

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



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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, 13 December 2013

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El Carabobeño (Venezuela)

Thursday, 12 December 2013

Translated

The New International Criminal Justice

Julio Cesar Pineda

The story of international criminal justice is relatively new. This process began with the Nuremberg and Tokyo Tribunals, and culminated in the permanent International Criminal Court in The Hague resulting from the Rome Statute of July 17, 1998. The victorious powers of the Second World War: Britain, France, the United States and the Soviet Union were forced to create the Nuremberg Tribunal and in January 1946 the International Court of Tokyo was launched. The composition of the court was established by the governments of the States with their national winners, and according to the laws and customs of war. The trials were ended in Nuremberg in 1946 and in Tokyo in 1948; being ad hoc tribunals, they were dissolved after their mandates were fulfilled.

Almost 50 years after the Nuremberg and Tokyo Tribunals, the Yugoslavia and Rwanda tribunals were established to address war crimes, but this time by resolutions of the Security Council of the UN, with retroactive effect to Yugoslavia crimes since 1991, and in 1994 in Rwanda for crimes committed that year in that region of Africa.

Criminal courts in Yugoslavia and Rwanda are based on Chapter VII of the UN Charter, unlike the Nuremberg and Tokyo courts which were created by the victorious powers. Both originated in the International Law of the United Nations, which were made mandatory for Member States and were based on the International Humanitarian Law of the Geneva Conventions. The UN also created the **Special Court against War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity in the Republic of Sierra Leone.**

The International Criminal Court in The Hague is the culmination of the process of internationalization of criminal justice. The Treaty of Rome is the result of the work of 150 states that negotiated and discussed it, of which 120 voted in favor, 20 abstained, and 7 voted against: United States, Israel, India, China, Libya, Qatar and Sudan. On April 11, 2002, with 66 ratifications, the treaty was submitted to the UN General Assembly and entered into force on 1 July 2002, having obtained the 76 ratifications needed.

Venezuela became part of the Rome Statute on December 13, 2002, becoming the first Latin American country to do so. The ICC has jurisdiction over cases that could be qualified as genocide and crimes against humanity, war crimes and aggression which take place in the territories state parties to the Statute, or nationals of those states.

The work done by the international community for the definitive establishment of the ICC, demonstrated the need for a court to deal with crimes against a international criminal law, but also the necessary ethical and moral reference against international crimes to be made mandatory international justice.

All this was possible by the end of the confrontation between the Soviet bloc and the Western world . With bipolarity, it was impossible to establish a justice accepted by Moscow and Washington; with the fall of the Berlin Wall and the end of the Iron Curtain, the United Nations, led this new international institution, but for now limited to only 4 international crimes. It is possible that in the future the establishment of a Latin American Criminal Court will be considered, in the spirit of the new International Criminal Law and subject to greater justice and freedom for all and every one of our people.

Unfortunately the United States only signed the Rome Statute that created the ICC, but did not ratify it and are not part of it.

Unlike the International Court of Justice, which was created in 1945 under the UN Charter, which deals with the disputes and conflicts between states, the ICC judges people and individual responsibility for these international crimes. Former presidents like Slobodan Milosevic of Yugoslavia, and recently the former president of Liberia, **Charles Taylor**, have been tried by these new international courts. The former died during the trial and the latter is in prison for crimes committed in his country against the civilian population.

The New Dawn (Liberia)

Thursday, 12 December 2013

'Coocoo' Dennis Mobilized Over 1,000 Ex-Fighters

By J. Karyounean Browne



An ex-general of former **President Charles Taylor's** disbanded National Patriotic Front of Liberia rebels, James Willie Adolphus, alias "Coocoo" Dennis, is still a serious threat to peace and security in Liberia and the entire West Africa, a UN Panel of Experts report has revealed.

According to the Panel, in August this year, a month before Taylor's sentence was upheld by the Special Court for Sierra Leone, Dennis and Taylor's younger brother Adolphus Taylor mobilized more than 1,000 former combatants from the former

president's notorious but now-defunct Anti-Terrorist Unit to revive Taylor's abandoned 6,000 acre farm in Gbarnga, Bong County, central Liberia.

In a report on Liberia to the UN Security Council released in late November, the Panel of Experts noted that the 71-year-old ex-rebel general claimed he had severed ties with Taylor.

"In March 2013, Dennis stated to the Panel that he had broken ties with Taylor prior to 2003. He had by then achieved his objective in joining the NPFL, which was to avenge the death of his uncle, former President William Tolbert, who was overthrown and murdered by former President Samuel Doe in a coup in 1980.

Dennis, who was 71 years old, claimed that he had retired to his extensive farms in Careysburg and Gbarnga and employed about 1,500 former combatants on these farms, thus contributing to peace and security in Liberia", the report read.

However, it notes that Dennis remains a charismatic leader among former combatants from the NPFL, commanding support and the means to mobilize large numbers of ex-fighters.

The UN believes that his past and continued relationship with former combatants remain relevant, in that as a combatant commander throughout the Liberian civil wars, Dennis was known as "General Quick-to-Fire" because he was prone to perpetrating massacres and mutilating civilians, according to evidence collected by the Special Court for Sierra Leone and examined by the Panel.

He is said to have allegedly carried out a massacre in Grand Bassa County on 19 August 1993, in which hundreds of civilians were killed. Evidence collected by the Special Court also showed that in November 2002, Dennis commanded two western Ivorian rebel groups, the Mouvement populaire ivoirien du Grand Ouest

and the Mouvement pour la justice et la paix, in their initial attacks inside Côte d'Ivoire during the early phase of that country's civil war, recruiting about 90 per cent mercenaries from Liberia and Sierra Leone.

"The Panel contacted Dennis in September 2013 to discuss the claims that he had severed ties with former President Taylor before 2003 and his role in the mobilization of former combatants to reopen Taylor's farm. A meeting was scheduled for 26 September 2013, the day Taylor's conviction was upheld on appeal."

"Dennis declined to meet with the Panel on that day, claiming that he had some urgent issues to attend to on his farm in Careysburg. The Panel attempted to meet with Dennis on three occasions, on each of which he refused to meet with the Panel", the report detailed.

Commenting on other Taylor's fighters, the Panel disclosed that ex-general Benjamin Yeaten recruited Liberian mercenaries on behalf of the FRCI rebel group to fight in the Ivorian post-electoral conflict in late 2010 and early in 2011 at a base inside the Ivory Coast.

"The Panel received persistent rumors in 2012 and 2013 that Yeaten was involved in recruiting Liberian mercenaries in Nimba County to fight against FRCI, and also to undermine stability in Liberia, but has not been able to independently verify this information."

The UN said it has been informed on multiple occasions, in 2012 and 2013, by several high-ranking officials of the Government of Liberia that Yeaten resides in Togo, and it has sought further details concerning Yeaten's possible residency, but has not been able to verify such information independently.

The Government of Liberia charged Yeaten with murder in absentia and issued an arrest warrant for him in 2009; it still considers Yeaten a threat. "The Panel concurs with the assessment that Yeaten remains a threat to peace and security in Liberia and the subregion."

Former Chief of Staff of the disbanded MODEL rebels, Benjamin Taylor became Director of Passports and Visas at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs during the transitional government of Gyude Bryant. The Panel says Taylor remains a key player in the former MODEL network in Monrovia and Grand Gedeh County.

"The Panel is particularly concerned about his probable involvement in networks of Krahn mercenaries operating in Ghana and Liberia that sought to conduct cross-border attacks into Côte d'Ivoire in 2012 and early in 2013. As such, the Panel still considers Taylor to be a possible threat to peace and stability in Liberia and the subregion."

Meanwhile, the Panel has observed that Taylor's senior aide-de-camp, Momoh Jibba, poses no threat to peace in Liberia and the entire subregion. It says Jibba was, in a sense, a victim of the Liberian civil war, having been recruited as a combatant in the NPFL in 1990, when he was still a teenager, which makes him one of the first child combatants of the war.

"The Panel met with Jibba in Monrovia on 15 March and 27 September 2013. On both occasions, he was in a dissolute state. The Panel found that Jibba was abusing alcohol and drugs. With Taylor's conviction upheld by the Special Court for Sierra Leone, the Panel is of the opinion that Jibba, who commands no following of his own, is no threat to Liberia and the subregion."