

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



Flashback to 2004: Construction of the courthouse.

**PRESS CLIPPINGS**

**Enclosed are clippings of local and international press on the Special Court and related issues obtained by the Press and Public Affairs Office**

**as at:**

Tuesday, 1 April 2008

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.  
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact  
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# The Spark

Tuesday, 1 April 2008

PAGE 2 Spark Newspaper Tuesday March 1st 2008

A.Y.Kallay

The ongoing Taylor trial in The Hague continues to unearth surprises with some of the key operatives of the former President and rebel leader not only denouncing him but also serving as witnesses for the prosecution that is seeking his eternal placement behind bars for alleged war crimes and crimes committed against Sierra Leoneans.

One of the fresh evidence for the prosecution, who alleged that he was the Chief of Operations for the war machine of Charles Taylor, has said that he was ordered by his former boss to bury in the most ignoble manner, a pregnant woman for reasons best known to Taylor.

The trial that has now gone on for several months, recently witnessed the testimony of one ex-NPFL former fighter, in person of Zigzag Marzah.

Mind moving as the testimony, the Analyst brings its many reader this special coverage of the testimony that left many hearers spellbound.

A former fighter of the defunct National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) has taken the witness stand in the ongoing trial of former President Charles Taylor and told the court that he (Taylor) ordered a lot of atrocities in Liberia and Sierra Leone during the course of the conflict.

According to the ex-fighter, who claims to be an NPFL insider, he "Zigzag" Marzah was ordered by Taylor to commit atrocities in both Liberia and Sierra Leone, and that he also traded arms for diamonds with the Revolutionary United Front (RUF).

From the scripts of his trial reports, which were posted on the internet since March 12, the prosecution attorneys seek to call a new witness and applied to the judges to omit the scope and length of witness's examination and cross-examination.

But the judges denied the request to limiting the cross-examination. Based on this issue, the new witness, Joseph D. "Zigzag" Marzah, took the stand. Making his testimony, Marzah recounted that he was with Taylor's National Patriotic Front for Liberia (NPFL) from the very beginning to the end and that he had risen to become Taylor's Chief of Operations.

He recounted numerous atrocities committed in Liberia and Sierra Leone, all of which he said had been ordered by Taylor. He also claimed that near the end of the Sierra Leonean conflict, Taylor ordered him to execute

## IT RINGS A BELL

### "Taylor ordered me bury a pregnant woman"

Revolutionary United Front (RUF) commander Issa Sesay, who was at the time cooperating in the Peace process at the time.

In addition to Taylor's orders, Marzah alleged that Taylor directly participated in the burying alive of a pregnant woman in Monrovia. He further alleged there was arms-for-diamonds trading between Taylor and the RUF in Sierra Leone, a claim he did not elaborate.

Opening the counter arguments into the allegations raised by the witness, the Lead Prosecutor Brenda Hollis explained to judges that rather than continue with the witness who was still testifying at the end of the on the day before (Isaac Monger), the prosecution would seek to call for a new witness.

The trial chamber which had earlier denied close session for the witness, said that the global ruling the witness was only willing to testify if additional measures were put in place to protect him and his family.

For logistical reasons not described in court, these protective measures can only be undertaken this week and shortly after the witness's return home. For this reason, the witness would be unavailable after Friday.

The prosecution applied to the chamber to limit direct examination to one day, and the defense cross-examination to one-and-a-half days, or two days if court sits exceptionally in the afternoon on Friday. Hollis cited legal precedents for such limitations on the length of the cross-examination.

Lead Defense counsel Courtenay Griffiths argued that he did not know what the witness would say, and therefore would not be fulfilling his duty to his client if he agreed in advance to limit his cross-examination.

He argued that the chamber has an overriding duty to justice and fairness, and that concerns for witness safety and protection should not limit the right of the accused to a fair trial, including the right to full cross-examination. Griffiths cited various provisions of the Special Court's Rules of Procedure and Evidence, as well as a legal ruling at the Yugoslav tribunal.

After hearing a reply from Hollis, who argued that the rights of victims and witnesses must be balance with the rights of the accused, the judges retired from the courtroom to consider

the arguments.

Upon returning, Presiding Judge Teresa Doherty announced their ruling: that it would not be in the interest of justice to grant the prosecution request for limits on cross-examination. The prosecution nonetheless called the new witness to the stand, in hopes that he might complete his testimony before the week ends.

Direct examination of "Zigzag" Marzah

The new witness was Joseph D. "Zigzag" Marzah, a Liberian of the Gio tribe. Marzah testified that he was one of 17 members of Taylor's NPFL, who invaded Liberia from Ivory Coast on December 24, 1989, when his direct commander was Prince Johnson. After early infighting in the NPFL, Taylor ordered Marzah's release from a container burned by NPFL Special Forces, in which around 20 other Johnson loyalists died.

Marzah swore his loyalty to Taylor and fought under his command. Marzah testified that while Prince Johnson's forces were disciplined if they abused civilians, under Taylor they were encouraged to rape and loot; he alleged that before Taylor became president of Liberia, his forces did not receive a salary, but were encouraged by Taylor to compensate themselves by stealing from civilians.

He described NPFL checkpoints where human intestines were used as rope and strung across the road, and human heads were placed on sticks; he said that Taylor had seen many of these checkpoints.

Marzah described Taylor's introduction of Tody Sankoh to the NPFL. Later, after Marzah said Taylor had developed complete trust in him, Taylor allegedly sent Marzah to accompany Sankoh on a second incursion into Sierra Leone in 1991, where Sankoh was to become a leader. Marzah said that when his NPFL men captured Koindu, Sierra Leone, Sankoh cried over the dead civilians and soldiers and burned houses. Marzah said he called Taylor on the radio to complain of Sankoh's weakness, and that Taylor assured him Sankoh would get used

to it.

Marzah described serving in a number of NPFL units after his return to Liberia, including the "Death Squad", responsible for executing soldiers who did not obey

Taylor's orders. Marzah testified that when the ULIMO faction controlled Lofa County, Taylor gave him money to buy kola nuts and bribe Guinean border officials to take the nuts into Guinea. After this worked twice, the new route and relationships were used to transport arms and ammunition, hidden under the kola nuts, to Kissidougou, from where they were transported to the Liberian embassy in Guinea for onward smuggling to the RUF in Sierra Leone.

Marzah said that after ULIMO disarmed to join a government of national unity, the roads to Sierra Leone were open to him, and he took between 20 and 40 shipments of arms and ammunition to the RUF, always at Taylor's order.

He described some of these deliveries, and said that when he rode at the front of the convoy, they were never stopped at checkpoints because everyone knew he was Taylor's Chief of Operations.

The prosecution asked Marzah about diamonds, and he testified that he had escorted diamonds or people carrying diamonds to Taylor on many occasions.

He described in detail one very large diamond brought by Sam Bockarie ("Mosquito") to Taylor. Marzah said Taylor was impressed and gave himself and Bockarie money, along with a large quantity of ammunition to take back to Sierra Leone. He then described a subsequent trip with Bockarie to deliver a jar of diamonds to Taylor, and Taylor's decision to introduce Bockarie to officials in Burkina Faso who could sell weapons to the RUF.

Shortly thereafter, a large Russian cargo plane brought arms and ammunition to Roberts International airfield in Monrovia, and Marzah stated that it contained many truckloads of material. Marzah said it took him 5-6 trips with two trucks to take it all to Sierra Leone. Marzah testified that Taylor later ordered him to bring Sam Bockarie with his men from Sierra Leone, in order to end the RUF infighting between Bockarie and Issa Sesay. Bockarie and his men were integrated into various military and police units in Liberia, and many were sent by Taylor to fight in Ivory Coast.

Prosecutor Nick Koumjian asked

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# "Taylor ordered me bury a pregnant woman"

FROM PAGE 2

whether Taylor had ever given him an order regarding RUF commander Issa Sesay. Marzah said that when he was in Kono, he received an order from Taylor to execute Sesay because he had signed some papers as part of the peace agreement, which Taylor regarded as a betrayal. Marzah was not successful in executing Sesay.

At the prosecution's request, Marzah went on to describe executions had conducted under Taylor's orders. He described several massacres of civilians in Liberia ordered by Taylor because he said the civilians had collaborated with his enemies.

This included a massacre of 600 at Camp Carter. In one massacre in and around Gbamga, Marzah said he and his men had cut open the bellies of pregnant women and killed babies.

He also described an NPFL ambush of loyalists of Prince Johnson on the day that Johnson captured Samuel Doe, the President of Liberia, and alleged that Taylor ordered him and his men to kill all 72 of the Johnson men with knives.

Following the lunch break, court went into a very brief closed session without the witness, at the request of the prosecution. Just minutes later, the open session resumed. Marzah testified that when Mr. Taylor joined the six-person interim presidency in

Liberia in 1995, he ordered a ceremony to be conducted. He allegedly sent men, including Marzah and Benjamin Yeaten, to bring a pregnant woman from the streets of Monrovia. The woman was stripped naked and placed in a pit dug on the beach behind Taylor's residence. She pleaded for her life, but, according to Marzah, Taylor threw in the first sand and then his men buried her alive. He stated that Taylor then held a white sheep by its horns while his men sacrificed it over the buried woman. He said a massacre of around 80 civilians in the town of Kammantahun, carried out by Benjamin Yeaten, but blamed on him. He testified that Taylor gave him a red motorcycle in order to stop him from proclaiming his innocence at a massacre Marzah found disturbing - because he said that Taylor wanted to cover up for Yeaten.

Marzah described the execution of RUF commander Superman, which allegedly was organized by Yeaten at Taylor's order. Taylor believed that Superman had betrayed him. Marzah described Superman subsequently being beheaded and dismembered, with his hand delivered to Taylor as proof of the execution.

Marzah said that he and the other men on the mission cooked and ate Superman's heart at Yeaten's house, which was next to Taylor's. Similarly, Marzah described the execution of

Jungle (Daniel Tamba) in Sierra Leone, allegedly on the orders of Benjamin Yeaten.

Marzah also testified that he spoke with a soldier named Sweet Candy, who was wearing the jacket of AFRC leader Johnny Paul Koroma. Sweet Candy told Marzah that Koroma had been executed at the command of Charles Taylor because Taylor claimed that Koroma had betrayed him. Marzah testified that Taylor sometimes called him "my son". Koumjian then stated that he had no further questions for the witness.

Cross-examination of Marzah begins. Lead Defense Counsel Courtenay Griffiths began the cross-examination by recounting with the witness all of the atrocities he had personally committed. Marzah stated that he didn't know how many people he had killed, but more than hundred. He confirmed that he had killed babies and cut open the bellies of pregnant women at Taylor's command. Griffiths asked Marzah if he had any pangs of conscience. Marzah said yes, but that he had carried out the killings in order to protect himself, his family and his property, because Taylor would take retribution against anyone not following orders. Griffiths challenged Marzah to cite specific instances where Taylor had ordered pregnant women to be cut open.

Marzah responded by saying that when fighting in Gbamga, Taylor sent him a specific message over the radio to get a pregnant woman in retribution against the local population. Griffiths then challenged Marzah to describe a specific instance where Taylor had ordered him to kill a baby. Marzah said that after the NPFL had captured Gbamga, Taylor formed a unit called "No Baby on Target", and gave them instructions to kill any baby they saw. Marzah testified that after they carried out this instruction, they reported it to Taylor and received money. Griffiths asked Marzah if he had any regrets about "this wickedness". Marzah responded: "I regret nothing. I don't regret an inch." Griffiths asked Marzah why he hadn't fled instead of committing these atrocities, and Marzah said he had a large property and 24 children of his own to protect in Liberia. When Griffiths asked where the executions had all taken place, Marzah said that most had been carried out in Sierra Leone and Guinea, with some in Liberia. In the course of this questioning, Marzah stated that he had participated in the invasion of Freetown. Griffiths asked if he had participated in conducting amputations, and Marzah said he had, on the orders of Taylor. As the testimony came to a close, Griffiths asked: "Are you saying that Charles Taylor told you on the radio or phone to cut off people's limbs?" Marzah responded: "So many times."

## Cocorioko website

Tuesday, 1 April 2008

### **Fourah Bay College gets big boost from the Special Court**

By Moses A. Kargbo

The UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone has presented a consignment of 1,100 text books to the Department of Social Sciences and Law, Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone.

The books, worth a whopping £50,000, were donated through a project called “The Algernon Montage Sierra Leone Book Project”, and the ceremony took place at the Administrative Hall, Fourah Bay College campus in Freetown.

Giving an overview of the project, Director and Trustee, who doubles as senior lecturer at the U.K. University in London, Eric Jean-Pierre said AMSLBP is a charity he founded alongside a colleague in the same university, John Trye.

He said they will continue to assist the FBC Law Department and the Law School with books as both institutions badly needed the materials.

“Our aim is to help in the resuscitation of education in Sierra Leone and to make the Law Department library a very crucial research center where scholars from all over the continent could come and brainstorm,” Jean-Pierre said, adding that another consignment is ready for shipment from the U.K.

He said on arrival, donation will also be made to the English Language Department of the college.

President of the Special Court, Justice George Gelaga-King expressed appreciation for the administration of the University of Sierra Leone for maintaining the standard of the institution after the civil conflict.

Justice Gelaga-King said the charity has plans to boost legal education in the country if only the first gesture would be judiciously utilised.

Receiving the items, Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor of Fourah Bay College, Dr. Dan Foday assured the benefactors that the books would not be locked up in cupboards to accumulate dust but would be used to the advantage of students.

He appealed to the organisation not to forget other departments in the college, which he said are equally in dire need of assistance.

## BBC World Service Trust

Monday, 31 March 2008

By Adolphus Williams, at The Hague

The Monday afternoon session of Charles Taylor's war crimes trial continued in The Hague with prosecution 21st witness Isaac Mongor on the stand.

The former RUF fighter, who rose to the position of brigadier general and member of the ruling council in the AFRC/RUF military junta in Sierra Leone, gave a graphic account of alleged atrocities by RUF fighters against women and children.

Adolphus Williams reports from the courtroom in The Hague

WILLIAMS: Amongst the charges faced by Charles Taylor are recruiting child soldiers and sexual slavery. The former RUF brigadier, Isaac Mongor, said fighters led by frontline commander Sam Bockarie arrested the girlfriend of the RUF leader Foday Sankoh. He said the woman, only identified as Janet, was suspected of passing information to government force. The RUF soldiers forced her to have sex with her son before killing both of them.

MONGOR: I said his girlfriend's name was Janet.

COUNSEL: Sir, are you saying Janet?

MONGOR: Yes.

COUNSEL: Thank you. So please continue with what happened with Janet, Foday Sankoh's girlfriend?

MONGOR: She was arrested, but she had connived with the government troops, the SLA soldiers. She was arrested because the woman hailed from that town. So they started arresting all the other people who were related to that woman... A. She was arrested and her child was arrested and they were placed in a house. They were detained there. After some time she was taken out to be killed, but then they took out her son for the two of them to have sex before they could kill her.

WILLIAMS: He said fighters took over villages and towns and seized women as their wives or recruited them to fight.

Mongor, who claimed to have run away from Arm Forces of Liberia training base in Todee near Monrovia, said he helped forcibly to recruit and train children in Camp Nama in Bong County. He said children were useful in fighting because they proved to be braver than adult fighters.

MONGOR: The SBUs were fighting. They were at the forefront, they were at the forefront fighting, and we used them also to be at the checkpoints so that they could restrict some of the fighters who want to retreat from the front line, so they will push them back to go to the front line.... the SBUs were brave more than most of the adults. So we used them to ensure that they would capture most of the men that were retreating from the front line and that they would bring them back to the front line. The others were fighting at the front line so they could help to put more pressure on the enemy.

WILLIAMS: He disclosed civilians were rounded up and shot. In one instance in Kailahun, 69 people were shot dead.

MONGOR: Mosquito killed those people. He said the people were Kamajors, but according to the information that we got, or that I got, they said those people were people who had run away because of the war. They were trying to return to their home, but they came in a group and they were men so they accused them of being Kamajors and they were killed... It happened in Kailahun Town... The killing took place during the time of peace, but when they said those people were spies, that they were Kamajors, that was the information that they said they got. But later one of my friends Vandi Kossiah told me that those people were not Kamajors... They said they killed 69 people in Kailahun.

WILLIAMS: Monger said Sam Bockarie was the man who directly delivered diamonds to Taylor in return for ammunition and guns as part of the former Liberian president's support to the rebels. Monger said diamond mining started in the town of Dia, in Kailahun, in 1991 when the civil war began.

He also spoke of the Front's military disciplinary measures and strategies used to attack troops of the West African Peace Keeping force, ECOMOG.

He spoke of holes dug by fighters serving as prison cells. And he described how the RUF soldiers deceived ECOMOG troops by pretending to surrender but opening fire on the peacekeepers when they opened their arms to welcome the supposed surrendering fighters.

Defense lawyer Terry Munyard will continue the cross-examination of Mongor.

For BBC World Service Trust, Search for Common Ground, Talking Drum Studio, Adolphus Williams in The Hague.

# TAYLOR MILLIONS STILL AROUND

## -Urey, Shaw, Snowe, Captan, Brown, Hold Shares In Major Companies - Cellphone Industry Tops



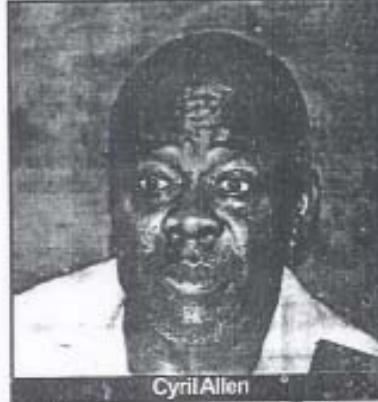
Benoni Urey



Edwin M. Snowe, Jr.



Monie R. Captan



Cyril Allen

**F**ORMER Liberian President Charles Taylor though in prison in The Hague but investigation conducted by this paper indicates that he still strongly control the Liberian economy as his close cronies hold shares in major business ventures in the

country. An investigation conducted by the independent Parrot Newspaper has unearthed how key associates of Taylor are holding shares in lucrative business institutions which are major players within the country economy. The investigative sur-

vey reveals how six of Taylor's close associates some of whom according to reports are still in telephone contact with him hold major shares in companies whose decisions may have impact on the Liberian economy.

The companies include major suppliers of gasoline, communication and other ventures that make them well suited to take decision that may affect the struggling economy of Liberia.

While there are countless calls from every aspect of the Liberian society on government to exert every effort aimed at controlling the prices of basic commodities on the Liberian market including petroleum products which have direct implications on the people, the situation in the country seems to be degenerating thereby creating more hardship for the citizenry, while these Taylor cronies are pretty seated reaping millions in return (profit) of their shares in major companies in Liberia.

The investigation suggests that with the shares these close associates of Taylor hold in companies back home, the former Liberian leader is still influencing activities in the country especially from the economic front.

It is widely believed that many of these shares belong to former President Taylor but due

to the United Nations Security Council sanctions imposed on him and his associates in 2002, Taylor empowered many of his associates to become owners of these shares and also granted them the power or right to collect his shares.

Investigation also indicates that following the turned over of Taylor for trial and the UN search for the hidden accounts of the indicted alleged war crimes suspect, his shares in many companies were divided among close friends acting on his behalf so as to prevent the name of the former President from these Companies files, something that would have gravely embarrassed these institutions.

Below is an account of the huge financial might of cronies of former President Charles Taylor, our investigation has shown.

**Lewis Browne**  
He formerly served as advisor on foreign Affairs to President Taylor, he was instrumental in renewing ties with Mainland China and cancelled diplomatic relationship with Taiwan, a China which was once a good friend of his master, Taylor.

Upon Taylor's departure Brown served almost as Foreign Minister as the entire Foreign policy of the country at the time was directed by him. This was during the period of ascended President Moses Blah. He became the head of the Government of Liberia delegation at the Accra Comprehensive Peace Accord and signed on behalf of his boss Taylor.

Cont'd on Page 7



## TAYLOR

Brown according to this investigation has share in Celcom, one of the major GSM providers in the country. Brown was influential in making the company to begin operations in Liberia and was seen at the launching ceremony of the company in 2005 serving as an executive of the company.

With Celcom now gradually computing with Lonestar for control of the Liberian communication industry, the income generating capacity of the company has grown thereby making Brown, a close partner of Taylor to have increase in income.

Prior to his departure to the U.S. where the latter is believed to be studying, Brown served on the Celcom Board as a senior member.

### Cyril Allen

Former Chairman of the National Patriotic Party and a good friend to Taylor according investigation holds a share in Libercom, also one of the providers of GSM services in Liberia.

Allen maintained that he remains a friend and brother to former Liberian President Charles Taylor forever and even during the turned over of Taylor from Nigeria via Liberia to Sierra Leone, he expressed his dissatisfaction over the incident.

Mr. Allen reacted furiously and rudely to a newspaper story questioning the whereabouts of Taylor's wealth by abusing the publisher of the Newspaper and his mother for asking such question.

It is widely believed that many of the shares in these companies are personally owned by Taylor but his associates are only looking for him.

### Worship Captain

Served as Foreign Minister to President Taylor during and lately defected under mysterious circumstances after battle for control of Monrovia between the Taylor Government and the main rebel group Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) was raging.

According to sources, Captain betrayed his boss Taylor after he was sent to negotiate for arms and ammunition to fight the well equipped LURD forces.

Information indicated that Captain took away huge sum of money (over a Million) gives him by Taylor to purchase the weapons and refused to return to Liberia.

Following the exit of Taylor, Captain did not return to Liberia fearing attack by loyalists of Taylor but only came home when Taylor was finally subdued and taken to prison in The Hague for trial on crimes allegedly committed against the people of Sierra Leone.

Captain returned to Liberia in 2006 and officially took over as head of Comsum Liberia, another powerful GSM provider in the country.

Investigation indicates that Captain along with his mother-in-law, Grace Minor who also deceived Taylor after serving as a close confidant to him when he exploited the Liberian masses and made them peasants, hold the largest share in Comsum where he is serving as General manager.

That is why Captain is forced to risk being here to take over the company despite threats from Taylor loyalists, for they have got a huge amount of money within Comsum.

### Samuel Urey

Urey has originally been a senior member of the Lonestar Board and is a shareholder in

Lonestar Cell and is also receiving the share-returns of his imprisoned Master, Taylor, our investigation also unearthed.

Investigation has gathered that Lonestar is paying millions to Urey annually on behalf of Taylor and he Urey is accordingly in close contact with Mr. Taylor on this arrangement.

The Cuttington trained chemist became head of the Maritime Bureau right after the signing of the Cotonu Accord in 1995 and was maintained as head of Maritime Affairs by Charles Taylor, a Bureau that monitors and collects all taxes on the large marine industry of Liberia.

Situated on the Atlantic Ocean, Liberia has a good harbor for foreign vessels which makes the Maritime industry generate millions annually.

Urey generated millions of United States dollars from the Maritime registry of Liberia and was only accountable to Taylor.

Within less than six years, Senator Urey acquired a huge wealth from the Maritime industry where he collected monies and reported directly to Taylor.

There are documents in the possession of this paper which shows vividly how Urey and his LUSCR partners plundered the Maritime foreign accounts with the backing of jailed president Taylor.

During his tenure as Maritime boss there were no semblance of accountability, all he strived for was to satisfy Taylor and their to the Liberian masses.

Urey is a millionaire backed by huge assets situated in Montserrado and Margibi Counties. He maintained his two Girls (children) in prestigious Universities situated in the USA and Canada, while thousands of Liberian children whom he and his Master (Taylor) made peasants languish with poverty and illiteracy.

**Emmanuel Shaw**  
Shaw, according to investigation is another member of the Board of Directors of the Lonestar, a position he holds as a result of President Taylor influence as a share holder in the company from the beginning of operations of the company in Liberia.

Information also reveals that Shaw and Urey are collaborating and receiving millions of United States dollars annually from Lonestar Cell on behalf of Taylor.

Shaw was prominent before the coming of Taylor. He served as Finance Minister in the criminal regime of late President Samuel K. Doe. During his tenure as Finance Minister, the government was marred with rampant corruption as millions were transferred to Swiss accounts by his then boss, Doe. There was no accountability to the people, as Doe, Shaw and the rest plundered the Country resources.

He left the country as a result of the 1990 invasion and returned after Taylor was pronounced winner of the 1997 elections. He served as Advisor for Economic Affairs to Former President Charles Taylor.

In this Capacity, Shaw arranged and transferred millions of United States Dollars for Charles Taylor to foreign Banks namely Citibank and UBS Banks in New York. All of these Monies reportedly came from the Lonestar Cell which Shaw also has a share.

This paper also has Documentary evidence showing the hand of these monies. The Liberian Bank for Developmental and Investment (LBDI) aided Shaw in the transfer process on a com-

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Shaw, an Economist from the London School of Economics reaped heavily from this deal which went on for a protracted period.

Shaw, one of the owners of Lonestar Cell releases in 8-gallon millions while Liberian Children go to sleep almost on empty basic hungry.

### Edwin M. Snows

Former head of the Liberia Petroleum Refining Company according to investigation holds a share in West Oil, a company that deals in petroleum products and Africa Motors, one of the major importers of vehicles in Liberia.

While Snows was serving as head of the LPRC, he entered into several dubious contracts with foreign owned petroleum importing companies and subsequently led to him owning shares in these companies.

During his tenure at the LPRC, the prices of petroleum products were far below the current price on the Liberian market.

According to investigation, Snows is one of the individuals using his shares in petroleum importing companies to cause fluctuation in the price of petroleum products mainly gasoline and increase the economic hardship of the Liberian people.

In order to expand his share in West Oil, Snows granted a huge contract to the Mechanical Engineering Group (MEG) and prepaid over US\$ 500,000 to the company for the renovation of LPRC's Tank-Farm.

The contract has been since nullified by LPRC current boss, Harry Graves on grounds that it failed to follow the proper process in keeping with the then Contract and Monopolies Commission. MEG is owned by West Oil, a Lebanese dominated Company which Snows is a share holder.

While Liberians are suffering the continuous acute shortage of gasoline on the Liberian market, a situation that has made several Liberians to choose walking as an option for commuting from one place to another—Snows and his Lebanese partners are reaping millions just from gasoline alone. Investigation continues.

## SSS

a letter From Commissioner Daniel Sedi, dated May 25, 1982 to the Clerk of the People's Law Court, Mr. Robert B. Anthony at the Temple of Justice.

Fred Nyenets, Chairman of the community told our reporter that a committee has been set up to engage Montserrado County Land Commissioner John Watkins and New Georgia Township Commissioner John Kulle on the matter.

They also alleged that Jarba has planned to lease the area to a company while the matter is still in process for settlement.

The residents then called on all peace loving Liberians including the president, Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf to intervene since the matter has not reached to what they termed as a "critical" level.

When contacted, the Kennedy Law Firm representing Jarba said it will comment at the appropriate time, indicating that it will study the claims of their clients.

Latest report coming in say New Georgia Township Commissioner John H. Kulle and Montserrado County Land Commissioner John N. Watkins have informed the community that the case is between them (the Commissioners) and Jarba and not the Community as been perceived by the residents, because the land was obtained through their offices. Investigation continues.

The Inquirer (Liberia)  
 Tuesday, 1 April 2008

## Former Lawmaker Reacts To Marzah's Testimonies

### ... In Taylor's Case

Another accused Liberian, a former member of the House of Representatives, Annie Yensay, says that she will institute a lawsuit against Mr. Joseph Marzah for subjecting her to humiliation, dehumanization, emotional trauma and isolation by her

relatives and in-laws respectively, therefore it was indeed a testimony full of mischief.

She warned that all potential witnesses in the Charles Taylor trial should desist from defaming the character of innocent people, as

doing so could pose far reaching consequences for the peace and reconciliation efforts undertaken by Liberians.

Madam Yensay said her action stems from accusations made by Mr. Marzah, alias 'Zigzag' before the Special Court in The Hague that she booked the hearts of the late Jackson Doe and Samuel Seye Dekle.

The former statewoman and president of the Liberia Marketing Association said her reaction in the media is to put the record straight because such false testimonies are intended to sow seeds of discord among tribesmen and embarrass every Liberian in the eyes of the international community.

As the truth telling process heats up for Liberians in and out of Liberia, there will be several reactions from accused persons or alleged perpetrators of what many already know and consider as gruesome acts meted out by Liberians themselves.

In her reaction to testimonies of 'Zigzag', a prosecution witness for the special court for Sierra Leone sitting in The Hague, Madam Yensay denied ever becoming a friend or entering into any secret society that engages in the preparation and consumption of human parts with the witness.

Madam Yensay who described Zigzag as a madman said that those whose hearts were allegedly said by Zigzag to have been cooked by her were her own

New Democrat (Liberia)  
 Tuesday, 1 April 2008

## Taylor Trial Resumes

# Witness: Camp Namah Was SBU Training Base



**T**he trial of former President Charles Taylor resumed Monday, with a previous witness telling the court that Camp Namah was used to train units of the Small Boys Unit or SBU, all child soldiers.

Prosecution witness Isaac Mengor, continuing his testimony interrupted to facilitate the testimony of Zigzag Marzah due to logistics, said Mr Taylor was "owner of the RUF", the erstwhile Sierra Leone rebel Revolutionary United Front.

The witness said...

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Members of the SBU reportedly carried out some of the worst atrocities

## Witness: Camp Namah Was SBU Training Base

units of the SBU were more useful than adult ones, because, he added, "they were more brave". He said child soldiers were used to capture areas before adults moved in. Morgee said civilians were used in forced labour.

(Excerpts of the exchange between the prosecution and the witness, courtesy Hog "The Trial of Charles Taylor")

Pro: How would civilians work for the frontline commanders?

Wit: If I wanted a hat to sleep, the G5 would give me civilians to erect my hat.

Pro: How did the RUF move ammunition?

Wit: While we were in the jungle, the civilians would carry the ammunition. We didn't have vehicles, so we used the civilians.

Pro: In all of these tasks, did the civilians have a choice about whether to work for the RUF?

Wit: No, they had no option.

Pro: Regarding SBU, you said you were training soldiers at Camp Namah. What were the ages of the youngest soldiers you were training?

Wit: About 10.

Pro: Do you recall the names of any of the young children you trained at Camp Namah?

Wit: Kona Lakko, Old Pa Harris, Base Marine. Those are the ones I can recall.

Pro: How old was Old Pa Harris when you trained him?

Wit: Almost ten years.

Pro: Base Marine?

Wit: Around 9, going to 10.

Pro: How were the SBUs used in the RUF?

Wit: The SBUs were fighting.

Pro: How did they perform as fighters?

Wit: They were at the forefront, fighting. We used them also to be at the checkpoints so that they could push back fighters who wanted to retreat from the frontline.

Pro: Why were SBUs used for this task?

Wit: The reason was that the SBUs were brave - more than most of the adults. So we used them to ensure that they would capture most of the men retreating from the frontline, and they would bring them back to the frontline. The others were used at the frontline.

Pro: During the time you were with the RUF, did the recruitment of SBUs continue?

Wit: It continued to the end of the war.

Pro: How did SBUs come to be part of the RUF?

Wit: If you went and attacked a place, and if you captured the place, you would take the SBUs from the captured people, because you knew their use. Whenever you saw people of that age, you would capture and bring them to be trained.

Pro: Did they have a choice? Did they choose to join the RUF?

Wit: No, they had no choice.

Pro: Regarding women: how did women come to be with the RUF

troops?

Wit: Some of the women were trained and became RUF soldiers. Some of them were taken by the RUF soldiers, the fighters, to be their wives. That's how the women were with the RUF.

Pro: When the RUF attacked a village, what would happen with the women in a village?

Wit: When we attacked any village, we turned the women in our wives. Some were sent to be trained as soldiers to fight.

Pro: Did the women have a choice?

Wit: No, they had no choice.

Pro: You talked about how commanders had more choice in choosing women. Did you ever see a case where women were traded among soldiers?

Wit: Yes, it happened. You, the junior man, if your senior commander wanted the woman, he would take the woman from you.

Pro: Did the women have any role in deciding which commander to be with?

Wit: No, she had no choice.

Pro: When the RUF entered a village and captured civilians, did you ever hear of anyone being asked if they were married?

Wit: Yes, they would ask. And they would say they were married even if they weren't. Some men denied being husbands, because they didn't want to be killed.

Pro: You talked about being in Kailahun District. What was the situation of women at RUF locations in Kailahun?

Wit: Some were the wives of the RUF fighters. The RUF soldiers turned them into their wives. Some were trained to become soldiers.

Pro: I will ask about your knowledge of specific killings of civilians by the RUF. Were you arrested at one time in 1993 near Kailahun town?

Wit: Yes, they arrested me once, saying I had conspired. The enemies were advancing on the RUF position. They were to take me to Giehan, about ten miles away.

Pro: What happened in Giehan?

Wit: It was the place where Sam Bockarie was doing killings. Foday Sanboh's girlfriend, Janet, hailed from that town. She was arrested - they said she'd conspired with the government troops, the government soldiers. So they started arresting to all her relatives. They arrested people from that town and the surrounding villages. That's where Mosquito was based, and the same place where they were killed.

Pro: What happened to Janet?

Wit: She and her child were arrested. They were detained in a house. After some time, she was taken out to be killed. But then they took out her son, for the two of them to have sex before they could be killed.

Pro: Who was that who forced that to happen?

Wit: Mosquito, Sam Bockarie.

Pro: You mentioned that Bockarie had arrested civilians from Giehan and the surrounding area. What

happened to them?

Wit: They were killed at a bridge in Giehan.

Pro: How do you know that?

Wit: I went there.

Pro: Did you see them being killed?

Wit: I saw them being taken to the bridge. They were shot and fell into the river. The corpses were there.

Pro: During the time of the junta, were you aware of anything happening outside of Kenema?

Wit: Yes, outside of Kenema Mosquito gave an order where some civilians were killed. Going toward Tongo Field, civilians were killed.

Pro: How do you know about that?

Wit: When I came from Freetown to Kerpema to Mosquito - one of my men who was at the place explained everything to me.

Pro: Do you recall when this happened?

Wit: It was before we left Freetown.

Pro: During the time of the AFRC/RUF presence in Freetown?

Wit: Yes.

Pro: Early in that period, or later in the period?

Wit: It was close to the intervention.

Pro: Besides Momoh, did anyone else tell you they had witnessed this?

Wit: Mosquito was my man who was there. The only other people I saw who were shot too were RUF soldiers in the hospital because they were accused of looting.

Pro: Who shot them?

Wit: Mosquito shot them in the legs. They said they went to the women's society bando bush and looted their property. The people complained to Mosquito. The two men whose legs were shot were captured. Later, Mosquito learned that the men he shot were not the ones who did it.

Pro: Did you talk to soldiers involved in killing civilians?

Wit: Yes, I talked to the soldiers in the hospital. They said the civilians were suspected of being informants for the Kamajoes.

Pro: How many civilians were killed in this incident?

Wit: I didn't ask them for any fig-

ure.

Pro: Who was it who ordered killings?

Wit: Mosquito.

Pro: Do you have knowledge another incident involving Mos to in Kailahun?

Wit: Yes.

Pro: When?

Wit: Mosquito killed those people - he said they were Kamajoes, according to information I got, said those people were those had run away because of the trying to return to their home. came in a group and were me they accused them of being Kamajoes and they were killed.

Pro: Where did this occur?

Wit: In Kailahun town, right in town.

Pro: When did this occur?

Wit: The killing took place at the time of peace. But when said those people were spies, Kamajoes. Later one of my friends, Vandi Kossiah, told me those people were not Kamajoes - in fact of his uncle was among that group and was killed.

## Refugees To Be Dispersed

do so, adding that the repatriation would be phased out in consultation with the UNHCR and the two governments and there would be

ated to a separate camp in the wake of the crisis at Badakham were also considered.

Madan Chhabra, King-Akorele

of the Interior and included M. Gharney, Minister of Justice Attorney General, Dr Sam / Gharney, National Security Co



bi-monthly reviews of the exercise within the framework of the mandate of the TC.

He said the role of UNHCR in the repatriation exercise and the request of the Liberian delegation for the return of refugees who had been re-

commended the government delegation for the open and frank discussions between the two sides and the friendly atmosphere in which it was held.

The Ghanaian delegation was led by Mr Kwamina Bartels, Minister

of State for the Interior, Dr Ben Yeboah, Deputy Minister of P Affairs, Major-General (ret) I -Amanin, Ghana's Ambassador Liberia and Mr Frank Agy Deputy Minister for Informa-

## Act Limiting Budgetary Transfers Signed

She also signed the Firestone Agreement. Until the Act, there was no limitation on the transfer of budget to the various ministries but with the signing of Section 2210 of the Revenue Code, the Executive Branch can only transfer budget within a 30% threshold.

Briefing journalists after the ceremony, Finance Minister Dr. Sayeh said

budgetary transfer in the past."

Dr. Sayeh said with the Act, any budgetary transfer above 20% of the Executive will have to consult with the Legislature for approval.

She said in effect what this means is that when the Legislature passes a budget "we remain truthful to that budget."

Aside ministerial transfer, the Act

budget in this category it must seek legislative approval. Dr. added.

"When we came into office, it was something that needed changed. We wanted to move forward with the most transparent process of managing the budget. The legislature is the best in terms of what is appropriate."

Pres. Sertes signs amended Revenue Code and Firearms Agreement budgetary transfer by the members of the National to become law

# Taylor Was "Owner Of The RUF"

## -Witness Isaac Mongor

**T**wo men of former President Charles Taylor yesterday resumed in the Hague following a two-week recess. Following a suspension proceedings, one of the witnesses who testified before the break, Isaac Mongor, was cross-examined by the prosecution, maintaining what he said earlier. He told the court that the RUF was owned by former President Taylor and gave further details of activities that

inspired by RUF-Liberia and RUF-Sierra Leone. See Excerpt from his cross-examination

**Ques:** Within the RUF, how did you refer to Charles Taylor?

**Ans:** We called him CJK - he was the Commander in Chief. When he became president, we called him Mr Taylor.

**Ques:** What did it mean, Commander in Chief?

**Ans:** It means that he had command over the RUF. We look it that the RUF belonged to him. He sent somebody to help the RUF, Foday Sanneh, but he was the owner of the RUF.

**Prosecutor:** Nick Katungian continues his examination of witness Isaac Mongor.

**Ques:** We were discussing the time of the incident where Superman said the tactic of having soldiers joined to surrender. Was this before or after the Jan 1999 invasion of Freetown?

**Ans:** It occurred before that time.

**Ques:** So you're saying it happened between February 1998 and the January 1999 invasion of Freetown?

**Ans:** Yes, after we had left Freetown.

**Ques:** The incidents you described where ECOMOG uniforms were

*Cont'd on page 19*



### Taylor Was "Owner Of The RUF"

used - do you recall particular places where this happened?

**Ans:** At Mile 91. Zino did that.

**Ques:** What was this?

**Ans:** It happened in 1995.

**Ques:** Going back to the incident with Superman in Kibala. You said those with white hands pretended to surrender. What did they do when the firing started?

**Ans:** They too joined in the firing.

**Ques:** Where were their weapons?

**Ans:** Strung on their backs.

**Ques:** You told us about following the events of Freetown by Gullit's forces. Did you learn of any strategy there to confuse the enemy?

**Ans:** Yes, they too used a strategy. They let the civilians to tie white headbands and sing, and walk in front of the soldiers.

**Ques:** Whose idea was it for the civilians to tie the headbands?

**Ans:** It was the idea of the fighters. They put the civilians in front, singing for peace. The gunmen were in the back. That's how they entered town.

**Ques:** How did you learn about the strategy?

**Ans:** We too used to do it. The men who entered Freetown told me.

**Ques:** When you were with the RUF, were the soldiers of the RUF paid?

**Ans:** No, we were not paid.

**Ques:** How did the soldiers get what they wanted and needed?

**Ans:** Whatever we wanted, we got it from the civilians. Where we would attack, whatever the civilians had, we would take it from them.

**Ques:** You told us about being in Kono after leaving Freetown. Did this looting of property from civilians take place during that time?

**Ans:** Yes.

**Ques:** When you were with the NPFL, were the soldiers in the NPFL paid?

**Ans:** From the beginning, the NPFL was not paying the soldiers.

**Ques:** Did you see any looting take place by NPFL soldiers?

**Ans:** Yes, the things we were using, we looted from civilians. Even Mr Taylor, some of his vehicles were looted.

**Ques:** How did you know that Taylor was using looted vehicles?

**Ans:** Because the vehicles which we captured from the front lines were brought to him. Some of those vehicles were part of his convoy.

**Ques:** I want to ask about how civilians were used by the RUF. In the mining for diamonds, were civilians compensated in any way?

**Ans:** Later on, they said the mining was a two-part system, where the gravel is divided into two - one pile for the soldiers and one for the civilians. By any diamond found in the civilian pile was given to the soldier.

**Ques:** So were they compensated?

**Ans:** Just food.

**Ques:** Did the RUF ever engage in any construction projects that you know of?

**Ans:** No, we were not engaged in any of those things.

**Ques:** When you went to Beada, did you ever witness any projects being undertaken there?

**Ans:** Yes, they were preparing an airfield. The civilians were working there.

**Ques:** To your knowledge, were the civilians compensated for this?

**Ans:** No, in the RUF, we had nothing like payment. The only thing we did was provide food for them. But they were not paid money.

**Ques:** What other kind of work did the civilians do for the RUF?

**Ans:** They used to cultivate farms for the RUF, harvest palm oil, harvesting coffee.

**Ques:** Did you ever use civilians for any tasks in your job as a frontline commander?

**Ans:** Yes.

**Ques:** How would civilians work for the frontline commanders?

**Ans:** If I wanted a hut to sleep, the GS would give me civilians to erect my hut.

**Ques:** How did the RUF move ammunition?

**Ans:** While we were in the jungle, the civilians would carry the ammunition. We didn't have vehicles, so we used the civilians.

**Ques:** In all of these tasks, did the civilians have a choice about whether to work for the RUF?

**Ans:** No, they had no option.

**Ques:** Regarding SBU's, you said you were training soldiers at Camp Nana. What were the ages of the youngest soldiers you were training?

**Ans:** About 10.

**Ques:** Do you recall the names of any of the young children you trained at Camp Nana?

**Ans:** Kona Lakko, Old Pa Harris, Baso Marisa. Those are the ones I can recall.

**Ques:** How old was Old Pa Harris when you trained him?

**Ans:** Almost ten years.

**Ques:** Baso Marisa?

**Ans:** Around 9, going to 10.

**Ques:** How were the SBU's used in the RUF?

**Ans:** The SBU's were fighting.

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**Ans:** They were at the forefront, fighting. We used them also to be at the checkpoints so that they could push back fighters who wanted to retreat from the frontline.

**Ques:** Why were SBU's used for this task?

**Ans:** The reason was that the SBU's were brave - more than most of the adults. So we used them to ensure that they would capture most of the men retreating from the frontline, and they would bring them back to the frontline. The others were used at the frontline.

**Ques:** During the time you were with the RUF, did the recruitment of SBU's continue?

**Ans:** It continued to the end of the war.

**Ques:** How did SBU's come to be part of the RUF?

**Ans:** If you went and attacked a place, and if you captured the place, you would take the SBU's from the captured people, because you knew their use. Whenever you saw people of that age, you would capture and bring them to be trained.

**Ques:** Did they have a choice? Did they choose to join the RUF?

**Ans:** No, they had no choice.

**Ques:** Regarding women: how did women come to be with the RUF troops?

# Washington Times

Tuesday, 1 April 2008

Editorial

## A 'Bout' of Russian terror

By Ed Royce

Maybe Viktor Bout got complacent. Accustomed to profiting in the world's roughest places while brazenly defying law enforcement, this notorious gun runner fell three weeks ago, arrested by Thai authorities in a Drug Enforcement Agency sting in Bangkok. An arms smuggling conviction would put this very dangerous man out of business. He is a survivor, though, and we should not breathe easy until an extradited and shackled Mr. Bout hits United States soil.

A former Soviet pilot dubbed the "Merchant of Death," Mr. Bout has fueled many brutal civil wars, mainly with former East Bloc state arsenals. In the 1990s, he dealt weapons to the several sides fighting in the Democratic Republic of Congo and rebels in Angola, breaking international arms embargoes. Some have linked him to the Rwandan genocide. One good customer was the former Liberian president, Charles Taylor, who relied on Mr. Bout to arm his reign of terror in West Africa, which landed Taylor in The Hague to face war crimes charges.

This man has plagued four continents. He simultaneously armed the Taliban and the Northern Alliance; he had dealings with Hezbollah and the FARC in Colombia. Indeed, Mr. Bout thought he was negotiating a deal to provide the FARC with millions of dollars in arms when he was arrested. The deal included 100 advanced Russian-made shoulder-fired missiles, capable of downing an aircraft. Federal prosecutors in New York are seeking his extradition to stand trial for providing material support to this Colombian terrorist organization.

Viktor Bout is the model. Unfortunately there exists a class of rogues: gray-area figures who help destroy states and the rule of law while avoiding scrutiny. He and other smugglers are not small-timers. Mr. Bout has amassed a logistical capability that rivals many NATO countries, operating dozens of planes. Today the paramount concern is that his type of global delivery system might transport a nuclear weapon. Their credo is anything for money. The arrest of this man, the best known of the lot, hopefully signals a new alertness to the dangers poised by these networks.

The United States and others have spent much to build stability in Africa. We have been successful in Sierra Leone and Liberia. Millions of lives have been saved by ending these brutal conflicts. But stability is very fragile; all it takes is a few dozen rebels armed by the likes of Viktor Bout to enflame a rebuilding country. Taking on the Bouts of the world would better protect these investments.

Extradition experts give Mr. Bout only a fifty percent chance of facing justice in the United States, though. Thai police have said Mr. Bout's extradition would have to wait until he was tried in Thailand. Meanwhile, the Russian government reportedly is pressuring Thai authorities to set him free. For years, he has operated out of Moscow, in the open, despite an Interpol arrest warrant. He has ties to Russian intelligence. Beware of Russian promises to "try" Mr. Bout at home.

The diplomatic instinct in the State Department may be to play nice with Russia, especially since the Bush administration seeks a long-term agreement on U.S.-Russian relations. Recommendations to press Moscow on Mr. Bout years ago reportedly were set aside to win its cooperation in the war on terrorism.

But this man is a terrorist. And there is nothing to be gained from acquiescing to yet another Russian effort at undermining the rule of law. We should be doing all we can to counter any Russian pressure on Bangkok. The arrest of Viktor Bout may signal an intolerance of an intolerable type of character. With a deadly past and dangerous future, he must face justice. Thai authorities should be commended for their cooperation, but only when Mr. Bout is securely on his way to our shores, which given likely Russian machinations, can't happen fast enough.

*Representative Ed Royce. California Republican, is ranking member of the Terrorism, Nonproliferation and Trade Subcommittee.*

## **UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries 31 March 2008**

*[The media summaries and press clips do not necessarily represent the views of UNMIL.]*

### **Newspaper Summary**

#### **Foya Residents go Amok over Citizen's Death**

(The Monitor, The Inquirer, National Chronicle)

- Reports from Foya, Lofa County say an angry mob yesterday took over the city to protest the killing of a businessman allegedly by the police. The Inquirer reports that an investigation conducted by its correspondent in the area revealed that the deceased, Prince Luseni, met his death as a result of being manhandled by a police officer who had gone to effect the deceased arrest. The report said Luseni's death angered some local residents who blamed the police for over reacting, thus prompting them to stage a protest action over the reported act of the police officer. The Monitor reports that as a result of the incident the local police station was vandalized and a market in the town centre was looted.

#### **SRSB Says UNMIL Chinese Peacekeeping Role Crucial in Liberia's Recovery**

(Heritage, The Inquirer, The News, Public Agenda)

- The media reports that the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSB), Ms. Ellen Margrethe Løj has commended the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) Chinese Contingent for their contribution to the maintenance of peace and security in Liberia. Ms. Løj spoke when she awarded UN peacekeeping medals to 137 UNMIL Chinese soldiers.
- The UN Envoy recounted the valuable work of the Chinese contingent, comprising the Transport and Engineering Companies, and the Medical Unit. She highlighted the Contingent's recent logistical support to the 2008 National Population and Housing Census, rehabilitation of a major road linking the southeastern region to the rest of the country, and provision of health services to vulnerable Liberians.
- In the current drawdown phase of UNMIL, Ms. Løj reminded the Chinese peacekeepers that the work of the Mission in Liberia is not finished. "We still have very important work to do; there is a lot of peace building work to be done to ensure that Liberia does not slide back into conflict and chaos. Currently, the 558-member Chinese peacekeeping contingent in UNMIL is the largest in all UN peacekeeping operations worldwide.

#### **USAID Announces US\$1.4M Technical Assistance to MOA**

(The News)

- The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has announced a US\$1.4 million technical package for the Ministry of Agriculture. The focus of the project is to strengthen and develop Liberia's expertise and capacity toward reforming the country's agricultural sector. The Acting Director of USAID, Lucretia Taylor said consultants would shortly be brought in to help determine the specific interventions to be delivered to the rural communities. Agriculture Minister, Dr. Chris Toe commended the initiative and recounted USAID's long-term assistance to the manpower development of post-conflict Liberia.

#### **World Bank Gives US\$35M for Farmer Groups Development**

(Daily Observer)



- The World Bank has allocated to the Liberian Government US\$35 million for the development of organizations uniting farmers. The Italian government has also given US\$1.4 million for the development of farmer cooperatives around the country. Disclosing this at the weekend, Agriculture Minister, Chris Toe emphasized that cooperatives are a key to Liberia's drive to self sufficiency and other agricultural developments.
- He expressed gratitude to the World Bank and the Italian government for their willingness to help develop the farmers' organization which he said will definitely help to empower farmers individually and collectively.
- At the same time, Minister Toe said the Ministry has begun negotiations with three major companies, including some from the People's Republic of China, toward the large-scale commercial production of rice. The plan is for these companies to work closely with Liberian small farmers, to ensure success of the Government's objective to make Liberia self-sufficient in its staple food.

## **Radio Summary**

**Local Media – Radio Veritas** *(News monitored today at 9:45 am)*

### **Press Union Calls Off Forum to Discuss Refugee Crisis in Ghana**

- The Press Union of Liberia (PUL) has called off a forum intended to discuss the Liberian refugee crisis in Ghana. The Union said a government delegation sent to Ghana to negotiate had just returned home and needed to brief the President about their findings.
- The PUL over the weekend issued a release stating that officials of the Liberia Refugee Agency (LRRRC), the Foreign Ministry, the Ghanaian Embassy and the U.N. Refugee Agency were to address the union's monthly lecture series, the Edward Wilmot Blyden forum today which was intended to provide additional details to the public about the refugee situation and mitigate the seemingly growing sour relations between Liberia and Ghana.

*(Also reported on Star Radio, Truth FM)*

### **Star Radio** *(News culled today from website at 8:35 am)*

#### **USAID Announces US\$1.4M Technical Assistance to MOA**

#### **Foya Residents Protest over death of businessman**

#### **President Sirleaf, CARE to Discuss Poverty Issue Today**

- Officials of an international anti poverty NGO, CARE, are expected to discuss global poverty issue with President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf today.
- According to a release issued in Monrovia, CARE's Nederland Director, Guus Eskens and USA CEO Dr. Helene Gayle will also explain the organization's purpose in Africa, and its commitment to ending global poverty.
- The group undertook projects in Liberia from 1961 to 1983, in the areas of health, education, and sanitation.

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