

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



**PRESS CLIPPINGS**

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

**as at:**

Thursday, 10 January 2008

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

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Awoko

Thursday, 10 January 2008

# Witness reveals: 'boy thrown in pit'

By Betty Milton

Continuing his evidence at the Special Court trial in The Hague the witness, a former victim of the rebel war Reverend Alex Tamba Teh, revealed how a boy's hands and feet were chopped off and later thrown in a pit in Kono, eastern Sierra Leone.

In his evidence the witness said one of the RUF commanders Major Rocky, after the 101 men had been killed at the 'Igbaleh' at Kamachenda Street, later

asked him to return to Sunna Mosque.

On their way, he went on, he saw some of the boys of the Small Boys Unit (SBU) holding a boy and that later these SBUs "laid the boy's left hand on a tree stump and chopped it off followed by hacking off the left.

He continued, "the boy was crying and the SBUs started swinging the boy and then threw him in a pit."

Rev. Teh narrated that after this incident they were later taken to the Sunna Mosque where Major Rocky reported to Rambo who was the Brigade Commander.

"In his report the Major said he had killed the rest of the men and that I was the only one spared because I am a pastor. Rambo grew very angry because Major Rocky had disobeyed his orders by not killing me. Rambo then went to the other commanders and

informed them that they were going to vote whether or not to kill me. But my life was spared because the vote was 15-16," he revealed.

He added: "I was then handed over to Rocky by Rambo that he should be my guide till Mosquito comes. Since Rocky was deployed at Wonedu we went there together and I used to pray for them before parade."

Rocky, Alex Teh went on, was transferred to another

area and was replaced by Captain Banya who also used the captured civilians for food searching. The witness said one day he felt pity for the civilians as they went food searching but did not eat the food, and told of how he advised them to go to the bush early in the morning and rest for a while. "Later in the day, Captain Banya enquired of the civilians and I told him I did not know where they went. At about 6pm two of these guys returned and when they were asked by Captain Banya where they had been they told him what I had

told them. "Another set of men came again and they told Banya the same thing and so Banya sent for me and said I had lied to him and that he was going to kill me. [But] the moment he took out his gun to shoot me a rebel shouted that he should not. Captain Banya said that he was not going to kill me but that he would do things to me that I would not forget. "So Captain Banya then took a ruler and put it in my mouth and used the butt of his gun and hit my gum and the entire front teeth fell out," he concluded. ■ ■

Awoko

Thursday, 10 January 2008

## Taylor aide alleges rebel links

**A** former senior bodyguard of Liberian ex-President Charles Taylor has told his trial of an alleged secret radio link with Sierra Leone rebels. Varmuyan Sherif told the court in The Hague he discovered the link after being sent to make contact with Sierra Leone rebel commander Sam Bockarie. Correspondents say the defence is likely to challenge Mr Sherif's story. Mr Taylor, 59, is charged with having command responsibility for the rebels' atrocities. He has pleaded not guilty. He is the first African leader to face a criminal trial internationally. Mr Bockarie - alias Mosquito - was also indicted by UN-backed Special

Court for Sierra Leone for crimes committed during the 10-year civil war, but was killed in 2003. Identity check The BBC's Mark Doyle in The Hague says this was a big day for the prosecution, with the case against Mr Taylor getting under way in earnest. Mr Sherif said he worked as one of Mr Taylor's senior bodyguards in charge of the presidential armed convoy and protection of his official residence. He said he was sent to try to convince Mr Bockarie, a senior Revolutionary United Front (RUF), to visit Mr Taylor in the Liberian capital, Monrovia. But the rebel was suspicious and decided to check his credentials. The next day Mr Sherif was taken to a radio room where Mr Bockarie made contact with Mr Taylor's Monrovia mansion. When he was satisfied that the message was genuine, Mr Bockarie was on his way to Monrovia within hours, the

witness said. Mr Sherif later discovered a special high-frequency radio on the fifth floor of Mr Taylor's mansion. Correspondents say Mr Sherif is the first so-called insider witness to establish a link between the Liberian ex-president and Sierra Leone rebels. His evidence follows that of Sierra Leone churchman Alex Tamba Teh, who on Tuesday described a massacre of civilians by the rebels in April 1998. The witness did not draw any link between the events he described and Mr Taylor. The trial opened in June last year but proceedings were postponed after Mr Taylor fired his defence lawyer and boycotted the opening of the trial. The ex-Liberian president is accused of responsibility for the actions of RUF rebels during the 1991-2001 civil war in Sierra Leone, which included unlawful killings, sexual slavery, use of child soldiers and looting.

Salone Times  
Thursday, 10 January 2008

# Amputees strive to be self sufficient

*By Abu Conteh in Kenema*

*Amputees in Kenema over the weekend started an innovative therapy program, a program designed to help transform them into creating jobs for themselves.*

In a moment of passion, sorrow, and deep emotion, these amputees who had their limbs brutally hacked off during the 11-year war gathered to express their interest to be self creative in fending for themselves.

Programs to build the capacities of the amputees by equipping them with soap making skill, tailoring and hairdressing have proved yet unproductive. But little or nothing has been done to try and break down the tough mental barriers buried deep inside their damaged minds. All that is about to change thanks to a new approach being

used as a way of getting amputees to express themselves through the art of dance.

A research worker from Carleton University in Canada formulated the program. Jennifer Leung, who is temporarily working with the Global Rescue Mission, said the exercise's purpose is mental rehabilitation, given the huge psychological and physical trauma amputees suffered at the hands of their captors. Leung said that, "dance therapy will also help the amputees to form a better frame of mind to communicate their emotions in a peaceful way."

She said that, "dance

*See Page 3*

# Amputees strive

therapy is not a new phenomenon and has been practiced in many Western countries as a way of helping people overcome emotional stress and psychiatric problems."

Those in attendance appeared enthusiastic about the unique program. Speaking for the group Emmanuel Tucker, who had his right foot cut off during the conflict, said they were happy that the organization has come because it's given

them the impression that they have not been forgotten. Meanwhile, the war wounded victims expressed frustration at the slow pace of implementing the recommendations of the truth and reconciliation report.

They said the recommendations were important to their well being as they call for social services like health, education and housing be given to them by the government.

Salone Times  
Thursday, 10 January 2008

# Ex-combatants Mount

*By Catherine Gbaya-  
Kokoya*

*The Support Officer of  
Kailahun Police Station,  
ASP Fred M. Senesie has  
said that ex-combatants*

## Check-point

*in Kailahun District are in  
the habit of taking the  
law into their hands by  
mounting check-points  
without the knowledge of  
the police.*

Speaking to SALONE TIMES  
in an exclusive interview at  
the Kailahun Police Station,  
ASP Senesie said that al-  
though their relationship  
*See Page 3*

### Ex-combatants Mount Check-point

with the community people is cordial, ex-combatants still remain a menace as they often take the law into their own hands, thereby posing security threat.

He went on to say that the police have suspected that there are arms and ammunition in a village called Ngiehun, seven miles from Kailahun town.

ASP Senesie added that three police officers went on an enquiry in the village in question which resulted in a confrontation between the youth and the police officers.

According to the Support Officer, the source informed the police hoping that they would capture the suspects. According to ASP Senesie, his team entered the village very late on Sunday and on Monday at about 4.00 a.m., they heard the first gun shot somewhere around 4.30 a.m.

Upon hearing the gun shot, the police personnel advanced towards the scene in search of the suspects. He explained that while they were waiting at a cross-road at about 5.30 a.m., one Brima Tengbeh came out of the bush who was interrogated and searched but was immedi-

ately released as he was not found with any arms and ammunition.

Upon his release, Brima Tengbeh went to the youth chairman and alleged that he had been beaten by the police officers. Myer Garber, the youth chairman, mobilized a gang of youth in Ngiehun village including Lahai, Murray Sam and Amara Bockarie. The youths went on a rampage and presented a sheep to the village headman alleging that the police officers had stolen it.

According to ASP Senesie, the police officers were manhandled on the way to the chief, and a bag containing a handcuff and a mobile phone disappeared. One Allieu Konneh also presented two cartridges as exhibits to the police.

In a related matter, the Crime Officer, Kailahun Police Station, Detective Inspector Sampha Kamara said assault and disorderly behaviour is on the increase in Kailahun. From November to December last year, he said, 54 cases were recorded including 18 cases of assault. Sixteen cases have been already charged to court and 33 are under investigation.

## Cotton Tree News

Wednesday, 9 January 2008

### **Charles Taylor in Hague**

Written by Aruna Augustine Kamara

The Special Court for Sierra Leone has rejected a motion filed by defence team of the former Liberian President, Charles Taylor's.

The defence team is asking the court not to allow several exhibits submitted as evidence by the prosecution. Mr Taylor's defence team said four clips taken from the film Blood Diamonds showing the illicit diamond trade, the amputation of limbs and the raping of pregnant women, contained unrelated issues.

But the court over-ruled the defence motion and said the clips were relevant to the trial. The defence also objected to the admission of the UN Panel of Experts Report on the arms and diamond trade between the RUF and Liberia.

The defence said the chairman and members of the panel did not have expertise on diamonds. They said Mr. Ian Smiley, the expert witness, was not a Geologist and therefore not an expert.

Justice Julia Sebutinde is the Presiding Judge. She said he could give evidence.

Pastor Alex Tamba Teh on Tuesday testified at The Hague. He said he was part of a group of two hundred and fifty civilians seized by rebel forces in April 1998.

He said a rebel leader massacred some of the captives with a machine gun.

The News (Liberia)  
 Wednesday, 9 January 2008

# HORRIFIC EXPERIENCES IN TAYLOR'S TRIAL

## ...Sierra Leonean Pastor Gives Account

The grounds of the International Criminal Court in the Hague where the Special Court for Sierra Leone is sitting seem to be a venue of horrific and terrifying experiences from the ten years brutal civil war of the West African State.

On Tuesday, day two of the trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor, prosecution second witness Alex Tamba Teh who is a Sierra Leonean pastor and an alleged victim took the witness stand with a terrifying testimony.

In his testimony in chief, Teh, 47, told prosecuting and defense counsels in his native language Krio that in early 1998 Kamajors went to Koidu, Kono District claiming that they had gone in the area to protect the District from the rebels. Kamajors were local

Cont'd on page 2



Rebels cut off the limbs of thousands of people



Former President Taylor



A Sierra Leonean displayed his limbs



**HORRIFIC EXPERIENCES**

cases that the Belgian import figures are not reliable. Judge Sebutinde: Mr. Smilie has exhibited special skills and knowledge in the field of diamonds, which qualify him as an expert under the Special Court's statute. The reliability of his report is a question of weight, and that will be determined at the appropriate time.

Ian Smilie's report is being admitted into evidence. Court is now adjourning for half an hour. It will resume at 11:05, so with the delayed video and audio available to us, we will resume our summary here at 11:35.

11:40 Court is back in session. Defense is objecting to the admission of a letter allegedly from Samuel Bockarie "to whom it may concern" - a fax discussed in testimony yesterday - on the grounds that there has been no proof of its authenticity. Witness said he couldn't recall exactly how he'd got it.

Prosecutor Nick Kourmjian: At international tribunals, it is standard practice that questions of a document's authenticity go to their weight. Prosecution will introduce other documents with the same signature, so this document is relative for comparison to documents to be submitted later.

Judge Sebutinde: It is the majority view of the chamber that the document is relevant to the case. The question of authenticity and origin, according to the majority, go to weight - which will be considered at the appropriate time.

The document is being admitted into evidence now. 11:45

Defense objects to introduction of the four photographs of the airplane registered to Leonid Minin. Defense: We don't know who took the pictures - an anonymous source.

Prosecution: The source of the photos was confidential, not anonymous. The photos came from a crew member. The crew member used the plane. There are direct ties between Minin and the accused in this case, Charles Taylor. The plane was used to transport weapons - weapons that we will subsequently show went to Sierra Leone.

Sebutinde: It is the majority view of the chamber that the photos are relevant, and issues of origin and authenticity go to the weight to be attached to the evidence.

The four photographs are now being entered into evidence.

11:50 - 2nd prosecution witness called. Defense had no further objections to admission into evidence of exhibits used during the testimony of Ian Smilie. Smilie has now stepped down from the witness stand.

Prosecutor Mohammed Bangura is now calling the next witness, TF1-015.

Judge Sebutinde: I recall that this witness was previously under protection, but has since waived his right to protection. So he will now testify in open court?

Prosecutor Bangura: Correct. 1:30

The second witness has taken the stand and has been sworn in. He will be testifying in the Krio language, and his testimony will be interpreted for the court into English.

Prosecutor: Please state your name.

Witness: My name is Alex Tamba Telt.

Prosecutor: Your age?

WT: 47 years old.

Pros: Where were you born?

WT: Tombodu, in Kono District.

Pros: You presently reside in Sandor chiefdom, Kono District?

WT: Yes.

Under further questioning about the witness's background, it emerges that he is a member of the clergy.

Pros: (Where were you living in 1998?)

WT: Koidu, Kono District?

Pros: In early 98, did people come to Koidu?

WT: Yes, Kamajors. They said they came to protect Kono from the rebels - people who used to kill and burn down houses.

Pros: Who were the Kamajors?

WT: Kamajors were people who we used to call hunters - local hunters, who had native guns.

Pros: Did you know any other name for the rebels?

WT: Rebels were also "Junta's". I never knew the rebels by any other name.

Pros: Do you recall April of 1998?

WT: Yes. I was still in Koidu.

Pros: What happened that month?

WT: That month, I was fasting and praying. At about 3:00 in the morning, I heard sporadic gunfire and shelling.

Pros: For how long?

WT: The firing went on up until 5:30.

Pros: Then it stopped?

WT: Yes.

Through a series of questions, the witness tells the following:

Then I went outside. I saw a group of people running. They came to where I was and passed. I asked them what happened. They told us that the people had come. Right away I knew that they were bad people. I got my wife and children. We ran with the others. My wife and children went with a first group. I went with a second group to Tongoru (ph) Bush. It was far. I had never been there before, so I can't say how far it was. We got there the same day. I was moving with the group, but when we got close to Tongoru, I joined Aiah Abu. We spent about a week at Tongoru Bush. We saw some armed men there who came to arrest us there. There were five of them - some in uniforms, some without. They had guns. The uniforms were Sierra Leonean military fatigues, soldier uniforms. There was no writing on the uniforms, but they were just like the uniforms used by SL soldiers. We heard about what was happening in Koidu. I heard that ECOMOG had taken over Kono. ECOMOG were Nigerian men - we used to call them Oga (ph) men. When the men came to Tongoru, they captured many of us - I was not alone. All of us who were captured were civilians. We were led to a village called Karia. At Karia, they put all of us in a line and started counting us, so that we would not be missing. I heard them say we were 250. From Karia, they moved us to a place called Sunna Mosque in Koidu. On the way from Karia to Sunna Mosque, we met three people who were sitting down, but they had guns. When they saw us, they saw Aiah Abu. They said he had escaped from them and they were going to kill him. They shot Aiah Abu twice. Abu fell down and was struggling to die. The group of 250 was all civilian. When they captured us, children and women and old men were amongst the group. At Sunna Mosque, we met some people who asked, "who fired a gun?" They attempted to run away. When we moved ahead, we saw men in military fatigues. Aiah Abu had died. In front of Sunna Mosque, I saw people with my own eyes: people who wore ECOMOG uniforms. Their uniforms had an ECOMOG badge on the shoulders. As we approached them, they welcomed us. They welcomed us in a dialect that I took for Nigerian. The whole group that I was with, the other civilians, we all started cheering and clapping for the soldiers to thank them. They also said "those dogs have come here and burned down our houses. We thank you for saving our lives." I didn't say anything because I didn't think that they were the people they claimed to be. I took out my documents and showed them that I was a pastor. Rambo took the document from me. He took the document, looked at it and said my task. He said "You claim to be a pastor. Let me ask you a question: Which do you support, ECOMOG or Junta." I was already suspicious about them, so I said "even if you are ECOMOG, I was captured by the Junta but they did nothing to me." Later I learned that Rambo was a brigade commander. Rambo said they should lead us to a particular place - Igbaleh, at Kamachende Street.

From Sunna Mosque to Igbaleh was about half a mile. I saw corpses on the way and we stepped over them. I started counting them - up to 50, but when I realized there were many more, I stopped counting. At Igbaleh, Rocky said to us the SBU rebels must separate us - to separate out the adult men from the women, from the children. Rocky was a commander, but I didn't know his real name. Later I learned his name. Rocky came down and asked "Where is the pastor?" He asked three times, but I was unable to answer, but I thought they would kill me so refused to answer. Then

Sylvester Kiah, one of the rebels, asked me - "didn't you say you were a pastor?" I said yes. Rocky then said that I should pray for everybody. They asked him to bring his "bergege" - I didn't know what that was. They brought him a gun that had a long bat with bullets on it. The boy who brought it had the bat with bullets wrapped around his body. He passed the gun to Rocky. Rocky said, "those of you who were saying thanks to us and thanks to ECOMOG, I want to tell you that we are Junta rebels, not ECOMOG, and this belongs all to us. I'm sending you to Tejan-Kabbah to tell him that we are here." He called me again and I became nervous. I took two steps. At the third step he fired the gun and I thought he was shooting at me. He shot at the adult men to death. I thought he was going to be the first person shot - I was nervous. After he had killed the civilians - the other adult men - he instructed that they should be decapitated. It was Rocky who gave the order to the SBUs. SBUs are small boys below the ages of 15-16, very small boys. They're the ones they called SBUs. Some couldn't even carry their guns properly, they were digging on the ground. Some had outlasses. After Rocky spoke, these boys decapitated all of those who had been shot to death by Rocky. It was at that time that Rocky disclosed his identity to me, as "Rocky", but that his actual name was Emmanuel Williams and that he was from Liberia. Yusufu he was from the Bassa tribe. Then those very small SBUs who decapitated the dead men argued that I should be killed too. Rocky put ropes on my neck. Rocky and his subordinate led me back to Sunna Mosque.

At Igbaleh, after the SBU boys told me I was no better than the others who had been killed, Rocky put his bag over my neck. Before we moved, I saw some other SBU boys coming towards me with another very small boy who was screaming and crying. He asked "what have I done?" They put his right arm on a log and with a machete, amputated it at the wrist. They took his left arm and put on the same log, and cut it off. They put his left leg on the log and cut it off at the ankle. Then they put his right leg on the log and cut it off. They were swinging the boy, they threw him into a toilet pit. I saw it myself.

Rocky said "let's go". We got to Sunna Mosque. I saw Rocky salute Rambo and give him reports. He said "Sir, I have killed 101 men. Except I did not kill this pastor who stands before you now." Rambo got angry, and said, "Rocky, as your commander, I have given you an instruction to do something, and you have not accomplished it?" Rambo turned to me and said "You're a pastor?" I was afraid. There were about 30 commanders. Rambo told them, "Rocky has refused to carry out my instruction", and they should vote on my fate. I knew the men were commanders because Rambo referred to them as "you who are the commanders". Rambo said how many there were - he said they were 30 including himself and Rocky. Rambo voted to have me killed and said others who wanted to kill should come and stand with him, and put their hands up. Those opposed, should go and stand with Rocky, who had refused to kill me. 14 people came to stand with Rambo, so there 15 votes. There were 14 others with Rocky. So there were 15 on each side. As God would have it, Rambo saw Sylvester Kiah coming - Kiah had been at Igbaleh. Rambo addressed him and explained the vote, and told him he should break the tie. Sylvester raised his hand. Rambo asked him to shut up and turned his back to us. Sylvester stood with Rocky, so there were 16 on his side. I was spared.

Rambo said, "Rocky, I'm going to hand this man over to you until I tell Mosquito about him. You have to keep him until then." At that time I didn't know the person referred to as Mosquito. Later I learned who he was. Rocky resided at Wonededu, Kono District, where he was detained. Rocky took me to Wonededu. There, I met other civilians and other rebels. The civilians were in captivity. They never did anything on their own. They were used as manpower, to find food, in press palm fruits, and used the women as sexual objects, with force. At night, they forced the women to have sex with them. Sometimes I heard them scream - and say "Is this why you have captured me? to use me? You haven't mar-

ried me." They were sexual slaves. In the morning I asked a woman named Rebecca why she was crying and screaming so much at night. She told me that the men with guns were raping them and "using them as wives". Civilians were sent to find food for the rebels. They called the food "government property". In Wonededu at the time, that meant that the rebels were the government, and civilians shouldn't touch or use "government property". The rebels would shoot to death the people who violated this. Civilians had to go as far as Koranko area, up to 50 miles or further. Koranko is outside Kono District.

Also at Wonededu, I was the only successful one who avoided being cut with sharp objects. They carved "RUF" on the people's chests, and "AFRC" on their backs. They didn't do it to me because I was a pastor. They told me they carved the people so they wouldn't escape and go to ECOMOG, because people with that carving in their skin would be killed by ECOMOG.

Rocky left Wonededu after about a week. They transferred him to Tombodu Town, Kamara Chiefdom. Captain K.S. Banya took his place as commander in Wonededu. Banya sent civilians once to find food, but on their way back, I was seated at the back of the house when I heard Captain Banya say "those men coming back from finding food should go on a meat-finding mission in Guinea." When the men returned with the food, Banya gave none of it to them. I called on them that night. I told them that when the cook comes in the morning, they should go hide in the bush and have a good rest. I told them I felt sorry for them because they had swelted legs and feet. They agreed. When I woke up in the morning, Banya called me and asked me to eat prayers, "Where are those men?" I told him I hadn't seen them that morning. "Maybe they're tired and need rest." Around 4:00 in the evening, 2 of the men came out of the bush, and Banya called them. He asked where they'd been. I was still sitting behind the same house where I'd overheard the discussion earlier. They told Banya that I had advised them to hide and wait before the meat-finding mission. Banya sent someone to find me. The other returning civilians told him the same thing. I didn't deny it or say yes to it. He took a pistol from his pocket and pointed it at me. He said "Today you are going to die and nobody will be allowed to bury you. If you as a pastor, not me, the more we get a bad smell from you, the more we will be talking about you." Then a brigade adjutant, Alfred Momoh came. He pointed gun at his head. He said "don't shoot", and Banya lowered the gun and shot in the ground between his legs. He said "Rambo ordered I be taken to Supri man Ground at Buedu, which was referred to as Burkina. Then Alfred Momoh went. I still stood there. Banya told me I was a very lucky man - not to be killed, but that he'd give me something that was everlasting. He took out his pistol. He placed a flat stick like a ruler into my mouth. With the barrel of his pistol he knocked out most of my teeth. (The witness has taken out his dentures to show the gaps in his mouth.) My teeth fell into my mouth and I had blood all over my mouth. I had no medical attention. My head got swollen. In 2002, my older brother came from Freetown and took me to the hospital. He could only afford three false teeth - each cost 50,000 Leones. The witness describes how he still has major difficulties with his teeth.

The court is adjourning for lunch from 1:00 until 2:30. With the audio delay to the media room, this summary will resume at 3:00.

3:00 Court is back in session, and the prosecution witness will continue his testimony.

3:35 Through a series of questions from Prosecutor Mohammed Bangura, the witness's story continues:

The prosecution is going back to the testimony about the number of corpses on the way to Igbaleh, when he didn't stop counting after 50. Among the dead people there were young women and very small children - so he were small babies who could not even grip yet. There were men, women and children.

Pros: Regarding the earlier testimony about the Court'd on page 6

## New Democrat (Liberia) Wednesday, 9 January 2008

# Pastor Details Executions, Amputations

was a commander, but I didn't know his real name. Later I learned his name. Rocky came down and asked "Where is the pastor?" He asked three times, but I was unable to answer, but I thought they would kill me so refused to answer.

"Then Sylvester Kieh, one of the rebels, asked me - 'didn't you say you were a pastor?' I said yes. Rocky then said that I should pray for everybody. They asked him to bring his 'barge' - I didn't know what that was. They brought him a gun that had a long belt with bullets on it. The boy who brought it had the belt with bullets wrapped around his body. He passed the gun to Rocky. Rocky said, 'those of you who were saving thanks to us and thanks to ECOMOG, I want to tell you that we are junta rebels, not ECOMOG, and this belongs all to us. I'm sending you to Tejan-Kabbah to tell him that we are here.' He called me again and I became nervous. I took two steps. At the third step he fired the gun and I thought he was shooting at me. He shot all of the adult men to

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CHARLES TAYLOR IN COURT ON MONDAY



CHARLES TAYLOR IN COURT ON MONDAY

death. I thought he was going to be the first person shot - I was nervous. After he had killed the civilians - the other adult men - he instructed that they should be decapitated. It was Rocky who gave the order to the SBUs. SBUs are small boys below the ages of 15-16, very small boys. They're the ones they called SBUs. Some couldn't even carry their guns properly, they were dragging on the ground. Some had cutlasses. After Rocky spoke, these boys decapitated all of those who had been shot to death by Rocky. It was at that time that Rocky disclosed his identity to me, as "Rocky", but that his actual name was Emmanuel Williams and that he was from Liberia. He said he was from the Bassa tribe. Then those very small SBUs who decapitated the dead men argued that I should be killed too. Rocky put ropes on my neck. Rocky and his subordinate led me back to Sunna Mosque.

"At Igbaleh, after the SBU boys told

30 commanders. Rambo told them, "Rocky has refused to carry out my instruction, and they should vote on my fate. I knew the men were commanders because Rambo referred to them as 'you who are the commanders'". Rambo said how many there were - he said they were 30 including himself and Rocky. Rambo voted to have me killed and said others who wanted me killed should come and stand with him, and put their hands up. Those opposed, should go and stand with Rocky, who had refused to kill me. 14 people came to stand with Rambo, so there 15 votes. There were 14 others with Rocky. So there were 15 on each side. As God would have it, Rambo saw Sylvester Kieh coming - Kieh had been at Igbaleh. Rambo addressed him and explained the tie vote, and told him he should break the tie. Sylvester raised his hand. Rambo asked him to shut up and turned his back to us. Sylvester stood with Rocky, so there were 16 on his side. I was spared.

keep him until then." At that time I didn't know the person referred to as Mosquito. Later I learned who he was.

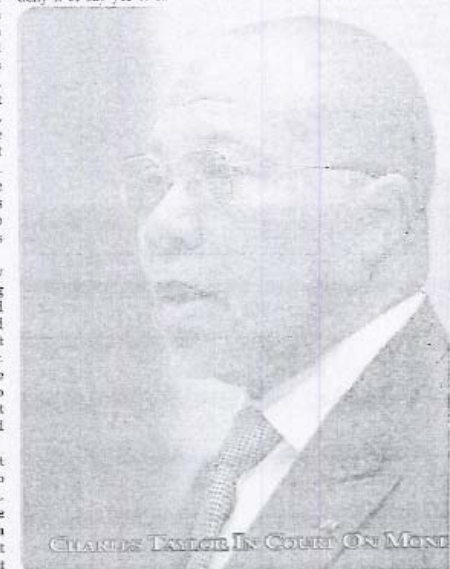
Rocky resided at Wonedu, Kono District, where he was deployed. Rocky took me to Wonedu. There, I met other civilians and other rebels. The civilians were in captivity. They never did anything on their own. They were used as manpower, to find food, to press palm fruits, and used the women as sexual objects, with force. At night, they forced the woman to have sex with them. Sometimes I heard them scream - and say "is this why you have captured me? to use me? You haven't married me." They were sexual slaves. In the morning I asked a woman named Rebecca why she was crying and screaming so much at night. She told me that the men with guns were raping them and "using them as wives". Civilians were sent to find food for the rebels. They called the food "government property". In Wonedu at the time, that meant that the rebels were the government, and civilians shouldn't touch or use "government property". The rebels would shoot to death the people who violated this. Civilians had to go as far as Koranko area, up to 50 miles or further. Koranko is outside Kono District.

Also at Wonedu, I was the only successful one who avoided being cut with sharp objects. They carved "RUF" on the people's chests, and "AFRC" on their backs. They didn't do it to me because I was a pastor. They told me they carved the people so they wouldn't escape and go to ECOMOG, because people with that carving in their skin would be killed by ECOMOG.

Rocky left Wonedu after about a week. They transferred him to Tombodu Town, Kamara Chiefdom. Captain K.S. Banyia took his place as commander in Wonedu. Banyia sent civilians once to find food, but on their way back, I was sent at the back of the house when I heard Captain Banyia say "those men coming back from finding food should go on a meat-finding mission in Guinea." When the men returned with the food, Banyia gave notice of it

go hide in the bush and have a good rest. I told them I felt sorry for them because they had swollen legs and feet. They agreed. When I woke up in the morning, Banyia called me and asked me after prayers, "Where are those men?" I told him I hadn't seen them that morning. "Maybe they're tired and need rest." Around 4:00 in the evening, two of the men came out of the bush, and Banyia called them. He asked where they'd been. I was still sitting behind the same house where I'd overheard the discussion earlier. They told Banyia that I had advised them to hide and rest before their meat-finding mission. Banyia sent someone to find me. The other returning civilians told him the same thing. I didn't deny it or say yes to it. He took a

at his head. He said "don't sit and Banyia lowered the gun and in the ground between his legs said Rambo ordered I be taken to Superman Ground at Busdu, w was referred to as Burkina. Alfred Momoh went. I still there. Banyia told me I was a lucky man not to be killed, but he'd give me something that was everlasting. He took out his pistol placed a flat stick like a ruler in his mouth. With the barrel of his he knocked out most of my teeth. The witness has taken out his teeth to show the gaps in his mouth. My teeth fell into my mouth. no medical attention. My head swollen. In 2002, my older brother came from Freetown and took



CHARLES TAYLOR IN COURT ON MONDAY

pistol from his pocket and pointed it at me. He said "Today you are going to die and nobody will be allowed to bury you. If you as a pastor rot, the more we get a bad smell from you,

the hospital. He could only three false teeth - each cost Leones. The witness described he still has major difficulties his teeth.

# Charles Taylor Trial Watch

were dismayed about indications of Taylor's involvement. We were trying to be objective without adding personal views.

Def: Are you now hostile towards Taylor?

E: We felt sorry for him because he had missed a huge opportunity in Liberia. He had missed an opportunity to lead Liberia into peace.

Cross-examination of Ian Smillie has ended. The prosecution is moving to enter all exhibits into evidence.

10:45

Defense objects to admission of all of the video clips from



the documentary "Blood Diamonds" into evidence. Defense: Much of the material in the video clips doesn't relate to diamonds, and we don't know who all of the people in the video are. Prosecution will be calling five victim witnesses whom the prosecution can use to try to establish facts.

Prosecution: All of these clips have to do with diamonds. There is a key nexus between diamonds and the conflict, as Smillie testified. Exploitation of alluvial diamonds meant that it was important for the rebels to control the population. The terrorism depicted in the video clips is distressing to watch, and that is why defense is objecting. But this gives us all insight into the terror that these people experienced. Video evidence is used to illustrate how the diamonds are mined, as if we had shown a series of diagrams to the court. All of this is relevant, and we ask the court to admit all of it.

Judge Sebutinde: Pursuant to rule 89c, the chamber may admit any relevant evidence. The clips do contain relevant evidence. Defense has valid objections, but these go to issues of weight. At end of trial we will determine how much weight to lend the evidence in the clips.

All six of the video clips are now being admitted into evidence.

11:05

Defense is objecting to admission into evidence of the UN

Panel of Experts report to the UN Security Council, arguing that only some of the panel were actually "experts". The chairman was not an expert, and we submit that Smillie is also not an expert. He's an expert in administration, but not diamonds. He had minimal experience in Sierra Leone and with diamonds at the time Partnership Africa Canada wrote its report.



MR TAYLOR AT THE COURT TUESDAY

Compared to other members on the panel who had a lifetime's worth of expertise, Smillie is unqualified as an expert. His report may be accurate, or not. But it does not make him an expert. We also argue that his report to this court should not be admitted into evidence.

Judge Sebutinde: We will argue these in individual order. For now, we are only concerned with the UN report.

Prosecution: Report was a group effort, including input from all of the experts whose backgrounds the defense reviewed this morning. The report contains some opinions in the recommendations, but the most important part is in the body of the report. This report relates facts on diamonds and arms shipments. Report was issued by the United Nations during the indictment period. It provided further notice to the ob-

sider the merits of that in due course.

Defense is objecting to admission of Ian Smillie's report court. In addition to arguments given earlier, defense pointed out that he has never testified as an expert before any court. Smillie admitted that the Belgian import figures

report are worthless as are his estimates of Liberian diamond production. His look at the 8 diamond invoices are a trustworthy.

Prosecution: There is no person better qualified to give opinion on the role of diamonds in conflict. Prosecution counting Smillie's extensive meetings with diamond industry representatives, his deep involvement in the Kimberley Process, his knowledge of Sierra Leone. The report itself is that the Belgian import figures are not reliable.

Judge Sebutinde: Mr. Smillie has exhibited special skills knowledge in the field of diamonds, which qualify him as an expert under the Special Court's statute. The reliability of the report is a question of weight, and that will be determined at the appropriate time.



RUF REBELS

cus that the RUF was committing atrocities and trafficking diamonds through Liberia - not that he needed additional notice, but this is relevant.

Judge Sebutinde: The UN Panel of Experts' report is relevant and admissible into evidence. Issues raised by defense are pertinent, but go to the weight of the document. We will con-

Ian Smillie's report is being admitted into evidence.

Court is now adjourning for half an hour. It will resume at 11:05, so with the delayed video and audio available will resume our summary here at 11:05.

## The Inquirer (Liberia) Wednesday, 9 January 2008

CONT'D ON PAGE 3

# Taylor's Trial Continues

Child soldiers serving with rebels in Sierra Leone dismembered a screaming boy before tossing him in a toilet pit, a pastor who survived a massacre told the trial of Charles Taylor on Tuesday.

The former Liberian president, once one of Africa's most feared warlords, is on trial for orchestrating rape, murder, mutilation and recruitment of child soldiers during the 1991-2002 civil war in neighboring Sierra Leone.

In harrowing testimony, Alex Tamba Teh, 47, told the U.N.-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone how he saw a rebel commander from Liberia he called "Rocky" shoot 101 people. Rocky spared his life only because he was a pastor.

"After he killed the civilians... he gave the instruction that they should be decapitated. Rocky gave the order to the small boy



Mr. Charles G. Taylor

Cont'd on Page 10

# Taylor's Trial Continues

*Cont'd from front Page*

units," Tamba Teh told the court, referring to the gangs of child soldiers used by rebels during the war.

On the second day of prosecution evidence, Tamba Teh — from the eastern diamond district of Kono — recounted how rebels voted on whether to spare his life and how they carved the initials RUF into the bodies of abductees. He also described rapes of abducted women by rebels.

Child soldiers — some of whom were so small they could not even lift their guns — rounded on one boy and chopped off his hand, then his arm, then both his feet, before tossing him into a toilet pit, Tamba Teh said, speaking in an African Creole.

Showing the court his mouth, Tamba Teh explained how a rebel knocked out his teeth with a pistol. They also forced him to help unload ammunition from a Liberian helicopter.

Prosecutors say Taylor sought to plunder Sierra Leone's diamond wealth and destabilize its government by supporting the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels.

Taylor, 59, the first former African head of state to face an international court, has pleaded not guilty to all charges. He appeared in court wearing a dark suit and a gold tie.

His defense lawyers do not contest that atrocities took place in Sierra Leone but dispute Taylor's involvement. They say bringing victims to the Hague is a tactic by prosecutors to boost emotional impact.

Earlier the court heard from blood diamond expert Ian Smilie, who said the RUF used brutality to frighten people away from diamond fields that earned them up to \$120 million a year.

Smilie met Taylor in 2000 while investigating diamond smuggling as part of a U.N. probe. He said diamonds were the primary source of RUF funding and most left through Liberia, possibly only with the complicity of the Liberian government.

More than a quarter of a million people died in intertwined wars in Liberia and Sierra Leone. Prosecutors want the trial to end decades of impunity for ousted African strongmen, who have often fled overseas to live out their days unpunished.

Taylor found exile in Nigeria after he was overthrown in 2003 and was headed to the court after international pressure. His trial was moved to The Hague because of fears it could spur instability if held in Sierra Leone.

John Richardson, a former national security adviser to Taylor who runs a campaign group in support of him, said the court was not living up to a promise to enable Liberians back home to follow the proceedings on live television.

"The process needs to be witnessed by Liberians so that we know the level of transparency," he said.

Prosecutors expect a judgment by the end of 2008, though an appeal could be likely to stretch the case into 2010.

Heritage (Liberia)  
Wednesday, 9 January 2008

# Taylor's Trial Hears Of Massacre

*...But supporters challenge evidence*



NPP Chairman Emeritus Chief Cyril Allen

**S**UPPORTERS OF former Liberian President Charles Taylor have been reacting to the resumption Monday of his trial in The Hague.

Chief Cyril Allen is chairman emeritus of Taylor's former National Patriotic Party of Liberia. Chief Allen told VOA the defense would prove that there is no evidence linking Mr. Taylor to war crimes in Sierra Leone.

"It is very difficult and

**O M E**

almost impossible to do that because if you are talking about evidence it has to be internationally accepted. Anyone can make any allegations and any group of people can sit and collate a lie that can send any man to his grave. So no one is expecting that you will have honest people coming forward to present professional evidence. You will expect that most of these people are thoroughly briefed, and they will lip the case to wherever they want it to go.

See Page 6

## Taylor's Trial

From Page 6

But the cross-examination and the defense will come through, and let's wait for that occasion and then we can make that logical deduction," he said.

An expert witness testified on day one of the resumed trial telling the court Taylor might have wanted Sierra Leone's diamonds because they have far better quality than diamonds from Liberia. But Allen disagreed, suggesting that the so-called blood diamonds might not have come from Sierra Leone or Liberia.

"I was surprised that the expert did not also mention that huge quantities of diamonds came from

Eastern Europe at the fall of the Russian Empire that went into Western Europe and was falsely declared from various African countries, including Liberia and Sierra Leone. "I thought if he were such an expert he would have mentioned that," Allen said.

Supporters of Charles Taylor held a prayer service Sunday in the Liberian capital, Monrovia. Allen said the prayer service was a show of support to prove that Mr. Taylor is not guilty.

"Categorically there is no one in Liberia that believes that anyone is guilty unless they have been proven so. International law and all internationally accepted principles and practices say that you have to prove beyond all reasonable doubt that someone is guilty before they are actually guilty. You are talking about female genital mutilation and amputation, and you're talking about rape and all these things then you need to have a lot of evidence that Charles was sitting in the Executive Mansion in Liberia raping little girls in Sierra Leone, or that he gave instructions to do that," Allen said.

He also said Taylor could not have committed such crimes for which he has been accused because Allen said Taylor is a Christian.

"We keep saying that Mr. Taylor is a Christian and amputation of a body is a Moslem doctrine. It has nothing to do with Liberia. It was the tendency of how those people conducted their war in Sierra Leone. And it couldn't have been on his orders," he said.

At the start of his trial last June, Taylor expressed concern that he would not get a fair trial. Allen said the defense would prove Mr. Taylor innocent.

"This trial would be the first time in the history of the International Criminal Court that someone has been indicted and they have come out clean. Once they are trying to link Mr. Taylor to the activities in Sierra Leone with RUF (Revolutionary United Front rebels) they cannot produce evidence because there is no real evidence about that, there is no reality about it," Allen said.

Meanwhile, ex-Liberian President Charles Taylor's war crimes trial has heard how Sierra Leone rebels killed some 101 men before ordering the mutilation of a child.

Sierra Leone churchman Alex Tamba Teh testified at The Hague that he was part of a group of 250 civilians seized by rebel forces in April 1998. He said a rebel leader massacred some of the captives with a machine gun.

Prosecutors are trying to prove a link between Mr. Taylor and war crimes. He has pleaded not guilty to 11 charges.

Mr. Taylor, 59, is Africa's first former head of state to

face an international war crimes court. He is accused of stoking the civil war in Sierra Leone in 1991-2001 so that he could gain control over its mineral resources.

Mr. Tamba Teh told the trial in the Netherlands he was among a group of 250 civilians captured a decade ago in Sierra Leone's diamond mining district of Kono by rebel forces.

The men were separated from the women and children and a rebel commander, known as Rocky, told the clergyman to pray for them before opening fire with a machine gun, the court heard.

"He was crying, screaming, asking: 'What have I done?'" Alex Tamba Teh, witness.

Mr. Tamba Teh, 47, told the trial that Rocky had later told another commander, called Rambo, he had killed 101 men. After that, a group of child soldiers, known as the "small boys' unit" was ordered by Rocky to cut the heads off the corpses.

The clergyman said some of the boys were too small to lift the guns they were dragging around.

Later, a captured child was dragged to a log by some child soldiers and had his hands and feet hacked off with machetes, the trial heard.

Mr. Tamba Teh told the court: "He was crying, screaming, asking: 'What have I done?'" He said the child soldiers then grabbed the boy by the stumps of his limbs and swung him into a toilet pit.

The witness did not draw any link between the events he described and Mr. Taylor, who sat taking notes throughout the testimony.

The BBC's Mark Doyle in The Hague says Mr. Taylor's defense team believes the testimony of victims is an emotional distraction that seeks to portray Mr. Taylor as a monster.

Rather, the court should be trying to establish whether Mr. Taylor backed the rebels, the defense says.

Mr. Tamba Teh told the trial that he later narrowly survived a split vote among the commanders on whether he should live or die. The clergyman told the court he ended up in a rebel camp, where women were repeatedly raped.

Captives had the acronyms of the rebel groups, such as the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), carved on their chests and backs with razors or knives, Mr. Tamba Teh said.

Mr. Taylor denies responsibility for atrocities committed by rebels during the civil war in neighboring Sierra Leone.

The trial opened in June last year but proceedings were postponed after Mr. Taylor fired his defense lawyer and boycotted the opening of the trial.

## BBC Online

Wednesday, 9 January 2008

### Taylor aide alleges rebel links

A former senior bodyguard of Liberian ex-President Charles Taylor has told his trial of an alleged secret radio link with Sierra Leone rebels.

Varmuyan Sherif told the court in The Hague he discovered the link after being sent to make contact with Sierra Leone rebel commander Sam Bockarie.

Correspondents say the defence is likely to challenge Mr Sherif's story.

Mr Taylor, 59, is charged with having command responsibility for the rebels' atrocities. He has pleaded not guilty.

He is the first African leader to face a criminal trial internationally.

Mr Bockarie - alias Mosquito - was also indicted by UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone for crimes committed during the 10-year civil war, but was killed in 2003.

### Identity check

The BBC's Mark Doyle in The Hague says this was a big day for the prosecution, with the case against Mr Taylor getting under way in earnest.

Mr Sherif said he worked as one of Mr Taylor's senior bodyguards in charge of the presidential armed convoy and protection of his official residence.

He said he was sent to try to convince Mr Bockarie, a senior Revolutionary United Front (RUF), to visit Mr Taylor in the Liberian capital, Monrovia.

But the rebel was suspicious and decided to check his credentials.

The next day Mr Sherif was taken to a radio room where Mr Bockarie made contact with Mr Taylor's Monrovia mansion.

When he was satisfied that the message was genuine, Mr Bockarie was on his way to Monrovia within hours, the witness said.

Mr Sherif later discovered a special high-frequency radio on the fifth floor of Mr Taylor's mansion.

Correspondents say Mr Sherif is the first so-called insider witness to establish a link between the Liberian ex-president and Sierra Leone rebels.

His evidence follows that of Sierra Leone churchman Alex Tamba Teh, who on Tuesday described a massacre of civilians by the rebels in April 1998.

The witness did not draw any link between the events he described and Mr Taylor.



Sam Bockarie was one of West Africa's most notorious warlords



Charles Taylor: Profile

The trial opened in June last year but proceedings were postponed after Mr Taylor fired his defence lawyer and boycotted the opening of the trial.

The ex-Liberian president is accused of responsibility for the actions of RUF rebels during the 1991-2001 civil war in Sierra Leone, which included unlawful killings, sexual slavery, use of child soldiers and looting.



## Agence France Presse

Thursday, 10 January 2008

### Security Aide Tells Of Taylor's Meetings With Sierra Leone Warlord

THE HAGUE (AFP) — A former insider working for Charles Taylor's security services told the war crimes trial of the former Liberian president Wednesday that Taylor gave money and weapons to RUF rebels in Sierra Leone.

Taylor is accused of arming, training and controlling the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels in Sierra Leone in exchange for still-unknown quantities of diamonds. The prosecution is relying on so-called insider witnesses to establish a link between Taylor and the rebels who committed atrocities on the ground in Sierra Leone.

Varmuyan Sherif, who worked for Taylor's Special Security Service and organized his motorcade, was ordered by Taylor to accompany RUF leader Sam Bockarie on a trip to Liberia in late 1998 or early 1999.

Bockarie, also known as Mosquito, met with Taylor and apparently recounted the details of that meeting to Sherif who was bringing him back to Sierra Leone.

"Sam Bockarie told me: '(Taylor) gave me money, I have money and he gave me a satellite phone so anytime I want I can communicate with that person (Taylor),' " Sherif told the court, recounting Bockarie's version of the events.

After bringing Bockarie back to Sierra Leone, Sherif met again with Taylor who told him to bring weapons to the RUF and secure a safe passage for the fighters to Monrovia.

"Taylor called me back and said whatever arms and ammunition I am bringing into Monrovia I could bring them to Sam Bockarie," he told the judges.

"He also said I should speak to the former fighters in Lofa county (close to the border with Sierra Leone) that there should be an open corridor and nobody should harm RUF fighters" who crossed into Liberia, Sherif added.

Sherif worked directly under Benjamin Yeaten whom prosecutors said was Taylor's right hand man and the principal liaison between the Liberian president and the forces in Sierra Leone.

Taylor faces 11 charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity including terrorising the civilian population, murder, rape and the use of child soldiers. He has pleaded not guilty.

According to the prosecution of the Special Court for Sierra Leone Taylor controlled RUF rebel forces in neighbouring Sierra Leone who went on a blood diamond-funded rampage of killing, mutilation and rape during the 1991-2001 civil war.

Around 120,000 people were killed in the conflict, with rebels mutilating thousands more, cutting off arms, legs, ears or noses.

Sherif told the court of various trips he or his subordinates made to Sam Bockarie to give him arms and ammunition. He also recalled seeing the RUF leader on two occasions in Monrovia, where Bockarie met

with Taylor's right-hand man Yeaten. Sherif told judges that he overheard Yeaten instructing Bockarie to launch an RUF attack from Sierra Leone on neighbouring Guinea.

The prosecution is trying to prove that Taylor supported and financed the rebels in return for so-called blood diamonds that the rebels mined in Sierra Leone.

Sherif told the judges that on one trip with Bockarie he noticed the RUF leader was carrying diamonds.

"I saw a mayonnaise bottle in his pocket and I realized there were diamonds in there," he said.

"One of my senior officers even said we can take these diamonds and go away to another country," he added.

## Associated Press

Wednesday, 9 January 2008

### Ex-Security Officer for Taylor Testifies

By MIKE CORDER

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — A one-time member of Charles Taylor's inner circle took the stand Wednesday to testify at the former Liberian president's war crimes trial, the first of dozens of witnesses prosecutors say will link Taylor to atrocities in Sierra Leone's 10-year civil war.

Varmuyan Sherif, 39, did not look across at Taylor as he entered the court in a traditional brown tunic and matching trousers. Sherif had served as a senior member of the security detail for Taylor and his family after Taylor became president in 1997.

Sherif waived his right to appear as a protected witness, which would have prevented public disclosure of his identity.

Early in his testimony, Sherif showed a map he said depicted supply routes leading from Liberia to rebels of the notoriously brutal Revolutionary United Front fighting for control of Sierra Leone's lucrative diamond fields.

Taylor, 59, is accused of orchestrating a terror campaign marked by murder, rape and mutilation by his Sierra Leone allies.

The first former African head of state to be tried by an international court, Taylor has pleaded innocent to all 11 charges.

Earlier Wednesday, defense lawyers completed their cross examination of a Sierra Leonean clergyman and teacher who had described in harrowing detail the massacre and decapitation of 101 men and the dismemberment of a child soldier.

On Tuesday, Alex Tamba Teh recounted watching young boys methodically hack off the hands and feet of another teenager, hearing the terrorized screams of women being raped, stepping over corpses too numerous to count and helping unload weapons for Sierra Leonean rebels off a Liberian helicopter.

Tamba Teh said he was among about 250 civilians captured by rebels in April 1998 in the diamond mining district of Kono.

Separated from women and children, the men were taken to a shelter near a mosque, where a rebel commander told the pastor to pray for his fellow captives and then mowed them down with a machine gun, he testified. Rocky later told another commander he killed 101 men.

"After he had killed the civilians ... he gave instructions that they be decapitated," Tamba Teh told the three-judge tribunal Tuesday.

A group of child soldiers known beheaded the corpses with machetes and cutlasses. Some were too small to lift the guns they were dragging around, Tamba Teh said.

Later, another boy Tamba Teh estimated was 16, was dragged to a log screaming and asking what he had done wrong. The other boys pinned down his arms and legs and hacked off his hands and feet, he said. After the mutilation, they grabbed the boy by the stumps and threw him into a toilet pit, he said.

Tamba Teh also testified that said he saw arms delivered to rebels by a Liberian helicopter and said a key RUF leader who took possession of the weapons identified Taylor as his "boss."

However, under cross examination, Tamba Teh conceded that he had not mentioned Taylor in previous statements to prosecutors and earlier said there were two Liberian helicopters, not one.

"It is the pressure," Tamba Teh said Wednesday, acknowledging he was traumatized by the harrowing events of 1998 and 1999. "My memory cannot serve me well."

Taylor's trial, adjourned in June after Taylor boycotted the proceedings and fired his lawyer, resumed Monday after a six-month recess.

The first witness, Canadian diamond expert Ian Smillie said Sierra Leonean rebels backed by Taylor used slave labor to dig up diamonds worth between \$60 million and \$125 million a year, and terrorized the population to assert their control of the fields.

Prosecutors allege that diamonds from Sierra Leone were smuggled through Liberia, and Taylor used the proceeds to buy arms and ammunition for the rebels — earning them the name "blood diamonds."

## Voice of America

Wednesday, 9 January 2008

### Ex-Security Officer Testifies at Charles Taylor Trial

By Lauren Comiteau  
Amsterdam

One of Charles Taylor's ex-bodyguards has testified at his former boss' trial in The Hague. VOA's Lauren Comiteau reports from Amsterdam he is the first person from the former Liberian president's inner circle to appear before the special court.

Wearing traditional African garments and swearing his oath on the Koran, Varmuyan Sherif did not look at Mr. Taylor as his day in court began.

The 39-year-old was once a rebel fighting against Taylor's troops in Liberia's civil war. But after Taylor became president in 1997, Sherif was brought into a so-called "government of inclusion," and he quickly rose in the ranks of the president's security services and became his trusted bodyguard and aid.

Sherif provided the clearest link yet between Taylor and the Sierra Leone rebels he is accused of supporting from his home base in Liberia. The rebels, like the Revolutionary United Front, were notorious for their brutal campaigns of murder, rape, and indiscriminate amputations.

The witness spoke about a 1998 mission Taylor sent him on to Sierra Leone, where he picked-up RUF leader Sam Bockarie. After successfully delivering Bockarie, Taylor rewarded the witness with U.S. dollars at his Monrovia mansion known as White Flower.

Sam Bockarie was also thankful and told Sherif that he was the first person who was able to arrange a personal meeting between himself and the president.

When the witness was asked in court if he had told Mr. Taylor about the murders he witnessed Mr. Bockarie commit, witness Sherif gave an emphatic no.

"No, no. I cannot involve myself in that," he said. "All my trips going in and coming out indicates to me that, I knew very well, that the mission Sam Bockarie was carrying on was being supported by Mr. Taylor. So I would not have decided to report Sam Bockarie to say, 'Oh, these are the things he has been doing'. Oh no. I did not at all involve myself in that. I only did what I was instructed to do."

The witness also testified that Charles Taylor wanted an open border in an area between Sierra Leone and Liberia so the Sierra Leone rebels would feel free to come and go, and so that former Liberian fighters could sell their weapons to them.

The witness testified he gave Bockarie a vehicle full of weapons including AK-47 assault rifles. He also testified that high-level Liberian officers were instructing Bockarie about possibly staging an attack into Guinea from Sierra Leone.

Sherif is the second witness to waive his right to protection and testify in open court. Former Liberian president Taylor has pleaded not guilty to all 11 counts against him.



**Charles Taylor is seen in court as his trial reopens in The Hague, 07 Jan 2008**

allAfrica.com

Wednesday, 9 January 2008

### **Sierra Leonean Crime Base Witness Called as Prosecution's Second Witness**

On the second day of the trial, the Defense completed its cross-examination of Ian Smillie, the Prosecution's expert on conflict diamonds. In addition, the Prosecution called its second witness, a Sierra Leonean pastor who both witnessed and experienced violence at the hands of RUF/AFRC rebels in 1998 and testified to links between the rebels and Taylor/Liberia.

### **Cross-Examination of Smillie Concluded**

Defense counsel Terry Munyard continued to focus his cross-examination of Smillie on his reliability as an expert and the substance of his testimony about conflict diamonds. For example, Munyard sought to establish that the UN report on the influence of conflict diamonds in West Africa contains incorrect data, most notably the Belgian statistics on the import of diamonds from Liberia. Defense counsel also probed differences between Smillie's handwritten notes of an October 2000 meeting with Taylor and a typewritten version he prepared of those notes. Munyard's questions also sought to elicit that not all of the members of the UN expert panel that created the report deserve the qualification of "expert," including Smillie himself.

At various points during the cross-examination, the Defense suggested that Smillie and his colleagues on the expert panel had a hostile predisposition towards Taylor and they had preconceived notions on his culpability. Smillie responded that this was not the case, and that the panel's goal was to report what they had learned and that they had always tried to remain objective towards the information they reported. Towards the end of the cross-examination when the Defense again raised the issue of preconceived hostility, Smillie remarked that he felt sorry (rather than hostile) for Taylor for not seizing the opportunity he had to bring peace to the region.

### **Admissibility of Prosecution's Exhibits**

Prosecutor Nick Koumjian then moved to enter all exhibits marked for identification during Smillie's testimony into evidence. Presiding Judge Sebutinde invited counsel to comment on each exhibit individually. The following exhibits were disputed by the defense:

\* Video clips. The Defense objected to admission into evidence of six video clips from the documentary "Blood Diamonds" on the grounds that much of the content did not relate to diamonds, and involved for the most part anonymous witnesses. The Defense suggested that such evidence would more appropriately be offered through expected live witnesses to be called by the Prosecution. The Defense also argued that diamond-related aspects of the clips could be introduced through Smillie. The Prosecution responded that all of the clips related to diamonds and were relevant to demonstrate that the type of mining involved was labor intensive, and that exploitation of alluvial diamonds involved rebel control of the local the population. The violence depicted in the proffered video clips was undeniably graphic and distressing to watch, but the Prosecution argued that it provided insight into the terror that had been experienced by the people of Sierra Leone. After hearing argument, the Trial Chamber concluded that all six video clips were admissible under Rule 89(C), which broadly provides that the Court may admit any relevant evidence. The Court further noted that, as the Defense's objections went to issues of weight rather than admissibility, it would determine how much weight to give this evidence at the end of the trial.

\* UN Report: The Defense objected to admission into evidence of the UN Panel of Experts Report to the UN Security Council, arguing that only some of the panel members properly qualified as "experts." In particular, the Defense argued that Smillie was unqualified as an expert in comparison to other Panel members. The Prosecution replied that the Report was a group effort, including input from all of the experts whose backgrounds the Defense reviewed this morning. The Report contains both opinion and fact evidence, but its most significant aspects are the facts it delineates linking diamonds and arms shipments. It was issued in December 2000 during the indictment period and, according to the Prosecution, provided further notice to Taylor that the RUF was committing atrocities and trafficking diamonds through Liberia. The Trial Chamber concluded that the Report was admissible under Rule 89(C), as the issues raised by the Defense went to the weight of the document rather than to its relevance.

\* Smillie's Report: The Defense objected to admission of Smillie's Report. In addition to arguments raised earlier against admission of the UN Report, the Defense emphasized that Smillie had never testified as an expert before any other court. In addition, the Defense argued that Smillie conceded that the Belgian import figures in his report were unreliable, as were his estimates of Liberian diamond production. The Prosecution countered that there is no person better qualified to opine on the role of diamonds in conflict, recounting Smillie's extensive meetings with diamond industry representatives, his deep involvement in the Kimberly Process (a joint governments, industry and civil society effort to stem the flow of conflict diamonds), and his knowledge of Sierra Leone. The Trial Chamber was satisfied within the framework of the Special Court's Statute and Rules that Smillie had exhibited special skills and knowledge in the field of diamonds, which qualified him as an expert. Again, the Court admitted Smillie's Report, holding that the Defense's objections only addressed the weight of the evidence contained therein rather than the relevance of the evidence.

\* Letter & Photographs: The Defense objected to the admission of a letter allegedly from Samuel Bockarie (a.k.a., "Mosquito", Commander in Chief of the RUF in 1998 and most of 1999) "to whom it may concern" granting diamond mining rights in Sierra Leone, as well as four photographs of an aircraft allegedly used to transport arms into Liberia, on the grounds that there was no proof of these documents' origin and authenticity. The Prosecution argued that, for international tribunals, it is standard practice that questions of a document's authenticity go to weight. Judge Sebutinde concluded that it was the "majority view" (apparently with Judge Lussick disagreeing) that these documents were admissible, and agreed with the Prosecution that questions concerning authenticity and origin go to weight rather than relevance.

### **Testimony of Crime Base Witness, Alex Tamba Teh**

Prosecutor Mohamed Bangura examined Alex Tamba Teh, a 47 year-old pastor born in Tombodu, Kamara in Kono District. Teh, a small man with mustache and glasses in a dark suit with spotted tie, was sworn in as a witness, and touched the Bible to his forehead as he did so. Teh was formerly a protected witness known as "TF 015" but waived his right to testify in closed session.

Teh testified concerning certain incidents occurring in Kono District in April 1998. He and his family fled Koidu town with others after rebels attacked the town. He said that he was subsequently captured by gunmen and eventually taken with 250 men, women and children to Sunna Mosque. Teh testified about various rebel acts of violence, including:

\* Rebels shooting and killing a man accused by them of previously having escaped.

\* Counting as many as 50 corpses on the way to Sunna Mosque, including men, women and small children.

\* In Igbaleh, "Rocky," an RUF commander, told Teh pray for everybody and then called for his "bargege" (apparently a machine gun), which he used to shoot to death 101 civilian men. Rocky then gave instructions to SBUs (small boy units composed of boys under the age of 15 or 16 years), some of whom couldn't lift their weapons, to decapitate the dead, which was done.

\* Also in Igbaleh, Teh testified about a boy, perhaps 16 years-old, whose arms and legs were cut off with a machete, who was then tossed into a toilet pit.

\* Rebels used razors or knives to carve "RUF" on the front and "AFRC" on the backs of civilians.

\* In Wonedu, women were used as sexual slaves and raped by the rebels.

\* Civilians were also used as "manpower," forced to travel far distances to find food for the rebels.

\* In Wonedu village, AFRC Captain KS Banya ordered SBUs to "go light candles," which Teh explained meant for them to go and burn down houses. He personally witnessed 5 houses burnt down by SBUs.

\* After rebel commanders voted to spare Teh's life by a narrow majority, Banya forced Teh to put a stick in his mouth and knocked out most of his teeth on his upper and lower jaw by hitting him with the barrel of a pistol. Teh showed the Court his injuries and the false teeth he wears to assist in speaking.

Teh testified that he was taken to see "Mosquito" (later identified as Borbor Samai, and identified by the Prosecution in its opening statement as Sam Bockarie) at "Superman Ground" in Buedu/Burkina, in Kono. This was a camp where "Superman" (third in command of the RUF), "Rambo" and other top rebel commanders resided.

Teh testified about some connections to Liberia and Taylor, including the following:

\* Rocky disclosed to Teh that his real name was Emmanuel Williams and that he was from Liberia.

\* Teh was present in Buedu/Burkina when Mosquito was on his satellite phone. Teh heard Mosquito say "yes, ok sir" and then tell his men that he needed to go to Liberia and had a call from Liberia.

\* Teh testified that when Mosquito offered him the choice between joining the rebels with the rank of major or death, he replied that the position was too small in stature and requested the rank of field marshal. Mosquito laughed and said that his boss, Ghankay Taylor, was not even a five star general.

\* Teh testified that he and other civilians were taken by the rebels to Dawa to transport arms and ammunition from there back to Buedu. In Dawa, he saw a helicopter marked "Liberia Airways" or something similar from which arms and ammunitions were unloaded. Teh stated that the weapons and ammunition were distributed and later used in to attack Kono and displace the ECOMOG troops stationed there. This occurred in November 1998 and fighting took place in January 1999.

\* Teh recalled hearing Charles Taylor's voice on BBC radio program in 1991 warning the then-president of Sierra Leone that if the country was allowed to serve as an ECOMOG base [i.e., a base for the Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Group, a West African multilateral armed force], in 90 days it would "taste the bitterness of war."



## **Cross-Examination of Teh**

Defense counsel Andrew Cayley began by expressing the Defense's sympathy for the violence Teh had seen in his life and said it was not the Defense that had chosen to bring him to the Hague. Cayley then questioned Teh on the series of statements he had made to Court officials over the past five years, seeking to identify discrepancies between his direct testimony and his prior statements. For example, Cayley noted that Teh's January 2004 statement did not reference a statement to Mosquito that he wanted to be appointed as a Field Marshal, and Mosquito's reference to his boss, Ghankay Taylor. Other suggested inconsistencies involved the number and color of helicopters in Dawa and the number of times Teh visited Mosquito in Buedu.

Teh repeatedly responded to such challenges by asserting that he had previously made the statements at issue to Prosecution officials and was currently testifying under oath. As the exchanges between defense counsel and the witness became more contentious, Judge Sebutinde urged Cayley at one point to be fair to the witness, and later cautioned Teh not to lose his temper as defense counsel was just doing his job. Teh eventually conceded that he was under pressure during the events at issue, and that, while he has a strong recollection of some events, he doesn't recall everything because of the duress he faced.

At the end of the day's proceedings, Cayley indicated that cross-examination of Teh will continue and conclude tomorrow, and Judge Sebutinde adjourned the proceedings for the day.

## Star Radio (Liberia)

Wednesday, 9 January 2008

### **First Liberian testifies against Taylor**

Written by Wellington Geevon Smith

The first Liberian on Wednesday took the stand in The Hague to testify against detained former President Charles Taylor.

Considered an insider witness, Vamuyan Sheriff is a former Assistant Director of Operations of the Special Security Service, SSS at the Executive Mansion.

Mr. Sheriff fought for the disbanded ULIMO-K rebel faction before joining the Executive Mansion during the factional government.

He was initially a protected witness but later waived his protective status and testified in open court. Sheriff told the UN-backed Special Court, he travelled with former President Charles Taylor on three foreign trips.

According to him, Mr. Taylor sent him on several operations including the territory of the Revolutionary United Front rebel movement in Sierra Leone.

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**UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries  
9 January 2008**

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

**Newspaper Summary**

**At TRC Hearings Top Musician Linked to Heinous Crimes**

*(Public Agenda, The Inquirer, The Parrot, The Informer, Heritage, The Analyst, Daily Observer, National Chronicle and New Democrat)*

- The Media reports that the much-awaited public hearings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) opened on Tuesday with “startling revelations” about the atrocities committed during the Liberian civil war.
- Taking the stand, David Saweh, a citizen of Grand Bassa County accused one of Liberia’s popular musical stars, Micheal Davies alias Sundaygar ‘Dearboy’ then a commander of the rebels National Patriotic Front of Liberia(NPFL) of ordering 25 of his men to gang rape Saweh’s sister which he claimed resulted to her death.
- He also accused Sundaygar of being responsible for the death of his father, an alleged act corroborated by other family members. The Public Agenda reports that in a statement issued in Monrovia, Sundaygar Dearboy who is currently visiting the U.S denied the allegations against him and said he is preparing to return home in 24 hours.

**Mysterious Deaths Occurred in Monrovia’s New Georgia**

*(Public Agenda, The Inquirer, Daily Observer and The News)*

- The Daily Observer reports that at least two persons were pronounced dead upon arrival at the Redemption Hospital in New Kru Town yesterday when a mysterious tragedy hit a family of nine in the New Georgia Estate. The three were identified as Nathaniel and Anthony Jerboe and a little girl who was on vacation at the Jerboe’s residence.
- According to one of the victims, Aaron Jerboe, the mystery began on Monday when two kids in the home collapsed during the early evening hours but recovered following prayers. He told the Daily Observer that after staying up for a while they decided to go to bed but said while in the process he was struck by a strange weakness and could not remember anything after that.
- *The Inquirer* and *Public Agenda* quoting neighbors blamed the incident on an attack by “demons”. However, medical authorities at the Redemption Hospital told reporters that there was no concluding evidence to the cause of death.

**Supreme Court Orders Dissolution of Dorbor Torture Committee**

*(The Analyst, Daily Observer, The Inquirer and The Informer)*

- The presiding Justice-in-Chambers at the Supreme Court of Liberia, Cllr. Kabineh Janneh has ordered the Criminal Court “A” Judge Charles Williams to disband the so-called committee set aside to look into claims of torture by defendant Dorbor in the ongoing treason trial.

**Radio Summary**

**Supreme Court Overturns Decision of Criminal Court in Treason Trial**

*(Also reported on Star Radio, Truth FM, SKY FM and ELBS)*

**President Apologizes to Compatriots for Governments’ Roles in Conflict**

- Speaking at the opening ceremony of public hearings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) in Monrovia, yesterday, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf apologized to Liberians on behalf of all past Governments of Liberia for their roles, whether by commission or omission, in the conflicts, in the Country.
- President Sirleaf assured the public that she and officials of her Government will support and submit themselves to the TRC process so that its subpoena power will not be necessary adding that the public hearings was part of the ongoing process to address the culture of impunity, and called on all appearing before it to speak the truth.

*(Also reported on Star Radio, Truth FM, SKY FM and ELBS)*

### **Political Party Youths Downplay Work of the TRC**

- In an interview, the Chairman of the Coalition of Political Party Youths Daniel Fassa described the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission as a “national exercise in futility” as it was designed to achieve nothing but acrimony and opening old wounds in favour of certain Liberians.

*(Also reported on Star Radio, Truth FM, SKY FM and ELBS)*

### **Taylor Defense Team’s Quest to Suppress Video Clips Denied**

- Correspondents said that the Special Court for Sierra Leone sitting in The Hague rejected a motion of the defense team of former President Charles Taylor which had asked it not to admit several video clippings into evidence because the materials were cued from the film: “Blood Diamonds”, depicting the illicit diamond trade, the amputation of hands and limbs and raping of pregnant women.
- The defense team pointed out that the video clips submitted by the Prosecution contained some unrelated diamond issues and should be rejected. But the court overruled the motion on account that the clips were relevant to the trial.
- The defense team further contended that the UN Panel of Experts Report on Arms and Diamonds of the Sierra Leone’s Revolutionary United Front was useless to the trial because the chairman and members of the Panel were not diamonds experts, specifically stating that Mr. Ian Smiile, the Expert Witness who testified before the Court yesterday, was not a Geologist and could not be an Expert.
- But the court denied the assertion and said that UN Panel of Experts Report was admissible and relevant to the trial.

*(Also reported on Star Radio, Truth FM, SKY FM and ELBS)*

### **Court Issues Separate Writs against Police for Holding Illegal Detentions**

- Criminal Courts “A” and “C” have issued separate Writs of Habeas Corpus against the Liberia National Police for holding Semendi Tennessee and Irving Dave in detention beyond the statutory period.
- According to the Courts’ records, the men were arrested and detained last November for allegedly harassing peaceful citizens but were yet to be charged in keeping with the Law.

*(Also reported on Star Radio, Truth FM, SKY FM and ELBS)*

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## Star Radio (Liberia)

Tuesday, 8 January 2008

### **At TRC hearing, Pres. Sirleaf apologizes for governments**

Written by Vivian Gartyn

President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has apologized to the Liberian people for the role, her government and previous governments played during the war.

Madam Sirleaf extended the apology during the start of the Public Hearings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

The President called on all Liberians to support the process for genuine reconciliation in the country.

Madam Sirleaf cautioned all government officials including herself to respond to the TRC when called upon.

The public hearing formally launched by TRC Chairman Jerome Verdier is on the theme: Confronting our Difficult Past for a Better Future.

The hearings will continue in Monrovia till the end of January and would be held across the country from February to the end of May.

The hearings seek to hear the experiences of victims and perpetrators during the war years as a means of national healing and reconciliation.

TRC Commissioner Pearl Brown Bull said she was a little disappointed over the turn-out of the hearing attended by government officials and other Liberians.