

SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
PRESS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

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 of:

Wednesday, 1 February 2006

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.
If you are aware of omissions or have any comments or suggestions please contact
Ibrahim Tommy
Ext 7248

Table of Contents

Sierra Leone Media

Norman Denies Specific Allegations <i>Awoko</i>	Page 3
Norman in Court <i>For di People</i>	Pages 4-5
“Kabbah Promised Arms and Cash for Kamajohs...” <i>Exclusive</i>	Page 6
Norman Denies Allegation of Arson <i>Spectator</i>	Page 7
Hinga Norman Debunks Prosecution Witnesses <i>Awareness Times</i>	Pages 8-9
Kabbah to Testify or Not to Testify <i>Exclusive</i>	Page 10
Charles Margai in Court – No Insecurity in Bo <i>Exclusive</i>	Pages 11
Treason Trial! No Bail for Omrie Golley <i>Exclusive</i>	Page 12
Golley Goes to High Court <i>Awareness Times</i>	Page 13
International Media	
Taylor’s Transfer is Catalyst to Peace; Rights Groups Take Ellen to Task <i>The News (Monrovia)</i>	Page 14
Human Rights Groups Want Ellen to Surrender Taylor <i>The Inquirer (Monrovia)</i>	Pages 15-16
Liberia: New President Must Act Now on Taylor <i>Spero News</i>	Pages 17-18
Sirleaf: Taylor Not Liberia’s Priority <i>Daily Trust (Abuja)</i>	Page 19
UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 31 Jan. 2006 <i>UNMIL</i>	Pages 20-22
Zweierlei Gerechtigkeit in Sierra Leone Basler Zeitung (Switzerland)	Page 23

Norman denies specific allegations

By Betty Milton

Continuing his evidence at the Special Court, Chief Samuel Hinga

Norman who has been testifying in his own defence has denied allegations made against him by certain witnesses.

One of the Prosecution witnesses TF2-014 Albert Nallo, who in his evidence part of which was read by
Contd. Page 2

Norman denies

From Front Page

Dr Bu-Bu'ni Jabbi, states that, "Chief Norman informed them [the Kamajors] that President Tejan Kabbah had failed to give arms and ammunition to the Kamajors, and that Tejan Kabbah didn't believe in the Kamajors' movement and did not want to hear about them. That Tejan Kabbah believed in the international body to fight for him, all food, arms and ammunition he said the National Co-ordinator got were from one of his friends, an ECOMOG General who was in Liberia Wan Abdulai Mohammed."

The statement continues, "therefore, we were fighting on our own and when we captured the entire country we would rule for three years and if it were necessary for us to hand over power we would do it but if it were not necessary then we would take over

power and form the government."

To those allegations, Chief Norman said they were not true. He said, "I have taken an oath in this Court... it was through President Tejan Kabbah that arrangements were made for me to receive on behalf of the hunters from ECOMOG in Liberia arms, ammunition, food, medicines, transport and cash. How could I have said these to Nallo?"

As part of his evidence, Nallo alleged that Chief Norman told them that, "Chiefs who were not in favour of the Kamajors should be killed as well as collaborators who sympathized with the AFRC. And that Police Officers who were in support of the AFRC were also to be killed."

Albert Nallo's evidence also states that Chief Norman had absolute power at Base Zero even

over the War Council and decisions made by the Council could be reversed by Norman.

In his defence, Chief Norman said all these were allegations. He noted that, "in its entirety it is not true that the War Council at Base Zero was set up with power and authority to advise me."

Another Prosecution witness, TF2-082 alleged that a week after the Koribondu attack, Chief Norman held a meeting with them and that they went together to Bo. To that, the indictee-defence witness said he never moved from Base Zero or anywhere in that direction until the reinstatement of President Kabbah in March 1998.

Earlier, Hinga Norman had testified about the 'Dead Squad' as battle name for a group of hunters who had been in existence soon after he was made Regent Chief at Jiama Gbongo and he first heard the name when he was at Base Zero.

NORMAN

IN COURT

Denies The Black Squad And The Trinity!

CHIEF SAM Hinga Norman has made several denials including his association with the Black Squad and the existence of the Trinity with the two other kamajor indictees, being tried for cannibalism and other crimes against humanity at the Special Court.

by
SU THORONKA

The accusations were levied by Albert Nallo a mende by tribe who Norman said transformed himself to deputy director of operations but was not

recognised by both the War Council or the Director of Appointments and Promotions.

Norman said Nallo lied that the name "black squad" was a name for battle hunters who had existed at the time

he was made regent chief of Jaiama Bongor chiefdom in the Bo district but that he never met them as a group of fighters and therefore had no business with them and that when he was at Base Zero, he never communi-

cated orders with such a group and had no role in their creation nor made any contact with them whatsoever.

Norman said Nallo also lied that he told him that president Kabbah does not believe in the kamajor movement or that Kabbah relied on the international body for the restoration of democracy and that it was further lies that food and ammunition

were given to him by his friend called General Mohamed Wan.

That he didn't tell him that the kamajors were fighting on their own and that after conquering the war, they will rule the country for three years or that chiefs who didn't co-operate with the CDF be regarded as collaborators and should be eventually killed and that he

never gave these men general or specific orders to Nallo in respect of Koribondo massacre.

Norman also denied that he did not tell Nallo to loot a pharmacy in Bo and take all the medicines to him, nor did he tell Nallo to kill Joe Kpundeh Boima paramount chief of Kakua chiefdom, Madam Toma Elias chairperson of Bo Town Council,

Lansana Koroma provincial secretary, south and that he and the other two accused Kondowa and Moinina Fofanah were not the trinity.

Norman said he considers himself an ordinary human being and that he never received the report from Nallo about the killing of the chiefdom speaker in Ribbi chiefdom by a kamajor called Bawaitay.

That five Ruf captives were not handed over to him at Base Zero to be tortured to death by the black squad and that it was not under his direct command.

He also denied killing a kapra militia between Base Zero and Makosi in an oil palm plantation. Norman said he never witnessed the killing of Mustapha Fallon in his presence but acknowledged the involvement of children below the age of 15 in the war.

He said he encouraged the civil defence not to encourage the involvement of children in the war.

“Kabbah Promised Arms And Cash For Kamajohs...”

By Mohamed Kai
Special Court Indictee; Sam
Hinga Norman, has disclosed
that in 1998, he held a meeting
with President Ahmad Tejan
Kabbah during which they con-

cluded arrangement for
the supply of arms and
ammunitions as well as
other logistics for the
kamajor militia out fit.
During the meeting ac-

ording to Mr Norman,
President Ahmad Tejan
Kabbah promised him
that he (Kabbah) had
made arrangement for the
supply to Mr Norman of a
consignment of arms and

ammunitions, as well as
other logistics including
medicines, transport, food
and money to empower
the kamajor out fit that
would enable them to ro-
Contd. page 2

- Hinga Norman



Pres. Kabbah



Hinga Norman

“Kabbah Promised Arms And Cash For Kamajohs...”

From front page

bustly prosecute the war against the AFRC/ RUF.

Responding to questions from his Defence Counsel; Dr. Bu-buakei-Jabbie, on the testimony of TF2-014 Albert Nallo that he Norman ordered a kamajoh commander Osman Vandy aka, Vanjawai to murder a pregnant woman, Jeneba at Gonjema village, Norman categorically denied the allegation and prayed to God Almighty to have mercy on Albert Nallo.

He also revealed that following the murder of Jeneba and other reports of naked aggression against innocent civilians, he immediately ordered the arrest of Osman Vandy to the kamajoh War Council comprised of Paramount Chief Charles Caulker, Charlie Tucker, P.C.J.W. Quee, PC Madam Shebora, Alhaji Daramy Rogers, Chief Ngahite Aruna, Chief Jambawai, Chief J.B Murana, Chief M.T. Collier, Moinina Fofanah and Allieu Kondewa.

According to Norman, the war council sentenced Osman Vandy to death and to be hanged until he succumb to the cold hands of death but that he was advised by other members of the War Council to drop the death penalty punishment against Osman Vandy.

Mr Norman denied that he told the kamajors that President Kabbah has failed to supply the said logistics and that if they succeed in overthrowing the junta regime they would rule for three three years if necessary. He categorically denied that he ordered the witness and other Kamajors to loot three vehicle from the Operational Support Division's (OSD) headquarters at Brookfields.

He also denied that he had knowledge about orchestrated plan to loot Southern Pharmacy in Bo town and to further murder Paramount Chief Joe Kpundeh Bolma II of Bo Kakua Chiefdom, Madam Toma Elias; Bo Town Council Chairlady, Lansana Koroma; Provincial Secretary, Mr. M.B. Sesay, Fataba, Brima Tholley and Sheka Gbow and confirmed that the war council secretariat was based in Base Zero.

Norman denies allegation of arson

By Joseph Turay
Civil Defence Force (C.D.F) first accused' chief Sam Hinga Norman has denied allegation of arson in connection with his

former role as National Coordinator of the Kama major pro-government militia forces. Being led in evidence in court yesterday by his lawyer Dr Bubuakei Jabbie, Norman who had earlier explained the good role the CDF played in

protecting civilians and their localities, outrightly denied the burning of 25 houses in Blama and 161 in Koribondo in the east and south of the country respectively.

Chief Norman also denied his involvement with the 'death squad' arguing that the group had been in existence even before him being a member of

continued page 2



Hinga Norman: how true?

Norman denies allegation of arson

from front page

the CDF. 'I played no part in their creation and I had no contact with them' he said. Pointing out the fact that when he had been at 'Base Zero' he never gave orders to chiefdom or platoon

commands of the CDF amongst other allegations, the former deputy Defence minister also refuted ordering the killing of some chiefs and elders in Bo. Sitting very relaxed and confident, Norman said his responsibility,

as deputy Defence minister and National Coordinator did not permit him to order the killing of any person or persons, but that he had been taking direct orders and advice from President Kabbah and the war council of the CDF.

He told the court that he never gave orders to prosecution witness for civilians and supporters of AFRC to be killed, neither did he instruct any person to kill police officers alleged to have served the junta regime.

Norman said as a human being he would never refer to himself as 'God', as alleged at some quarters. 'I will only say may God forgive', Norman said adding that all that the witness has testified were a pack of lies, a fabrication to his imagination.

Hinga Norman debunks prosecution witnesses

**By Tom E. Tommy
& Saffia Kabbah**

Chief Sam Hinga Norman yesterday Tuesday January 31, 2006 continued his

... "I never ordered the killing of anyone"

defence at the Special Court for Sierra Leone, focusing mainly on earlier testimonies made against

him by prosecution witnesses.

Led in defence by his Lead Counsel Dr. Bu-Buakie

Jabbie. Chief Norman rebuffed earlier evidences made against him by prosecution witnesses.

Contd Page 2

Hinga Norman debunks witnesses

From front page

stating categorically that all the said testimonies were far from the truth.

He made particular reference the testimony of Albert Nallo, whom he said he knew very well as a Kamajor operative.

In the testimony of Albert Nallo before the court, he quoted Chief Hinga Norman as saying to them at a certain time that "His Excellency the President, Alhaji Dr. Ahmad Tejan Kabbah has failed to give us arms and ammunition because he neither believes in the Kamajor movement, nor does he want to hear anything about us, he only believes in the international body to fight for him. All the food stuff, arms and ammunition and other supplies that I have been coming in with were given to me by my ECOMOG friend in Liberia, General Abdulai Mohamed."

Albert Nallo also quoted Chief Norman as saying to them that "They're fighting on their own and that when they fight and capture the entire country they will rule for three years and hand over power if the need arise."

These were the portions of Albert Nallo's testimony which Chief Norman exhaustively addressed at yesterday's hearings.

Reacting to the said direct quotes as mentioned by Albert Nallo, Chief Norman stated that from the time he arrived at Base Zero and up to the time he left there, he never uttered such statements to anyone.

He went on to submit that it was the President, Alhaji Dr. Ahmad Tejan Kabbah who was the head of the war council of the CDF, who made the necessary arrangements with the

ECOMOG forces in Liberia for the movement to be provided with the required logistics including arms and ammunition, food stuff etc, necessary to pursue the war and boost the moral of the fighters.

Chief Norman also made it clear that he was only tasked with the responsibility of collecting the said supplies from Liberia in his capacity as National Co-ordinator of the movement.

Nallo had also testified in his earlier testimony that after he (Nallo) was appointed to the position of deputy director of operations by Hinga Norman, he took general and specific orders from him (Chief Norman) to convey same to fighters at the war front.

Responding to this claim, Chief Norman denied ever appointing Albert Nallo to the position of deputy director of operations as claimed, adding that he never gave him any order to convey to fighters in the war front as purported.

Nallo had also claimed in his testimony that prior to the battle in Koribondo, Chief Hinga Norman at his room at Base Zero and in the presence of one other prominent Kamajor and himself (Nallo), ordered the killing of chiefs who were not supportive of the movement, accusing them of being junta collaborators.

"I never said such words to Nallo"; was the simple response of Chief Norman to that claim.

On the battle in Bo, Nallo had testified that prior to the attack, Chief Norman personally told him that when they get to Bo town, they should loot the Bo southern pharmacy and take all the medicine to him

(Norman) at Base Zero. He had also said in his testimony that specific orders were issued by Chief Norman for the killing of the following people for obvious reasons.

They include Joe Kpondoh Boima III (paramount chief of Bo Kakua chieftom); Madam Toma Elias (Chairlady of the BO Town Council) on the allegation that she collected market dues and gave same to the juntas; Mr. Lansana Koroma (provincial secretary south) and one Dr. M.B. Sesay.

Responding to the said allegations in a very relaxed mood, Chief Norman maintained that he never gave any instruction relating to the killing of anyone, adding that in fact Dr. M.B. Sesay was his in-law.

In his testimony, Nallo had also claimed that Chief Norman ordered the killing of all police officers who worked under AFRC juntas.

To this, Chief Norman responded by saying that he knew there were police officers were serving the government of the day so how could he have ordered their killing when they were simply performing their duties as provided for by law.

Nallo also testified in his earlier testimony that it was Chief Norman who ordered the killing one Sheku Gbao who was a driver at Koribondo.

To this, Chief Norman dismissed the claim, arguing that Sheku Gbao was personally known to him and as such will not have the gut to order his killing.

Chief Norman damned all the allegations piled on him by Nallo, describing him as a wicked and baseless liar.

REFLECTION

By Jarrah Kawusu-Konte

The Attorney General and Minister of Justice, Hon. Frederick Carew has stoutly argued that President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah being an embodiment of the state of Sierra Leone... a subpoena cannot be issued against him and a penalty cannot be ordered and enforced against him were he as Head of State to disobey it"

Hon. Frederick Carew also argued citing paragraph (4) of section 48 of Act no. 6 of the 1991 constitution of Sierra Leone as well as a decision reached by the Appeals Chamber of the International Criminal Tribunal of Yugoslavia (ICTY), that the court "cannot issue a subpoena in the sense of an injunction accompanied by the threat of penalty to states or state actors, as it does not possess any power to take enforcement measures against states" and added that, "The President is not compatible as president and head of state by reason of the fact that a subpoena requires a judicial penalty to enforce it were it to be disobeyed." According to Frederick Carew, the argument put forward by the defense lawyers representing Chief Hinga Norman and Moinina Fofanah that "The President is in possession of certain information highly relevant to the charges contained in the prosecution's indictment "against Chief Norman and Fofanah, "have no material effect and relevance in proving the accused's innocence or guilty in respect of the charges contained in the indictment", since at the time, president Kabbah was outside the jurisdiction of Sierra Leone in neighbouring Guinea. If what the Attorney General is saying is anything to go by, then we are quite sure either the president didn't approve of the happenings or activities of the Civil Defence Forces (CDF) in re-installing Kabbah's presidency from exile in Conakry or wasn't aware of the activities of the kamajors in particular in returning his government from a whole year of inconveniences of life in exile.

Moreover, if we take the arguments encapsulated in the Attorney General's defense of president Kabbah not to testify before the United Nations backed Special Court for Sierra Leone for granted, does that mean we as Sierra Leoneans are oblivious of its implications for not just our sovereignty as a state actor in the entire proceedings but also its ramifications for lasting peace in this post war state?

Mind you, the Special Court is a product of sustained dialogue between the United Nations and the government of Sierra Leone under President Kabbah. It must also be acknowledged that, the Special Court for Sierra Leone was not imposed on this country but a novel initiative of the government of President Kabbah to try those who bear the greatest responsibility for human rights violations spanning the period 1996 to 2002.

Furthermore, it must be realized that the Special Court is 'Special' because it's a hybrid product of both the UN and the government of Sierra Leone. It incorpo-

Kabbah To Testify Or Not To Testify

rates the laws of Sierra Leone and that of the United Nations which effectively puts it above the laws of Sierra Leone. If the Special Court is above the laws or courts of this country how come the Attorney General is arguing that "a subpoena cannot be issued against him and a penalty cannot be ordered and enforced against him were he as Head of State to disobey it, "especially so when the court is above the laws of Sierra Leone. If this is the case, then Frederick Carew does not need to quote section 48(4) of the 1991 Sierra Leone constitution. This is so not only because of the fact that President Kabbah is an "embodiment of the state of Sierra Leone" but for the simple reason that "The President's failure to testify in these proceedings would deprive the trial chamber of the evidence necessary to arrive at a comprehensive and considered decision in the instant case," as well as being insensitive to the plight of Chief Norman, Moinina Fofanah and others.

A very competent member of the Sierra Leone Bar Association has opined that refusing to let Kabbah testify at the Special Court would amount to nothing but a travesty of justice; concluding that the defense teams of Norman and Fofanah were right when they argued that President Kabbah's testimony would help

There were rumours of alleged statement made by president Kabbah with respect to the prompt prosecution of the War and, one such utterance was "even if ar meet fowl, ar go rule am" This shows that in spite of the existence of the Special Court whose net had already fished high placed officials like Chief Norman who was Minister of Internal Affairs and National Security at the time of his surprised arrest, the activities of the CDF were, in no way, unknown to the government of president Tejan Kabbah.

to enlighten the trial chamber on the activities of the CDF during the periods listed in the prosecution indictment.

The defense had argued that the crucial issue of command responsibility with which Chief Norman, Moinina Fofanah and Allieu Kondewa have been charged could only be properly understood following Kabbah's testimony before the court.

It would be recalled that a War Council was established on the aftermath of the May 25 1997 coup

d'etat which led to President Kabbah's exile to neighbouring Guinea. In fact, it is no secret that the Chairman of the said War Council was President Kabbah himself who was only deputized by his Vice President, Dr. Albert Joe Demby. It was during this period that operations like Black December was launched by the CDF allegedly on the acquiescence of the Head of State. The dimensions of these operations mounted by the CDF whose National Coordinator then was the indicted Chief Hinga Norman, are well known as well as phenomenal in sabotaging the AFRC's grip on power between 1997 to 1998.

There were rumours of alleged statement made by president Kabbah with respect to the prompt prosecution of the War and, one such utterance was "even if ar meet fowl, ar go rule am" This shows that in spite of the existence of the Special Court whose net had already fished high placed officials like Chief Norman who was Minister of Internal Affairs and National Security at the time of his surprised arrest, the activities of the CDF were, in no way, unknown to the government of president Tejan Kabbah. Even the Truth and Reconciliation Commission report has clearly revealed Kabbah's knowledge of atrocities committed by the CDF, particularly the kamajors. According to the TRC report the attention of the government of president Alhaji Ahmad Tejan Kabbah was drawn to the dastard atrocities committed by the CDF, but nothing was ever done by the government to address such reports.

If the AG is today stoutly defending president Kabbah as any loyal servant would, all we are asking as concerned citizens is how can a messenger die in a war he's not part of?

What we are saying here is Hinga Norman was a mere subordinate to president Kabbah who was the substantive Minister of Defence and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces. How can Hinga Norman be roped without Kabbah? Or at best, how can President Kabbah refuse Norman's request for him to testify at the Special Court when Kabbah fully knows that he was the one that sent Chief Norman on those bloody campaigns to re-install his government back to power?

In giving a straight and unequivocal answer to the question whether Kabbah should testify or not at the Special Court, I wish to humbly suggest that the president's testimony at the court would considerably serve to throw light on who is actually responsible for the atrocities committed by the CDF as well as consolidating the rule of law under the auspices of the UN backed hybrid court for Sierra Leone.

It is a must that Kabbah testifies at the court.

Exclusive

1 February 2006

Charles Margai In Court * No Insecurity In Bo

By Ibrahim Foday

The matter between the state and the leader of the newly registered Peoples Movement for Democratic Change

(PMDC) Mr. Charles Margai and ten others was called up for hearing yesterday before Justice Ademosu at the

Freetown High Court No. 1
Representing himself and

augmented by Lawyer Momoh P. Fofanah for the others, Mr. Margai

Contd. page 2

Charles Margai In Court

From front page

said he saw no reason why the matter should be transferred from Bo to Freetown especially when one of the State Counsels, Monfred Sesay, had earlier made application for the transfer of the matter on grounds of insecurity in Bo which according to Mr Margai, must be properly explained in court because, they have made two appearances before Magistrate Deen Tarawallie in Bo and the sittings were very peaceful.

Lawyer MP Fofanah also buttressed Margai's statement and argued that Monfred Sesay's application should be dismissed because according to Sesay's application, he was only informed by security authorities in Bo that in the interest of security generally, the matter should be transferred to Freetown but never indicated what he actually referred to as insecurity in Bo.

State Counsel Sulaiman Bah argued that although Mr. Margai said they should have been brought before Magistrate Bankole Shyllon who issued their warrant, the Magistrate merely acted upon information received and was not sitting court by then.

On the issue of insecurity in Bo, Mr. Bah said it was based on policy consideration and there is no need for specifics to be given in court as demanded by the Defense Counsels.

The matter comes up again for hearing on Friday 3 February, 2006

Exclusive

1 February 2006

for Democratic Change Justice Ademosu at the Contd. page 2

Treason Trial ! No Bail For Omrie Golley

By Ibrahim Foday
The detained former Spokesman of the Revolutionary United Front Omrie Golley, Mohamed Alpha Bah and David Kaitongi, who are all standing trial for treason were yesterday arraigned again before Justice Ademosu at the High Court No. 1. Under Cross examination by Principal State Counsel Gerald Soyel, Detective Sgt. 2099 Emmanuel Abdul Cole attached to the Ma- (MIST) at the CID Headquarters, said he recognised all three accused persons when he
rost signed by the presid-
Contd. page 2

No Bail For Omrie Golley

From front page

ing judge for the three.

Defense Counsel Charles Margai who represented all accused person's said the charges are mere allegations and the accused person's should be presumed innocent until proved guilty by the court and as such, applied for bail for the three which was objected by Gerald Soyel, representing the state.

Mr. Soyel said the charges have serious security implications as there would be a nightmare of insecurity if the three are granted bail, an objection that was up held by the Presiding Judge.

The matter comes up again, 9th February, 2006.

Golley goes to High Court

By Vidal Boltman

Mr Omrie Golley, David Kai Tongi and Mohamed Alpha Bah whose case was earlier on Monday, 30th January, 2006 adjourned because of they were brought to the Magistrate Court late and their case further adjourned to Tuesday, 7th February, 2006 sur-

prisingly appeared at the High Court No. 1 presided over by Justice Ade Musu. According to High Court sources, Section 135 of the Criminal Procedure Act makes provision treasonable offences to be referred to the High Court as deemed necessary by an investigating Magistrate. It

states that it is on the basis of this provision that Magistrate Margai has thought it fit to transfer the matter of Mr. Omrie Golley and the two others to the High Court. A motion was moved in court and the



Golley: Losing faith in system

charges were again read out to the accused, in the presence of Mr. Charles Francis Margai, Defense

Consel for Mr. Golley. It could be recalled that Mr. Omrie Golley, Mr. David
Contd Page 2

**Sierra Leone
Navy captures
Guinean pirate**

Golley goes to High Court

From front page
Kai Tongi and Mr. Mohamed Alpha Bah had been appearing at the Magistrate Court No. 1 presided over by Magistrate Sam Margai charged with two counts of treason and conspiracy. Mr. Golley was defended in court by Mr. Charles Francis Margai of the Banta Chambers. No pleas were entered and the matter was adjourned to Thursday, 2nd February, 2006. Mr Omrie Golley and the two other accused were remanded in custody at the Pademba Road Prisons. Meanwhile, Mr. Omrie Golley in a brief statement

through one of his Defense Consels, Mr. Robert Kowa said he was being treated at the Pademba Road Prisons like a convict and that his dietary specifications were not respected by the prison guards. He also complained that the food provided to him is oily and does not fit with his cholesterol condition. Speaking to the press as he boards the prison truck back to the prisons on Monday, Mr. Golley turned and said to the press, "I am already been treated as a condemned prisoner. The prison guards are not in any way respecting my rights and as such I am ex-

periencing serious problems with my health... Even the Director of Prisons is getting concerned about my state of health... I am being denied access to my required food and medication. I am no longer allowed access to my Lawyers even though I am not a condemned prisoner." Mr. Golley went on to maintain that he as far as his trial is concerned under the charges preferred against him, "I would prefer an independent Prosecutor and an independent Judge to treat this matter because I am beginning to lose faith in the system," he said



CCA is your bridge to the latest
business opportunities in Africa.

Taylor's Transfer is Catalyst to Peace; Rights Groups Take Ellen to Task

The NEWS (Monrovia)

NEWS

January 31, 2006

Posted to the web January 31, 2006

Monrovia

A group of Liberian human rights organizations has described the recent statement by President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf concerning the extradition of exiled former President Charles Taylor to the Special Court in Sierra Leone as troubling.

The groups include the Foundation for Human Rights and Democracy (FOHRD), Center for Democratic Empowerment (CEDE), Foundation for International Dignity (FIND), Liberia Democracy Watch (LDW) and Green Advocates.

President Sirleaf at the weekend told a press conference that she is tired with the issue of Taylor's extradition, and urged Liberians to concentrate more on the process of reconciliation and reconstruction.

In a joint press statement Monday, the group said that they did not only consider the president's statement as troubling but a lip service to the rule of law and respect for human rights if the president fails to surrender Taylor to the UN backed Court in Sierra Leone.

"Madam Sirleaf has said on numerous occasions that respect for the rule of law and respect for human rights will be cardinal during her tenure as president, one way we believe she can demonstrate this commitment is to act urgently and prevail on Nigeria to surrender Taylor to court."

The group in the statement read by FOHRD's Aloysius Toe, among many other things noted that "we believe that Taylor's surrender to the special court is a necessary and important first step in curbing the culture of impunity in Liberia."

Mr. Toe said that it was resolved during a recent meeting of regional leaders of the Mano River Union including Liberia that former President Taylor has violated the condition of his asylum, by interfering in the politics of Liberia.

He further observed that to say the nation can somehow make credible forward movement in establishing political stability without addressing the potential threats that Mr. Taylor continues to pose to this country, is disingenuous to say the least.

Mr. Toe argued that the atrocities of the war years in Sierra Leone, Liberia and the region, can not be ignored by establishing that Taylor's extradition will cause constraints for Liberia's recovery agenda.

He Stressed that political stability, the establishment of a credible national security architecture would not happen if those who perpetrate violence, mayhem and destruction in the region are not held accountable.

A dark, rounded rectangular banner with the text "Build. Your business." in a white, sans-serif font.

Build. Your business.

H'rights Groups Want Ellen Surrender Taylor

The Inquirer (Monrovia)

NEWS

January 31, 2006

Posted to the web January 31, 2006

Five civil society groups in the country in collaboration with Human Rights Watch as well as other civil society groups in Sierra Leone and Senegal, have addressed a letter to the Liberian leader, Mrs. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, calling on her to surrender former Liberian leader Charles Taylor to the Special War Crimes Court in Sierra Leone.

The civil society groups, under the banner of "Campaign Against Impunity", said in the letter dated January 26, 2006 that they believe that urgent action by the Liberian leader to surrender Mr. Taylor to the court, would help consolidate political stability in the country and send a strong message about the importance of establishing the rule of law in West Africa.

The groups said they look forward to the Liberian leader to demonstrate her commitment to fighting impunity and to manifest the leadership necessary to ensure that justice is done.

The five civil society groups in Liberia that signed the letter to President Sirleaf are the Center for Democratic Empowerment (CEDE), represented by its Executive Director, Ezekiel Pajibo; the Environmental Lawyers Association of Liberia, represented by Attorney Alfred Brownell, as well as the Coalition for Justice and Accountability based in Sierra Leone and represented by Sulaiman Jabati and the Human Rights Watch represented by its Director on International Justice Program, Mr. Richard Dicker.

In a related development, five leading civil society groups in the country yesterday buttressed the call for the surrender of Mr. Taylor when they held a news conference at the offices of the Center for Democratic Empowerment (CEDE).

Speaking on behalf of the groups that included the Center for Democratic Empowerment, Foundation for Human Rights and Democracy (FOHRD), the Foundation for International Dignity, Liberia Democracy Watch (LDW) and Green Advocates, Mr. Aloysius Toe of FOHRD, said it is their belief that Mr. Taylor's surrender is necessary and important and a first step in curbing the culture of impunity in the country.

The groups added that the Liberian leader has repeatedly said that she has respect for human rights and the rule of law, something which they said are cardinals to her tenure.

They added that one way they believe the Liberian leader can demonstrate this commitment to human rights, is to act with the necessary urgency and prevail on the Nigerian authority to surrender Mr. Taylor.

They also pointed out in the statement that political stability; the establishment of a credible national security architecture would happen if those who perpetrate violence, mayhem and destruction in the sub-region are held accountable, stressing that it is the compelling duties of this government to be obeisant to international conventions especially when such conventions are germane to the nation's desire to build

durable peace.

Copyright © 2006 The Inquirer. All rights reserved. Distributed by
AllAfrica Global Media (allAfrica.com).



Liberia: New president must act now on Taylor

Liberia's new president, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, should take prompt action to ensure that former Liberian President Charles Taylor is surrendered to the Special Court for Sierra Leone

Monday, January 30, 2006
Spero News

Liberia's new president, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, should take prompt action to ensure that former Liberian President Charles Taylor is surrendered to the Special Court for Sierra Leone, the Campaign Against Impunity said last Friday in an open letter to President Johnson-Sirleaf, who was inaugurated on January 16, according to Amnesty International.

The Campaign Against Impunity is a coalition of some three hundred African and international civil society groups that was formed to press for Charles Taylor's surrender to the Special Court.

"President Johnson-Sirleaf said her presidency will stand for accountability and the rule of law," said Ezekial Pajibo, executive director of Centre for Democratic Empowerment (CEDE), a Liberian organization that is part of the Campaign. "Now she has a major opportunity to do just that. We hope she will seize this chance by requesting Nigeria to surrender Charles Taylor to the Special Court for Sierra Leone."

The Special Court was set up in 2002 to try those most responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed during Sierra Leone's armed conflict. Charles Taylor has been accused of 17 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity against the people of Sierra Leone by the Special Court. The crimes include killings, mutilations, rape and other forms of sexual violence, sexual slavery, the recruitment and use of child soldiers, abduction, and the use of forced labor by Sierra Leonean armed opposition groups.

Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo has thus far refused to surrender Charles Taylor to the Special Court since 2003 when Taylor went to Nigeria. However, President Obasanjo has indicated since then that he would consider surrendering Charles Taylor upon a request from a duly-elected Liberian government.

The Campaign Against Impunity welcomed President Johnson-Sirleaf's comments to reporters on January 20 that she would ask for Charles Taylor's surrender to the Special Court. Liberia's new president said she would ask for Taylor's handover in due course in consultation with regional leaders.

President Sirleaf-Johnson urgently needs to demonstrate leadership on this issue now. The Special Court indicted Charles Taylor almost three years ago, and it is already advanced in its operations, faces major funding difficulties, and will confront increasing international pressure to complete operations.

"A request from the new Liberian president for Charles Taylor's surrender to the Special Court should not be needed given Taylor's outstanding indictment," said Aloysius Toe, founder and director of the Foundation for Human Rights and Democracy (FOHRD), a Liberian organization that is part of the

[Ads by Google](#)

[Advertise on this site](#)

Chemical Detectors

Immediately identify explosives and chemicals used in terrorist attacks
www.ahuracorp.com

ISN

Visit the ISN for information on IR, security, and current affairs
www.isn.ethz.ch

Urban Transport News

Comprehensive coverage of trends in mass transit. Free issue.
www.capitolpub.com

Campaign. "But it could prove determinative. We are looking to President Johnson-Sirleaf to manifest the leadership needed to ensure that justice is done."

The Campaign stressed that Charles Taylor's trial must take place in accordance with international law and international standards for fair trial, including the right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

"The Special Court won't be around forever," said Sulaiman Jabati, executive secretary of the Coalition for Justice and Accountability, a Sierra Leonean organization that is part of the Campaign. "Time is of the essence for President Johnson-Sirleaf to act. The victims of war crimes in Sierra Leone deserve nothing less."

Breaking news...second by

HOME ABOUT US TODAY'S TOP STORIES ADVERTISE FAQ DOWNLOADS www.andnetw



AFRICAN NEWS DIMENSION

SEARCH ANDNETWORK.COM

Go

NAVIGATION

- Africa at a Glance
- North Africa
- Horn of Africa
- East Africa
- West Africa
- Central Africa
- Great Lakes Region
- The Islands
- Southern Africa
- Business
- Science & Tech
- Health
- Politics
- Sport
- Africa Cup of Nations
- Education
- Arts and Culture
- Entertainment
- Travel and Tourism
- Lifestyle
- Crime and Justice
- Religious Affairs
- Environment



- Video
- Discussion Forum
- RSS Feeds
- Contact us
- Work at AND
- FAQ
- Downloads
- Advertise with us

JUICY MAGAZINE Sandton City  BOSCH 

 Reproduce story

FULL STORY

Sirleaf: Taylor Not Liberia's Priority

Tuesday, 31 January 2006. 20 hours, 46 minutes and 36 seconds ago.

By AND West Africa

Liberia President Johnson-Sirleaf says her priorities are to create jobs and fight corruption, adding prosecuting her predecessor, Charles Taylor, is "secondary" in her agenda.

Her comments came after more than 300 Liberian and International Rights bodies wrote to her, calling for Taylor to be tried in Sierra Leone.



Mr. Taylor is accused of backing the notorious RUF re in Sierra Leone's 1990s civil war. Mr. Taylor is in exile Nigeria after leaving power in 2003.

Addressing her first news conference since taking office 16 January, President Johnson-Sirleaf said her post government does not want "the Taylor issue to be the is that constraints us or the issue that causes us not to able to do what we have to do here for the Liberian peo

"So we want to see it as a secondary issue, even thou may be of utmost concern to the international commur she said.

On Thursday, the Campaign Against Impunity - a coal of about 300 African and International Civil Society groups - said in an open letter to Mrs. Johnson-Sirleaf tha new president should take prompt action to ensure that Mr. Taylor faces trial in Sierra Leone.

"President Johnson-Sirleaf said her presidency will stand for accountability and the rule of law," said Ezi Pajibo, executive director of Liberia's Centre for Democratic Empowerment, in a statement circulated by US-ba Human Rights Watch.

Daily Trust (Abuja)

[Search for similar stories](#)

**UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 31 Jan 2006**

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

International Clips on Liberia**Liberia's president bans travel for former government officials**

MONROVIA, Jan 31, 2006 (AFP) - Liberia's new president Ellen Johnson Sirleaf Tuesday directed officials of the transitional government whose term ended when she took power to stay in the country during an audit of their offices.

Liberians who fought each other fight to join new U.S.-trained army

By HANS NICHOLS, Associated Press Writer
Source: English Politics News 31 January 2006

MONROVIA, Liberia_Liberians who once fought as rebels and soldiers in this West African nation's wars are fighting again: for the chance to serve side by side in a new U.S.-trained army charged with keeping the peace after U.N. troops go home. Scuffles among eager ex-combatants standing in surging lines outside the army's recruitment center in Monrovia have broken out daily over the past month. Peacekeepers swung clubs to restore order.

01/31/2006 04:07:57

'UN police must build skills among local forces'

United Nations, Jan 28 (PTI) The UN police must change from their traditional role as observers and monitors in peacekeeping operations to building capacity and skills among local forces to enable them to engage more effectively with the community, according to the world body's Police Adviser. Mark Kroeker, who worked with Los Angeles' police for 32 years before joining the UN, said in the past police working on peacekeeping missions had been mainly involved in "monitoring, observing and recording" but a quiet revolution has been underway since 2000 moving the force to play a more direct, hands-on role. Another recent success was in Liberia where with donor assistance the UN police unit had helped the local force build up and train its own crowd-control capacity, he said.

International Clips on West Africa

BBC 31/01/2006

Ivorian militant gives ultimatum

The militant leader of the Ivorian ruling party's youth wing has threatened to take to the streets again if its disarmament demands are not met. Charles Ble Goude told the BBC he has set a two-week deadline for the interim prime minister to set out a timetable for disarming rebels in the north.

UN mission assesses security in west Ivory Coast

ABIDJAN, Jan 30, 2006 (AFP) - Members of UN agencies working in Ivory Coast have travelled to the west of the conflict-divided nation to assess security after clashes between militias and UN peacekeepers, UN officials said Monday.

Local Media – Newspapers

Rights Activists Increase Pressure for Taylor’s Trial

(Daily Observer, The News, The Inquirer, The Analyst and New Democrat)

- At a news conference in Monrovia yesterday, human rights activists Ezekial Pajibo, Jerome Verdier, Alfred Brownell, Robert Karloh and Aloysius Toe described President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf’s recent statement that she was tired of answering questions on the fate of former President Charles Taylor as troubling. The rights activists implored Mrs. Johnson-Sirleaf to actualize her expressed commitment to justice and the rule of law by encouraging Nigeria to repatriate Taylor to face trial in the Special Court for Sierra Leone for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

President Johnson-Sirleaf Meets with Foreign Diplomats

(Heritage)

- President Johnson-Sirleaf met in Monrovia yesterday with foreign diplomats to provide briefing on the status of her administration.

Finance Minister-Designate Says Corruption is Crime

(Daily Observer and The Forum)

- Appearing for confirmation hearing recently, Finance Minister-designate Antoinette Sayeh termed corruption as an economic crime that must be fought to demand international trust and respectability for Liberia.

Government Issues Edict against Travel by Former Officials

(The analyst)

- The government has issued an edict against foreign travel by former officials, who are needed to assist in a planned audit of the National Transitional Government of Liberia, an Executive Mansion press release said yesterday.

Local Media – Radio Veritas *(News monitored yesterday at 18:45 pm)*

President Imposes Travel Restriction on Former Government Officials

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Madame Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf Donates to John F. Kennedy Feeding Program for Patients

- During an impromptu visit at the John F. Kennedy Medical Center yesterday, President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf donated US\$1,000 and 50 bags of rice to resume the Center’s feeding program for patients.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

National Security Agency Director-Designate Says There Are Many Security Agencies Doing the Same Job

- Speaking during a Senate confirmation hearing yesterday, National Security Agency Director-designate Fomba Sirleaf said there are too many security agencies in the country, as such, they duplicate and usurp each other’s functions. He called for the merger of some of the agencies that have similar statutory mandates.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Internal Affairs Ministry Political Appointees Resign

- In compliance with a presidential mandate, political appointees at the Ministry of Internal Affairs resigned their positions with Acting Minister Peter Leryee encouraging employees of the Ministry to work for its improvement.
(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

ELBS RADIO (News monitored yesterday at 19:00 pm)

Leading Petroleum Company Delegation Holds Business Talks with President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf

- Addressing journalists following a meeting with President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf yesterday, one of the world's leading petroleum companies, TOTAL's Executive Vice President for West Africa Jean-Denis Royere said that his company would invest in Liberia focusing on the introduction of "state-of-the-art" filling stations which will provide jobs for the population.

Post and Telecommunications Minister-Designate to Enhance Telecommunication to International Standard

- Speaking during an acquaintance visit at the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications yesterday, the Minister-designate Jackson Doe said that he would prioritize the development of Liberia's telecommunication system to conform to international standards.

STAR RADIO (News culled from website today at 09:00 am)

National Security Launches Probe into Alleged Smuggling Rank

- In a press release, the Ministry of National Security said that an investigation was underway to find the smugglers of some medical supplies into the country.

Peace Advocacy Group Plans Reconciliation Conference in Liberia

- In an interview, Universal Peace Federation for World Peace Liberia Chairperson Madame Mary Brownell said that the group is planning a peace and reconciliation conference for Liberia and the Mano River Union Basin. She said that the conference would discuss the role of peace ambassadors and challenges of good governance.

Complete versions of the UNMIL International Press Clips, UNMIL Daily Liberian Radio Summary and UNMIL Liberian Newspapers Summary are posted each day on the UNMIL Bulletin Board. If you are unable to access the UNMIL Bulletin Board or would like further information on the content of the summaries, please contact Mr. Jeddi Armah at armahj@un.org.

Zweierlei Gerechtigkeit in Sierra Leone

Mit einem korrekten Prozess können nur mutmassliche Anführer des Bürgerkrieges rechnen

DOMINIQUE BURCKHARDT, Freetown

Das sierraleonische Justizwesen liegt am Boden. Ein internationales Tribunal urteilt über Anführer des Bürgerkrieges von 1991 bis 2002.

Ganze neun Häftlinge beherbergt das Gefängnis des internationalen Spezialgerichts für Sierra Leone – mutmassliche Anführer des Bürgerkrieges. Keine 500 Meter Luftlinie entfernt steht in Freetowns Pademba Road das grösste sierraleonische Gefängnis. Hier drängeln sich nach Angaben von Menschenrechtlern zwischen 900 und 1000 Menschen in Zellen, die vor Jahrzehnten für maximal 325 Gefangene gebaut wurden.

Die Haftbedingungen könnten unterschiedlicher nicht sein. Im zweckmässigen, 2003 errichteten UNO-Bau direkt neben dem Spezialgericht belegt jeder Häftling eine Einzelzelle, Duschen und Toiletten sind ordentlich geputzt. Die Verwaltungen sind sorgfältig für eine ausgewogene Ernährung und medizinische Betreuung der Untersuchungsgefangenen. Im Hof gibt es eine kleine Rennstrecke. Die Angeklagten können telefonieren, haben Zugang zu Zeitungen, Büchern, Fernsehen und profitieren von ausgedehnten Besuchzeiten. Wer möchte, kann lesen, schreiben oder Englisch lernen.

IM DIENST DER MENSCHENRECHTE. Sind solche Bedingungen nicht Luxus in einem der unterentwickeltesten Länder der Erde, in dem längst nicht alle jeden Tag ausreichend zu essen haben? Nein, sagt die Gefängnisleitung, es würden lediglich internationale Minimalstandards eingehalten. Eine Unumgänglichkeit gerade in einem Land, in dem auch grundlegende Menschenrechte noch einen schweren Stand haben. Dazu gehört eben auch, dass jeder

der prominenten Häftlinge ein Recht auf Verteidiger hat und ein faires Verfahren garantiert ist.

IM RECHTLOSEN RAUM. Beim Pademba-Road-Gefängnis endet der Augenschein für die ausländische Journalistin vor der schweren Eingangstür in der massiven Gefängnismauer. Doch die Schilderungen in- und ausländischer Menschenrechtler, die nicht namentlich erwähnt werden möchten, ergeben ein übereinstimmend dramatisches Bild der Zustände im Innern des Baus. Willkürlich festgenommene Zivilisten sitzen in einer Zelle mit Kleinkriminellen, Mördern und vielleicht sogar Kriegsverbrechern. Kräftige, Kranke, Alte, Jugendliche und Kinder gemischt. Die Frauen wurden erst vor kurzem separiert. Wie aus Gefängnissen und Polizeiposten im ganzen Land ist auch aus dem Pademba-Road-Gefängnis immer wieder von Gewalt des Personals gegenüber Insassen zu hören.

Völlig unzureichend sind die hygienischen Bedingungen, und es mangelt oft an Verpflegung und medizinischer Versorgung. Politische Häftlinge, die im Bürgerkrieg festgenommen wurden, warten seit über fünf Jahren auf ihren Prozess, ohne dass sie je mit einem Anwalt sprechen konnten. Als ein Insasse vom UNO-Spezialgericht als mutmasslicher Kriegsverbrecher identifiziert und deshalb von der Haftanstalt an der Pademba Road in das UNO-geführte Gefängnis verlegt wurde, jubelten er und seine Anhänger.

Weil grosse Teile der Bevölkerung Sierra Leones von Lebensbedingungen wie im UNO-Gefängnis nur träumen können, erstaunt es nicht, halten viele das Spezialgericht für eine Verschwendung von interna-

tionalen Geldern. Diese sähen sie lieber anderswo eingesetzt – dort, wo der Nutzen für sie unmittelbarer erkennbar wäre.

Von humanitärem Völkerrecht und internationalen Kriegskonventionen haben die Wenigsten eine Vorstellung. «Der Krieg ist vorbei. Wir leben wieder zusammen. Kein Gericht kann Tote lebendig machen.» Das bekommt man in Freetown oft zu hören. Eine Einstellung, die westlichem Empfinden von Schuld und gerechter Strafe widerspricht – die aber, so scheint es, in Sierra Leone vielen beim Umgang mit schlimmen Erinnerungen hilft. Und die die Angst einer traumatisierten Bevölkerung in Schach hält, der Krieg könnte wieder ausbrechen. Andere kritisieren das UNO-Gericht, weil es nur Planern des Krieges den Prozess macht, nicht aber den Kämpfern, die eigenhändig folterten oder töteten und heute unbehelligt in der Gesellschaft leben. Oder die als Kronzeugen gegen einstige Kampfgefährten ausgingen und deshalb straffrei ausgehen.

Trotz aller Skepsis sind die Sierra Leoner auch stolz auf das Spezialgericht, spricht es doch für die internationale Aufmerksamkeit, die ihrem Land zuteil wird. Vor allem die frühere Kolonialmacht Grossbritannien investiert gegenwärtig Millionen in eine umfassende Reform der darniederliegenden sierraleonischen Justiz. Menschenrechtler attestieren denn auch kleine Fortschritte. So lange aber Korruption im grossen Ausmass bis in höchste Regierungskreise anzutreffen ist, haben es institutionelle Reformen schwer. Ganz abgesehen vom Mangel an qualifiziertem einheimischem Personal und dem Stau an Gerichtsverfahren.

WELTEN ENTFERNT. Von den internationalen Juristen am UNO-Spezialgericht, so hört man, hat übrigens bis auf eine Frau noch niemand das Gefängnis in der Pademba Road besucht. Trotz grosser Nähe liegen Welten dazwischen.

Internationales Spezialgericht

BESCHRÄNKTES MANDAT. Das Spezialgericht für Sierra Leone – eine Zusammenarbeit des westafrikanischen Staates und der UNO – ist auf Bitte der Regierung in Freetown errichtet worden. Es hat seine Arbeit im Juli 2002 aufgenommen. Zum ersten Mal wird über Kriegsverbrechen und Verbrechen gegen die Menschlichkeit in dem Land geurteilt, in dem sie begangen wurden. Aus finanziellen Gründen sind Mandat und Laufzeit des Gerichts beschränkt. Gerichtet wird nur über Personen, die «die grösste Verantwortung tragen» für im Zusammenhang mit dem Bürgerkrieg begangene Menschenrechtsverletzungen. Elf Personen sind angeklagt. Bis auf den liberianischen Ex-Präsidenten Charles Taylor, einer der Initiatoren des Bürgerkriegs im benachbarten Sierra Leone, und einen weiteren mutmasslichen Kriegsverbrecher sitzen alle in Freetown im Spezialgefängnis. Sämtliche Prozesse sind am Laufen. Andere führende Mitglieder als die von der Anklage identifizierten «Köpfe» der drei Kriegsparteien profitierten wie Tausende von Kämpfern von einer Amnestie, die schon vor Einrichtung des Spezialgerichts beschlossen worden war. [db > www.sc-sl.org](http://www.sc-sl.org)



Programm. Joseph Ratzinger. Papst Benedikt XVI. bleibt seinem Denken treu. Foto: Keystone

Kein Eros ohne Liebe

Ratzingers Ermahnung

ROMAN APENS, Rom

Nach viel Ungeduld der Medien und Spekulationen wird in diesen Tagen mit der Publikation des päpstlichen Rundschreibens gerechnet.

Über Titel und Inhalt sind sich seit Monaten alle Experten einig. «Deus caritas est» (Gott ist die Liebe) soll die erste Enzyklika von Benedikt XVI. heissen und das theologische Thema knapp abhandeln. Nach langem Warten soll das erste Rundschreiben des Papstes aus Bayern heute oder am Freitag das Licht der Welt erblicken.

Im Oktober 2005 wusste der Catholic News Service aus den USA, der Text habe etwa 45 Seiten. Jetzt ist von 51 Absätzen auf rund 40 Seiten die Rede. Damals wusste die Zeitung «La Repubblica», dass die Enzyklika fertig sei. Sie solle «von der ganz besonderen Beziehung handeln, die zwischen dem fleischgewordenen Wort und der göttlichen Liebe besteht». Es gab Spekulationen. Der Text ist, wenn die bekannt gewordenen Teile authentisch sind, Ratzinger pur.

HANDEL. «Gott ist die Liebe», so der Titel und auch traditionell der eigentliche Textanfang der Enzyklika, «wer in der Liebe lebt, wohnt in Gott, und Gott wohnt in ihm». Mit diesem Anfang zitiert der Papst den Ersten Brief des Evangelisten Johannes. Er unterscheidet zwischen zwei aus der griechischen Antike stammenden Begriffen von Liebe: «Eros», der rein irdischen, und «Agape», der grenzenlosen, auch religiös fundierten Liebe.

Ohne die Liebe, «die im Glauben begründet ist und von ihm geformt wird» ende der Eros «heruntergekommen zu reinem Sex»; so werde Liebe zur Ware, «die man verkaufen und kaufen kann». Bei diesem Handel werde «der Mensch selbst zur Ware», so lauten übereinstimmend in italienischen Medien zitierte – zentrale Gedanken der Enzyklika.

Benedikt XVI. bekräftigt seine Ansicht, dass «die auf einer ausschliesslichen Liebe gegründete Ehe zur Repräsentanz der Verbindung Gottes mit seinem Volk und umgekehrt wird». In einem zweiten Teil seines Rundschreibens befasst er sich mit der «sozialen Dimension der Liebe», mit Caritas und Solidarität: Sie werde «auch in einer gerechteren Gesellschaft» immer nötig sein.

Die Ungeduld, mit der «Deus caritas est» erwartet wird, ist ein Medienprodukt. Der Papst ist seit neun Monaten im Amt. Paul VI. brauchte für seine erste Enzyklika über ein Jahr, Johannes XXIII. acht Monate. Nur Johannes Paul II. war mit vier Monaten schneller.

«Unseren Beitrag zur Aufklärung der Gräueltaten leisten»

Das Spezialgericht für Sierra Leone ist auf Übersetzerinnen und Übersetzer angewiesen



Befassen sich mit der Vergangenheit. Übersetzerinnen und Übersetzer des Spezialgerichts mit Projektleiterin Rebekka Ehret. Foto: Dominique Burckhardt

DOMINIQUE BURCKHARDT

Frauen spielen heute in Sierra Leone öffentlich eine untergeordnete Rolle. Vor dem Spezialgericht übersetzen sie Aussagen von Tätern und Opfern.

Fula, Kono, Krio, Kuranko, Lãmba, Mandingo, Mende, Temne. Sie verstehen nur Bahnhof? Das internationale Personal des Spezialgerichts für Sierra Leone auch, wenn in den geläufigsten der 23 Landessprachen gesprochen wird. Darum ist das Tribunal, das über im Bürgerkrieg begangene Verbrechen urteilt, auf Übersetzung angewiesen.

Einige Angeklagte und viele Zeugen. Frauen und Männer aus

dem ganzen Land, beherrschen nur ihre Muttersprache oder fühlen sich in Englisch unsicher. Die Basler Ethnologin und Linguistin Rebekka Ehret, die Sierra Leone aus mehrjährigen Forschungsaufenthalten kennt und fließend Krio spricht, hat seit Mai 2004 am UNO-Spezialgericht in Freetown den einzigen professionellen Übersetzerdienst des Landes aufgebaut. 25 Sierra-Leoner – Linguisten, Mittelschullehrerinnen, Anglistinnen, Juristen – werden bis Mitte Jahr ihre Dolmetscher-Ausbildung mit einem Diplom abschliessen. «Dieses Zeugnis», so hofft Rebekka Ehret, «soll den Übersetzerinnen die Arbeitssu-

che erleichtern, wenn das Spezialgericht in einigen Jahren seinen Auftrag erledigt hat.»

GEFÜHLE ABSCHALTEN. Was motiviert zur Arbeit als Gerichtsübersetzerin? «Die Leute berichten, wie es im Krieg wirklich war. Damit es alle erfahren. Wir sind stolz, unseren Beitrag zur Aufklärung der Gräueltaten zu leisten», sagt Lovetta, eine der Übersetzerinnen (Foto: l. von links, stehend). Die fünfjährige Mutter hat auch während der Zerstörung grosser Teile der sierraleonischen Hauptstadt Anfang 1999 mit ihrer Familie in Freetown ausgeharrt. «Es war furchtbar, wir sahen so viele

Grausamkeiten. Häuser brannten. Es wurde geschossen. Alle mussten sich verstecken. Es gab kaum zu Essen. Dann zündeten sie auch das Haus an, in dem wir uns versteckten. Wir mussten husten, weil wir fast erstickten. Dann kamen Kämpfer, die uns erschossen sollten. Ich betete. Wir konnten alle nur noch beten. Und plötzlich, ich weiss nicht warum, liessen sie uns fliehen, bevor sie das Grundstück zerstörten.» Lovetta spricht leise. Die Erinnerungen lassen sie noch heute zittern.

Ähnliche Erlebnisse und Zeugenberichte von Verstümmelungen und Vergewaltigungen müssen die Frauen und Männer bei

ihrer täglichen Arbeit am Gericht übersetzen. Dabei geben sie Opfern wie auch Tätern eine Stimme. «Wir müssen die Gefühle abschalten und uns auf das Übersetzen konzentrieren», erklärt Lovetta, wie sie und ihre Kollegen mit der psychischen Belastung dieser Arbeit umgehen. Schwierige Situationen werden umgehend im Team besprochen. «Zu Hause soll der Kopf völlig frei sein von der Arbeit», sagt die Projektverantwortliche Ehret.

FRAUEN FÖRDERN. Dass die Hälfte des Übersetzerteams aus Frauen besteht, ist Ehrets Engagement zu verdanken. Die Frauenförderung liege ihr am Herzen, sagt sie, besonders in einem Land, in dem Frauen öffentlich eher eine untergeordnete Rolle spielen. Und in dem eine Karriere wie die von Lovetta die Ausnahme ist: Aufgewachsen mit 17 Geschwistern in einer ländlichen Bauernfamilie war Lovetta das einzige Mädchen, das zur Schule gehen durfte. So lange, bis sie in den Augen ihres Vaters alt genug zum Heiraten war. Das Mädchen wehrte sich gegen die Verheiratung, doch «mein Vater zahlte einfach nicht mehr für die Schule».

Lovetta suchte die Hilfe eines katholischen Priesters, der ihr den weiteren Schulbesuch ermöglichte, «weil er sah, dass ich sehr gern lernte».

Heute, Jahrzehnte später, gilt Lovetta in ihrem Dorf als Vorbild. Sie arbeitet am UNO-Gericht, ihre fünf Kinder studieren an der Universität Freetown. «It's a man's world», sagt Lovetta, «das müssen wir ändern.» Die couragierte Frau kennt allerdings auch die negativen Seiten der Emanzipation: «Ich habe Freundinnen, die von ihren Männern verlassen wurden, nachdem ich ihnen geholfen habe, etwas Schulbildung nachzuholen.»