

SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
PRESS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE



Muna Khoury will walk through the Special Court's turnstiles for the last time today, after serving for nineteen months as Chief of Finance.

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**

Thursday, 1 June 2006

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
Martin Royston -Wright
Ext 7217

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Awareness Times

Thursday, 1 June 2006

Taylor's Lawyer rejects change of venue

Defence Lawyer, Karim Khan, representing the Special Court indicted war criminal, ex-president Charles Taylor, has engaged in what has been referred to as a legal battle with the Appeals Chamber of the court, by advancing a motion on behalf of his client, challenging efforts by the court to conduct the trial of Mr. Taylor in a third country.

The reason for his objection to the move is that his client, the former president of Liberia, Mr. Charles Taylor, is yet to state his position on the issue for which he is being detained by the court.

The president of the Appeals Chamber has since dismissed the motion.

New Vision

Thursday, 1 June 2006

Appeal Court Judge Resigns

Justice Gelaga King of the Court of Appeal is reported to have tendered his letter of resignation last Monday to the Chief Justice Dr. Ade Renner Thomas.

According to reports, it is alleged that, there is a rift between Justice King and the Chief Justice. The reports further stated that Chief Justice requested Justice King to take over as Director of the Sierra Leone Law School, but refused on the grounds that Prof. Tuboku Metzger who is the Director of the school has not been retired from the office and that because of mounting pressure and the volatile situation existing in the office he decided to resign.

Prof. Metzger reports continued, is the first Director of the Sierra Leone law school from 1990 to date and is reported to have been doing remarkably well. Over two hundred men and women including thirty three Gambians have passed through that law

school under the leadership of Prof. Metzger who was the first Deen, Faculty of Law at Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone.

The report also states that when the Chief Justice was confronted with a problem with Prof. Joko Smart at FBC years back, he resigned, and took up a teaching job.

“Justices Metzger and Gelaga King have done remarkably well for which they must be compensated with good works instead of frustrating them.” A member in the bar said.

When contacted, the Master and Registra, Musu D. Kamara confirmed the resignation of Justice King.

“We were informed by the lordship Chief Justice Dr. Thomas that Justice Gelaga King has resigned during our management meeting on Monday chaired by the Lordship Chief Justice Dr. Ade Renner Thomas,” Mrs. Kamara said. I cannot say any thing because I don't have any idea about that.

Awoko

Thursday, 1 June 2006

As Magistrate leaves the jurisdiction

Charles Margai's case adjourned

By Ophaniel Gooding

Magistrate Shyllon of the Freetown Magistrate Court No.3 yesterday adjourned the ongoing Charles Francis Margai versus the State trial.

The Magistrate, who will be leaving the jurisdiction tomorrow for a month, adjourned the matter to July 10. The leader of the People's Movement for Democratic Change (PMDC) and others are now facing charges in court,

after a row between his party supporters and security personnel of Vice President Solomon Berewa during last year's Speech Day and Prize Giving ceremony of the Christ the King College (CKC) in southern Bo.

Cocorioko

Thursday June 1, 2006

Taylor's Arrest Ends War in the Sub-Region

by Bishop Boyabei

Most people in the sub-region never knew the dimension of the war (Taylor's Version) in the sub-region. There was such heightened aspirations and gross multi-faceted conspiracies on the war that only God could stop it.

As a human being yet one that is spiritually inclined and drawing from a lot of regional connections, the war was unimaginably diabolic in every sense of the word. Taylor was not just another fellow coming on the scene of history. Taylor was an agent of satan, recruited to tie in some ungodly covenants that will affect the people of SIERRABERIA and the rest of the sub-region.

The spilling of innocent blood, the secret societies, the drinking of blood/bathing with blood were all dynamics associated with Taylor's war. Many fighters in SIERRABERIA (Sierra Leone and Liberia were indulged into ungodly covenants (always having to do with the shedding of blood), for empowerment to process the war. These men and women of war consciously entered the war theatre not because of the soundness of war-ideologies (which never was), but because of satanic manipulations. At the top of all this NDAKPANA was a Senior Board member, and related to several CHAIRMEN and Directors. If and only if Taylor is willing to talk he will bring out many dark-secrets that will astound the entire world. Knowing Charles Taylor, he is mischievous to talk everything out being aware that his end has come. It is a sad conclusion of the WAR THEATRE so well stage-managed by Challie Boy (fondly called by us---KULA HORMUI).

To be Direct, the war in SIERRABERIA did not end until recently and at Taylor's arrest. Sometimes I shudder at the ignorance of our people in concluding matters of grave importance. PRESIDENT Tejan Kabba did not end the war by his declaration that the "the war has ended"! No. Infact that aggravated TAYLOR and his bunch of Killers. They always had a view of the Sierra Leonean President, one of certain mockery. Kabba was too holy and still is, to fight a war so deep and wide, imposed on the sub-region for obvious hidden interests. I will not hesitate to say (with respect)

OUR President, did not end the war in Sierra Leone. The President and a awful lot of others will be surprised to comprehend the dark and fearful revelations that encompass the WAR. As a matter of fact His Excellency was naive about the war as he became a subject of manipulations by many people/Taylor's frequent Telephone calls and Shaka Mansaray's miscalculations as Adviser to the President. Any way, life has to go on for the rest of us. Amen!

If you please, there are stake- holders to FREEDOM who contributed to ending Taylor's campaign of violence against humanity. Even Satan can be stopped. But these Stake- holders to FREEDOM remain unsung and uncelebrated, may be some day in history their contributions will be appreciated and unveiled.

THE WAR HAD A SPIRITUAL DIMENSION FIRST

People get so used to the secular world ,that they forget their make up, even as God made us in His own image and likeness. We are first ,a spirit being that has a soul ,and live in a body. Man is more a spirit-being than a natural/physical being.

We are limited by this consciousness because of the BODY-VEHICLE that transports us around the world. The body limits us to a large extent. Many people have adventure the discovery of this HIDDEN-MAN and his potentials in us without the rightful Source, even our Creator ,Almighty God.

Taylor and others in that category, explored the native source of power Satan(Evil Power in the universe). Taylor and all evil doers are on his(Satan's)staff list. The war in Liberia had a spiritual tie to Sierra Leone, being legally granted the right to jump-over into Sierra Leone by individuals who legally submitted the Country to Satan's agenda. General Joshua(Burt Naked) now an Evangelist told me some revealing things. He was in the UNDERWORLD for Eleven years and in the domain of Satan for that long. He told me they use to be in conference with Satan, and it was in that situation that satan requested his Seekers to give life or spill blood for power. They consented and the number of innocent lives was rising by the day. At this point the war came. They keyed into the war which was an easier enterprise to get 'raw' fresh blood to appease the devil satan in exchange for his power. This willingness to give blood/life to satan was paying too high a price that General Joshua and others decided to let the war spill over to sierra Leone (which has spiritual and people's tie, became a tie. Taylor was not part of this arrangement in the beginning but he later got into it because he wanted crazy power to agenda the war. He must be the invincible man of the sub-region. He became NDAKPANA(another flank of satanic empowerment just to fight all of us).

Please feel free to call me and ask all your questions and more...732 917 4575. I do not wish to confuse anybody, but the best thing that has happened to the Special court is the arrest of MR. Charles Taylor, which is absolutely good for all of us. The Taylor boys cannot dare any attempt at freeing their Master. They are caught up (some are) with much wealth they received personally from Taylor in the last phase of the war, that they cannot afford to cause trouble at the expense of their "good times." Taylor will be tried in Freetown some of the time ,but let the final phase be in the HAGUE, and subsequently jailed in EUROPE.

THE WAR HAS JUST ENDED IN SIERRA LEONE AND THE SUB-REGION.

Let God receive all the PRAISE for ending the war!
 Long Live The PEOPLE of the Sub-region,
 Long LIVE SierraBeria (Sierra Leone/Liberia).

Reuters

Liberia expects an EU country would jail Taylor

Wednesday 31 May 2006



Liberia expects a European country to offer to jail former President Charles Taylor if he is convicted of war crimes at the International Criminal Court, the country's new leader said on Wednesday.

"I am cautiously optimistic," Liberia's President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf told reporters during a visit to London. "I think a (EU) country will rise to the challenge."

Taylor is awaiting trial in the West African country of Sierra Leone on 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity for backing rebels during Sierra Leone's 1991-2001 civil war.

The United Nations is seeking to move the trial to the ICC in The Hague amid security fears but the process has been stalled as no third country has yet volunteered to act as Taylor's jailer if he is convicted.

Denmark, Sweden and Austria have all refused. British Prime Minister Tony Blair said last week that Britain was willing to help resolve the impasse.

"We understand that is a major question ... if there is a way we can help in that, we will," he told a news conference.

Liberia is also keen to see Taylor moved from its neighbor Sierra Leone and fears a prolonged trial there could increase risks of instability in the region.

Agence France Presse

Thursday, 1 June 2006

Judge declines Taylor's bid for new venue

Freetown - The Special Court for Sierra Leone has dismissed an application by former Liberian president Charles Taylor challenging a bid to change his trial venue, a court official said on Wednesday.

Taylor's lawyer Karim Khan filed a motion in April asking that the court's president either withdraw his request to transfer the trial to The Hague or that the defence be allowed to comment on the issue before a decision is reached.

The appeals chamber of the United Nations-backed court dismissed the motion on Monday on grounds that it sought to interject the trial and appeals courts into the "administrative and diplomatic functions of the president (of the court)".

The ruling handed down on Monday said the procedure for change of venue is a matter spelt out in an agreement between the United Nations and the Sierra Leone government.

"Neither the statute nor the rules authorise a chamber to intervene in the administrative and diplomatic functions entrusted to the president."

"At this stage of the proceedings, matters relating to the venue of the Taylor trial are exclusively within the administrative and diplomatic mandate of the president," said the ruling, a copy of which was obtained by AFP on Wednesday.

The judge of the appeals court who handed down the ruling, Justice George Gelaga King, is now the president of the Special Court effective last week.

The Special Court for Sierra Leone, established in 2002, has requested that Taylor's trial be moved to the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague on security grounds.

A much-awaited green light from the UN Security Council on the shifting of the trial has been stalled by lack of takers to jail Taylor if he is convicted of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Austria, Denmark and Sweden have turned down requests to imprison Taylor, who has pleaded innocent.

A court source told AFP that King will decide in the next few days whether to follow through his predecessor's request that the trial be taken to The Hague or order that it be held in Freetown.

Once one of Africa's most feared warlords, Taylor is accused of inflicting some of the worst violence on civilians ever committed on the continent.

The 58-year-old former rebel chief is considered to be the single most powerful figure behind a series of civil wars in Liberia and neighbouring Sierra Leone between 1989 and 2003, which between them left around 400 000 people dead.

Jurist

Wednesday, May 31, 2006

Sierra Leone war crimes court rejects Taylor challenge to venue change

James M Yoch Jr

Justice George Gelaga King, newly-elected president of the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL), has dismissed a defense challenge to a prosecutor's motion to move the trial of former Liberian president Charles Taylor from Freetown, South Africa to the International Criminal Court (ICC) at The Hague in the Netherlands. Taylor, who is being tried on 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity under a revised amended indictment argued that the venue change would affect the availability of scheduled witnesses and insisted there was no evidence that a Freetown trial would be unfair. King dismissed the challenge because such motions for venue shift are part of the administrative functions of the president of the SCSL and are not matters for the appeals chamber of the court to resolve.

Authorities in the Netherlands have said they will grant the request to relocate the trial to the ICC, but only on the condition that another country accept custody of Taylor immediately after proceedings conclude on the presumption he is convicted. So far UN negotiators have been unsuccessful in finding a country willing to take custody of Taylor, with Denmark refusing to take custody of Taylor after the trial. Both Austria and Sweden have also rejected custody requests.

African News Dimension

Thursday, 1 June 2006

'Nigerian army ready to testify in Taylor's trial' - Chief of Staff

Newly appointed Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), General Martin-Luther Agwai, says the Nigerian Army will give evidence against former Liberian President, Charles Taylor if invited by the International War Crimes Tribunal.

Agwai spoke in Kaduna yesterday at the quarterly Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Conference. He stated that since the Nigerian Army participated in the peace-keeping operations in Liberia during the Liberian war, it would not shy away from giving evidence before the international court.

The Defence Chief told journalists after the two-day meeting that, "when the procedure comes and if there is need for humanity, and for putting the records right, I am sure the Nigerian Army, if called through the appropriate channels and if the country finds it necessary, the Nigeria Army will do so (give evidence)." He added:

"Unfortunately, I am not a lawyer, I don't know the procedure of the international court. I cannot predict now or say what procedure it is going to take and I cannot pre-empt it now."

Agwai explained that "peace-keeping is an area that Nigerian Army has a lot of experience," noting that since 1960, "we have participated in over 25 peace-keeping missions through the United Nations (UN), African Union (AU) and Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)." "We have a lot of experience, but peace-keeping itself has become more complex. There is more involvement by non-governmental organisations (NGO's), the international community and the world has become a global village," he said.

To strengthen the capacity of soldiers in such endeavours, Agwai hinted that the Nigerian Army would set up a peace-keeping wing at the Infantry Centre and School at Jaji. "The unit," he said, "would train soldiers going on peace-keeping and also enlighten them so that they know each other before they move to the mission area.

"Remember also that the soldiers' first point of duty is, shoot to kill but, while you go for peace-keeping, even when people shoot at you, you are encouraged not to shoot. We have achieved well in the area of peace-keeping operations."

On the problems faced by soldiers in the country, Agwai listed them as accommodation in the barracks, facilities like water, equipment, refurbishment and re-kitting of soldiers".

United Nations  Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

**UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 31 May 2006
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[The media summaries and press clips do not necessarily represent the views of UNMIL.]

International Clips on Liberia

05/31/2006 06:11:28

Liberian president says she's optimistic EU country will offer to jail Charles Taylor

Source: AP World Stream English (all) Date: May 31, 2006

LONDON _ Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf said Wednesday she was optimistic an EU country would break the impasse that has stalled Charles Taylor's trial and offer to jail her predecessor if he is convicted of war crimes. Taylor is awaiting trial before a U.N.-backed war crimes tribunal in Sierra Leone for allegedly funding rebels that hacked off peoples limbs and burned villages during Sierra Leone's civil war.

05/30/2006 13:05:13

Liberia's president calls for greater role for women in post-conflict countries

Source: AP WorldStream English (all) Date: May 30, 2006

LONDON _ Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf said Monday that women should be allowed to play a greater role in governing post-conflict countries, as she continued a three-day visit to Britain. Johnson Sirleaf, the first democratically elected female head of state in Africa's history, told an audience at the Wilton Park Conference Center, 60 miles (100 kilometers) south of London, that at least 30 percent of decision makers in post-conflict nations should be women.

International Clips on West Africa

05/30/2006 13:57:06

No military solution for Ivorian crisis: French commander

ABIDJAN, May 30, 2006 (AFP) - The head of the 4,000-strong French military force in Ivory Coast warned Tuesday that no military solution would get the West African country out of its crisis. "Except admitting major disturbances that could throw this

country into an abyss, there is no military solution to the crisis in Ivory Coast," said General Elrick Irastorza.

Local Media - Newspapers

Fallen Peacekeepers Remembered on UN Peacekeepers Days

(The News, Daily Observer and The Informer)

- In commemoration of International Day of UN Peacekeepers Monday, Liberian Vice President Joseph Boakai and Special Representative of the Secretary-General Alan Doss respectively laid wreaths to honour UN peacekeepers who died in efforts to restore peace to conflict areas worldwide.
- Mr. Doss called on Liberians to actively participate in the recovery and development of their country. He added that Liberians have a collective and individual responsibility to keep their cities clean and contribute to the development of their country.

Legislators Vex with President's Proxy

(The Analyst, Heritage and The Informer)

- Members of the House of Representatives Tuesday expressed annoyance over the 'apparent neglect' of President Johnson-Sirleaf to formally inform them through the office of the Vice President who was in charge of the State while she was away on a state visit. The lawmakers took exception to a communication from Information Minister Johnny McClain informing them of the President's absence from the country, and that he was left in charge of the State.

Newspaper Report Links UN Officials to Scam

(The News)

- Accusing fingers are being pointed at two officials of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) for allegedly squandering more than US\$700,000 from a bridge project in South-eastern county of Grand Kru.
- UNOPS' Project Manager Zac Bennett and Head of Operations, Mike Tapping defrauded the project by organizing fake vendors that supplied goods and services for the job, an allegation UNOPS' Country Coordinator Wendy MacClinchy dismissed as untrue.

Liberian Government Denies Plot to Replace Vice President

(The News and The Inquirer)

- The Liberian government Tuesday denied a newspaper report that President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf was planning to replace Vice President Boakai with Richard Tolbert who chairs the National Investment Commission (NIC) on account of ill health. Information Minister Johnny McClain told journalists that the President enjoys working with the Vice President and that there were plans to replace him.

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

Government Denies Media Report of Plans to Replace Vice President Boakai

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

Maritime Organization to Reopen Maritime Institute in Liberia

- According to an Executive Mansion press statement issued in Monrovia yesterday, the International Maritime Organization said that it would assist Liberia reopen the Maritime Training Institute in Liberia and provide scholarships for Liberian seafarers.
- The statement said that IMO Secretary-General Esphimios Mitropoulos told President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf at a meeting in London yesterday that the Organization would ensure that Liberia regains its rightful place at the IMO.

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

President Addresses Prestigious Conference in London

- President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf in London yesterday addressed the 816th edition of the Wilton Park Conference saying there was still more to do in compliance with UN Security Council Resolution 1325, an Executive Mansion statement said. She said that the world could no longer risk downplaying the contributions women are making in transforming societies.

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

Government Delegation Tours China

- Gender Minister Varbah Gayflor at the head of a government delegation left Liberia to tour Beijing and Shanghai in China and in the process seek capacity-building for Liberian women, a Gender Ministry press statement said yesterday.

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

Government Gears Up To Revitalize Tourism Sector

- Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism Johnny McClain told a news conference yesterday that the government was planning to revitalize the culture and tourism sectors to tap into the rich cultural heritage and tourism potentials of the country.

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

Lawmakers Dismiss Letter from Acting President of Liberia

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

More Women Recruited in New Armed Forces of Liberia

- A spokesperson of DynCorp, an American firm contracted to restructure the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) said that a significant number of women were being recruited in the new AFL. Ms. Edith Bawn told journalists yesterday that the ceiling of 20 percent for women recruits was closed to reaching the mark.

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

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

Refugee Returnees Crave for Seed Rice to Sow

- The spokesman for Liberian refugee returnees in Lofa County, Vafoley Kamara said that the more than 20,000 returnees in the county were in dire need of seed rice to plant, Star Radio correspondents said.

County Superintendent Suspends District Commissioner for Stealing

- A Star Radio correspondent in Gbarpolu County yesterday said that the County Superintendent Gertrude Lamin indefinitely suspended a District Commissioner in the area for allegedly stealing and selling 30 bags of cement meant to build a guesthouse in Bopolu, the County's capital.

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.