing me."

He said his lawyer seemed too nice.

"I am here for my life," he said.

As Chichakli has done before, he said he had served in the US Army.

In a 2010 interview in Moscow, Chichakli said the US criminal case against Bout was based on "lies" and questioned whether justice was possible in the US.

"The US made up this case for one simple reason," he said at the time, "to get to Viktor Bout."

Chichakli said then that he had "never done business with Viktor Bout".

An indictment accuses Chichakli and Bout of violating sanctions by arranging to buy two Boeing aircraft from US companies in 2007. It says they electronically transferred more than \$US1.7 million (\$1.88m) through banks in New York, though the money was blocked by the US Department of the Treasury before it reached the aviation companies' accounts.

Prosecutors say Chichakli worked closely with Bout since at least the mid-1990s to assemble a fleet of cargo planes to ship weapons and military equipment to various parts of the world, including Africa, South America and the Middle East.

Prosecutors say the arms have helped fuel conflicts and support regimes in Afghanistan, Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone and Sudan.

Bout is serving 25 years in prison after he was convicted of conspiracy relating to the support of a Colombian terrorist organization. He maintains he was a legitimate businessman.

Bout was dubbed the Merchant of Death because of his 1990s-era notoriety for running a fleet of aging Soviet-era cargo planes to conflict-ridden hotspots in Africa.

He inspired the arms dealer character played by Nicolas Cage in the 2005 film "Lord of War."

## Human Rights Watch (Washington, DC)

Thursday, 8 August 2013

### **Chad: To Trap a Dictator**

#### Analysis

Sifting through the thousands of documents strewn across the floors of an abandoned secret police headquarters in Chad, Reed Brody glimpsed the violent, final moments of Rose Lokissim's brave life.

Brody, counsel for Human Rights Watch, first heard about Rose from survivors of the brutal regime of Chad's former dictator Hissène Habré. A prisoner herself, Rose had been a vital source of information to families - quietly informing them when one of their relatives had been detained, delivering clandestine messages. Ultimately, the secret police learned of her actions and murdered her.

But it was one of the secret police documents that he and his Human Rights Watch colleague, Olivier Bercault, found in the abandoned headquarters of Habré's personal Gestapo that gave Brody true insight into Rose's staunch belief in justice.

As Rose's interrogating officer wrote, Rose didn't care what happened to her. Even if she were killed in custody, the interrogator wrote of Rose's stance, "Chad will thank her and history will talk about her."

"One of my missions is to make sure that history does talk about her," Brody said. "To take this report by the interrogators who tortured and killed her, and use her words to make it come true."

"Hissène Habré is the most brutal US-backed dictator you've never heard of," says Brody.

Habré had thousands killed and used torture systematically during his bloody eight-year reign, before being ousted in 1990.

Habré oversaw waves of ethnic cleansing and even had a prison in his backyard, yet the United States and France backed him as a counterweight to his northern neighbor, Libya's Muammar Gaddafi.

Finally, on June 30 of this year, after what the Toronto Globe and Mail called "one of the world's most patient and tenacious campaigns for justice," Habré was arrested in Senegal, where he has lived in comfortable exile for 22 years. He is to be tried in Senegal for crimes against humanity committed in Chad.

Brody learned of the arrest from a text message from Senegal that Sunday morning. One of the first people he thought of was Rose.

Brody joined Habré's victims in the battle to bring the strongman to justice more than 14 years ago. By then, some people in Chad, like Souleymane Guengueng, a torture survivor turned activist, had compiled the files and testimony of 792 victims.

The nail in the coffin was the evidence in Habré's abandoned secret police headquarters in N'Djaména, where they found Rose's file.

"Inside the building we stumbled upon room after room strewn with documents, on the floors, on the stairs," he said. "We started picking up the documents and realized they were the files of Habré's political police."

In all, the documents contained the names of 1,208 people, including Rose, who were killed or died in detention, and 12,321 victims of human rights violations. The Chadian Victims' Association spent six months putting together these documents.

"They provided a road map to Habré's oppression - how many people were in jail on any given day, how many people died in jail," Brody said. "They allowed us to give people their family members' death certificates. We could help many families learn what happened to their loved ones."

Despite this evidence, the authorities in Senegal refused to bring Habré to justice. For the past 14 years, Brody and the victims' lawyer, Jacqueline Moudeina, have played a legal game of cat-and-mouse with Habré, with fresh hope plummeting to disappointment numerous times.

Habré isn't the only former ruler Brody has challenged. He helped craft the legal arguments to keep Chile's Augusto Pinochet in detention in London in 1998 and is working to see Haiti's "Baby Doc" Duvalier behind bars. He wrote the Human Rights Watch report calling for a criminal investigation of former president George W. Bush for war crimes and torture. In his office hangs a world map with black and white headshots of dictators and alleged torturers tacked to it. "They should all be brought to justice," he said. His work on these cases has been the subject of four documentaries including "The Dictator Hunter."

Brody thought they had Habré under lock and key 13 years ago. Near the very beginning of their effort, Brody and the victims had convinced Senegal's authorities to arrest him. "Obviously, it was a real high," he said. "It looked like this brave new world where we would use the law to obtain justice for victims."

It came crashing down only a couple of months later, after Senegal elected a new president, Abdoulaye Wade. "When Wade announced that his chief legal adviser would be Habré's lawyer, we knew we were in trouble," Brody said. "Then Wade said Senegal would not prosecute Habré."

It had all gone awry, but they refused to give up. "It didn't occur to me at the time that it would take thirteen-and-a-half years for the case to start going forward again."

Now that Habre is finally behind bars, Brody has a new goal: To use his research about Habré's alleged crimes as evidence at his trial, which he hopes will be "a turning point for justice in Africa."

It was a 1984 vacation to Nicaragua to visit a friend that started Brody on the path of human rights work. He wasn't just looking for relaxation on this trip - it was only a few years after the Sandinista revolution toppled the ruling Somoza family, and he wanted to see this altered country first-hand.

His friend, a priest, lived in the northern village of El Jícaro, near the Honduras border. During Brody's visit, his friend hosted two days of meetings with the regional Catholic lay-leadership. About a dozen people traveled from the mountains to attend, and they brought with them terrible stories from their villages, of schools and farms being burned and of teachers and doctors being shot. These crimes, they said, were committed by the Contras, a federation of US-backed rebel groups seeking to undermine the revolution.

Brody knew the United States funded the Contras, but he had never heard the US media report on any serious crimes committed by the rebels. "I just felt this enormous responsibility to do something," he said.

After returning to the states, he quit his job as a lawyer at the New York Attorney General's Office and returned to Nicaragua, where he spent the next five months traveling by bus or pickup truck with local Catholic priests, whom the villagers knew and trusted, asking people for their stories. "I took statements, typed them up, and had the person I was interviewing read them and sign them," he explained. "I collected hundreds of affidavits."

Back in the United States, and a couple of weeks before Brody released his report, Ronald Reagan described Nicaragua's Contras as the "moral equivalent of our founding fathers." Then his report detailing the Contra's crimes came out - it made the front page of The New York Times. It also became an important piece of a campaign to stop US assistance to the Contras, helping change the terms of the debate. Two months after Brody's report, Contra aid was cut off, though it was later restored.

After Nicaragua, Brody took a job with the International Commission of Jurists in Geneva, wrapping up his time there in 1991 when he assisted the post-Communist Mongolian government in preparing its constitution. Later, he spent years working for various UN agencies or nonprofits in El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Tibet, Sierra Leone, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. All were countries with severe human rights issues created by war and the abuse of power.

Brody joined Human Rights Watch in 1998 - the year he began focusing on bringing dictators to justice, thanks to Pinochet, who for him loomed large as the prototypical Latin American dictator of the '70s and '80s.

Brody was at a Human Rights Watch retreat on October 16 when someone announced that Pinochet had been arrested. But it's how he was arrested that captured the attention of everyone in the room. Pinochet, Chile's dictator, was arrested in London on a warrant issued by a Spanish judge. It meant that people were circumventing Chile's own legal system, where the former strongman was protected by an amnesty and parliamentary immunity. It was a historic breakthrough. If this case could be successfully prosecuted, any dictator who controlled the courts in his homeland could be brought to justice elsewhere.

Pinochet challenged his extradition to Spain in the British courts, and Brody flew to London to support the extradition. He planned to stay for a few days and ended up being there the better part of eight months. The case reached the British House of Lords, then the land's highest court, where Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch were permitted to intervene as parties. When the judges decided that the extradition could go forward despite Pinochet's status as former head of state, human rights activists had a new legal tool to bring abusive dictators to justice.

"That was a very heady moment," he said. "As a human rights lawyer, you're used to being legally and morally right, but still losing. In the Pinochet case, not only did we win, but we maintained the detention of one of the most iconic dictators in the world."

People from all over the globe began to approach Brody about their abusive dictators, their "Pinochets."

It was the head of the Chadian Association for Human Rights, Delphine Djiraibe, who convinced Brody in 1999 to help the victims go after Habré, who had fled to Senegal. Under the Pinochet precedent, Senegal could try him there. Brody knew Senegal saw itself as a region leader in human rights, and saw an opportunity for the country to prove itself.

But Senegal bided its time. The case has nearly died 10 times.

Habré's first indictment came in February 2000, shortly after Brody began working on the case. But then came the election, and within a few months the Senegalese courts threw out the case. Then Brody secured a UN order to keep Habré in Senegal while he helped the victims seek justice in Belgium. When Senegal refused to extradite Habre to Belgium in 2005, and gave the case to the African Union -- full of dictators itself -- Brody got the case sent back to Senegal. When Senegal again stalled, Brody and his team got Belgium to haul Senegal before the International Court of Justice (ICJ). Last year, the ICJ ordered Senegal to move forward and the new Senegalese president, Macky Sall, agreed. Finally, this year, Senegal created a special court to try Habré in Dakar.

As The New York Times wrote, Habré's "case has proved unusual for the tenacity of his victims, and of Human Rights Watch, in seeking to bring him to justice."

"There were so many moments where I started to believe it might not happen," Brody admitted. "But at some point it becomes an act of faith. I can't tell you how many people have told us over the years that this is never going to happen, you don't understand anything about Africa, anything about Senegal, just give it up. But we used this criticism as fuel. In a sense, we were trying to prove that it could be done."

"When I think back, I first began working on this case because of a theoretical idea - as a lawyer, I wanted to expand the Pinochet precedent, trying a dictator outside of his home country," Brody said. "But then you start working with the victims," the people who Habré had tortured, whose family members were killed, whose villages were devastated. "Now, I want to win the case for them." And for Rose, so history will talk about her.