

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



A popular theme of this year's Independence Day "lanterns" was the transfer of Charles Taylor to the Special Court.

**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**

Monday, 1 May 2006

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

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SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE  
Office of the Prosecutor

## **PRESS RELEASE**

Freetown, 28 April, 2006

### **Special Court Prosecutor to Step Down**

The Chief Prosecutor of the Special Court, Desmond de Silva QC, today notified the Secretary-General of the United Nations that he will not seek to renew his contract when it expires on 30 June 2006.



Mr. de Silva originally joined the Special Court as Deputy Prosecutor in August 2002 after being nominated for the post by the Government of Sierra Leone.

As Deputy Prosecutor, Mr. de Silva headed the Appellate Section of the Office of the Prosecutor, where he oversaw the successful Prosecution response to the many legal challenges to the Court's jurisdiction and existence which were brought by the Defence.

Some of these cases, Mr. de Silva observed today, resulted in landmark legal decisions which will have a considerable impact on the development of international jurisprudence in years to come.

In July 2005, upon the departure of then-Chief Prosecutor David M. Crane, the Secretary-General of the United Nations appointed Mr. de Silva as Chief Prosecutor of the Special Court.

“At a press conference in Freetown shortly after I took up the post of Prosecutor, I pledged to Sierra Leoneans that I would ‘strain every nerve and every sinew to bring Charles Taylor to trial before the Special Court for Sierra Leone’,” Mr. de Silva said. “I leave the Court with that pledge fulfilled.”

When he leaves at the end of June, Mr. de Silva will be the longest serving international member in the Office of the Prosecutor.

In his letter to the Secretary-General, Mr. de Silva indicated that, after four years in Sierra Leone, he now wishes to spend time with his family in England and also to attend to matters at his Chambers in London.

Mr. de Silva further informed the Secretary-General that, when Charles Taylor comes to trial, whether in Freetown or elsewhere, he would be willing to be considered for reappointment were

that the wish of the Secretary-General. By Statute, only the Secretary-General can appoint a Prosecutor of the Special Court.

“When I joined the Special Court four years ago, I was no stranger to Sierra Leone,” Mr. de Silva said. “I was called to the Bar in Freetown back in 1969 when I served as defence counsel in Sierra Leone’s first treason trial. One of the defendants in that case, in which my colleagues and I finally prevailed, was Samuel Hinga Norman, who is now one of the defendants facing trial before the Special Court. Such is the wheel of fate!”

After being called to the Bar at the Honourable Society of the Middle Temple in 1964, Mr. de Silva entered the famous London Chambers of the Rt. Hon Sir Dingle Foot, QC, MP. In 1984 he was appointed one of Her Majesty’s Counsel.

Mr de Silva’s own legal practice has made him not only the adviser to Governments and Heads of State, but has also taken him to many jurisdictions in which he has appeared for the prosecution, the defence, or in an advisory capacity. Apart from Sierra Leone, they include The Gambia, Tanzania, Gibraltar, the Bahamas, Ghana, Kenya, Botswana and South Africa.

“I believe the dedicated team I leave behind in the Office of the Prosecutor, which consists of both Sierra Leoneans and internationals from many countries, is a shining example of the way in which international criminal justice should be administered by the Prosecution,” Mr. de Silva said.

#END

Produced by the  
Office of the Prosecutor  
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Visit the Special Court’s website at [www.sc-sl.org](http://www.sc-sl.org)

Awareness Times  
Monday, 1 May 2006

# Special Court Prosecutor to step down

The Chief Prosecutor of the Special Court, Desmond de Silva QC, on Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> April 2006 notified the Secretary-General of the United Nations that he will not seek to renew his contract when it expires on 30 June this year. Mr. de Silva originally joined

the Special Court as Deputy Prosecutor in August 2002 after being nominated for the post by the Government of Sierra Leone.

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*Contd page 2*

## Special Court Prosecutor to step down

*From front page*

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Some of these cases, Mr. de Silva observed past Friday, resulted in landmark legal decisions which will have a considerable impact on the development of international jurisprudence in years to come.

In July 2005, upon the departure of then-Chief Prosecutor David M. Crane, the Secretary-General of the United Nations appointed Mr. de Silva as Chief Prosecutor of the Special Court.

"At a press conference in Freetown shortly after I took up the post of Prosecutor, I pledged to Sierra Leoneans that I would 'strain every nerve and every sinew to bring Charles Taylor to trial before the Special Court for Sierra Leone," Mr. de Silva said, adding, "I leave the Court with that pledge fulfilled."

When he leaves at the end of June, Mr. de Silva will be the longest serving international member in the Office of the Prosecutor.

In his letter to the Secretary-General, Mr. de Silva indicated that, after four years in Sierra Leone, he now wishes to spend time with his family in England and also to attend to matters at his Chambers in London.

Mr. de Silva further informed the Secretary-General that, when Charles Taylor comes to trial, whether in Freetown or elsewhere, he would be willing to be considered for reappointment were that

the wish of the Secretary-General. By Statute, only the Secretary-General can appoint a Prosecutor of the Special Court.

"When I joined the Special Court four years ago, I was no stranger to Sierra Leone," Mr. de Silva said, pointing out "I was called to the Bar in Freetown back in 1969 when I served as defence counsel in Sierra Leone's first treason trial. One of the defendants in that case, in which my colleagues and I finally prevailed, was Samuel Hinga Norman, who is now one of the defendants facing trial before the Special Court. Such is the wheel of fate!" He said.

After being called to the Bar at the Honourable Society of the Middle Temple in 1964, Mr. de Silva entered the famous London Chambers of the Rt. Hon Sir Dingle Foot, QC, MP. In 1984 he was appointed one of Her Majesty's Counsel.

Mr de Silva's own legal practice has made him not only the adviser to Governments and Heads of State, but has also taken him to many jurisdictions in which he has appeared for the prosecution, the defence, or in an advisory capacity. Apart from Sierra Leone, they include The Gambia, Tanzania, Gibraltar, the Bahamas, Ghana, Kenya, Botswana and South Africa.

"I believe the dedicated team I leave behind in the Office of the Prosecutor, which consists of both Sierra Leoneans and internationals from many countries, is a shining example of the way in which international criminal justice should be administered by the Prosecution," Mr. de Silva said.

Awoko

Monday, 1 May 2006

## at Special Court...

# Desmond de Silva to quit

**P**recisely eleven months at the helm of affairs as the Chief Prosecutor of the Special Court, Desmond de Silva, Queen's Counsel (QC), has notified the Secretary General of the United Nations that he would not seek to renew his contract which expires on June 30.

Desmond de Silva, who joined the Special Court as Deputy Prosecutor in August 2002 after being nominated by the Government of Sierra Leone, took up the position as Chief Prosecutor upon the departure of David Crane in July last year.

In his letter of last Friday to the Secretary General of the United Nations Kofi Annan, he indicated that after four years in Sierra Leone, he now wished to spend time with his family in England and also to attend to matters at his

chambers in London.

He expressed his desire to the UN scribe saying, "When Charles Taylor comes to trial, whether in Freetown or elsewhere, I will be willing to be considered for reappointment..."

Recalling a statement he made at a press conference shortly after he took up the position he recapped saying that, "I pledged to Sierra Leoneans that I would 'strain every nerve and every sinew to bring Charles Taylor to trial before the Special Court for Sierra Leone.'"

He emphasised that, "I leave the court with that pledge fulfilled," after being the longest serving international member in the office of the Prosecutor.

The Chief Prosecutor, De Silva, maintained that, "when I joined the Special Court four years ago, I was no stranger to Sierra Leone. I was called to the Bar in Freetown back in 1969 when I served as defence

counsel in Sierra Leone's first treason trial. One of the defendants in that case, in which my colleagues and I finally prevailed, was Samuel Hinga Norman, who is now one of the defendants facing trial before the Special Court. Such is the wheel of fate!"

On the team he will be leaving behind, he said, "I believe the dedicated team I leave behind in the Office of the Prosecutor, which consists of both Sierra Leoneans and internationals from many countries, is a shining example of the way international criminal justice should be administered by the Prosecution."

During his tenure as Deputy Prosecutor, he headed the appellate section of the office of the Prosecutor where he oversaw the successful prosecution response to the many legal challenges to the court's jurisdiction and existence, which were brought by the defence.

The Exclusive  
Monday, 1 May 2006

## Special Court Prosecutor to Step Down

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*Contd. page 2*

## Special Court Prosecutor to Step Down

*From front page*

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Some of these cases, Mr. de Silva observed today, resulted in landmark legal decisions which will have a considerable impact on the development of international jurisprudence in years to come.

In July 2005, upon the departure of then-Chief Prosecutor David M. Crane, the Secretary-General of the United Nations appointed Mr. de Silva as Chief Prosecutor of the Special Court.

"At a press conference in Freetown shortly after I took up the post of Prosecutor, I pledged to Sierra Leoneans that I would 'strain every nerve and every sinew to bring Charles Taylor to trial before the Special Court for Sierra Leone,'" Mr. de Silva said. "I leave the Court with that pledge fulfilled."

When he leaves at the end of June, Mr. de Silva will be the longest serving interna-

tional member in the Office of the Prosecutor.

In his letter to the Secretary-General, Mr. de Silva indicated that, after four years in Sierra Leone, he now wishes to spend time with his family in England and also to attend to matters at his Chambers in London.

Mr. de Silva further informed the Secretary General that, when Charles Taylor comes to trial, whether in Freetown or elsewhere, he would be willing to be considered for reappointment were that the wish of the Secretary General. By Statute, only the Secretary General can appoint a Prosecutor of the Special Court.

"When I joined the Special Court four years ago, I was no stranger to Sierra Leone," Mr. de Silva said. "I was called to the Bar in Freetown back in 1969 when I served as defence counsel in Sierra Leone's first treason trial. One of the defendants in that case, in which my colleagues and I finally prevailed, was Samuel Hinga Norman, who is now one of the defendants facing trial before the Spe-

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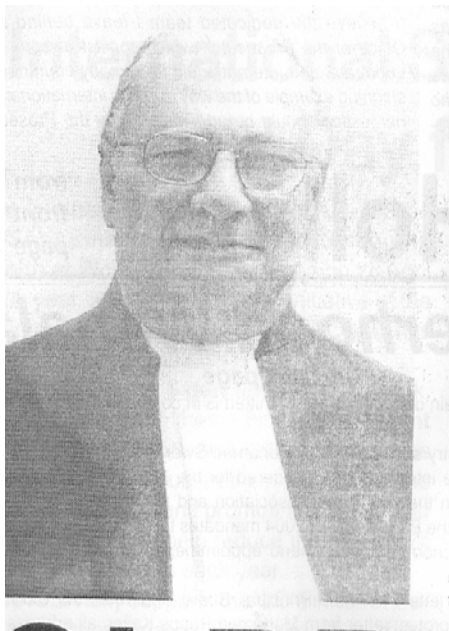
After being called to the Bar at the Honourable Society of the Middle Temple in 1964, Mr de Silva entered the famous London Chambers of the Rt. Hon. Sir Diggle Foot, QC, MP. In 1984 he was appointed one of Her Majesty's Counsel.

Mr. de Silva's own legal practice has made him not only the adviser to Governments and Heads of State, but has also taken him to many jurisdictions in which he has appeared for the prosecution, the defence, or in an advisory capacity. Apart from Sierra Leone, they include The Gambia, Tanzania, Gibraltar, the Bahamas, Ghana, Kenya, Botswana and South Africa.

"I believe the dedicated team I leave behind in the Office of the Prosecutor, which consists of both Sierra Leoneans and international from many countries, is a shining example of the way in which international criminal justice should be administered by the Prosecution," Mr. de Silva said.



Independent Observer  
Monday, 1 May 2006



## Desmond de Silva Quits Special Court

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# de Silva Out In June

*from front page*

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*"At a press conference in Freetown shortly after I took up the post of Prosecutor, I pledged to Sierra Leoneans that I would 'strain every nerve and every sinew to bring Charles Taylor to trial before the Special Court for Sierra Leone': Mr. de Silva said. "I leave the Court with that pledge fulfilled."*

When he leaves at the end of June, Mr. de Silva will be the longest serving international member in the Office of the Prosecutor.

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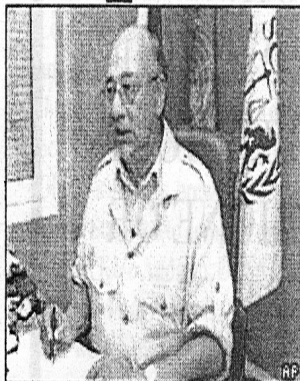
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Spectator  
Monday, 1 May 2006

# Top SLeone prosecutor to resign



Mr de Silva has hinted he would like to see the Taylor case through

**T**he chief prosecutor of the UN-backed Sierra Leone war crimes court, Desmond

de Silva, says he will step down when his contract ends on 30 June. Mr de Silva, a Briton, said he wanted to spend more time with his family and to return to his London legal practice. But he would be prepared to return to lead the case against former Liberian leader Charles Taylor, the court's highest-profile prisoner, he said. Mr de Silva was appointed the court's chief prosecutor in July 2005. Previously he was deputy to chief prosecutor David Crane. 'Pledge fulfilled' "At a press conference in Freetown [Sierra Leone's



Charles Taylor denies all the charges against him

capital] shortly after I took up the post of prosecutor, I pledged to Sierra Leoneans that I would 'strain every nerve and every sinew to bring Charles

Taylor to trial," Mr de Silva said in a statement. I leave the court with that pledge fulfilled," he added. Mr de Silva later told Reuters news agency: "The trial of Charles Taylor won't take place until next year. I am willing to be re-appointed, this is not good-bye but au revoir." Mr Taylor faces 11 charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity over his alleged backing of rebels in Sierra Leone's 1991-2002 civil war. He pleaded not guilty to the charges earlier this month and said he did not recognise the jurisdiction of the UN court.

Salone Times  
Monday 1 May 2006

## Special Court Prosecutor Announces His Resignation

*The chief prosecutor of the UN-backed Sierra Leone war crimes court, Desmond de Silva, says he will step down when his contract ends on 30 June.*

Mr de Silva, a Briton, said he wanted to spend more time with his family and to return to his London legal practice.

But he would be prepared to return to lead the case against former Liberian leader Charles Taylor, the court's highest-profile prisoner, he said.

SEE PAGE 2



Desmond de Silva

## Top Prosecutor To Resign

Mr de Silva was appointed the court's chief prosecutor in July 2005.

Previously he was deputy to chief prosecutor David Crane.

'Pledge fulfilled'

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SEE PAGE 3

## De Silva To Resign

'strain every nerve and every sinew to bring Charles Taylor to trial," Mr de Silva said in a statement.

"I leave the court with that pledge fulfilled," he added. Mr de Silva later told Reuters news agency:

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Mr Taylor faces 11 charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity over his

alleged backing of rebels in Sierra Leone's 1991-2002 civil war. He pleaded not guilty to the charges earlier this month and said he did not recognise the jurisdiction.

UNMIL/PIO/PR/57

Press Release, 29 April 2006

**UNMIL Mongolian Contingent serving at the Special Court for Sierra Leone decorated with United Nations peacekeeping medals**

*Freetown, Sierra Leone* – The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Liberia, Mr. Alan Doss, on 27 April decorated 250 peacekeepers of the Mongolian contingent deployed at the Special Court for Sierra Leone with United Nations peacekeeping medals for their contribution towards maintaining the security of the Special Court of Sierra Leone.



Mongolian contingent in Freetown, Sierra Leone

Special Representative Doss commended the peacekeepers for their professionalism and dedication in the discharge of their duties. He recognized the vital role of the Special Court in reinforcing the rule of law in Sierra Leone and the sub-region and in helping to end impunity. “UNMIL is working hard to provide a secure environment to allow the recovery of Liberia, which we believe will help the region as a whole to move forward. Your role here in Freetown is a critical part of that effort and your services have a significance of international scale,” Mr. Doss said.

Mr. Doss reiterated that the UN, in cooperation with the national authorities, will respond robustly to any attempt to disrupt the workings of the Court. “We have the will and the capacity to do so,” he emphasized.

Welcoming the guests to the ceremony, the Mongolian Contingent Commander, Lt. Col. Byambasuren Bayarmagnai, said the presence of Mongolian peacekeepers in Sierra Leone represents their commitment to the ideals and goals of the United Nations. He expressed the contingent’s appreciation to UNMIL, the United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone (UNIOSIL) and the Special Court for their continued support and assistance and thanked each member of the contingent for their service and for being “ambassadors to your families, communities and your country.”

The ceremony was attended by the Force Commander, Lt.-Gen. Chikadibia Obiakor and other senior UNMIL military officials, the Special Court Prosecutor, Mr. Desmond da Silva, and officials from the Court and UNIOSIL.

Following the end of the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), UNMIL assumed responsibility for the provision of a Military Guard Force (MGF) at the Special Court for Sierra Leone with effect from 1 December 2005 in accordance with Security Council Resolution 1626, adopted on 19 September 2005. The Mongolian peacekeepers began arriving in Sierra Leone on 25 December 2005 to take over from Nigerian peacekeepers who were guarding the court in the interim.

There are currently 250 Mongolian peacekeepers serving as MGF at the Special Court for Sierra Leone. Mongolia began contributing troops to United Nations peacekeeping operations in 2002 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and since then has served in Western Sahara, Sudan and now in Sierra Leone.

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## Reuters

Saturday, 29 April 2006

### Sierra Leone war crimes prosecutor to step down

By Christo Johnson

FREETOWN (Reuters) - The chief prosecutor at the U.N.-backed war crimes court in Sierra Leone said on Saturday he would step down at the end of June but hopes to return next year to lead the case against former Liberian leader Charles Taylor.

Desmond de Silva, who was appointed chief prosecutor last July, said he had pledged to Sierra Leoneans that he would "strain every nerve and every sinew" to bring Taylor before the court and that he was leaving with that pledge fulfilled.

Taylor, long one of Africa's most feared warlords, was flown handcuffed and surrounded by U.N. peacekeepers to the Freetown tribunal last month after nearly three years in exile.

"The trial of Charles Taylor won't take place until next year. I am willing to be reappointed, this is not good-bye but au revoir," de Silva told Reuters in a telephone interview.

He said he was leaving to spend time with his family in England and attend to business matters in London but had informed U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan that he would be available for re-appointment.

Taylor pleaded innocent earlier this month to 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity for his role backing rebels who raped and mutilated civilians during Sierra Leone's 1991-2002 civil war.

### WEAPONS

The charges before the U.N.-backed court accuse Taylor of supplying weapons to Sierra Leone's RUF rebel force in return for diamonds to fund his regime in Liberia. Taylor denies links with rebels in Sierra Leone, whose war officially ended in 2002.

The tribunal has asked the Netherlands to hold his trial in The Hague, citing fears keeping him in Sierra Leone could provoke unrest, but the move will be delayed until a third country says it is willing to imprison him if found guilty.

Denmark became the third European nation on Tuesday to say it would reject a request to provide a cell for Taylor after Sweden and Austria turned down the proposal.

Known simply as "Pappy" to a generation of drugged-addled child soldiers, Taylor is being held in a heavily-guarded cell in the Special Court compound across from de Silva's office, nestled among the shanty-covered hills of Freetown.

De Silva said that Taylor's trial -- whether held in Freetown or in The Hague -- was unlikely to start until the beginning of next year because the court's judges had first to finish other cases being heard.

"The ongoing trials are not likely to finish until the end of the year so as a matter of logic there is no realistic chance of starting (Taylor's) trial until the beginning of 2007 and this is the best time for me to a break," he said.

"There is nothing sinister about it."

De Silva first joined the Special Court in Freetown four years ago as deputy prosecutor after being nominated for the post by Sierra Leone's government.

BBC

Saturday, 29 April 2006

## Top SLeone prosecutor to resign

**The chief prosecutor of the UN-backed Sierra Leone war crimes court, Desmond de Silva, says he will step down when his contract ends on 30 June.**



Mr de Silva has hinted he would like to see the Taylor case through

Mr de Silva, a Briton, said he wanted to spend more time with his family and to return to his London legal practice.

But he would be prepared to return to lead the case against former Liberian leader Charles Taylor, the court's highest-profile prisoner, he said.

Mr de Silva was appointed the court's chief prosecutor in July 2005.

Previously he was deputy to chief prosecutor David Crane.

### 'Pledge fulfilled'

"At a press conference in Freetown [Sierra Leone's capital] shortly after I took up the post of prosecutor, I pledged to Sierra Leoneans that I would 'strain every nerve and every sinew to bring Charles Taylor to trial," Mr de Silva said in a statement.

"I leave the court with that pledge fulfilled," he added.

Mr de Silva later told Reuters news agency: "The trial of Charles Taylor won't take place until next year. I am willing to be re-appointed, this is not good-bye but au revoir."



Charles Taylor denies all the charges against him

Mr Taylor faces 11 charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity over his alleged backing of rebels in Sierra Leone's 1991-2002 civil war.

He pleaded not guilty to the charges earlier this month and said he did not recognise the jurisdiction of the UN court.

## Associated Press

Friday, 28 April 2006

### **UN-Sierra Leone prosecutor resigns**

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone (AP) - The top prosecutor at the U.N.-backed Sierra Leone war crimes court announced his resignation Friday, but left the door open to returning one day to lead the prosecution against ex-Liberian President Charles Taylor.

Desmond de Silva said he would leave his post after a year in the job when his contract ends June 30, saying he wished to return to his family and his London legal practice.

He said he would consider returning to lead the case against Taylor, the court's highest-profile prisoner, if U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan asked him to.

De Silva, a Briton, took over in July from the court's first prosecutor, David Crane, an American.

The U.N.-backed Sierra Leone court is asking for his trial to be held overseas, saying Taylor is a destabilizing force in West Africa. The Netherlands-based International Criminal Court has agreed to provide a venue for Taylor's trial, but only if he leaves the Netherlands immediately after his trial is finished.

Until a country agrees to take in Taylor - convicted or not - the proceedings appear stymied. Denmark, Austria and Sweden already have said they would not have Taylor.

The Sierra Leone Special Court was established by the United Nations and Sierra Leone after that country's 1991-2002 civil war.

## The Analyst

Wednesday, 26 April 2006

### **Senator Taylor Accuses Rights Groups**

By Jamesetta B. Horace

The wife of former President Charles Taylor, Madam Jewel Howard-Taylor has accused local human rights groups in the country of being partial in their quest to speak against ills in society.

Liberia's former First Lady, currently serving in the Upper House of Parliament as Senior Senator of Bong County, said the role of human rights groups in the country appears to be one-sided because they are to be in the vanguard of advocating for the rights of individuals but have remained silent in engaging the international community with specific reference to the United Nations travel sanctions under which she is affected.

She insisted that the human rights groups must see it as a responsibility to speak always for the lifting of such travel bans and to halt the freezing of assets of associates of Mr. Charles Taylor.

Addressing journalists recently at her Capitol Building Office, the Bong County senator explained that one segment of the Liberian society has been given no attention only because "those who find themselves in such category are associates of the former Liberian president".

The Bong County Senior Senator and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Mr. Edwin Melvin Snowe as well as other former associates of Taylor are presently under United Nations travel sanctions due to their alleged association with Taylor.

Now, with the arrest and subsequent transfer of Mr. Taylor, who had been in exile in Calabar, Nigeria to Freetown, Sierra Leone, where he is undergoing questioning for charges levied against him, the Senator said that despite these changes in situation the United Nations has extended the duration of its sanctions on them and no human rights institution is addressing their plights.



**Thisday**

Friday, 28 April 2006

### **Customs Returns Charles Taylor's Seized Luggage**

From Amby Uneze in Calabar

The Nigerian Customs Service Command in Borno State yesterday returned to the Cross River State Governor various items recovered from fleeing former Liberian President Charles Taylor who was arrested in a border town in Borno State about a month ago.

Taylor, who was trying to flee the country where he had been on asylum since the past three years, has since been flown to Sierra Leone and is currently facing trial over alleged war crimes. The two stern-looking custom officers, who were armed with assault rifles, arrived Governor's Office, Calabar at about 1.45pm with a lady and the driver of the Toyota Hilux Double Cabin Pickup Van.

Though the two officers would not talk to newsmen, they, however, had discussions with the Personal Assistant to Governor Donald Duke, Mr. Bassey Uso who later took possession of the luggage.

The various items handed over to us included three sacks (Ghana Must Go bags), two Port manteu boxes, two other zip bags and two dirty pillows. The contents of those bags were not known as there was no attempt on the part of any of the officers involved to open the bags and examine their contents.

Soon after the items were off-loaded to another Toyota Hilux belonging to Cross River State Government, Uso led the driver to an unknown destination, probably Charles Taylor's former residence in Calabar where some members of his family are still residing.

It could be recalled that on March 28, Charles Taylor was declared missing by the Nigerian Government following the revocation of his asylum by President Olusegun Obasanjo who had accepted to extradite Taylor as requested by the new Liberian President, Ms Johnson-Sirleaf. Taylor was arrested a day after in a border town near Maiduguri, Borno State while Nigerian President Obasanjo was having a bilateral talk with his United States counterpart, Mr. George Bush in far away US and he Taylor was immediately flown back to Liberia from where he was handed over to the UN forces, who took him direct to Sierra Leone.

Voice of America  
Thursday, 27 April 2006

### **Rights Group Urges Countries to Offer to Jail Former Liberian President**

Charles Taylor

Human Rights Watch has called on countries to step forward with offers to jail former Liberian president Charles Taylor if he is convicted of war crimes.

The group's international director for justice, Richard Dicker, says countries should be aggressively offering to take Taylor, not backing away. None of the three countries approached by the United Nations so far have agreed to take in Taylor. They include Austria, Denmark and Sweden.

Taylor faces trial for war crimes at a U.N.-backed court in Sierra Leone. However, the court has requested the trial be transferred to The Hague in the Netherlands.

The Netherlands says it will only host his trial if Taylor is transferred to another country if he is convicted. Taylor has pleaded not guilty to war crimes charges that stem from his alleged backing of rebels during Sierra Leone's brutal civil war.

Taylor fled Liberia in 2003 and went into exile in Nigeria. He was extradited to Liberia last month and then sent to the court in Sierra Leone.

Some information for this report was provided by AFP.

## Associated Press

Sunday, 30 April 2006

### Taylor trial may go to The Hague

THE HAGUE, Netherlands -- It started 107 years ago with a somewhat cynical call by the czar of Russia for a disarmament conference that, for reasons of diplomatic niceties and international rivalries, ended up in the small capital of a neutral country, The Hague.

Since that first conference in 1899, the Dutch city has become host to a confusing array of international courts, law enforcement agencies and weapons watchdogs. One of them marked its 60th anniversary this month, while another might soon be added to try Charles Taylor, the former president of Liberia, accused of directing rebels in Sierra Leone in rape, murder, child recruitment and trafficking in guns and diamonds during a decade-long civil war.

Taylor's judges deemed it too risky to hold his trial in Sierra Leone, and asked that it take place far from his supporters who could cause trouble. If objections from Denmark and Taylor's lawyers can be overcome, and financing obtained, the Special Court for Sierra Leone could conduct his trial in The Hague, using the jail and courtroom of another tribunal, while continuing to prosecute other war crimes suspects in Sierra Leone.

The choice of The Hague was natural. Dutch police have a settled routine for guarding the world's most infamous war crimes suspects and shuttling them between jail and courthouse. The government has "host country" agreements with the courts for providing visas and facilities for jurists, witnesses and journalists.

That 1899 conference was convened at the suggestion of Czar Nicholas, who wanted a 10-year freeze on Europe's madcap arms race -- mainly because Russia was way behind. Though doomed from the start, it began a tradition of bringing world leaders together to discuss peace.

It also put The Hague on the map. "The Hague proved an inspired choice," wrote U.S. historian Barbara W. Tuchman. With its smiling citizens, flowering summer countryside, windmills and canals, "the once quiet town, a 'gracious anachronism' of brick houses and cobblestone streets, bustled with welcome."

Parts of the city of 700,000 retain a 19th-century veneer, despite its sprawling glass City Hall in the town center and tall, imaginative office blocks on the outskirts.

Still small and manageable, it is nonetheless home to some 150 international organizations and 12,000 expatriates, many of them with healthy U.N. salaries and expense accounts, who contribute 5 percent of the city's economy.

Jurists from the various courts mingle often for drinks and gossip. "Judges do all talk together. It's a small community here," said Rosalyn Higgins, the British president of the World Court.

The British, French, American, German and International school systems all have branches in The Hague. Poland, Indonesia and others run supplemental classes once or twice a week.

The proliferation of courts can be bewildering.

The International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, housed in the former headquarters of an insurance company, was created in 1993 to prosecute Balkan war suspects. It has indicted 161 people and convicted 44 of them.

Last month, former President Slobodan Milosevic died of a heart attack in his prison cell just months before his four-year-long trial was due to end.

The International Criminal Court set up shop in 2002 in a former telecommunications tower, overcoming a vigorous U.S. campaign to block its creation. The world's first permanent war crimes tribunal, it received its first and only suspect last month -- former Congolese warlord Thomas Lubanga. It also is investigating war crimes suspects in Uganda, the Central African Republic and the Sudanese district of Darfur.

The International Court of Justice, often called the World Court, occupies the neo-Baroque Peace Palace in the city center, an elegant counterpoint to the bland office blocks of its sister courts. A Hague landmark since 1913, it was built by the Scottish-American steel tycoon Andrew Carnegie, who along with Swedish dynamite inventor Alfred Nobel was among philanthropists who financed the early days of the peace movement.

Unlike the other courts, which judge individual war crimes suspects, the World Court -- which just turned 60 -- adjudicates disputes among U.N. member states and delivers nonbinding legal opinions sought by other U.N. bodies.

Among its landmark opinions were a finding that the use of nuclear weapons is legal in some circumstances, and that Israel's security barrier in the West Bank violates international law.

The Permanent Court of Arbitration, for which Carnegie built the Peace Palace where it still sits, is rarely heard from since its deliberations are published only by agreement of the parties. In its most recent case, it arbitrated the maritime boundary between Trinidad and Barbados, which are arguing over fishing rights.

## New York Times

Friday, 28 April 2006

Editorial

### **A European Jail for Taylor**

Northern European countries, so quick to congratulate themselves on their generally good global citizenship, have been falling over one another lately to make sure that they don't get stuck with Charles Taylor, the former Liberian president turned indicted war criminal.

That's a disappointment, given the European commitment to making poverty history in Africa. The continent cannot progress without regional stability and justice for those hurt by Africa's worst warlords.

Taylor laid waste not only to his country, Liberia, but also to Ivory Coast and Sierra Leone during his 13- year reign of terror. He was finally handed over last month to the UN- backed Special Court, set up in Sierra Leone to try those with most responsibility for the carnage, which included terrorizing civilians by chopping off their limbs, ears and lips.

Taylor still has supporters in West Africa, where the affected nations are trying to maintain a fragile peace. So it's no surprise that Sierra Leone wants to get him out of Freetown, where the Special Court is based, as soon as possible. Nor is it a surprise that Liberia's president, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, doesn't want him coming home to stand trial either.

The Special Court asked that Taylor's trial be moved to The Hague, and the government of the Netherlands agreed, but attached so many strings it might as well have said no. The Dutch say they will provide the venue only if Taylor leaves the Netherlands immediately after the trial. That means another country must agree to imprison him if he is convicted. When asked, Austria and Sweden declined, and Denmark joined the list of rejecters this week.

The European Union and the United States were the ones to press Johnson Sirleaf to ask Nigeria to turn over Taylor to face justice, and there's a general consensus that America's role in the Special Court is already so great that any further involvement would be unadvisable. That leaves Europe. Promising to serve as Taylor's jailer over the long run would certainly be a burden, but it's one that any number of nations that profess to be friends of Africa could easily manage to sustain.

United Nations  Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

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## **UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 29 April 2006**

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

### **International Clips on Liberia**

#### **President Orders Ministers to Oust Corrupt Staff**

Monrovia, Apr 28, 2006 (UN Integrated Regional Information Networks/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) --Liberian President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf on Friday ordered all ministers and heads of government agencies to weed out corrupt employees saying that corruption still exists in her regime. "President Sirleaf has challenged cabinet ministers and heads of government agencies to weed out corrupt employees or be prepared to face the consequences of their inaction," said Presidential Spokesman Cyrus Badio who read out Sirleaf's statement. The Presidential Spokesman said the order was given to government officials during a cabinet meeting on Thursday.

**Thisday**, Nigeria 28 April

#### **Customs Returns Charles Taylor's Seized Luggage**

The Nigerian Customs Service Command in Borno State yesterday returned to the Cross River State Governor various items recovered from fleeing former Liberian President Charles Taylor who was arrested in a border town in Borno State about a month ago. Taylor, who was trying to flee the country where he had been on asylum since the past three years, has since been flown to Sierra Leone and is currently facing trial over alleged war crimes. The two stern-looking custom officers, who were armed with assault rifles, arrived Governor's Office, Calabar at about 1.45pm with a lady and the driver of the Toyota Hilux Double Cabin Pickup Van.

### **International Clips on West Africa**

#### **Top war crimes prosecutor at UN-Sierra Leone court announces resignation**

By CLARENCE ROY-MACAULAY

Source: English General News Date: April 28, 2006

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone - The top prosecutor at the U.N.-backed Sierra Leone war crimes court announced his resignation Friday, but left the door open to returning one day to lead the prosecution against ex-Liberian President Charles Taylor. Desmond de Silva said he would leave his post after a year in the job when his contract ends June 30, saying he wished to return to his family and his London legal practice. But he said he would consider returning to lead the case against Taylor, the court's highest-profile prisoner, if U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan asked him to. By statute, only Annan can name the top prosecutor, the court said in a statement. De Silva, a Briton, took over in July from the court's first prosecutor, David Crane, an American.

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

#### **Minister Returns Unclaimed Salary Checks to State Cooffers**

- Speaking to journalists in Monrovia yesterday, State for Presidential Affairs Minister Morris Dukuly said that the Ministry has returned to the Ministry of Finance some 227 unclaimed salary checks, amounting to LD\$512,000.
- Minister Dukuly said that the checks were “ghost checks” which could not be claimed by any government employee.

*(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)*

### **Lawmaker Unhappy about Hunting in Lofa County**

- Lofa County Representative Maliam Jalieba told a news conference yesterday that she was unhappy about the growing number of hunters roaming the county.
- Representative Jalieba said that there were over 2,500 hunters in Vahun and Kolahun Districts alone. She added that the hunters’ presence posed a threat to the county.

*(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)*

### **Senator Says Government Achieved Little in First Hundred Days**

- In newspaper interview, Bomi County Senator Richard Devine criticized the government for achieving nothing more than trying to form a government in its first 100 days in office. Senator Devine also said that the government created its own problems by sacking political appointees from previous governments.

### **Lawmakers Return Home from Legislative Workshop in Germany**

- Briefing journalists on their legislative training workshop in Germany, a member of the delegation, Gbarpolu County Senator Daniel Nathan, commended the Konrad Adeneur Foundation for sponsoring training which afforded them the opportunity to interact with their counterparts of the German National Parliament and European Parliament in Brussels, Belgium.

*(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)*

### **Bank Opens in Rural Liberia**

- Speaking at a ceremony to dedicate the office of Liberty Finance, a local loan service at Kakata, Margibi County, American Refugee Committee Country Director Paula Nawrocki lamented that the absence of commercial banks in the rural areas was hindering rural dwellers to benefit from micro-loan programs. Margibi County Superintendent Levi Piah appealed on the Committee to extend the program to other parts of the county.

*(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)*

### **Security Chief Errs in Documenting Officers**

- In an interview yesterday, Special Security Service (SSS) Director Victor Helb admitted that some errors were committed in the process of documenting personnel of the SSS, leading to mistakes in the payments of their retrenchment benefits. Some of the retired servicemen had complained of uneven payments of people with whom they worked.

*(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)*

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

### **University Rules Out Suspending Entrance Exams**

- University of Liberia Relations Director Augustine Boakai said that the University had no plans to suspend the administration of entrance examinations because they enable the institution to absorb the growing numbers of students completing high schools. The Senator Committee on Education had decided to petition the University to suspend the entrance test for three years to curb congestion at the university.

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

**Local Group Ends Adult Literacy Workshop in Gbarnga, Bong County**

- Speaking at the close of a 10-day workshop organized by the Maa Kuason Adult Literacy and Skills Training School in Gbarnga, Bong County, Gbarnga City Mayor Esther Warbay challenged the participants to utilize the knowledge they acquired for the good of their people

*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](mailto:armahj@un.org).*




**United Nations**      **Nations Unies**

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

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## **UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 28 April 2006**

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### **International Clips on Liberia**

**The New York Times** 28 April 2006

#### **Not in My Backyard**

(Editorial)

Northern European countries, so quick to congratulate themselves on their generally good global citizenship, have been falling over one another lately to make sure that they don't get stuck with Charles Taylor, the former Liberian president turned indicted war criminal. That's a shocking disappointment, given the European commitment to making poverty history in Africa. The continent cannot progress without regional stability and justice for those hurt by Africa's worst warlords.

#### **Taylor Trial: a Third Country Must Step Forward**

Brussels, Apr 27, 2006 (Human Rights Watch/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) --The transfer of former Liberian President Charles Taylor to face trial in The Hague remains stalled unless a third country steps up to take Taylor if he is convicted, Human Rights Watch said today.

### **International Clips on West Africa**

#### **Ivory Coast leader backs Annan peacekeeper plea**

By Irwin Arief

UNITED NATIONS, April 27 (Reuters) - The peace process in Ivory Coast is back on track but more U.N. peacekeepers are needed to cement the gains and ensure further progress, the restive West African nation's new head of government said on Thursday. "Slowly but surely, the peace process is emerging from crisis and heading in the right direction," Prime Minister Charles Konan Banny told the U.N. Security Council.

### **Local Media – Newspapers**

#### **President Orders Cabinet Ministers to Streamline Payrolls**

*(Heritage and The Informer)*

- Briefing journalists following a cabinet meeting at the Executive Mansion yesterday, Information Minister Johnny McClain said that President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf had urged her cabinet ministers to streamline the payrolls of their ministries and weed out "ghost names" to ensure efficiency in the civil service.
- Minister McClain said that President Johnson-Sirleaf mandated Civil Service Agency Director-General Dr. William Allen to explain government method of the downsizing exercise.
- He also said that State for Presidential Affairs Minister Morris Dukuly informed the cabinet that up to 25 percent of government's payroll constituted ghost names to which government was losing US\$3 million yearly.

#### **Prison Watchers Say Inmates languish in Jails without Trial**

*(The Analyst)*

- In a press release issued in Monrovia yesterday, a local prison watchdog group the National Prisoner Monitor said that many inmates were languishing in prisons and other detention centers without charge or trial. The group called on President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf to fulfill her campaign promise to release them from further detention where they have no bonds.

### **Government Has no Plan to Demolish Major Slum Area**

*(The Inquirer and The Informer)*

- Speaking to journalists yesterday, Information Minister Johnny McClain dismissed rumours that the government was not planning to demolish the slum community of West Point in Monrovia. He said that the government was rehabilitating roads and planting light-poles to electrify the area.

### **Magisterial Court Charges Former Soldiers with Terrorist Threats**

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

- Speaking to journalists yesterday, Monrovia Magisterial Court Judge Milton Taylor said that the Court was apprehending 14 former soldiers of the Armed Forces of Liberia on charges of "terrorist threats." The men were among 29 people arrested in connection with the soldiers' Tuesday demonstration for unpaid salary arrears.

### **Police Arrest Suspected Drug Dealers at Bensonville**

*(The News, The Analyst, Heritage and The Informer)*

- A Liberian National Police (LNP) spokesman briefed journalists yesterday that a joint operation of LNP and UNMIL led to the arrest at Bensonville of Saye Gongleh and Prince Gaye with 35 kilograms of marijuana valued at LD\$78,000.

### **President to Clampdown on Corrupt Few in Government**

*(The News)*

- According to a press release issued in Monrovia yesterday, President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf said that there was still what she called a "crime syndicate" which was robbing government of its meager resources. Madame Johnson-Sirleaf asked her cabinet ministers to weed out corrupt employees or be ready to face the consequences of their actions.

### **House Speaker Threatens to Remove Delinquent Heads of Standing Committees**

*(The News)*

- Speaking to journalists yesterday, House of Representatives Speaker Edwin Snowe threatened to remove heads of House Standing Committees who lag behind in their statutory function. Speaker Snowe also frowned at some members of the House who regularly abscond from sessions and said that he would seek the required motion to publicize their names.

### **Lawmaker Urges Colleagues to be Proactive in Food Production**

*(Heritage)*

- Speaking in Voinjama, Lofa Count, Lofa County Representative Maliam K. Jallah encouraged her colleagues at the National Legislature to play active roles in food production. She added that when Lawmakers take the lead in agriculture activities, the general public will be motivated to follow suite.

### **Journalists Accompany Police to Night Patrols**

*(Heritage)*

- According to the *Heritage* newspaper, a team of Liberian National Police and UNMIL security patrol was yesterday accompanied by journalists to witness the work the teams do in the field. During the patrol of key parts of Monrovia, the journalists,

drawn from several media houses, witnessed the officers exchanging information on petty crimes that were being committed and the sudden arrest of the suspects.

### **UN Envoys Confer with Civil Society Groups**

*(The Informer)*

- Accompanied by his principal deputies, Special Representative of the Secretary-General Alan Doss Tuesday met with key leaders of the Civil Society Organizations in Monrovia.
- Addressing the group, Mr. Doss stressed the need for a vibrant civil society to sustain the peace and democracy. He encouraged the civil society to maintain an open dialogue with the three Branches of Government to enhance reconciliation and tolerance.

### **U.S. Embassy Official Admonishes Youth to Maintain Dialogue**

*(Daily Observer)*

- Speaking to religious youth groups in Monrovia recently, United States Embassy Chief of the Diplomacy Section Meg E. Riggs admonished the youth to work in the interest of their country by exercising religious tolerance at all levels of the Liberian society.

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

#### **President Orders Cabinet Ministers to Streamline Payrolls**

*(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)*

#### **President Makes New Appointment in Government**

- President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf has appointed Elfreda Stewart-Tamba as Deputy Finance Minister for Revenue and Andrew Paygai-Flangar as Assistant Finance Minister for Revenue, Information Minister McClain said yesterday.

*(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)*

#### **Prison Watchers Say Inmates languish in Jails without Trial**

*(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)*

#### **Lawmakers Want to Handle Development Funds for the Counties**

- During their plenary yesterday, the House of Representatives asked its Committee on the Executive to work with the Executive Mansion to hand over US\$1 million appropriated in the recast budget to develop the country's 64 constituencies. The Lawmakers said that the money is intended to be used to improve the lots of the 64 electoral districts they represent in the House.
- President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf had requested the Lawmakers to meet with Internal Affairs Minister Ambullai Johnson to decide on the use of the money.

*(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)*

#### **Government Has no Plan to Demolish Major Slum Area**

*(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)*

#### **Defense Ministry Wants US\$5.2 Million to Pay Soldiers Salary Arrears**

- Briefing Plenary of the House of Representatives yesterday, Defense Minister Brownie Samukai said that US\$5.2 million is needed to pay salary arrears of former personnel of the Armed Forces of Liberia over the period of two years. He said that the first installment of the required amount would be included in the budget for 2006/2007 while the second installment would feature in the 2007/2008 budget.

*(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)*

**Magisterial Court Charges Former Soldiers with Terrorist Threats**

*(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)*

**Police Arrest Suspected Drug Dealers at Bensonville**

*(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)*

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

**Senate Education Committee wants University Entrance Exams Suspended**

- The Senate Committee on Education Chairman Samuel Tormetie told the STAR RADIO that the Committee wants the University of Liberia to suspend the administration of entrance exams which pave the way for new admissions for three years to curb the problem of congestion it faces.

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## World Defence Review

Thursday, 27 April 2006

### Strategic Interests

by **J. Peter Pham**, Ph.D.  
*World Defense Review* columnist

#### The Middle East Link to Africa's Conflicts

In [an earlier commentary](#) in this series, I lamented the fact that, despite clear and substantial evidence of terrorist activities, Sub-Saharan Africa remains largely ignored by both policymakers and scholars when it comes to threat assessment and resource allocation in the global war on terror.

This omission becomes even more egregious when one takes stock of another element in the strategic calculus: that there are direct linkages between radical groups and individuals in the terror wars' main theatre, the Greater Middle East, and the conflicts that have wracked the African continent in recent decades.

To the extent it is known in the West, the Sierra Leonean civil war (1991-2002) is remembered for its brutal limb-amputating rebels from the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) and its financing through the traffic in so-called "conflict diamonds."

Less well-known is that much of this illicit trade-before, during, and after the open conflict-was controlled by members the West African country's Lebanese Shi'a Muslim community. Following the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982, the Sierra Leonean Lebanese Shi'a community actively supported the Amal militia, one of the armed groups used by the late Syrian President Hafez al-Assad to drive the U.S.-led multinational peacekeeping force from Beirut as well as to undermine the Lebanese government. In fact, Amal's leader, Nabih Berri, currently speaker of the Lebanese National Assembly, was born in Sierra Leone.

Berri's best friend growing up and ongoing business partner is a shady character named Jamil Said Mohammed, who at one time held monopoly rights to the importation into Sierra Leone of no fewer than eighty-seven commodities.

In 1986, Jamil was instrumental in persuading the Sierra Leonean government in hosting a "state visit" by Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Chairman Yasir Arafat, exiled to Tunis after his humiliating defeat by the Israeli forces in Lebanon and, that year, treated by the international community as a virtual diplomatic leper after a group led by PLO executive committee member Abu Abbas hijacked the *Achille Lauro*, an Italian cruise ship, holding its 545 passengers and crew members hostage and throwing overboard a 69-year-old wheelchair-bound Jewish American passenger from New York, Leon Klinghoffer.

Arafat offered the Sierra Leone \$8 million in exchange for the use of an island as a training base for his exiled fighters. While the offer was officially declined, the Sierra Leonean government did allow Jamil to maintain a 500-man "personal security force,"

consisting primarily of Palestinians driven out of Lebanon, effectively enabling the Arafat to achieve the same end of finding a base to keep his fighters together until they could return with him to the West Bank and Gaza following the Oslo Agreement.

More recently, the terrorist group Hezbollah and its allies-including the Palestinians' al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, which carries out attacks on Israeli civilians-have been the principal beneficiaries of Sierra Leone's Lebanese Shi'a community's commercial acumen.

As Larry Andre, deputy chief of mission at the U.S. Embassy in Freetown told the Associated Press in March, "One thing that's incontrovertible is the financing of Hezbollah. It's not even an open secret; there is no secret." Last year, for example, the African country officially exported \$130 million worth of diamonds. However, officials with the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), which wound down its operations at the end of the year, actually somewhere between \$300 million and \$500 million worth of the stones were exported. These figures indicate that there is no effective regulation of between one-third and two-thirds of a multimillion-dollar industry in which the most prominent traders have known ties to terrorist groups which siphon off part of their profits to pay for violence. And if reports by Douglas Farah of The Washington Post are credited, then al-Qa'eda now also has a stake in the trade.

Sierra Leone's civil war was itself a sideshow of the conflicts that consumed its neighbor to the east, Liberia, from 1989 until 2003. The principal protagonist in the Liberian civil wars, former President Charles Taylor, who was recently extradited to the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone where he faces trial on eleven counts of war crimes and other crimes against humanity for "bearing the greatest responsibility" for the conflict in Sierra Leone, got his start with the aid from another Middle East spoiler, Libya's Colonel Mu'ammar Qaddafi, to whom he was introduced by Burkina Faso's strongman, Blaise Compaoré.

When his relations with the Arab world soured in the late 1980s and early 1990s, Qaddafi focused his ambitions southward to Sub-Saharan Africa. Part of the strategy was diplomatic, with the mercurial Libyan leader seeking international recognition and respectability denied to him by UN sanctions in meetings with African leaders. However, Qaddafi also pursued a violent strategy, providing unscrupulous potential insurgents like Taylor with training at camps in Libya and other assistance with which to launch their wars. In exchange, the Africans would be the foot soldiers carrying out Qaddafi's geopolitical vision of a pan-African revolution answerable to Tripoli.

While training in Libya, Taylor met another guest of Qaddafi's, Foday Sankoh, an exile from Sierra Leone who had made his way to Libya via Burkina Faso with several dozen other disaffected Sierra Leoneans who received training in guerilla tactics at Benghazi. The meeting between Sankoh and Taylor was the start of what would develop into an increasingly complex series of links between the two men and the destinies of their respective countries. As a consequence of the encounter, some members of Sankoh's nascent RUF group fought alongside Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) in its initial campaign against the Liberian government. In return, when the RUF invaded Sierra Leone in 1991, an NPFL "special forces" unit spearheaded the operation. The alliance between the Liberian warlord and the Sierra Leonean insurgent leader, facilitated by the Libyan colonel-who throughout the conflict provided weapons as well as transshipment point for illegal arms from Eastern Europe and natural resources from

West Africa-gradually became all-encompassing, contributing to the murder, rape, maiming, and mutilations of over one million Africans, according to testimony given earlier this year by David M. Crane, former prosecutor of the Special Court, at a hearing before the House Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights, and International Operations at which I also testified.

The web of intrigue and violence surrounding the Sierra Leonean civil war is just one example among many others that could be cited where the conflicts of the Middle East, including the terrorist phenomena, have spilled over into Africa. Yet U.S. diplomatic and intelligence officials persist in minimizing links between challenges faced in Africa and those in the Middle East, including terrorist organizations and other militant Islamist groups. America needs to take Africa more seriously, for the sake of U.S. security interests if not for its own sake. The conditions that favored the emergence and success of terrorist groups elsewhere—corruption, lack of government control, little understood "informal networks," etc.—are present in abundance in Sub-Saharan Africa. Africa's "failed states" have been and continue to be ideal operating conditions for terrorists groups that threaten the precarious balance of our world.

— *J. Peter Pham is Director of the Nelson Institute for International and Public Affairs at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia. He is also an academic fellow at the Foundation for the Defense of Democracies in Washington, D.C.*

*His primary research interest is the intersection of international relations, international law, political theory, and ethics, with particular concentrations on the implications for United States foreign policy and African states as well as religion and global politics.*

*Dr. Pham is the author of over one hundred essays and reviews on a wide variety of subjects in scholarly and opinion journals on both sides of the Atlantic and the author, editor, or translator of over a dozen books. Among his recent publications are Liberia: Portrait of a Failed State (Reed Press, 2004), which has been critically acclaimed by Foreign Affairs, Worldview, Wilson Quarterly, American Foreign Policy Interests, and other scholarly publications, and Child Soldiers, Adult Interests: The Global Dimensions of the Sierra Leonean Tragedy (Nova Science Publishers, 2005).*

*In addition to serving on the boards of several international and national think tanks and journals, Dr. Pham has testified before the U.S. Congress and conducted briefings or consulted for both Congressional and Executive agencies.*

Patriotic Vanguard  
 Wednesday, 26 April 2006  
 Opinion

## Trying Charles Taylor



"There are compelling reasons for Taylor to be tried in Sierra Leone, in the presence of the numerous victims of the conflict and alongside the other people already being tried by the Court. He must however be given all fair trial guarantees. Coupled with increased security in the region, the process should be a smooth one that will be of good to all."

By Alpha Sesay, Guest Writer

On March 29 2006, Charles Taylor was recently transferred to the custody of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, making him the first former African leader to be brought to trial for alleged crimes committed during Sierra Leone's conflict.

Upon his arrival in Sierra Leone, the Special Court immediately requested the International Criminal Court and the Government of The Netherlands to host his trial at The Hague, fearing potential instability in the sub-region if he is tried in Sierra Leone. His trial would still be conducted by the Special Court, though at a different venue, distant from the victims of the war in Sierra Leone. The UN Security Council is set to discuss a resolution to that effect, permitting The Netherlands to host the trial. The United Kingdom and the United States have expressed support for such a resolution. It is suspected that Taylor's supporters might use his trial in Sierra Leone as a reason to cause unrest in Liberia.

As important as these concerns might be, transferring Taylor to The Hague not only poses great challenges for the Special Court, but also undermines the entire rationale for having the Court in Sierra Leone in the first place. The Special Court is a unique make-up of hybrid justice. Its statute blends domestic and international law. It sits in the country where the conflict took place, gives victims of the conflict access to the justice that they deserve, engages Sierra Leoneans in public interaction with the court and promises a meaningful legacy for the country. Taylor's transfer to The Hague negatively impacts all these objectives. It would deprive war victims of the justice that they deserve. In 2004, at the Victim's Commemoration Conferences organized by the Outreach Section of the Special Court, many victims said that they would regard the court as having been successful only if Taylor is tried. For many victims indeed, the most meaningful consolation they can get for their sufferings during the conflict is to see the person they consider as being responsible for their sufferings tried in their presence. This has been echoed by the Amputees and War Wounded Association in Sierra Leone, which declares that the opportunity to witness the trial of Taylor would go a long way to heal their wounds.

The victims are the Court's primary constituency and providing some sense of justice and restitution to such victims is one of several important goals for the court. Conducting Taylor's trial in Sierra Leone will greatly satisfy this goal – a major purpose for locating the court in Sierra Leone. Taking his trial to The Hague makes justice too distant for victims of the conflict. It will also impose undue difficulty for an already financially handicapped Court. Transferring witnesses, prosecutors, judges and defense counsels will be too expensive.

The presence of the court in Sierra Leone has greatly enhanced civil society participation in the justice sector. This stands as one of the meaningful legacies that Sierra Leone can gain from the court's presence in the country. Journalists are able to report on trials first hand, thus informing the ordinary people about the court's proceedings. Victims are able to get a first hand view of how alleged perpetrators are made to answer for their acts. These are all things that Sierra Leoneans stand to lose if Taylor is transferred to The Hague. It might be too demanding for the court to facilitate the presence of



such victims, local media and civil society coverage at The Hague. Sierra Leoneans would be deprived of what they truly deserve.

The Court's outreach program has been doing tremendous work. They now face a harder task to extend the outreach to Liberia, to get Liberians to know how and why their Ex-President is being tried. These are already heavy tasks and taking Taylor to The Hague will make them all the more demanding. Sierra Leoneans and Liberians, especially war victims and Taylor's family, will only get second hand information of the proceedings. Many people do not have access to television and for those who do, electricity remains a problem. How would they be able to watch proceedings taking place in The Netherlands? If given second hand information, would they find the process credible?

If Taylor is moved to The Hague, there is the potential for Sierra Leoneans, particularly those sympathetic to Norman, to see this as unequal justice. Why does Norman sit in Sierra Leone while Taylor gets the plush confines of European jails and what will inevitably be seen as more European justice?

Security has always been a concern since the Court's inception. When guerrilla commanders were indicted, many people feared that their supporters would cause an uprising. When Chief Hinga Norman, former head of civil defense forces and a hero for many people, was indicted, security concerns arose. The Special Court requested the international tribunals for Rwanda and for the former Yugoslavia to provide temporary detention for him and to host his initial court appearance. These institutions refused and Norman's trial has been held in Sierra Leone ever since. Nothing has happened despite such early fears.

Now if The Hague refuses to host Taylor's trial, would he not be tried in Sierra Leone? Surely, he would. So why don't we just do that job now, increase security and peace keeping efforts in the region and share the numerous benefits of holding his trial in Sierra Leone. The cost of his trial at The Hague will be enormous. So why not use that money to empower and deploy more peace keeping forces in the region? Because its proceedings are held out of Rwanda, the international tribunal for Rwanda has been criticized for having little or no impact on the Rwandan citizenry. This is exactly what the Special Court is meant to avoid. Taking Taylor's trial out of Sierra Leone will defeat this purpose. It should be noted that Sierra Leone's "hybrid" feel of the court had already been seriously undermined by the Government of Sierra Leone's decision to name a British Deputy Prosecutor and Appellate Judge. Looking back on the foundations of the Court, those appointments were incredibly costly to the perception among Sierra Leoneans that this was truly a hybrid court. In seeing the long impact of an institutional shift away from what was originally promised, we see a precedent for how moving Taylor to The Hague might forever undermine Sierra Leoneans' sense of ownership over this process.

There are compelling reasons for Taylor to be tried in Sierra Leone, in the presence of the numerous victims of the conflict and alongside the other people already being tried by the Court. He must however be given all fair trial guarantees. Coupled with increased security in the region, the process should be a smooth one that will be of good to all.

*About the author:*

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## Associated Press

Monday, 1 May 2006

### **Mladic handover deadline passes**

BELGRADE, Serbia-Montenegro (AP) -- A European Union deadline for Serbia to surrender war crimes fugitive Ratko Mladic expired Sunday with no sign of the former army commander, threatening the nation's efforts to join the bloc.

Still, Serbian officials vowed to keep hunting the Bosnian Serb commander indicted by the U.N. court for genocide in the 1995 slaughter of 8,000 Muslim men and boys in the Bosnian enclave of Srebrenica, Europe's worst massacre since World War II.

If it does not surrender Mladic, Serbia faces the prospect of a suspension of its pre-membership talks with the 25-nation EU.

"It is very possible the talks will be suspended," Rasim Ljajic, the Serbian official responsible for coordinating efforts with the U.N. tribunal, was quoted as saying in Sunday's Blic daily.

He said he hoped any suspension would be temporary, and he added that the Balkan republic's government would "continue cooperating" with the U.N. war crimes tribunal and eventually deliver the suspect sought by the court in The Hague, Netherlands.

"Regardless what happens, we must keep up this tempo of major operations to catch Mladic," Ljajic said.

The EU gave the Serbian government until April 30 to hand Mladic over or risk suspension of the next round of talks with the bloc on an accord meant to prepare the nation for eventual membership.

A previous deadline expired March 31. At that time, Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica pledged to deliver Mladic and promised chief U.N. war crimes prosecutor Carla Del Ponte that Serbian authorities were doing all they could to track him down.

But "no one is in a position at this moment to say when Mladic will be extradited," Ljajic told Blic. "Daily operations are taking place to find him and ... we have come a long way."

In Brussels, Belgian Foreign Minister Karel De Gucht warned that Serbia's failure to meet the deadline could stall its attempts to build closer ties with the rest of Europe.

"Mladic is popular and there is support for him there but we have to put added pressure on Serbia to hand him over, or at least say where he is," De Gucht, current chairman of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, said Sunday on VRT television.

EU Enlargement Commissioner Olli Rehn was to meet Del Ponte on Wednesday to decide whether the next round of talks with Belgrade, scheduled for May 11 to discuss a trade and aid deal, would be called off.

Ljajic said authorities have uncovered a support network of some 130 individuals, mostly Bosnian Serbs, who have sheltered and protected Mladic. U.N. prosecutors insist Mladic is hiding in Serbia under protection of military hard-liners.

"This important intelligence should lead us to where Mladic is hiding," Ljajic said.

He said five suspected Mladic aides have been in custody in Belgrade since January on charges of helping Mladic evade justice.

## Hirondelle News Agency

Friday, 28 April 2006

### **Kagame Castigates ICTR for Not Pursuing Western Leaders for Their Role in the Genocide**

Rwandan President Paul Kagame has accused the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) of failing to pursue the leaders of western countries who were implicated in the 1994 genocide.

Kagame made the allegations in an interview published Wednesday in "La Presse" a Quebecois newspaper while on a private visit to Canada.

"Some people in Belgium and France had to be involved in order for the genocide to take place in Rwanda—oe some sections in the government and other groups were involved in the genocide, but no one ever speaks about them", accused the Rwandan head of state.

"It seems like it is a tribunal set up to pursue people in developing countries only. Why are people from the developed countries not pursued for their own crimes?" asked Kagame, going on to explain that it was the reason he objected to its existence.

As usual, the Rwandan president pointed an accusing finger at "French leaders" whom he accused of directly taking part in the genocide by aiding the militias.

"Why do they enjoy immunity? They should be indicted", the Rwandan president stated.

Kagame dismissed accusations that he ordered the shooting down of a plane carrying former Rwandan president Juvenal Habyarimana on April 6, 1994 which then triggered large scale massacres in Rwanda.

"I did not do it and I had no reason to do so", he said.

According to Rwanda government estimates, over a million Tutsis and Hutu members of the opposition lost their lives between April and July 1994. The ICTR was created the same year by the UN Security Council and given the mandate of bringing to justice senior figures who were suspected to organised it.

Apart from journalist Georges Ruggiu, a Belgian of Italian descent, the tribunal has only indicted Rwandans.

Another of the criticisms levelled against the tribunal by other sources is that it has only indicted Hutus who lost the war in 1994, but that nothing had been done to bring members of the former rebel Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF) which Kagame commanded to trial for alleged war crimes.