

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



**PRESS CLIPPINGS**

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

Tuesday, 11 April 2006

The press clips are produced Monday through Friday.  
If there is any omission, comment or suggestion please contact  
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Standard Times

11 April 2006

# NPFL fighters arrive in town

The public affairs officer of the Special Court, Mr. Peter Anderson has told Standard Times that indictees of the court are permitted to engage in telephone conversations with anyone both inside and outside the country and their discussions are not monitored by the court. "We allow them to communicate, but we don't monitor or tape their conversations to know the contents of their discussions," Anderson explained, and went on, "the calls go through the switch board, they carry cordless phones but can not make international calls, they can only receive international calls," he said.

Just recently, intelligence report received by members

of the security Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC) has given a signal that a group of unidentified assailants are planning to attack

the special court and free all detainees of the court.

Sources say Mr. Walt Collins of the Special Court, the United Nations Security

Officer, Mr. T.M. Borbor Sawyer and other senior security officers from the police, prison and the military wing were present

when this intelligence report was received.

In his reaction, the chairman of the JCC A.I.G OPS, Mr. Richard Moigbeh

warned that all information must be treated with seriousness and stressed that the Sierra Leone police will continue to support the Mangolians who are currently providing security to the court.

As if that piece of information was not enough to put security personnel on the alert, another collaborating report received by the team revealed that a group of the

*CONTINUED PAGE 11*

## Charles Taylor' NPFL fighters arrive in town

*FROM PAGE 1*

National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) fighters believed to be sympathizers of ex-president Charles Taylor are presently undertaking surveillance and strategic missions in the country.

Since their arrival, a source close to the police explained that, some of them are residing in the western part while others in the eastern part of the city of Freetown.

At the Jays guesthouse at Aberdeen Road, when Standard Times contacted some of the employees, they revealed that the guesthouse had hosted some Liberian nationals who had already left on Sunday April 9th 2006, but could not explain whether or not they left the shores of Sierra Leone or changed their location.

At the 5/10 hotel along the Bai Bureh Road, the receptionists

refused to comment saying "I don't know."

According to intelligence report, Louise E. Carter with Liberian passport number 0063016, Bassel Taylor passport number 0001408, Annie P. Blakemore with Liberian Laissey Passey MFA 00854, Orlando D. Johnson Liberian Laissey Passey MPA 00856, Kollie M. Pakieta with Liberian ETC number 030 are in Freetown.

Also former NPFL fighter alias Lavla, Caesar Marza and one Jonathan of the Special Security Unit (SSU) met their colleagues in Freetown.

Police sources revealed to this press that these Liberian nationals travelled from Liberia to Guinea and entered the city of Freetown through the Kambia-Guinea border.

As to why they did not travel through the Kenema axis remains another issue of investigation by the police.

New Vision  
11 April 2006

# Why Transfer Taylor Abroad?



## A Commentary

The Special Court is apparently considering the possibility of transferring Charles Taylor to serve his jail term in Sweden upon the request of the Swedish government, if he is found guilty of the 11-count charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity for which he is being prosecuted by the United Nations backed court.

The President of the UN-backed Special Court has equally requested the government of the Netherlands about the likelihood of transferring Taylor Abroad to

be tried at the facilities of the International Court of Justice in the Hague, the Netherlands, the Dutch government has accepted the request on conditions that, a UN security council Resolution be passed to

that effect and that Taylor be jailed in another country.

Apparently several factors may have prompted the stance taken by the court to distance Taylor from Sierra Leone and Liberia-the two neighbouring

countries that suffered the most from Taylor's brutality during the wars of destruction that he waged in both countries - which lasted over a decade in each of them.

Contd. Page 3

# Elections Officer In Fraud

thousand Leones (Le500,000) from each of the eight contestants aspiring for three vacant Section Chief positions in that Chiefdom. Abu Bakar Bangura, Momoh Bangura and Musa Bangura of Bubuya Section, Santigie Sesay, Foday Bangura and Kamamankoh Section and Binty Foday Karbo of



## Why Transfer Taylor Abroad?

The charges levied by the Special Court include-terrorizing the civilian population, unlawful killings, sexual violence and sexual slavery, used of child soldiers and slavery among others.

One of the most serious considerations that favour the transfer is to avoid the detraction of the attention crucial of the population from the issues of national development, strengthening the democratic process and economic recovery, rehabilitation and national reconciliation that have been set on course in Sierra Leone and Liberia.

The Special Court is believed to be the only international war crimes tribunal to sit in a country where the atrocities occurred, and the only one of its kind to operate on a skeleton budget of \$16million a year, for a three-year mandate.

Essentially it will be difficult for the Liberian warlord to free himself from the charges. This is because Taylor is named extensively in seven public indictments as a key participant in what critics call a criminal network. The maximum penalty the court can dish out is life imprisonment, and the indictments issued to the suspects were based on the gravity of the evidences presented to the court, Vice President Solomon E. Berewa has told

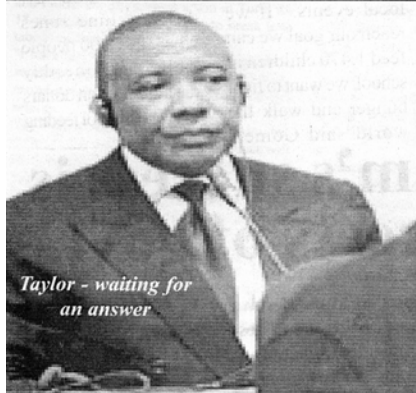
Reuters that the intention to transfer Charles Taylor to the Hague, Netherlands was not for security reasons, as widely believed, as there was enough security in the country to have Taylor tried. "The main issue has to do with the Special Court's exit strategy.

As clearly seen if the mandate of the Special Court is about to expire, and the trial of Charles Taylor is about to start, it would mean taking the trial of the ex-Liberian warlord far into 2007 or even beyond. It will not only involve the extension of the time lapse, but the necessity for more budget to complete the trial.

The new deal when implemented will partly be favourable to Charles Taylor's statement that the UN-baked Special Court do not have the appropriate legal jurisdiction to try him for war crimes and that he does not recognize its authority. But he later backtracks on this statement by indicating that he would be tried by the Special Court in Sierra Leone so as to be in contact with his family, friends and others who may rather find it difficult to secure a visa to attend his trial in the Hague, Netherlands.

The News  
11 April 2006

# Sweden considers Taylor's detention



Taylor - waiting for  
an answer

**S**weden says it is considering a UN request to accept former Liberian President Charles Taylor as a prisoner if he is convicted of war crimes.

He faces the charges in the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone, which requested his trial be transferred to The Hague for security reasons.

But the Dutch government said it would only accept this if any ensuing jail term was served in another country.

Mr Taylor is accused of backing rebels in Sierra Leone's 1991-2002 civil war.

They committed widespread atrocities, such as chopping off people's limbs, as they fought to topple the government.

Sweden was one of several countries be-

ing approached by the United Nations, said Swedish foreign ministry official Hans Dahlgren.

Austria has already said it lacks the legal

*Cont. page 2*

## Sweden considers Taylor's detention

*From front page*  
basis for Mr Taylor to serve a possible sentence there.

Two former Bosnian Serb leaders, Biljana Plavsic and Miroslav Deronjic, are currently serving prison sentences in Sweden after being convicted by the UN tribunal for the former Yugoslavia based in The Hague. Mr Taylor was transferred

to Sierra Leone two weeks ago after being arrested in Nigeria.

Nigeria had given him asylum under an agreement to end Liberia's own civil war in 2003.

Earlier this week he pleaded not guilty to the charges against him and said he did not recognise the jurisdiction of the UN court.

The Special Court was set up to try to bring to justice those responsible for crimes during the country's decade-long civil war which officially ended in 2002.

The tribunal operates under both Sierra Leone domestic law and international humanitarian law.

The Evening Scoop  
11 April 2006

# Taylor Fakes Special Court

“Those of us who are familiar with Taylor’s tactics know better: Taylor is faking it. Taylor would rather be

in Europe, as far away from his victims as possible. By pretending he wants to be tried in Sierra Leone, he is

hoping that the court would deny his request and, instead, be more motivated to ship him to Europe?” The above

is excerpted from an article published by erstwhile Sierra Leone Ambassador to the

*Contd. Back Page*



# Taylor fakes

United States of America, \*John Ernest Leigh. The article, captioned:

“Charles Taylor should be tried in Sierra Leone” challenges the transfer of Taylor to The Hague as is the current stream of argument. “...the current chorus of calls to have Taylor’s forthcoming war crimes trial transferred to The Hague is misguided because transferring Taylor’s trial to Europe would defeat a cardinal reason underpinning the establishment of the Special Court.”

Arguing why the former president should stay here, John Leigh writes: “As an escapologist who knows he is better off in Europe than in Sierra Leone,” noting that in Sierra Leone thousands of people are looking for an opportunity to do vigilante justice should he escape.

In another development, the Vice President Solomon Ekuma Berewa is quoted to have said that the former War Lord will be transferred not because of security threats but, because the Special Court will close its operations (including the trials) by end December and starting Taylor’s case here will mean stretching the mandate of the court.

## Taylor moves to stop transfer

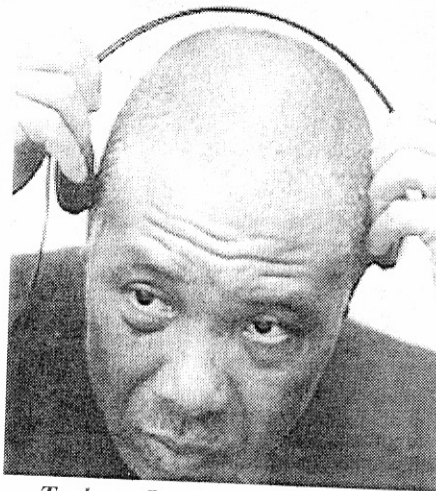
*From front page*

*By Sayoh Kamara*

Mr. Karim A.A.Khan Counsel for war crimes indictee, Charles Ghankay Taylor, former President of Liberia, has filed a motion in the Trial Chamber of the Special Court for Sierra Leone for an order that no change of venue from the seat of the court in Freetown be ordered without the Defence being heard on the issue and motion.

The motion, filed on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2006 also seeks that the Trial Chamber request the President of the Special Court to withdraw the requests 'reportedly' made to the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to permit the trial of Charles Ghankay Taylor on its territory and to also withdraw the request to the President of the International Criminal Court (ICC) for use of its facilities for the said trial.

The motion, which also challenges the veracity of the Special Court Press Release issued on the 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2006 that the President of the court has sought the transfer of the Taylor trial as having not already made by the Special Court, was filed before three Judges of the Special Court namely, Hon. Justice Richard Lussick as the presiding Judge, Hon. Justice Teresa Doherty and Hon. Justice Julia Sebutinde.




*Taylor: Does not want to go*

According to the motion, the Defence submits that "such requests are premature and raise a real risk of the appearance of unfairness in that the Accused in this case has not been afforded a right to be heard on the important issue of venue. Moreover, it has not been judicially determined that such a change of venue is necessary in the interest of justice." The motion went on catalogue laws relating to the court's Rules of Procedure and Evidence from the Special Court's statutes, and the UN Secretary General's report on the Special Court for Sierra Leone (UN doc S2000/915). The full text of the motion filed by Taylor's Counsel can be found on Awareness Times website on [www.awarenesstimes.com](http://www.awarenesstimes.com)

Judiciary H... ..

For di People  
11 April 2006



**KAMARA: fears**  
*Lawyer On  
Taylor Fears*

**SIERRA Leonean lawyer based in Washington, Hassan Abu Saybana Kamara has raised some concerns on the Charles Taylor trial before the Special Court.**

He said Taylor should not have been allowed to raise the defence of governmental immunity at his arraignment and ALSO to raise venue issues befitting defence pre-trial motions.

“President Taylor’s arraignment judge could have committed reversible error by ruling on the oral governmental immunity motion.

**On the fear of  
Continued Page 3**



# TAYLOR

## From Front Page

Taylor's life, Kamara said Taylor could have been poisoned while being illegally arrested, while being transferred from one arresting authority to another or while being transported to Liberia and he could have been poisoned while detained at the SCSL.

He cited the cases of late president of Yugoslavia, Slobodan Milosevich and late Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat where the spectre of poisoning reared its head and that unsuspecting prisoners are surreptitiously drugged with drugs and medication little known to the public which includes mood-altering drugs, insomnia-inducing drugs and that there has been talk of memory erasing drugs and suicide inducing drugs.

He also said Taylor was hounded out of office by a racist international conspiracy and that his removal assaulted the sovereignty of the people of Liberia and it was illegal under international law.

Kamara said there is no reason for now to comment on the provisional appointment of counsel to represent Taylor.

"Not meaning to impugn or even insinuate the integrity of the defense counsel appointment process at the SCSL, I must alert the authorities to the possibility, indeed in this case the strong probability of highly placed and influential persons attempting to undermine the integrity of the Court's attorney appointment system by surreptitiously steering an attorney of their choice who would unwittingly provide a less effective defense for the president of Liberia," he said.

Concord Times  
11 April 2006

## Guest Writer

Story: Mohamed A. Jalloh  
Gaithersburg, MD, USA.

Hassan Kamara's defense of the recently arrested Liberian warlord-turned-president, Charles Taylor, reported in the Concord Times interview of April 3, 2006, demonstrates his surprising lack of knowledge of not only the facts, but also the law, underlying Taylor's case.

Since either of those grave omissions is sufficient to exclude Kamara as a lawyer competent to represent Taylor, it is a valid question why he describes himself thus: "I am the only lawyer in the whole world, I mean including the United States, Great Britain Northern Irelands, And including the excellently competent Lawyers in Sierra Leone and in Africa and only one who has both the combination of the legal competence to represent him and the factual knowledge of his circumstances." In order to answer that question, it is necessary to examine Kamara's claims.

First, Kamara's reported statement that "Charles Gankay Taylor is the lawfully elected president of Liberia," raises a dispositive question, namely: Of which country is the present Liberian head of state, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, currently

presidential Executive Mansion in Liberia in 2003, constitute a "a gross violation of international law?" Predictably, Kamara fails to answer that crucial question.

Moreover, Kamara's characterization of Taylor's acceptance of the above-cited offer to escape Liberia with his life as "an insult to black people, to Africans and African Heads of State," is, clearly, an insult only to the intelligence of all reasonable people, especially to the millions of "black people, to Africans and African Heads of State [in SI, and Guinea]," who were the indiscriminate victims of Taylor's wanton campaign of barbaric terror which represents the worst atrocities ever committed in SI's history.

Nowhere was such surprising ignorance more evident than in Kamara's brazen -- and palpably immoral -- attempt to cast Taylor's arrest as a racial issue, viz.

"It is a case that is of utmost importance for the people of Sierra Leone and for the continent of Africa as a whole. It is a case

## A Reply to Charles Taylor's Intended Advocate's Porous Submissions

initial arrest by black Africans in Nigeria, his subsequent arrest by United Nation's soldiers in Liberia, and his arrest by Africans in SI -- all for his alleged crimes against his fellow Africans -- constitute "an insult to black people, to Africans and African Heads of State?" Not surprisingly, the self-styled expert on the war in SI, Kamara, meticulously avoided answering that question. Instead, he merely offered his opinion that it is so -- without adducing a single shred of evidence thereof.

All of which repeated crucial omissions brings us back to the question posed earlier, namely: Why does Kamara describe himself as the "only one who has

both the combination of the legal competence to represent [Taylor] and the factual knowledge of his circumstances?"

Based on the above showing of Kamara's ignorance of international law and the facts underlying Taylor's arrest, the obvious answer is: Kamara is afflicted with the same detachment from reality that prompted Taylor -- in answer to charges that he had committed crimes against millions of innocent humanity -- to tell the Special Court's Justice Richard Lussick in Freetown: "Most definitely, your honor, I did not and could not have committed those acts against the sister republic of Sierra Leone."

HILLBURY SECONDARY  
SCHOOL KENEMA  
SIERRA LEONE  
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First, Kamara's reported statement that "Charles Gankay Taylor is the lawfully elected president of Liberia," raises a dispositive question, namely: Of which country is the present Liberian head of state, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, currently president? Significantly, Kamara fails to provide an answer, despite being prompted to do so by his reported interviewer. Since it is an established fact that Liberia currently has only one lawfully elected president --and she is not Taylor -- the conclusion is inescapable that Kamara, by stating that Taylor is the president of Liberia, is guilty of ignorance.

Second, Kamara's reported statement that Taylor "was hounded out of office by an international conspiracy, which is ... a gross violation of international law," raises a key question, namely: How does Taylor's voluntary acceptance of an international offer to escape Liberia with his life which was being threatened by LURD and other Liberian militia groups outside his hiding place in the

ignorance more evident than in Kamara's brazen -- and palpably immoral -- attempt to cast Taylor's arrest as a racial issue, viz.

"It is a case that is of utmost importance for the people of Sierra Leone and for the continent of Africa as a whole. It is a case that is of grave importance for black Americans. It is a case of grave importance for black people in the South and Central America. We're down trodden people. It is a very disturbing image for black African head of state to be put in handcuffs by white paramilitary or law enforcement officers little known to anybody but themselves and their masters."

Clearly, knowledge of a single fact about the war should be sufficient to steer any reasonable person from the delusion that Taylor's arrest on charges of crimes against humanity is racially-motivated. That fact is very simple, and very widely-known, namely: Taylor's millions of innocent victims are overwhelmingly black people and, specifically, Africans -- as is Taylor. So, how does Taylor's

initial arrest by black Africans in Nigeria, his subsequent arrest by United Nation's soldiers in Liberia, and his arrest by Africans in SI. -- all for his alleged crimes against his fellow Africans -- constitute "an insult to black people, to Africans and African Heads of State?" Not surprisingly, the self-styled expert on the war in SI, Kamara, meticulously avoided answering that question. Instead, he merely offered his opinion that it is so -- without adducing a single shred of evidence thereof.

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## Associated Press

8 April 2006

### **U.N. agrees on moving Charles Taylor trial**

By EDITH M. LEDERER  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

UNITED NATIONS -- U.N. Security Council members agree the war crimes trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor should be moved from Sierra Leone to the Netherlands and could adopt a resolution next week to allow the transfer, the council president said.

China's U.N. Ambassador Wang Guangya said the Security Council was still debating several issues, including who should pay the costs. He scheduled closed-door consultations Monday on the draft resolution and said he expected it to be adopted "early next week."

"I think there is agreement that he is going to be moved to The Hague," Wang said Friday. "Now, it's only the technical side, how the resolution will look ... (so) there will be no misunderstandings, no concerns."

The U.N.-backed Special Court in Sierra Leone has requested that Taylor's trial be moved out of West Africa for security reasons. Taylor has pleaded not guilty to 11 counts of war crimes stemming from his alleged backing of Sierra Leone's rebels, who terrorized victims by chopping off their arms, legs, ears and lips.

Taylor spent 2 1/2 years in exile in Nigeria as part of a deal that helped end Liberia's 14-year civil war. Nigeria agreed to hand him over last month under international pressure. Taylor fled but was captured within a day trying to slip into Cameroon.

The draft resolution states that the costs of trying Taylor in the Netherlands "are expenses of the Special Court" in Sierra Leone, which is funded by voluntary contributions. It reiterates an appeal to U.N. member states "to contribute generously" to the court.

In a March 29 letter to the Security Council, the Netherlands emphasized that the Special Court must shoulder the costs of the trial and "that no additional costs shall be incurred by the Netherlands without its consent."

Wang said some members of the International Criminal Court want the issue of costs to be clarified further in the resolution to avoid future disputes.

A U.N. appeal for \$25 million to fund the Special Court for Sierra Leone this year has so far received only \$9 million in pledges and \$6 million in funding, which is expected to run out soon.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan wrote to the foreign ministers of the 191 U.N. member states shortly before Taylor's capture, seeking \$14.4 million for the court this year, U.N. deputy spokeswoman Marie Okabe said. She said that did not include the cost of moving Taylor's trial to The Hague, which has not yet been calculated.

U.S. Mission spokesman Benjamin Chang said the United States would seriously consider the request "because we want the court to be able to bring Charles Taylor to justice."

The Dutch government also asked for assurances that once a verdict is reached, Taylor would immediately be transferred out of the Netherlands.

Sweden and Austria said Wednesday they had received requests to imprison Taylor if he is convicted, but no decision has been announced.

## Associated Press

9 April 2006

### **Taylor's fate could hinge on naming of names**

By Donna Bryson, Associated Press

DAKAR, Senegal -- Former Liberian president Charles Taylor was known for boasting of friends in high places. Now he could well find it useful to denounce them as he defends himself against war crimes charges.

Taylor is accused of murder, rape, terrorism, slavery, and other war crimes and crimes against humanity in connection with his alleged support for notoriously brutal rebels during Sierra Leone's 1991-2002 civil war. In return, he allegedly was paid in diamonds, which he used to fund his war to take power in Liberia.

Taylor, who has pleaded not guilty before a Sierra Leone war crimes court, could now try to show that his support for the rebels was a matter of politics and that other leaders also supported the rebel group.

Or he could simply name names out of spite, angry that former allies -- or those that once at least tolerated him -- did not prevent him being hauled before the independent, international tribunal trying those believed to hold the greatest responsibility for atrocities committed during Sierra Leone's war.

"I am sure that there are some governments that are afraid of the stories that might come out," Jewel Howard-Taylor, who divorced Taylor last year but remains in close touch, said in a telephone interview from Monrovia, Liberia.

Howard-Taylor refused to name the countries, but Taylor's links to Libya, the United States, and elsewhere are well known.

"While there may be some interesting revelations . . . I don't see it being directly related" to the charges he faces, said Corinne Dufka, a Dakar-based Human Rights Watch researcher who has closely followed the Taylor case.

"And it would not mitigate his personal responsibility for the crimes with which he's been charged."

Possible ties between Taylor and the CIA have been a matter of speculation for years. Some say the CIA helped him escape from a Plymouth, Mass., jail in 1985, where he had been held on a Liberian arrest warrant accusing him of embezzling nearly \$1 million from the government of the late President Samuel Doe while he was serving in it.

Taylor went from the United States to Libya to train as a guerrilla and then launched an insurgency against Doe. The Sierra Leonean rebel leader with whom he is accused of allying, Foday Sankoh, also trained in Libya. .

The conspiracy theory has it that Taylor spied for the CIA on Libyan leader Moammar Khadafy. A CIA spokeswoman said it was the agency's policy to neither deny nor confirm employment and refused to comment on whether the agency was worried about what Taylor might say on the stand. The United States, though, has pushed hard for his trial.

Khadafy himself came close to being indicted by the Sierra Leone war crimes court, according to David Crane, the former chief prosecutor of the court who drew up the Taylor indictment.

Khadafy's support for a range of West African rebels was believed aimed at undermining pro-US governments as well as spreading his own influence.



## Reuters

10 April 2006

### **Taylor lawyer challenges moving trial to The Hague**

REUTERS/George Osodi/Pool FREETOWN, April 10 (Reuters) - The lawyer of former Liberian leader Charles Taylor is challenging moves to transfer his client's war crimes trial to The Hague, saying this could compromise his chance of a fair hearing.

Taylor, long one of Africa's most feared warlords, pleaded not guilty at a U.N.-backed tribunal in Sierra Leone a week ago to 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity for his role in the West African country's 1991-2002 civil war.

The U.N.-backed court has asked the Netherlands to hold the rest of his trial in The Hague, citing fears that keeping him in Sierra Leone could provoke unrest among pockets of supporters there and in neighbouring countries including Liberia.

"There has been no showing of good cause for the Special Court to try Mr Charles Taylor away from Freetown," Taylor's British defence lawyer, Karim Khan, said in a motion filed to the court and seen by Reuters on Monday.

"The change in venue proposed would appear, prima facie, to be discriminatory. ... Without such a showing of good cause, it is submitted that the change of venue proposed is contrary to the rights of the accused," the motion said.

Khan argued that moving the trial from Freetown would put Taylor too far from witnesses needed for his defence and said there was no reason why his case should be treated differently to other war crimes trials under way at the Sierra Leone court.

Court experts say witnesses could appear by video link if the trial were to be moved but they add the use of such technology could raise legal issues in such a high-profile international human rights case.

Ideally, judges should be able to draw conclusions from a witness's demeanour and anything preventing them from doing so could lead to delays in the trial due to challenges from either prosecution or defence lawyers, the experts say.

Khan said before any decision on changing the trial's venue is made, Taylor's legal team must be given the chance to present to the court their arguments against moving the trial.

He called on the president of the Special Court to withdraw his request to the Dutch government to host the trial as well as his request to the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague for the use of ICC facilities in the event of a move.

Under Sierra Leone's 2002 agreement with the United Nations establishing the court, any move abroad must be agreed by the governments of Sierra Leone and the country it is moved to.

Sierra Leone's vice president, Solomon Berewa, told Reuters last week his country's greatest concern was that Taylor be judged and that he was happy for the trial to move if necessary.

Taylor stands accused of supplying weapons to Sierra Leone's RUF rebel force in return for diamonds to fund his regime in Liberia. He denies links with the rebels.

The charges against Taylor, who is being detained in a prison cell guarded by Mongolian U.N. peacekeepers in the court compound, accuse him of involvement in acts of terrorism, murder, rape, enslavement and recruiting child soldiers.

United Nations

10 April 2006

**DAILY PRESS BRIEFING BY THE OFFICE OF THE SPOKESMAN FOR THE  
SECRETARY-GENERAL**

The following is a near-verbatim transcript of today's noon briefing by Stéphane Dujarric, Spokesman for the Secretary-General.

-SNIP-

**\*\*Security Council**

-SNIP-

And I think the President of the Council, the Ambassador of China, briefed you a short while ago.

-SNIP-

**\*\*Questions and Answers**

Question: I wanted to ask you -- the Security Council President went to the stakeout today and said that the Secretary-General is trying to have voluntary contributions to have a solid foundation for the Charles Taylor trial, for the ICC. And I know that he's done that -- he's made certain calls for people to contribute money. Is he doing anything specific right now for that?

Spokesman: Yes, he sent out a letter last week to all Member States appealing for funds for the Special Court.

Question: Any comeback on that?

Spokesman: Not that I'm aware of yet.

-SNIP-

Question: On Wednesday, this Wednesday, the Secretary-General, together with the President of the General Assembly, Mr. Eliasson, will visit the [International] Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in The Hague. What is the message that the Secretary-General will deliver to those in Court?

Spokesman: Well, I think the intent of his trip to The Hague is for the anniversary of the International Court of Justice. That is the focus of his trip.

He will also take the opportunity while in The Hague to visit the ICC and the ICTY. The Secretary-General has underscored a number of times the importance the ICTY is doing, but more importantly, noted that a number of people are missing from the dock in the ICTY and need to be brought to justice and that is Mr. Mladic and Mr. Karadzic.

## Thisday (Nigeria)

9 April 2006

### **UN Urged to Fund Taylor's Transfer to the Hague**

By Ndubuisi Ugah  
Lagos

Executive Director, Open Society Justice Initiative (OSJI), Mr. James A. Goldston at the weekend, urged the United Nations (UN) to consider the cost to be incurred in having former Liberian President Charles Taylor's trial for war crimes and crimes against humanity, relocated from Sierra Leone to the International Court at The Hague.

The group warned that the international community must shoulder the increased financial costs and address the likely negative impact for Taylor's victims.

The warning, which is coming against the UN Security Council's expected consideration of a resolution to relocate the trial at the Special Court for Sierra Leone from Freetown to The Hague which is hinged on concerns based on the potential impact of the trial on security and peace in Sierra Leone and Liberia.

It would be recalled that the legal action launched in 2004 in Nigeria's courts by the Justice Initiative and the Lagos-based law firm Aluko and Oyeboode helped set in motion the recent delivery of Charles Taylor to the SCSL.

The suit, seeking to end Taylor's asylum in Nigeria, was filed on behalf of two Nigerian citizens who suffered amputations at the hands of the Taylor-backed Revolutionary United Front in Sierra Leone.

The legal effort was supported by a coalition of NGOs across West Africa which advocated in many quarters for Taylor to be tried by the SCSL. Last November a Nigerian high court backed the victims' right to sue to overturn Taylor's asylum.

The ruling would have allowed the plaintiffs to invoke Nigerian legislation barring asylum for war criminals to challenge the decision to harbor Taylor. Hearings were pending at the time Taylor was handed over.

However, Goldston in calling on the UN to consider the extra-costs said, "moving the trial from Freetown to The Hague will impose considerable burdens on victims and witnesses, and increase the challenge of ensuring broad public engagement in Taylor's trial". He stated that "the Security Council must do everything in its power to overcome these costs. re they occurred.

Among other benefits, this has permitted public interaction with the Court and its officials, facilitated access for victims and witnesses, and directly confronted impunity in West Africa. Any relocation of the trial must ensure that the positive message of prosecution is not undermined by its removal from the Mano River region".

Collaborating Goldston's position, Justice Initiative's Senior Legal Officer for Africa, Mr. Chidi Anselm Odinkalu, said "the victims of Taylor's crimes are the Special Court's primary constituency".

Odinkalu noted that "the Security Council must ensure that a decision to move the trial does not overlook their interests as witnesses, participants, and advocates."

According to him, "the extra costs of holding Taylor's trial in The Hague would include: the need to relocate judges, prosecutors and court staff; the need to transport witnesses and victims, many of whom are physically disabled and psychologically traumatized; the impossibility for a significant number of Sierra Leoneans to be physically present in the courtroom; the diluted impact of the trial on political leaders and the general public in West Africa; the difficulty for Mano River Union media to cover the proceedings; and the risk that the move might delay and/or prolong the trial".

It is therefore, essential that if the trial is relocated, the Security Council should plan for, and minimise, these costs by identifying and providing extra financial resources, above and beyond the existing Special Court budget, from United Nations assessed funds to pay for these needs. The move to The Hague should not be paid for with voluntary contributions from UN member states.

Specifically, the group added that the Security Council should accept responsibility for funding or facilitating the following measures:

- Broadcasting the trial throughout West Africa, including on television, radio, the internet, and on video disk. The scarcity of electricity and appropriate equipment in much of the region will require additional investments in facilities and technology. Funding should also be made available to ensure presence of Sierra Leonean and Liberian media at The Hague.
- Providing fast-tracked visa applications, transportation, and accommodation in The Hague, to allow witnesses and victims to attend the trial.
- Arranging to meet the special needs of victims and witnesses attending the trial who are without limbs, otherwise physically disabled, and/or in need of psychological support services.
- Maintaining the Court's expeditious pace, so the move to The Hague does not compromise the defendant's right to speedy trial or the victims' interest in seeing justice as promptly as possible.

Trials held at the Special Court for Sierra Leone are intended to send a clear message to the people of West Africa and beyond that anyone who commits mass crimes will be held legally accountable. Any relocation of the trial of Charles Taylor must ensure that this positive legacy of the judicial process for the peoples of the region is preserved.

## African News Dimension

11 April 2006

[http://www.andnetwork.com/app?service=direct/0/Home/\\$StorySummary\\$0.\\$DirectLink\\$2&sp=129006](http://www.andnetwork.com/app?service=direct/0/Home/$StorySummary$0.$DirectLink$2&sp=129006)

### **Disappointed Taylor family members back from Liberia**

By Andnetwork .com

Some members of the family of former Liberian president Charles Taylor, have arrived back into the country from Sierra Leone, where they had gone to see the detained former leader.

According to Mr. Taylor's National Patriotic Party (NPP) Assistant Secretary General Eric Kennedy, those of Mr. Taylor family members who arrived in the country are Sando Johnson, a cousin to the former President, Pinkay and Edgna Taylor, biological sisters to the former President and one of the former President's legal counsels from Liberia Cllr. Theophillius Gould.

The family members of the former Liberian President, were in Freetown to see him but only two of the former President biological sisters met with him in detention while the rest of the family members were not allow to see him, after they were reportedly told by authority of the special court to obtain security clearance from Liberian authority.

Mr. Sando Johnson, a cousin to the former President and a one time member of the Liberian parliament, told journalists today that the family is disappointed over the fact that they were not allow in full to meet with the former President.

Mr. Johnson described the decision to disallow some of the from meeting with the former President as unfair and called on the UN War Crime Court to recognize the rights of the former President by granting his family the right to see him.

Meanwhile, NPP Assistant Secretary General Eric Kennedy, said to AND today that massive preparation are underway for the holding of a party rally intended to raise funds for the defense of the former President trial.

Patrick Wrokpoh  
Monrovia

## Voice of America

10 April 2006

### **Hague Trial Could Mean Justice for More West African War Victims**

By Catherine Maddux

Washington

Maxwell Fornah, and Musa Vandi, who are both war amputees, battle for the ball in Freetown, Sierra Leone, Saturday, April, 1, 2006

The arrest of former Liberian President Charles Taylor on war crimes charges closes one chapter in the history of more than a decade of brutal civil wars in West Africa. Now that he is in custody of a special U.N.-backed, war-crimes court in Sierra Leone, momentum is building to take Taylor out of the region, where he still wields considerable influence, to face justice at the international war crimes tribunal in The Hague.

For many people in West Africa, there is no doubt that Mr. Taylor's arrest and transfer last month to Sierra Leone's war crimes court has brought relief and, even, a feeling of joy.

Sierra Leone native Ismail Rashid is a professor of African Studies at Vassar College.

"Overwhelmingly, in the region, the mood has been one of jubilation that Charles Taylor has been docked, and is going to have his day in court," said Professor Rashid. "In other words, for people in Guinea, for people in Liberia and for people in Sierra Leone, whose lives have been largely under the shadow of Charles Taylor, this, for them, is a great moment."

Rashid spoke along with other experts, who have followed Taylor's infamous career, at a recent seminar at the U.S. Institute of Peace in Washington.

The man responsible for indicting Taylor on 11 counts of war crimes, David Crane, also addressed the audience. Crane, now a law professor, was formerly the chief prosecutor of the Sierra Leone court.

He says the court has clear evidence that what turned into years of devastation in West Africa began as a strategic and criminal plan involving several African leaders.

"Charles Taylor was the center point of a 10-year, geopolitical plan that [Libyan leader] Former Liberian President Charles Taylor makes his first appearance at the Special Court in Freetown April 3, 2006

Moammar Gadhafi had started back in the late '80's, and began to recruit various individuals to include [rebel leader] Foday Sankoh, [Burkina Faso's] Blaise Compaore," he said. "And what we really found was a joint criminal enterprise, set up to take the diamonds out of eastern Sierra Leone, to use this as a base to finance this geo-political plan of Moammar Gadhafi to take over a large portion of West Africa politically."

Crane says, from the beginning, prosecutors wanted Taylor caught, taken out of West Africa to allow peace to take root in the region and transferred to the tribunal in The Hague. Last week, the U.N. Security Council announced broad agreement for moving the trial to the Netherlands.



But as the case against Taylor gets under way, some experts worry that the other horrific crimes, including the maiming, raping and enslaving of civilians, that victimized an estimated 600,000 people in Liberia are going to be forgotten.

That is because Taylor has been charged for his role in supporting rebels who fought in Sierra Leone's war, not in the separate 14-years of civil war in Liberia.

Liberia Institute for Peace, Democracy and Good Governance advisor Phillip Banks led the drafting of Liberia's current post-war constitution. He says, the statute Taylor has been charged under in the Sierra Leone war crimes court does not allow for the prosecution of others with blood on their hands.

"It limits effectively the prosecution of a lot of the individuals, who were associated with the conflict. The leaders of all of the warring factions, who participated in tremendous atrocities over a period of more than a decade - they cannot be reached by that court," said Banks. "Because that court can try only individuals, whose activities impacted on Sierra Leone."

And, so, Banks and the other speakers are calling for the creation of a tribunal for Liberia.

"There was more than [one] person, and I am talking about leadership inside countries in Africa, who were involved in the perpetration of the atrocities that were committed in that region, and whose action in support of those atrocities in my opinion, constituted their complicity in the crimes against humanity," added Banks. "Specifically, I can point to Cote D'Voire [Ivory Coast] and Burkina Faso."

Whether or not Liberia's victims get their day in court, Crane says, justice appears to be coming to those who bear the greatest responsibility for the atrocities that took place during a decade of war in Sierra Leone.

"You know, when you are sitting there trying these guys, and you have these people led in, [who are] missing various body parts," said David Crane. "And, you see one of them point their stump at the accused, saying 'you did this to me,' because their hand is missing, and then walk out proudly with their head held high past these guys, that is justice."

Last week, Taylor made his first appearance in the Sierra Leone court. He initially said he could not enter a plea, because he did not recognize the court. But after the judge insisted, Taylor said he did not commit, and could not have committed such crimes against humanity in Sierra Leone.

## Voice of America

7 April 2006

### Charles Taylor Faces War Crimes Court

By Judith Latham  
Washington  
07 April 2006

[Judith Latham's Report 1.2 MB \(Real\)](#) 

[Judith Latham's Report 3.4 MB \(MP3\)](#) 



AP Photo

Former Liberian president Charles Taylor pleaded not guilty to 11 counts of war crimes this week in Freetown, Sierra Leone. The former warlord-turned-president is accused of supporting the Revolutionary United Front rebels during Sierra Leone's decade-long civil war. The rebel group was notorious for training child soldiers who went on to torture, rape, and in thousands of cases amputate the hands and feet of their civilian victims.

**Former Liberian President Charles Taylor made his first appearance at the Special Court in Freetown, Sierra Leone on April 3, 2006**

But officials in both Liberia and Sierra Leone question whether any government in the region can provide the security needed to hold Taylor. They note that he once successfully escaped from a prison in the United States, and just last week he fled his guarded government compound in Nigeria before being apprehended near the border with Cameroon. President Johnson-Sirleaf has requested his transfer to The Hague.



AP Photo

**On the request of the new Liberian President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, Nigeria lifted Taylor's asylum status and handed him over to Liberian authorities**

Liberian journalist Frank Sainworla of *Radio Veritas* in Monrovia says Liberians have mixed feelings about whether Mr. Taylor should ultimately face trial in Freetown or The Hague. Speaking with host Judith Latham of VOA News Now's *International Press Club*, Mr. Sainworla noted that Liberia has a young democracy and a very fragile security situation. And he said most Liberians feel the environment is not conducive to a free and fair trial. He added that, although many people in Sierra Leone are skeptical about the "process" of the war crimes court in The Hague, they are most concerned that Mr. Taylor "pay the price for the crimes he committed," which will serve as a deterrent to others.



**Between 1991 and 2002, people of Sierra Leone suffered untold hardship and injuries as a result of the war allegedly engineered by Taylor**

Sierra Leonean journalist Andrew Kromah, who recently returned to Freetown after conducting an opinion poll outside the capital, said Mr. Taylor's trial has the overwhelming support of the public. They are satisfied that he is being brought to justice but concerned over issues of security.

Nigerian journalist Sunday Dare also suggested that, based on reactions following Mr. Taylor's brief disappearance from Nigerian custody and his subsequent arrest, most Nigerians think the wily former Liberian president should be made to account for his crimes. And most important, the trial should serve as a "lesson for other leaders." Mr. Dare added that Charles Taylor's critics want the accused to pay "some kind of restitution." He contrasted the current situation with that during the war in Rwanda.

The U.N. Security Council is expected to put forward a resolution on a change of venue for the trial to The Hague.

## Analyst (Monrovia)

4 April 2006

### **Liberian Refugees In S/Leone Fear**

Want Protection, Attestation, To Be Resettled  
By Gibson W. Jerue in Freetown, S/Leone

Hundreds of Liberian refugees living Freetown and parts adjacent say they are living in fear since the arrest and detention of former Liberian President Charles Taylor in Freetown, Sierra Leone.

The refugees gathered at the offices of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Freetown to ask the UN refugees agency to ensure their protection against any form of harassment and intimidation.

Some of them told The Analyst in separate interviews that since the arrest and detention of Taylor in Freetown, they have been afraid to move around freely especially at night due to rumors that Sierra Leoneans will attack them.

According to them, there are rumors in Freetown that when Taylor was arrested at the Robert International Airport (RIA) by the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), some Liberian youths loyal to Taylor attacked Sierra Leoneans living in Monrovia.

“As a result of that rumor we are afraid to move in the night,” said Henrietta Johnson, although the Liberians pointed to no incident of attack against any member of the refugees in Sierra Leone. Apart from the fear of attack, there are other problems the refugees complained about that they believe the UNHCR has not been able to attend to.

Henrietta narrated a story that her daughter (name withheld), now 16, was raped at age 7 in 1996 in Gbarnga, Bong County by armed men she referred to as “Taylor’s men”. According to her, apart from the trauma her daughter has been living with, she too has been suffering from a disease that causes pus to ooze from the nipper of her right breast.

“The doctors in Freetown had first operated my breast but the same problem has come back. I was told I need to seek medical attention elsewhere, but the UNHCR has not paid attention to my case,” she lamented. Angeline Dayera also has what she called “serious medical problem”.

She said she sustained a bullet wound in her right hand in the early years of the 1990 war when she was 8-month pregnant. As a result of effect of the bullet the baby died in her stomach but was safely delivered. “Since then I have been experiencing serious problem from my hand to my chest,” she told The Analyst.

Angeline whose eyes were bloodstained, sniffed unceasingly as though suffering from perennial rhinitis or runny nose as she spoke with our reporter. “I am dying slowly but the UN people do not want to see about my case. I have come here many times but they keep telling me to come back each time,” she said.

Mahmoud Dassin says he too suffers from a chest problem that he acquired from playing football when he was a kid. Now in refugee camp, the problem comes more strongly now. His major problem apart from the chest problem, he has no attestation to live as a refugee in Sierra Leone.

“When the police ask me I just speak Liberian English or I show some kind of document that I brought with me long time from Liberia. That’s how they let me to go,” he noted. But he indicated that the recent rumor about Liberian pro-Taylor youths reportedly attacking Sierra Leoneans has heightened his fears to move freely in the night because he does not even have a piece of document to show that he is a refugee or resident.

Although our reporter clarified that there was no incidents of attack against Sierra Leoneans in Liberia, the refugees said the rumor was strong and some Sierra Leoneans were threatening them too.

Another concern of the refugees borders on resettlement. They want the UNHCR to resettle them to a third country on grounds that they do want to stay in Sierra Leone they “have nowhere to stay in Liberia” since their homes were destroyed. Apart from recent alleged threat, they gave no reason for their fear to live in Sierra Leone.

They alleged that UNHCR has decided to resettle only 400 individuals instead of 400 family heads. “We have more than 400 family heads, how can they just resettle only 400 individuals,” one refugee said. When contacted, the Senior Protection Officer of the UNHCR in Freetown, George Masbay Kuchio said as far as he was concerned there has been no incident of threat reported to his office for attention.

Responding to UNHCR failure to attend to those with medical concerns, Mr. Kuchio said the agency has been paying and continues to pay for the medical treatment of Liberian refugees. “Even if you did not come to us and you went to the hospital, we still pay the bills,” he said.

According to him, the UN refugee agency does not treat refugees better than citizens and that if there was any major medical issue that could be arranged but that that depended on the funds available. On resettlement, he said, “every resettlement issue is determined by the requesting country. And these countries, like America, Canada, and few other European countries, set their criteria and these criteria must be met.”

He divulged that what the UNHCR discovered is that Liberian refugees are in the habit of telling them fake problems, and that there are others who are not Liberians but posing as Liberians and seeking refugee status as Liberians.

Mr. Kuchio dismissed the notion that only 400 individuals will be resettled. He said the US has informed the UN that Priority-3 would stop as of September 30.

He said there is no new request for refugees resettle as yet.

Reuters

10 April 2006

## **FEATURE-The Hague thrives as international justice booms**

By Emma Thomasson

THE HAGUE, April 10 (Reuters) - Slobodan Milosevic's cell may not be empty for long. The death of the former Yugoslav president was a brief setback in what is otherwise a boom time for international justice and its capital, The Hague.

Milosevic's death in custody deprived the U.N. tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) of a verdict in the trial of its highest-profile suspect, but others should take his place soon in The Hague, including former Liberian leader Charles Taylor.

"The tribunal can absolutely survive the death of Milosevic," said Avril McDonald from the T.M.C. Asser Institute, an organisation which researches law, in The Hague.

"There is so much going on at the moment."

Hopes are growing that Serbia will arrest top fugitive Ratko Mladic, indicted for genocide in the 1992-95 Bosnian war.

The European Union has given Belgrade until the end of April to surrender the Bosnian Serb former general or risk a freeze on talks leading up to membership of the 25-nation bloc.

Even if Mladic remains at large, the tribunal is busier than ever after the arrival of a flood of suspects in the past year. In August, it plans to launch a combined trial of Bosnian Serbs charged with genocide over the 1995 Srebrenica massacre.

The week after Milosevic died, the new International Criminal Court (ICC) -- also based in The Hague -- received its first suspect, Congolese militia leader Thomas Lubanga.

Set up in 2002 as the first permanent court to try individuals for war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity, the ICC also looks set to play host to former Liberian President Taylor, arrested in Nigeria last month and sent for trial to Sierra Leone.

The U.N.-backed court for Sierra Leone has asked to move Taylor's trial to The Hague from Freetown, fearing his supporters could provoke unrest in Sierra Leone and Liberia.

Taylor has pleaded not guilty to 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity for his role backing rebels who raped and mutilated civilians and recruited child soldiers during Sierra Leone's 1991-2002 civil war.

## **MOMENTUM GATHERS**

The seat of the Dutch government and royal family, The Hague has been a centre for international law since it hosted a peace conference in 1899 that led to the founding of the Permanent Court of Arbitration, set up to settle disputes between states.

Besides the arbitration court, the ICC and the Yugoslavia tribunal, The Hague is home to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) -- the U.N.'s highest legal body which celebrates its 60th anniversary on April 12.

The courts employ hundreds of legal heavyweights from around the world, such as U.N. chief prosecutor Carla del Ponte who investigated organised crime in Switzerland and ICC prosecutor Luis Moreno Ocampo, who brought Argentine army commanders to justice for mass killings and other human rights abuses.

The ICC's first arrest and the possibility of it hosting the Taylor trial represent a major advance for a court fiercely opposed by the United States, which fears it will be abused for political prosecutions of its soldiers and citizens.

"People need to see that it's a success before they sign up to it," said international law expert McDonald. "You have to reach a certain critical mass. It's a question of momentum."

Janet Anderson from the Institute for War and Peace Reporting said U.S. neo-conservatives were still opposed to the ICC but noted that Washington was taking a more pragmatic approach to the court, most crucially by not blocking a Security Council referral to the ICC of crimes in Sudan's Darfur region:

"There is realpolitik about the fact that the ICC exists," she said. "It is because it is permanent. It's not a temporary tribunal. It's got this huge, broad mandate."

Elsewhere, international law is breaking new ground.

The United Nations is considering setting up a special court to try suspects in the murder of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri, killed by a bomb in Beirut last year.

Iraq, which is trying Saddam Hussein in a national court, has drawn on the experience of international tribunals.

Global justice has come a long way since the Nuremberg and Tokyo trials of Nazi and Japanese leaders after World War Two.

Rosalyn Higgins, the president of the ICJ which deals with disputes between states, says international law is flourishing in an era of relative peace since the end of the Cold War.

"Globalisation means that we understand more and more that what any one of us does as a state has its impact on other states," the British judge said.

## LEGAL CAPITAL

U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan will attend the ICJ's 60th anniversary in its imposing home -- the towering red-brick Peace Palace, built a century ago to house the Permanent Court of Arbitration and paid for by U.S. industrialist Andrew Carnegie.

While the war crimes trials of leaders such as Milosevic tend to attract most attention, Higgins said inter-state justice is equally important. The ICJ is hearing a landmark case brought by Bosnia against Serbia, accusing it of sponsoring genocide.

"We are getting more and more cutting-edge or hot issues," she said. "There is more to international life than villains."

Elected in February as the first female president of the court, Higgins wants to develop networks between global courts.

"We all have our friends in the other courts," she said. "I would like to systemise these contacts."

This activity is good news for the city of The Hague.

International organisations accounted for about 5 percent of employment in The Hague in 2004 and contributed about 6 percent of the city's economic output.

The city presented a report to the Dutch government last year to recommend investing almost 1 billion euros to entrench its position as the self-pro-claimed legal capital of the world.

"We are paying more and more attention to the environment and the atmosphere. We want an international legal atmosphere," Hague Mayor Wim Deetman told Reuters at a packed reception for legal experts attending a conference on peace and justice.

"The inhabitants of The Hague know we are a city of peace, justice and security. This has become a part of The Hague."

## Houston Chronicle (USA)

7 April 2006

### Justice in Africa

The arrest of Liberia's Charles Taylor signals the end of getting away with murder in Africa.

It has been noted many times since Charles Taylor was handed over to the U.N.-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone that the former Liberian president is the first African head of state to face prosecution for war crimes. Sadly, this is not because Taylor is the first despot to commit horrible crimes on that continent. His prosecution sets a valuable precedent that ought to serve as a warning to corrupt African leaders that the days of immunity from internationally recognized rules on human rights and decency are over.

Before Taylor, an appallingly long list of African heads of state went unpunished, though they were responsible for millions of deaths, in their own countries and in neighboring states. The names of the murderous dictators are well-known. Two of the most notorious are:

- Mobutu Sese Seko, president of Zaire, now Congo, from 1965 to 1997, who tortured and killed his political rivals after rising to power in a coup d'état.
- Idi Amin, president of Uganda from 1971 to 1979, fomented sectarian violence. His death squads reportedly tortured and murdered as many as half a million Ugandans.

Charles Taylor is charged with crimes against humanity committed during Sierra Leone's civil war, where he inserted himself and a rebel army to gain control of the country's diamond trade. The 2003 indictment accuses Taylor of supervising the country's rebel forces in brutalizing civilians suspected of supporting Sierra Leone's elected government. He faces charges of ordering the shooting, hacking and burning of victims. Other alleged crimes include systematic rape, forced sexual slavery and the abduction of young children for use on the battlefield. Taylor's forces are alleged to have chopped off thousands of defenseless people's arms, legs and facial features.

But it is not enough that this bloodthirsty tyrant is facing overdue justice. The U.N. court must also avoid mistakes it made in other prosecutions. In the case of former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic, many observers criticized the court for mounting such a wide-ranging prosecution that the so-called Butcher of the Balkans died in prison last month without a verdict after nearly four years of leaden proceedings.

And there are questions about how best to carry out Taylor's trial to ensure a fair and just outcome. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, the president of Liberia, believes Taylor's continued presence in West Africa is a destabilizing political force in a region bloody from civil war. Trying Taylor at the Hague could be equally unsatisfying if Africans view the maneuver as removing the former warlord from the scene of his crimes.

Under a draft U.N. Security Council resolution that works out a reasonable compromise, Taylor is to be tried in the Netherlands, but court personnel will be from Sierra Leone.

Taylor's exile in Nigeria from 2003 and his arrest last month did not end Africa's nightmare with tyrannical rulers. President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe, who has displaced an estimated 700,000 of his poorest citizens in an ostensible slum cleanup that was really meant to quash political dissent, is an example. Taylor's trial should put leaders like Mugabe on notice that retirement from a heartless dictatorship does not lead to a luxury villa abroad, but possibly to a jail cell.



United Nations



Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

## UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 10 April

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

### **International Clips on Liberia**

Associated Press

#### **The Hague, a city for international justice for 100 years, is about to add one more court**

By ARTHUR MAX

THE HAGUE, Netherlands\_ It started more than 100 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 Hague \_ the small capital of a neutral country. Since that 1899 peace conference created the first panel to arbitrate disputes among nations, the Dutch city near the North Sea coast has become host to a confusing array of international courts, law enforcement agencies and watchdogs. The city is about to add one more when the Sierra Leone special court moves its biggest war crimes case to The Hague \_ the trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor \_ borrowing prison and courtroom facilities from one of the international courts already functioning here.

Editorial in The Plain Dealer 9 April 2006

#### **Put Liberia's Taylor on trial**

The United States, among others, wants a trial in The Hague for former Liberian President Charles Taylor, accused of crimes against humanity. The proceedings would still be under the jurisdiction of the United Nations-backed tribunal in Sierra Leone, where Taylor's worst crimes took place. Sierra Leone and nearby Liberia are emerging shakily from long civil wars. They want no part of Taylor, fearing that his militias might author another round of savagery if he remains in the neighborhood.

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

#### **Ivory Coast leaders agree to launch pre-election process**

**ABIDJAN**, April 8, 2006 (AFP) - The five main rival leaders in Ivory Coast have got their country's peace process back on track by agreeing to launch a disarmament programme and a census leading to elections by the end of October, African Union head Denis Sassou Nguesso said after talks here Saturday. "We leave with the feeling that things here are moving and are heading in the right direction ... that the train is on the rails," he said. The meeting was attended by President Laurent Gbagbo, Prime Minister Charles Konan Banny, rebel leader Guillaume Soro, Henry Konan Bedie of the Democratic Party of Ivory Coast (PDCI, once the only legal party in the country) and Alassane Outtara of the Rally of Republicans (RDR).

### **Local Media – Newspapers**

**UN Security Council Urges Government to Work toward Lifting of Sanctions**

(*Daily Observer, The News, The Inquirer, The Analyst, New Democrat, National Chronicle and Liberian Express*)

- The Chairman of the UN Security Council Committee on Sanctions, Ellen Margrethe Loj, told a news conference in Monrovia over the weekend that the government was working hard to meet the conditions set by the Security Council for the lifting of sanctions on Liberia and needed to continue.

### **Defense Minister Speaks on Taylor's Arrest**

(*National Chronicle and The Informer*)

- Defense Minister Brownie Samukai told reporters over the weekend that contrary to allegations by the National Patriotic Party, it was UN troops—not the Liberian government—that arrested and handcuffed former President Charles Taylor when he arrived in Liberia. He said that the government was there to see to it that whatever was done to Mr. Taylor was through the legal process.

### **Justice Ministry to Freeze Assets of Former Close Associates of Taylor**

(*New Democrat*)

- Justice Minister Frances Johnson-Morris told *New Democrat* recently that the government was initiating measures to comply with a UN resolution to seize the assets of Liberians on the Security Council's assets-freeze list. She said that she had requested international partners to assist in drafting a legislation to facilitate the seizure of the assets, since according to her there is no such legislation on the books in Liberia.

### **Civil Servants Threaten Street Protest**

(*National Chronicle*)

- The Chairman of the Civil Servants Association of Liberia (CSAL), Jefferson Elliot said over the weekend that the CSAL was planning a major street demonstration in Monrovia to protest the government's decision to put many civil servants out of job without just compensations.

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

#### **Group Calls for Establishing War Crimes Tribunal in Liberia**

- In a statement issued in Monrovia over the weekend, a new group, Forum for the establishment of a War Crimes Court in Liberia, said that it was timely and expedient to establish a war crimes court in Liberia. Arguing that the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) cannot be a recipe for genuine peace and reconciliation, the group said that in addition to mobilizing public opinion in favour of the court, it was planning a big march to lobby the National Legislature on the necessity of setting up such a court.

#### **UN Security Council Urges Government to Work toward Lifting of Sanctions**

(*Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio*)

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

#### **Rape Suspects Roam Free Say Female Lawyers**

- The Association of Female Lawyers of Liberia (AFELL) said recently that rape suspects were still being released on bail despite the new Rape Law, which makes the offense non-bailable. AFELL Administrator Zeor Dalou Bernard blamed the Liberia National Police for failing to follow the rape law.

#### **Government Needs More Lawyers Says Solicitor-General**

- Liberia's Solicitor-General Tiawan Gongloe told Star Radio over the weekend that the Justice Ministry needed a total of 29 trained and qualified lawyers to man the Circuit Courts in the leeward counties and serve as state prosecutors.

**Taylor Betrayed Nigeria's Trust Says Nigerian Government Minister**

- Nigeria's Minister of Labour and Productivity Dr. Hassan Lawal said recently that the attempted escape of former Liberian President Charles Taylor was a betrayal of Nigeria's trust, adding his arrest was God's intention.

*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)

## UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 9 April 2006

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

### **International Clips on Liberia**

**AP Online Regional - Africa** 04/08/2006 19:07:06

#### **U.N. Chair Wants Liberia Sanctions Lifted**

By JONATHAN PAYE-LAYLEH, Associated Press Writer

MONROVIA, Liberia\_The chairwoman of the U.N. committee overseeing sanctions on Liberia said Saturday she hoped the measures imposed on the diamond and timber industries would soon be lifted thanks to progress the country has made. Ellen Margrethe Loj, the chairwoman of the U.N. committee, said she understood from discussions with the new president and officials that "a lot is being done, but we are not quite there yet."

#### **War victims say robbed of part of healing process if Taylor trial transferred**

by Susan Njanji

FREETOWN, April 9, 2006 (AFP) - Transferring the trial of former Liberian president Charles Taylor to The Hague will rob Sierra Leone of an essential part of the healing process, war victims said as the UN inched towards shifting the hearing to Europe. The west African warlord is accused of sponsoring and aiding rebel groups who perpetrated murder, sexual slavery, mutilation and conscription of child soldiers in Sierra Leone's brutal civil war in exchange for a share in the lucrative diamond trade.

The UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone has requested that Taylor's trial be moved to the Netherlands on security grounds.

**The Economist** 8 April 2006

#### **A big man in a small cell - Charles Taylor**

*Editorial*

AFTER three years on the run, Charles Taylor, African warlord turned president, finally appeared in a UN-backed court in Sierra Leone on April 4th, charged with 11 counts of crimes against humanity and other serious violations of international law. He is accused of being the "co-perpetrator" of heinous atrocities carried out by the rebel group he backed during Sierra Leone's 11-year civil war. Five days earlier, the former Liberian president had cut a much sorer figure when he stepped off a UN helicopter, handcuffed and bedraggled, in Sierra Leone's capital, Freetown. Whisked through streets of cheering crowds, happy to see their once all-powerful tormentor brought low, he was taken straight to his cell within the heavily guarded court compound. It marked the end of three years of luxurious exile in Nigeria. It could also mark the beginning of the end of impunity for African "big men." Mr Taylor is the first African head of state to be indicted for crimes against humanity.

For security reasons, the trial may be transferred to The Hague. Mr Taylor, who made vast sums of money smuggling Sierra Leonean "blood diamonds", still exerts considerable influence in the region, particularly in Liberia, where many of his supporters are now in power and where he continues to finance and arm at least one armed militia. Though the Netherlands has agreed in principle to host the trial (in the premises of the International

Criminal Court in The Hague), it is insisting that a country first be found that is willing to host Mr Taylor after (or if) he is convicted.

Some civil-rights groups are nevertheless urging that the trial take place in Sierra Leone. The whole purpose of having tribunals "in theatre" was to bring the proceedings closer to the victims, they say. There would also be the huge extra cost of transferring the proceedings—judges, witnesses and officials—to the much more expensive Netherlands. The Special Court relies on voluntary donations from UN member states, and is already finding it difficult to raise enough to cover its modest annual budget of \$25m. All these issues have yet to be worked out. Meanwhile, let the world rejoice that it finally has got such a monster behind bars. Few ever believed that it really would happen.

## **International Clips on West Africa**

### **Reshuffle fiasco raises fears for Guinea post-Conte**

By Alistair Thomson

DAKAR, April 9 (Reuters) - When Guinea's founding president Ahmed Sekou Toure died suddenly in 1984 with no heir apparent, Lansana Conte simply staged a coup and grabbed power. More than two decades on, analysts fear history will repeat itself as the ailing, diabetic Conte's rule becomes increasingly erratic and members of his inner circle vie for power.

Last week, state media broadcast a decree from Conte bolstering Prime Minister Cellou Dalein Diallo by handing him key economic ministries, only for soldiers from the powerful army to burst in and seize the tapes to stop further broadcast.

Conte, a reclusive chain smoker now in his early 70s, sacked Diallo hours later in an abrupt U-turn analysts said showed an unprecedented failure of the control that has characterised his rule. "One expects the unexpected in Guinea, but we have never before seen such inconsistency in a short space of time," said Richard Reeve, West Africa specialist at London-based think-tank Chatham House.

### **Ivory Coast leaders agree to launch pre-election process**

**ABIDJAN**, April 8, 2006 (AFP) - The five main rival leaders in Ivory Coast have got their country's peace process back on track by agreeing to launch a disarmament programme and a census leading to elections by the end of October, African Union head Denis Sassou Nguesso said after talks here Saturday.

"We leave with the feeling that things here are moving and are heading in the right direction ... that the train is on the rails," he said.

The meeting was attended by President Laurent Gbagbo, Prime Minister Charles Konan Banny, rebel leader Guillaume Soro, Henry Konan Bedie of the Democratic Party of Ivory Coast (PDCI, once the only legal party in the country) and Alassane Outtara of the Rally of Republicans (RDR).

*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)

## UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 7-8 April

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### **International Clips on Liberia**

#### **Former warlord and president could denounce former allies in defense against charges**

By DONNA BRYSON  
Associated Press Writer

Source: English General News Date: April 08, 2006

DAKAR, Senegal\_ Former Liberian President Charles Taylor was known for boasting of friends in high places. Now he could well find it useful to denounce them as he defends himself against war crimes charges. Taylor, who has pleaded not guilty before a Sierra Leone war crimes court, could now try to show his support for the Revolutionary United Front was a matter of politics, and that other leaders also supported the rebel group. Or he could simply name names out of spite, angry that former allies \_ or those that once at least tolerated him \_ did not prevent him being hauled before the independent, international tribunal trying those believed to hold the greatest responsibility for atrocities committed during the Sierra Leone war.

Orlando Sentinel 8 April 2006

#### **Liberia reflects on past atrocities A debate is under way in the country about the need for a war-crimes court.**

Jonathan Paye-Layleh,  
Associated Press Writer

MONROVIA, Liberia -- The sight of their former president standing before an international war-crimes court in neighboring Sierra Leone has revived a debate among Liberians about how best to confront their own history of atrocities.

#### **Security Council agrees on moving Charles Taylor's war crimes trial to the Netherlands**

By EDITH M. LEDERER  
Associated Press Writer

Source: English General News Date: April 07, 2006

UNITED NATIONS Security Council members agree that the war crimes trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor should be moved from Sierra Leone to the Netherlands but are still debating several issues including who should pay the costs, the council president said Friday. China's U.N. Ambassador Wang Guangya scheduled closed-door consultations Monday on the draft resolution that would give a green light to the transfer and said he expects it to be adopted early next week.

The Washington Post, 7 April 2006

## **Hope Builds in Liberia's Ruined Capital; With Taylor in Prison, Ex-Fighters among Those Working to Restore Monrovia**

Craig Timberg

During the years when he commanded 30 men and killed more enemy soldiers than he can recall, Tyrese Nyekar said he was known as "War Face." But in the newly democratic and largely peaceful Liberia, he has traded his machine gun for a shovel. And for \$2 a day, he is working to rebuild this battered capital on a road repair crew. A goatee still lends a touch of fierceness to the angular, 23-year-old face of this former child soldier, but Nyekar said his days of fighting and robbing civilians at gunpoint were over. With his former leader, warlord-turned-president Charles Taylor, in prison in neighboring Sierra Leone, Nyekar feels a tentative kind of optimism about the future -- for his city, for his country, for himself.

Editorial, The Boston Globe 6 April 2006

### **A RECKONING IN WEST AFRICA**

WITH ITS PROSECUTION of the former Liberian leader Charles Taylor, the United Nations will send a message to the strongmen of Africa that they can no longer export terror and death to neighboring nations. The trial needs to proceed fairly and quickly to convince Africans that the international community is serious about enforcing norms of conduct on this most vulnerable of continents.

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

#### **Sierra Leone's amputees find hope in football**

By Susan Njanji

FREETOWN, April 8, 2006 (AFP) - There are no kit bags or towels at the edges of a makeshift beachside pitch, just a couple of prostheses and a large plastic bottle of drinking water, but Sierra Leone's national amputees football team is in play. A group of single-legged young men, all victims of the west African nation's brutal civil war in which thousands lost limbs and other body parts not only to landmines or bullets, but also to hacking by rebel groups, has come together to seek encouragement and hope.

### **Local Media – Newspapers**

#### **Government Contemplates Funding Taylor's Defense**

*(Daily Observer and New Democrat)*

- The government of Liberia is considering underwriting the cost for the legal defense of indicted former President Charles Taylor following a request from Nigeria, according to Information Minister Johnny McClain. He said that the government was also interested in seeing that Mr. Taylor was represented by a capable defense team.

#### **Sierra Leone's Parliament Passes Resolution to Hold Taylor's Trial in Sierra Leone**

*(Heritage)*

- The House of Parliament in Sierra Leone recently passed a resolution to approve the trial of former President Charles Taylor in Sierra Leone. The resolution said that the trial should be held in Sierra Leone, where Mr. Taylor allegedly committed war crimes and crimes against humanity.

#### **Former Presidential Aide-Camp Arrested for Theft**

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

- Former aide-camp to former President Taylor, Momo Jibba, is in police custody on the charge of stealing a mobile phone, according to police spokeswoman Asatu Bah Kenneth.

#### **UNMIL Force Commander Encourages Liberians**

*(The Informer)*

- Speaking recently in Caldwell, Montserrado County during the UNMIL Nigerian Contingent launching of an integrated model farm, UNMIL Force Commander Lt.-Gen. Chikadibia Obiakor urged Liberians to use the country's resources to become self-sufficient in food production.

### **Government Promises Increment in Civil Servants' Salaries**

*(National Chronicle)*

- Information Minister Johnny McClain told journalists following a cabinet meeting on Thursday that President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf had announced a salary increment for civil servants in the 2006/2007 national budget.

### **Local Media – STAR RADIO** *(News culled from website today at 09:00 am)*

#### **Government Urges Firestone Workers to End Strike**

- In a statement issued in Monrovia yesterday, the government called on the workers of the Firestone Rubber Plantation Company to immediately return to work without conditions, pending the total resolution of the crisis over benefits.

#### **President Concerned About Corruption in Government**

- Appearing on the monthly radio talk show, "Conversation with the President," President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf expressed disappointment over the level of corruption in government.
- Describing corruption in government as systematic, Madame Johnson-Sirleaf said that there are individuals who are still bent on diverting government resources to their personal use.

#### **House Speaker Calls for the Lifting of Sanctions**

- In a meeting with the visiting UN Security Council delegation yesterday, House Speaker Edwin Snowe said that with the election of a credible leadership in Liberia, it was time that the Security Council lifted sanctions on the country. He said that the country needed to generate revenue for its reconstruction.

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## Cocorioko website

9 April 2006

Opinion

[http://www.cocorioko.com/read\\_opinions](http://www.cocorioko.com/read_opinions)

### **Charles Taylor's request for trial in Freetown: A ploy to induce chaos and anarchy in the region**

By Joseph S. Sherman, Washington, DC

April 9, 2006

Ex-President of Liberia, and indicted war-criminal, Charles Taylor request through his court appointed attorney that he prefers to be tried in Freetown instead of The Hague cast a shadow of suspicion as to what he and his die-hard sympathizers have in the back of their minds with regards the stability of Sierra Leone and Liberia.

Charles Taylor sudden change of mind for his trial to be held in Sierra Leone is in sharp contrast to earlier reports that he prefers the Hague because of his fear that Sierra Leone might be a hostile country and he may not get a fair trial.

What Charles Taylor fails to realize is that he days of manipulation and deceit are over, as the adage goes "you can fool people most of the time but you can't fool them all the time." His attempted escape from justice while in Nigeria is indicative of his sinister motives towards Liberia and Sierra Leone had he succeeded in his cowardly scheme.

The history of Charles Taylor being a master of deceit and manipulator started in 1989 when he launched his infamous insurrection in Liberia and reneging over 30 regional and international peace accords. He had created an impenetrable and untouchable kingdom among his sympathizers and admirers to the extent that he is still dreaming of his fools' paradise'.

Charles Taylor lust for wealth has incriminated him in allegedly backing and supporting the notorious RUF rebels in Sierra Leone resulting in raping, maiming women, children and the elderly and the plunder of Sierra Leone's natural resources such as diamonds in violation of the country's national sovereignty.

The demand for justice for victims of Taylor's sadistic acts is an integral part for lasting peace in Sierra Leone and the ECOWAS region. It will also bring and end to the circle of violence and culture of impunity prevalent among African leaders.

If the international community is interested in seeing peace in the region, Charles Taylor's last minute request to be tried in Sierra Leone should be ignored because he is not only trying to buy time but a sinister scheme to mobilize his supporters to start an insurrection that will ultimately destroy the fragile peace process in Liberia and Sierra Leone.

CentreDaily.com

10 April 2006

Opinion

<http://www.centredaily.com/mld/centredaily/news/opinion/14306456.htm>

## **THE LONG ARM (AND WAIT) OF JUSTICE WHEN WAR CRIMINALS GET A LESS-THAN-SPEEDY TRIAL**

THE ARREST of Charles Taylor, whose hands are stained with the blood of 400,000 people, most of them women and children, focuses renewed interest on how and why the world community brings despots to justice.

For 14 years the rebel and former president of Liberia led a ruthless regime, whose young and often doped-up soldiers, wearing wigs and masks, sliced off the arms and legs of their victims, gang raped them, forced them into sexual slavery, cut out their hearts, and ate them.

Taylor last week was charged with 11 counts of crimes against humanity after he was caught fleeing Nigeria. The charges relate to atrocities committed by rebel troops he supported in Sierra Leone's civil war.

He was in Nigeria awaiting extradition to Sierra Leone to face charges. Now the question is whether Taylor will be tried in a special U.N.- backed international court in Sierra Leone - where Taylor still enjoys some support - or in the new International Criminal Court in The Hague.

Taylor is the first former leader from Africa - a country whose abundant natural resources, tribalism and history of colonial domination make it ripe for internecine atrocities - to be charged with war crimes.

Meanwhile, former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic, "The Butcher of the Balkans," was on trial for more than four years when he was found dead in his cell last month at The Hague.

And former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein's trial for his involvement in the deaths of 140 Shia in 1982 is more circus than trial, thanks to his disruptive antics.

So is it worth the time (often lengthy because of enormous evidence-gathering and ambitious prosecution strategies), the diplomatic efforts (deal-cutting, especially within the United Nations) and millions of dollars (for security and administration) to bring these leaders to justice?

The concept of war-crime tribunals was established in 1945, but modernized in 1993. They are still relatively new, and grow more complex as the global economy touches more countries.

The results have been mixed.

Mass killers and warmongers, once captured, must answer to charges of war crimes and crimes against a backdrop of due process - that works.

They should no longer feel the comfort of impunity from an outraged world.

CNN

7 April 2006

### **Milosevic 'died of natural causes'**

Investigation in to medical treatment continues

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (CNN) -- An independent inquest into the death of former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic confirms he died of natural causes, the Public Prosecutor's Office said Wednesday.

Judge Fausto Pocar, president of the U.N. tribunal that was trying Milosevic for war crimes, said that as a result of the findings, prosecutors have closed their investigation into Milosevic's death in the tribunal's detention unit.

Friends and relatives had contended that Milosevic was killed on March 11.

However, an investigation into Milosevic's medical treatment while in detention is continuing, said tribunal president Judge Fausto Pocar. Those results are due shortly, he said.

"The district attorney concluded that Mr. Milosevic died of natural causes and there is no indication that his death was the result of a crime," they said.

Milosevic's body had been seized by the prosecutor and transferred to the Dutch Forensic Institute for autopsy.

"In conformance with the earlier mentioned preliminary findings, the NFI has now definitely come to the conclusion that the cause of death was cardiac arrest," according to a statement on The Hague's Web site.

"During the autopsy, serious heart diseases were diagnosed which have caused the cardiac arrest. There were no signs of external violence."

The tribunal has been given copies of the independent autopsy and toxicology report, the prosecutor's office said.

No indications were found that showed poisoning, and there were no toxicology factors that might have provoked the heart attack, the office added.

Milosevic's family and supporters accused the tribunal of denying medical assistance to the former leader or poisoning him.

## Daily Sun (Nigeria)

9 April 2006

Opinion

Liberia: Blame IBB Not Charles Taylor

By Joe Igbokwe

As many people are celebrating the capture of former President of Liberia, Mr. Charles Taylor and his eventual trial in Sierra-Leone, as many are laying all the blames on him for the human rights abuses in Liberia, while many are pointing accusing fingers to Charles Taylor for the political instability in Liberia, Sierra-Leone and even Ivory Coast and just as the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria Chief Olusegun Obasanjo is happy that Taylor's attempt to escape from Nigeria failed woefully, it is pertinent here to go back to history to remind Nigerians what happened in the 90s and beyond.

Charles Taylor went into the bush in late 1989 and in less than one year he conquered more than 90% of Liberia and was actually 30 kilometres to the state house in Liberia.

The late President Samuel Doe was in power then, and what he did was to run to Lagos to seek help. I remember that President Doe was on the National Television asking the parents of Charles Taylor followers to speak to their children to drop the guns otherwise he would humiliate them. But the truth of the matter then was that the government of Samuel Doe was seriously under siege and was completely overwhelmed with superior fire power of Charles Taylor and his boys.

Many Nigerians did not know that he came to Lagos to ask President Babangida for help. IBB mobilized troops and sent them to Liberia to help Samuel Doe stop the insurgence. I remember that the President of Burkina Faso, Braise Campore protested that IBB's intervention in Liberia will initiate series of problems and crisis the sub-region will not be able to manage or control and pleaded for understanding but his pleas fell on deaf ears.

Charles Taylor that went into the bush like Yoweri Museveni of Uganda and Joseph Kabila of Democratic Republic of Congo and gave a good account of himself was stopped. Museveni and Kabila succeeded and became presidents. The man, IBB who came to power using the same instruments of coercion stopped a colleague and bird of identical plumage from coming to power. That singular action brought a civil war in Liberia that lasted for six years and almost 300,000 people killed.

IBB's intervention in Liberia brought instant instability in Sierra-Leone. In fact Nigerian soldiers in Nigeria infiltrated in Sierra-Leone and encouraged a coup that toppled President Tejan Kabbah. The so-called peacekeepers supervised the killing of President Samuel Doe, also. Two Nigerian journalists, Tayo Awotunsin and Chris Imodibe and other countless unknown Nigerians died because Charles Taylor's troops directed their anger to IBB and Nigerians for stopping them from forming a government in Liberia.

In 1996 or thereabout Charles Taylor was popularly elected the President of Liberia despite monumental pressures from General Abacha and some African Heads of State to stop him. Monumental resources were mobilized and deployed by Abacha and company and yet Taylor was unstoppable. I remember also that I alerted the world then that Charles Taylor had been vindicated if nobody could not stop him from being elected by his own people. I said that the civil war that lasted for six years and took the lives of 300,000 people was totally unnecessary and uncalled for.

The truth of the matter is that the world may blame all the human rights abuses, deaths and huge loss of resources in Liberia on Charles Taylor but let history record that I am not blaming Taylor but IBB for the tragedies in Liberia. Today while Charles Taylor is facing the United Nations Special War Crimes Tribunal in Sierra-Leone, the man, IBB who was instrumental to the brigandage and carnage in Liberia is scheming to return to power in Nigeria. And just like his political outing in Liberia became an unmitigated disaster everything he touched in Nigeria turned to ashes. He corrupted our democracy and democratized corruption to borrow from Mr. Ike Okonta. His transition programme that took Eight years and took 40 billion naira to accomplish then went into the drains when he annulled the same election the transition programme produced.

The criminal annulment of June 12, 1993 caused the nation thousands of deaths and many uncountable problems. The tragedies are well-documented in the Books: Heroes of Democracy and 2007: The IBB Option. These are handbooks any Nigerian who wants to know what happened between 1985 and 1998 should read and make mental note of.

Few days ago the evil genius, the self-proclaimed dominator of his environment and master in the art of violence invited few selected journalists to his country home in hill top Minna to tell them that he will contest in 2007 elections.

In the so-called interview the journalists lazily failed to ask him some pertinent questions on how he misruled and misgoverned Nigeria for 8 years. Their mouths failed them in speaking the truth and even their eyes failed them in looking at the destroyer in the face to tell him that Nigeria has gone beyond his type as a leader. Perhaps, IBB raised the questions and also provided answers too. As a publisher and writer, I know that it happens in the media industry. My friend Okey Nvide said the editors "demonstrated a terrible failure of nerve".

To me, it is not only a failure of nerve it is a failure of heart, mind and soul in the discharge of national assignment. The interview was not only self-serving, it is for the mouth and the stomach. In the politics of poverty we play in this country some people prefer to wine and dine and go to hell than to starve a little and go to heaven. To try to write IBB back to power is the greatest disservice journalists, editors and writers can do to this country. It is a suicide option.

A friend once told me that IBB is simply trying to fly a kite and I told him that the probability of a wind storm tearing the kite to pieces is a unity. Another school of thought suggested that the man just want to test the political waters but the danger that the water can be very deep is real. In 2007, two things must happen in Nigeria: OBJ will not be president, IBB will not be president. QED! In those days after proving a theorem in Mathematics you put QED. If you are sure of yourself. Case rested!

## Washington File

10 April 2006

Opinion

<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2006&m=April&x=20060410171728WCyeroC0.795849&t=livefeeds/wf-latest.html>

### **Charles Taylor's Arrest "Great Moment" for International Justice**

Former prosecutor for U.N. Special Court for Sierra Leone speaks out

By Charles W. Corey

Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- The recent arrest of former Liberian President Charles Taylor marks a "great moment for international criminal justice and the victims who suffered so tragically" under his rule, says David Crane, the former prosecutor for the United Nations Special Court for Sierra Leone.

Speaking at an April 7 session at the United States Institute of Peace entitled "Charles Taylor on Trial," Crane said now that Taylor has been arrested, the rest of the story is going to follow the clearly laid out rules of criminal procedure and evidence. (See related article.)

"It's routine," he said. "We have an indictee. He is charged with 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity. He has been arraigned. He has pleaded not guilty. ... The decision now is what to do with him."

The original plan, Crane said, was to move Taylor to the International Court of Justice in the Hague, Netherlands -- to get him out of West Africa and "let the dust settle."

"Over time, all of these tyrants, these warlords, these thugs -- their influence tends to wane. We have seen this ... from [former German Third Reich General Hermann] Goering to [former Serbian dictator] Slobodan Milosevic and [Iraqi dictator] Saddam Hussein ... .

"So that was the original thinking ... ," Crane told his audience. "The thinking is to go ahead and try the case at the Hague.

"That can be done," he explained. "Article Four of the statute allows for the Special Court to prosecute anyone who bears the greatest responsibility -- pretty much anywhere in the world, wherever it makes sense."

"When you are sitting there trying these guys and you have these people led in missing various body parts and you see one of them point their stump at the accused and say, 'You did this to me' because their hand is missing -- and then walk out proudly with their head held high ... , ladies and gentlemen, ... that is justice," Crane said.

### TAYLOR SUPPORTED REBELS, CONDONED BRUTALITY

Taylor was elected president of Liberia in 1997 with 75.3 percent of the popular vote. During his presidency, he continued to battle insurgents who opposed his rule and reportedly began selling arms and other supplies to rebels in neighboring Sierra Leone.

Taylor reportedly traded weapons for diamonds. Meanwhile, the rebels he purportedly aided continued their war against Sierra Leone's government, conducting brutal sweeps through civilian areas, chopping off the arms, legs and noses of thousands of suspected government supporters, including women and children. On June 4, 2003, Taylor was indicted for war crimes by the U.N. Special Court for Sierra Leone.

After Liberia descended into civil war in the early 1990s, widespread fighting began in neighboring Sierra Leone as well, led by rebels who reportedly crossed into the country from Liberia. The fighting grew more brutal over time, with roving bands of rebels often hacking the limbs of civilians in the countryside.

A 1996 peace accord failed to stop the fighting, and war raged in Sierra Leone until troops from the United Nations, Britain and the West African nation of Guinea succeeded in disarming the combatants in January 2002.

#### SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE

Crane said that international criminal justice can be delivered efficiently and effectively in the Special Court for Sierra Leone within a politically acceptable time frame. The court is a joint effort between the government of Sierra Leone and the United Nations.

The former prosecutor called the Special Court for Sierra Leone the world's first "hybrid international war crimes tribunal with a workable mandate." That, he stressed, is the key to the "apparent success" of the tribunal's mandate, to prosecute those with the "greatest responsibility" for committing war crimes.

That means "going ... after those who started this, aided it, abetted it, continued it and created the conditions by which other individuals were able to murder, rape, maim, mutilate, pillage, plunder, slave, etc.," he said.

Crane was appointed special prosecutor in April 2002 and said he expects the court to complete its work in 2007.

Currently, there are three joint criminal trials in Freetown, Sierra Leone, he said, against the leadership of the Civil Defense Force, the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) and the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council.

With regard to Taylor, Crane said, "Our plan was to roll him up with the joint criminal indictment with the RUF, but that did not take place."

Certainly, he said, much of the same evidence gathered in the RUF trial can be used against Taylor.

Crane called Taylor the "centerpoint of a 10-year geopolitical plan" that Libya's Muammar al-Qadhafi started in the late 1980s to recruit individuals to move south, foment rebellion and eventually take over their countries and become "surrogates for Libyan leader Muammar al-Qadhafi so he could do whatever he wanted to do with West Africa."

"We have clear evidence of this," Crane said. Those recruited by al-Qadhafi included RUF rebel leader Foday Sankoh; Blaise Campaore, the current president of Burkina Faso; and diamond merchant Ibrahim Bah, he added.

The result of this joint criminal exercise "was the murder, rape, maiming and mutilation of 500,000 people in Sierra Leone and about 600,000 in Liberia," Crane charged.

#### JUSTICE FOR LIBERIANS

Crane said a hybrid international war crimes tribunal should be considered for Liberia. "We cannot walk away from 600,000 human beings. The ultimate atrocity in my mind is that we don't do something and that these people go quietly into the night and that there is no record of their horrible deaths."

For information on U.S. policy in the region, see Africa.

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)



## The Analyst (Monrovia)

10 April 2006

Editorial

### **Pay School Teachers, Not Taylor's Lawyer**

INFORMATION MINISTER, JOHNNY McClain, told journalists at a press briefing following a cabinet meeting at the Executive Mansion last Thursday that the government was interested in seeing that the former President has a better defense team to guarantee a fair trial for him. Minister McClain was quoted as saying that "the government of Liberia under President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf is considering underwriting the legal fees of indicted former Liberian President Charles Taylor." This is pretty hard to believe even though it is not an idle rumor.

LET'S GET IT straight. We are talking about a trial for crimes allegedly committed by a Liberian in a foreign country which got the world's attention. We believe therefore that we can afford to make a reasonable assumption that the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone has the capacity to dispense justice in a fair manner. Whether it fails in that endeavor is a possibility that we must help discourage, but it is not a burden we should willingly undertake at this point especially where it concerns making a choice between the interest of the greater majority of Liberians and the indictee to whose legal interest the Special Court has already rallied.

THEN OF COURSE Taylor has a defense team. The Special Court for Sierra Leone, which has both a prosecutorial and defense organs, is not a one-sided, witch-hunting outfit whose operations must become the preoccupation of the Liberian government and people as though the nation is indicted and is standing trial. A day after Mr. Taylor arrived in Sierra Leone, the Special Court's Principal Defender put out a press release reminding everyone that the fact of being indicted does not mean that Taylor could be presumed guilty of any crimes. But before we get far into whether Liberia should pay Taylor's legal team before settling the salary arrears of civil servants that is approaching a 24-month mark, let us consider why former President Charles Taylor really does need or want a special calibre of lawyers. Taylor is defending himself against charges relating only to his alleged war activities in Sierra Leone.

IN FACT, WHEN the question about which way Taylor should travel in getting from Nigeria to Sierra Leone was being debated, the Sirleaf Administration pointedly argued that Liberia had no responsibility regarding Taylor's indictment. The government maintained further that Liberia had brought no charges against Taylor for whatever he many have done in Liberia during the war. With the government now "considering" footing the bill for Taylor's legal defense, no wonder former President Charles Taylor is shopping for big time lawyers. In addition to his two Liberian and two Ghanaian lawyers, Taylor wants to add some American lawyers amongst them, a Harvard Law School professor. The irony of the situation is government is considering underwriting Taylor's legal interest because President Olusengun Obasanjo reportedly requested President Sirleaf during her recent visit to Nigeria to ensure Taylor's fair trial.

IF MR. MCCLAIN's statement that the government has not reached the bridge of footing Taylor's legal bill and that if it reaches it, it would cross it, is anything to go by, then it won't be out of place so say that it would be a bridge over troubled waters. If crossing that bridge means paying Taylor's legal bills then it suggests that the Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf administration needs some re-ordering of its priorities. Even then, Taylor's legal bills have no business being on our list of national priorities for reasons already stated.

WE, THEREFORE, STRONGLY urge the government of Madame Sirleaf to keep Liberia out of the case in Sierra Leone. This is advised by the fact that underwriting the bills is unlikely to change anything in Sierra Leone let alone to erase the wrong impression held by some Liberians that Taylor is in Sierra Leone because someone in the present government willed it so. The government must stop wavering over the Taylor issue and stick with its earlier position that Liberia did not indict Mr. Taylor for any crimes. Those who lodged the charges against Taylor must determine whether or how to pay for his legal defense. The government's hands, it needs saying, are full in dealing with the aftermath of the civil war. There are foreign debts to be settled or to be negotiated through demonstration of proper use of state income, there are basic farm-to-market roads and major highways to be constructed or reconditioned, there are schools and hospitals to be renovated and standardized and teachers and nurses to be compensated adequately, and there are ex-combatants to be rehabilitated and resettled. There are just too many priorities waiting for state attention with very little fund to go around. For God's sake, the nation cannot pay a Harvard lawyer for single Liberian while thousands of school teachers wait in abject poverty even if the single Liberian is a former president.

WE KNOW IT may be difficult to say no to President Obasanjo who volunteered to get Taylor off our hands when Liberia was in turmoil. But we have just started the mammoth task of rebuilding Liberia. We are certain that Nigeria will understand because the government and people of Nigeria were among the first to heed our cry for help. We are still in a desperate state. Taylor's legal trouble should be the least of our trouble in Liberia.

## Thisday (Nigeria)

10 April 2006

Opinion

### Taylor's Victims Wait for Justice

Two weeks ago, former Liberian President Charles Taylor, was captured in a most dramatic manner and under still hazy but bizarre circumstances, to enable him have his day in court and answer to an indictment and international warrant of arrest pending against him by the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone. Up until then, Taylor had since August 11, 2003 been enjoying a cosy life in Calabar, the beneficiary of a political asylum granted him by President Olusegun Obasanjo. Despite public and international outcry, the President had insisted that the country had no choice but to harbour Taylor as it had been a part of the hard negotiations that had got Taylor to quit political power in Liberia and ensure stability in the sub-region. The Sierra Leone war under which Taylor was indicted, claimed hundreds of thousands of victims. Finally, last week, Taylor appeared in Court to answer for his alleged crimes. Two of his victims had however spent the last three years exhausting the legal processes available, trying to get Taylor's asylum revoked. OLUFUNKE ABOYADE tells their story and recounts their legal journey

Emmanuel Egbuna, David Anyaele. Two names, two individuals, more than just statistics, and the photos shown on this page prove it. They are both Nigerian citizens, enterprising ones too, earning a decent living in Sierra Leone. But that was before Foday Sankoh's Revolutionary United Front (RUF), backed by Liberia's Charles Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL), invaded Freetown in 1999. That was when their nightmare began. Egbuna and Anyaele, both traders, had their limbs mindlessly chopped off by the RUF rebels in one of the most fratricidal and senseless wars ever witnessed by mankind. Egbuna and Anyaele were then in their early 30s.

The NPFL and RUF were in cahoots because Taylor needed access to the diamond wealth of Sierra Leone and so, to destabilise that country, funded and backed the RUF, providing it with financial, military and other logistical support. In the process, the most hideous crimes were committed. Killings, abductions, use of child soldiers, rape, arson, forced labour, torture, mutilations, looting and other grievous crimes became the order of the day. Those crimes were so unspeakable, they could only be classified as crimes against humanity.

The gory details of the war needn't be recounted here, they are all well-publicised and in the public domain. Suffice to recall that soldiers of the Peoples Army, as the RUF also liked to call itself had a perverse and macabre sense of humour and would often give their hapless victims a choice before proceeding to hack off their limbs – short sleeve or long sleeve, left hand or right hand, etc. For Emmanuel Egbuna, for some reason, after several attempts at hacking off his hands, they were not completely severed and he was left with both hands dangling by just a piece of skin. He was lucky. Doctors were able to sew them back on. Not so, David Anyaele. His limbs were completely amputated.

They somehow made it back to Nigeria to pick up the pieces of their shattered lives, hoping the nightmare was at an end. But their hopes were rudely shattered when the Federal Government of Nigeria, as part of a political deal to ease President Charles Taylor out of Liberia, granted him safe haven in Calabar. It was too much for both to bear, it was like rubbing salt into an open wound.

They headed for the law courts in 2004 and applied for a judicial review of the Federal Government's decision to grant political asylum to Charles Ghankay Taylor. They also brought an application to enforce their fundamental rights under the 1999 Constitution and the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights. There were six defendants – Taylor, the Federal Commissioner for Refugees, The Eligibility Committee for Refugees, the National Commission for Refugees, the President of Nigeria and the Attorney-General of the Federation. Essentially, the basis of the action, filed at the Federal High Court, Abuja, was that the manner by which the asylum was granted, and the very act of granting it were violations of public international law principles, as well as international conventions to which Nigeria is party, specifically the Geneva Convention and the African Union Protocols on Refugees. The ground of those violations, according to Egbuna and Anyaele, was that it appeared on the face of the available evidence that it was President Olusegun Obasanjo, and not the National Commission for Refugees that granted Taylor asylum. If that were the case, it would be ultra vires the National Commission for Refugees Act, which empowers the Commission, not the President, to take decisions on political asylum. Further, it was Egbuna and Anyaele's case that in making that decision to grant asylum to Taylor, the pending indictment against him by the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone, for crimes against humanity and other serious violations of international humanitarian law, all in connection with the RUF, had been conveniently ignored. The Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) derives its existence from an agreement between the UN and the government of Sierra Leone, entered into pursuant to a UN Security Council Resolution.

Emmanuel and David were able to obtain leave of court to apply for Judicial Review and to enforce their rights. They were able to serve all defendants, except Charles Taylor, personally. Taylor, then resident in Calabar, had a tight security network woven around him and was eventually served through a public advertisement in a newspaper.

The Federal Government challenged the applicants' locus standi, as well as the justiciability of the action. Justice S.J. Adah however ruled that having been victims of the grievous offences, Emmanuel and David had sufficient locus standi. Another argument of the Federal Government that the action was statute-barred, having exceeded the three-month limitation (beginning when Taylor was granted asylum) under the Public Officers Act was overruled by Adah J. on the grounds that their injury was a continuing one. The case was still pending in court, awaiting hearing of the substantive suit after the Federal Government must have exhausted the appeal stages, when Taylor's asylum was revoked, and he found himself in the cold. No doubt, international pressure, especially from the world's only super power, the United States, as well as a formal request by a democratically elected Liberian Government, the latter a condition the Federal Government had always insisted on, led to Taylor's asylum being revoked, what Taylor subsequently describes as a betrayal.

THISDAY LAW sought out the duo's lawyers to find out what they had hoped to achieve in the law courts, and whether going to court would have been a practical solution if the Federal Government had not eventually turned Charles Taylor in. Even if they had won, would it not have been a pyrrhic victory?

The law firm of Aluko and Oyebode, an international commercial law firm with some 45 lawyers spread around Lagos, Abuja and Port Harcourt, had taken up the matter on a pro bono basis. Mr. Tunde Fagbohunlu, a partner at Aluko and Oyebode, led the team. As he explained to THISDAY, 'We were quite optimistic that we would have won because even in the interlocutory ruling the judge made, he made specific findings that there had been great violations of the applicants' rights, and so, all that was left to be done really was to establish that those violations

were sufficient grounds for nullifying the decision. That wouldn't have been a significantly high threshold to pass, we would have been able to show that the relevant government agency acted outside the scope of their powers in granting the asylum or acted contrary to the country's international commitments under the Geneva Convention, as well as under the National Commission for Refugees Act. That grounds our conviction that we would have got the order we wanted, nullifying the asylum.'

If they had got the order, how reasonable or practical would it have been to assume the Federal Government would have respected or obeyed it?

According to Mr. Fagbohunlu, 'There would have been options available to the government. We were asking for two prayers in the alternative – to nullify the asylum, and asking for the asylum to be reopened because there's facility under the NCRA to do so. If the court wasn't inclined to nullify the asylum, then we were asking it to reopen the asylum. Either way, the government would have been under both political and legal pressure to take a step that was consistent. They might have appealed, and if they did, would probably invariably have asked for a stay of execution, and so we'd have had to wait till the exhaustion of the entire appellate process, but if it were confirmed at the Supreme Court ultimately, they would have had no choice than to comply.' No choice? Supreme Court? Has the Federal Government complied with the Lagos State Local Government funds judgment?

'I'm not ignoring the fact that there are cases of government non-compliance with court orders, but if it's a case where there was a lot international attention and pressure, and the only justification the government had for continuing to uphold the asylum was the fact that the case was in court and they were awaiting the decision. Of course, the government was also relying on political moral arguments, to the effect that it had made commitments to Charles Taylor and that its credibility would have been at stake if they had allowed him to go, but I believe the combination of an order from as a judicial authority as the Supreme Court, plus the international pressure might have achieved the result that we wanted.'

Won't that have taken years?

'No doubt about it, invariably it would have. We were quite ready to wait it out.'  
Were his clients that bitter or they wanted justice?

'They wanted justice, plain and simple. Emma Egbuna, not only did he have his right hand amputated, he also lost his brother. He was killed by the same RUF rebels. David Anyaele lost both arms, and they're just two of many Nigerians who suffered similar fates during the wars in Sierra Leone and Liberia. They were determined, and they had the backing and support of the Open Society Justice Initiative.'

Asked if he intends to monitor Taylor's trial in Sierra Leone or The Hague, he responded, 'Yes, we are monitoring it and are hopeful that we'll probably be able to play a more direct role in the process. Emmanuel Egbuna and David Anyaele are, I'm not quite sure yet, likely to be witnesses in the proceedings against Charles Taylor.'

Fagbohunlu was uncertain about whether there will be a role for him in the process yet, but added that he'd be happy to provide any materials that the prosecutors may require. Fagbohulu, who has a CLO (Civil Liberties Organisation) background, having been its Director of Legal services for some four years, from 1989 to 1993, is quite passionate about his clients'

case. This is one case in which the expectation that a lawyer should not get emotionally attached to his client's case is simply unworkable.

As he explained, 'I was absolutely appalled and horrified! I kind of pictured myself going through that experience and it was simply unthinkable! And that's part of what has been a driving force for me. It's very pathetic, I don't think there's any word that can describe it! I'm gratified that Taylor is now facing trial.'

The case, if it had proceeded to conclusion, would have been significant as it would have addressed the duty, if any, of States to refuse to indict war criminals refugee status, thereby ending the culture of impunity for war criminals.

As Charles Ghankay Taylor, in good but ignoble company with Iraq's Saddam Hussein and the late unfortunate Slobodan Milosevic of the former Yugoslavia, is made to undergo the legal process in the international arena, two of his victims, more than just a statistic, are waiting. Emmanuel Egbuna and David Anyaele are waiting to see whether finally, justice will come their way. That is all they had ever wanted. Will they get it?