

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



**PRESS CLIPPINGS**

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

**as at:**

Tuesday, 11 August 2009

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

Tuesday, 11 August 2009

11 August

# “It is difficult to forgive Charles Taylor - Tejan Kabbah

**F**ormer President of Sierra Leone, Alhaji Tejan Kabbah, last weekend said forgiving former Liberian leader, Mr. Charles Taylor, over his atrocities against the people of Sierra-Leone, was a difficult thing for him to do.

Kabbah was President of Sierra Leone for two terms when Taylor, then President of the Liberia, was alleged to have sponsored a guerilla group, The Revolutionary United Front (RUF) that fought Kabbah's government from all fronts all through most of his tenure.

Taylor is currently being tried by the United Nations International Tribunal for War Crimes for allegedly sponsoring war and criminal activities in Sierra Leone.

Kabbah, who was in Nigeria at the weekend for the fifth

## National Defense Award

Defense College.

The ranks and number of beneficiaries include One Air Chief Marshall, two Rear Admirals, One Air Marshall, one Air Vice Marshall, One Vice admiral, One Lieutenant General, two major Generals, seven Brigadier Generals, two Colonels, six Air commanders, seven commanders, one Group Captain, one Captain, one Security Minister and four accredited Ambassadors, all of whom are products of The National Defense College of Nigeria, (former war college).

Recipients include distinguished senior serving Military officers who are holding very senior positions in different capacities in different Military institutions from different parts of Africa, Europe and South American.

The two chiefs of Defense staffs of Sierra Leone and Nigeria belongs to one of the categories: “Award of

*Continued on Page 6*

edition of the Nigeria Telecommunications Awards, told THISDAY that it would be difficult for him to forgive Taylor if he continues to be unrepentant as he exhibited in recent interviews.

Speaking further at the Oriental Hotel in Lekki-Lagos, Kabbah said, “It is difficult to ask if I can forgive Charles Taylor because I spoke to him many times. I said what is going on in your name and with your knowledge and connivance is bad, not only for Sierra Leone but for West Africa and African children. I spoke to him, then, I followed that up with a letter. I sent my vice-president with a letter to him, pleading with him along those lines”

Narrating how he engaged other African leaders to prevail on Taylor to desist from his alleged plundering of Sierra Leone, Kabbah recalled that there was a meeting with the African Union in Accra and all the other Presidents including Thabo Mbeki to talk to him.

He said it got to the stage where he thought he had to take the matter to court but decided that perhaps it will be a good idea to have the Special Court in Sierra Leone so that if people see and know that even if a president does something which is not right there is some facility for the president to be questioned about that and for him to explain his own side of the story.

Kabbah, who was in the company of his wife, also said nemesis has caught up with Taylor. “It is so interesting when I remember all these things in retrospect. We were attending a meeting - ECOWAS meeting in Ghana and that morning, there was an agreement by my government and the UN that we would not interfere in the running of the Special Court. They didn't tell me that they were going to make him to appear in court and so on; but when I got to Ghana, I was told that this had happened and that they were going to try and see how best they could accelerate the process” Tejan Kabbah said.

He also stated the harrowing experience of war that the country went through that can be traced to Charles Taylor. Explaining why he honoured the invitation to the fifth anniversary of the Nigeria Telecoms Awards, Kabbah said, he felt it was his duty to heed the call and was convinced that what they are doing is the best thing for Africa.

Concord Times  
Tuesday, 11 August 2009

# Between Kabbah and Taylor

**...It's difficult to forgive Charles Taylor, says Kabbah**

*By Bhooy Jalloh*  
Former president Alhaji Ahmed Tejan Kabbah has told the Nigerian press that

forgiving former Liberian leader, Charles Taylor, over his "atrocities" against the people of Sierra-Leone, was a

difficult thing for him to do. According to the Nigerian Guardian, the two-term leader

*Contd. page 4*



## Koroma ready to

## Between Kabbah and Taylor

From page 1

of Sierra-Leone, was President of the diamond-rich country when Taylor, then president of the neighbouring Liberia, was alleged to be sponsoring a guerilla group, Revolutionary United Front (RUF) that fought Kabbah's government from all fronts all through most of his tenure.

Taylor is currently being tried by the United Nations international tribunal for war crimes for allegedly sponsoring war and criminal activities in Sierra Leone.

Kabbah, who was in Nigeria at the weekend for the fifth edition of the Nigeria Telecommunications

Awards, told THISDAY that it would be difficult for him to forgive Taylor if he continues to be unrepentant as he exhibited in recent interviews.

Speaking further at the Oriental Hotel in Lekki-Lagos, Kabbah said, "It is difficult to ask if I can forgive Charles Taylor because I spoke to him many times. I said what is going on in your name and with your knowledge and connivance is bad, not only for Sierra Leone but for West Africa and African children. I spoke to him, then, I followed that up with a letter. I sent my vice-president with a letter to him, pleading with him along those lines."

Narrating how he engaged the empathy of other African leaders to prevail on Taylor to desist from his alleged plundering of Sierra Leone, Kabbah recalled: "In fact, there was a meeting with the African Union in Accra and all the others (presidents) were there - all the leaders - yes, all the West African presidents were there but then we had Thabo Mbeki with us, somebody from outside the region. I tried hard. I spoke to him, I asked people to prevail on him."

According to Kabbah, trying to extract a promise from Taylor was

very frustrating. "He would say this to me and he would be doing something else without my knowing. I will phone him. We got to the stage where I think we had to go to court on this. Well myself, I decided that perhaps it will be a good idea for us to have the special court in Sierra Leone so that if people see and know that even if a president does something which is not right there is some facility for the president to be questioned about that and for him to explain his own side of the story and that's how we went about setting up that court."

Kabbah, who was in the company of his wife, also said nemesis has caught up with Taylor. "It is so interesting when I remember all these things in retrospect. We were attending a meeting - ECOWAS meeting in Ghana and that morning, there was an agreement by my government and the UN that we would not interfere in the running of the special court. They didn't tell me that they were going to make him to appear in court and so on; but when I got to Ghana, I was told that this had happened and that they were going to try and see how best they could accelerate the process."

Stating that the harrowing experience of war that his country went through can be traced to Taylor, the former Sierra Leonean President revealed his last ditch effort to make Taylor stop the war.

"I, in the presence of the other presidents, spoke to Charles (Taylor). I said try and do something to end this thing (war) and finish it up. That's how it happened ... How my people suffered, whatever problems we may be having still is borne through Taylor's machination and his supporters; so to ask me if I can forgive him, yes, we should try to forgive each other. I will forgive you if you have been giving me the

opportunity to stop doing criminal act, committing criminal act or killing and getting involved in killing of people and I spoke to you and you said yes I made a mistake. I will not do this type of thing again, but Taylor never said that, you can hear his voice on radio during interviews. He still talks authoritatively, without showing any remorse. So asking me whether I will forgive him, I think I have to think about that."

Explaining why he honoured the invitation to the fifth anniversary of the Nigeria Telecoms Awards, Kabbah said, "I have brothers here doing what I consider to be a fantastic job, not only for Nigeria but the rest of Africa, particularly, West Africa and they asked me and I felt it was my duty to heed call. I am convinced that what they are doing is the best thing for Africa."

"I tell you why, many years ago before independence, you wanted to phone somebody in Guinea which is just next door to us you had to go from Freetown, you phone to London and from London they put you unto Paris and from Paris before you get back again to Guinea. Now you can see the type of inconvenience our people went through. In those days, telecommunications was a difficult thing."

He related a personal example of the difficulties: "when my father died, I was in England, I had gone there on some mission and they kept on trying to get me from one place to the other. It was so difficult. Now it was because of this difficulty that's why a lot of pressure was put on the international telecommunication system that this was too much. We must be in a position where African countries can communicate with each other. I think that's the way it started and Nigeria has perfected it. I hope the whole of Africa will benefit from this."

## Charlestaylortrial.org (The Hague)

Monday, 10 August 2009

### **Liberia: Taylor Did Not Have Control Over Liberians Who Travelled To Sierra Leone, Blames West for Mis-Information**

Alpha Sesay

Charles Taylor did not have any control or command over Liberians who traveled to Sierra Leone during its 11-year civil war and joined fighting forces there, he reconfirmed to judges today at his trial in The Hague.

Many former combatants from Liberia's own conflict, who had migrated to Sierra Leone after Mr. Taylor came to power in Liberia in 1997, joined either the group of Liberians known as the Special Task Force a group aiding the Sierra Leonean army while some joined the Sierra Leonean rebel group, the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), he said. Some, Mr. Taylor said, became prey for mercenaries due to their lack of food or jobs.

Mr. Taylor said that he, however, had no control or command over these fighters who had migrated to Sierra Leone and become part of fighting forces there, and could not have punished them for any crimes committed in Sierra Leone.

"How do you punish someone when he is not under your control?" Mr. Taylor asked the court. "You can only be responsible for people under your direct command."

"Nobody can say that Taylor ordered me to do X, Y or Z. I did not have contact with them and there was no control over them. I did not help them in anyway," Mr. Taylor told the judges.

Asked by his defense counsel Courtenay Griffiths what he did as newly elected president of Liberia to control such situation, Mr. Taylor said that the "only thing I could have done was to get international support to build schools and train people or engage them in projects to become productive citizens." He said this was not possible because he did not have any international support.

Mr. Taylor has been accused of supporting RUF rebels in Sierra Leone by supplying them with arms and ammunition in exchange for Sierra Leone's diamonds. The prosecution further alleges that in addition to sending Liberian fighters to join the rebels forces in Sierra Leone, he also provided safe haven for RUF rebels in Liberia. Mr. Taylor has denied the allegations.

In his testimony today, Mr. Taylor accused the United States and Great Britain of making these allegations against him based on rumors and misinformation.

Mr. Taylor referenced a 1999 Washington Post publication after the rebel attacks on Sierra Leone's capital Freetown in January 1999. In the news article, Mr. Taylor said he was accused by the United States and Great Britain of supplying arms and fighters to rebel forces in Sierra Leone. Mr. Taylor said that his present trial, based on these allegations, is a form of punishment because he stood against the demands of these two countries.

"Firestone Rubber Company had been operating in Liberia since 1925. That company in 1925 did an agreement with the Liberian government for 99 years, 99 months, 99 weeks, 99 days, 99 hours, 99

minutes and 99 seconds. I come to office and I say that this is 99 set of nonsense and we must renegotiate this agreement, and that in fact Firestone had really done nothing for Liberia," Mr. Taylor said. This, he said did not go down well with the two great powers, the United States and Great Britain and they decided to "go after him".

Mr. Taylor also confirmed a January 1999 United Nations report that Liberia had become a source for mercenaries. He explained that after the conflict in Liberia, the country had about 60,000 combatants from different fighting factions and he did not have control over all of them.

"The 60,000 figure we use here, these were not all NPFL [Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia rebel group]. These are the whole combatants from all sides. So to a great extent, we dont have control over a large amount of these people," he said.

Mr. Taylor told the court that more needs to be done to solve the problems of conflicts in the West African sub-region than putting him to trial.

"The trials in Sierra Leone or the trial of Taylor will not end the problems in that region. They can only be resolved if we go to the root causes of these conflicts," he said.

Mr. Taylor's testimony continues tomorrow.

## The Liberian Observer

Tuesday, 11 August 2009

### 'I Have No Secret Bank Accounts'



*Former President  
Charles Taylor*

THE HAGUE -- Charles Taylor has denied stashing away huge amounts of money, allegedly earned through illicit diamond trading with Sierra Leonean rebels during the country's 11-year conflict, in secret bank accounts around the world and challenged his accusers to prove any such accounts existed.

The denial comes on the heels of allegations by the Special Court for Sierra Leone's prosecution team, which accused Taylor of having benefited from diamonds mined by Sierra Leonean rebels, the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), during the country's civil war.

Prosecutors alleged that Taylor hid the proceeds in secret bank accounts. A prosecutor has been working with the UN Sanctions Committee to recover any monies and assets, if at all they exist.

Taylor has denied these allegations.

"I challenge the prosecutor to bring any evidence of a bank account that I have. They know it's a lie but they keep repeating it," Taylor said during his testimony at the Special Court for Sierra Leone on Monday. "I ask anyone on this planet, if you know of any account that I opened or if you know anyone who was acting in my interest, you are obliged to come forward and say it.

"What bank account has the UN found out for me?" Mr. Taylor asked. "Nobody ever brings factual evidence but it is repeated, repeated and repeated, and you can never put things straight."

After a break on Tuesday due to the reported illness of Taylor's lawyer, the court resumed Wednesday.

Taylor told the judges that RUF Commander, Sam Bockarie, did not take orders from him during Sierra Leone's conflict. Prosecutors had claimed that the RUF commander took orders directly from Taylor, and that the former Liberian president promoted Bockarie to the rank of Brigadier General in the RUF. Taylor dismissed the allegations as "total nonsense," stating that the RUF was "dealing with me as a president of Liberia and a member of the Committee of Five" the group set up by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to try to bring peace to Sierra Leone.

"Bockarie did not seek orders from me. I did not seek to give him orders," Taylor told the judges in The Hague.

The link between the two men and Bockarie's RUF rebel group goes to the heart of the case against Taylor in the Special Court, which is whether Taylor was in control of the RUF's actions in Sierra Leone during the war, including the crimes that were committed by the RUF, during the country's conflict after 1996 and whether he had the power to stop those crimes or punish those who committed them.

The Prosecution has alleged that Taylor did give orders to Bockarie, and thus had effective control over the RUF forces at critical times during the Sierra Leonean conflict. Between 1997 and 1999, former RUF leader Foday Sankoh was jailed in Nigeria. During his absence, Sam Bockarie served as interim leader of the RUF. Several prosecution witnesses have testified that during Sankoh's absence, Sam Bockarie took orders directly from Taylor; and based on his advice, the RUF launched strategic operations such as the attacks on the diamond-rich town of Koidu in 1998 and on Sierra Leone's capital, Freetown, in 1999. Witnesses also testified that during this period, Bockarie made several visits to Liberia at Taylor's invitation. During these visits, witnesses said that Bockarie travelled back to Sierra Leone with loads of arms and ammunition, which the RUF used to cause mayhem against the people of Sierra Leone. Taylor has denied all of these allegations.



He has sought to explain the nature of his relationship with Bockarie during his testimony in his own defense. On Monday July 3, Taylor told the Special Court that in September 1998, he invited Bockarie to Liberia for the sole purpose of convincing him to end the war in Sierra Leone. He also admitted to giving Bockarie a sum of money as a gift for him and his rebels. It was a presidential gesture of generosity, meant for Bockarie and his boys to “go and have a good time, may be buy some new jeans, some sneakers, that kind of thing,” Taylor told the court.

In his testimony on Wednesday, Taylor also admitted that in October and November of 1998, Bockarie went to Liberia two more times. During his visit in October 1998, Taylor said that Bockarie met with him, together with other security officers of Taylor’s Liberian government, as well as with ECOWAS leaders. He said that on this visit also, he assigned a guest house to the RUF where they stayed whenever they were in Liberia for the purpose of discussing the peace process in Sierra Leone. He said all members of the ECOWAS Committee of Five also had access to the RUF leaders at the guest house. In November 1998, Taylor said Bockarie also visited Liberia en route to Burkina Faso. Asked about his knowledge of the purpose of the visit, Taylor said he was informed that Bockarie was travelling with a delegation of RUF commanders to seek advice from Burkina Faso president Blaise Campaore on the peace process in Sierra Leone.

On Thursday, Taylor responded to prosecution allegations that he sent Liberians to fight alongside the RUF rebels in Sierra Leone and that he helped in planning the rebel attacks on Sierra Leone’s diamond rich town of Koidu in the Kono District in 1998 and the January 1999 attacks on the country’s capital in Freetown.

Taylor told the judges that the ECOWAS peacekeepers’ Monitoring Group (ECOMOG), who were based in Liberia, trained over 1000 Liberians and sent them to fight in Sierra Leone. Many of these Liberians were disarmed combatants who were paid and made to fight with the Kamajors, a Sierra Leonean civil militia that fought against rebels forces on behalf of the Sierra Leonean government.

“Some of these disarmed ex-combatants were trained and made to fight alongside the Kamajors. Even some of these Liberians are officers in the Sierra Leone army today,” Taylor alleged.

He said that he was being wrongly accused and made to take responsibility for the Liberian fighters in Sierra Leone. He said that when these allegations came up, he asked the United Nations to conduct an independent investigation to prove whether he had anything to do with the presence of Liberian fighters in Sierra Leone.

“I wanted a formal investigation to know who these Liberian fighters in Sierra Leone were, because I know I did not send them,” Taylor said. “I tried to force an international investigation but it did not take place.”

Taylor said he called for the deployment of United Nations observers as well as Sierra Leonean and Liberian personnel to monitor the Sierra Leone-Liberian border. He claimed he asked the government of Sierra Leone to send undercover officers to Liberia to investigate whether he was sending Liberians to Sierra Leone to fight.

When the allegations of his support for Liberian fighters in Sierra Leone continued during the war, Mr. Taylor said that he threatened to quit the ECOWAS Committee of Five.

‘I am doing my best, there are no Liberians that I have sent to Sierra Leone, but the allegations abound,’ Taylor claims to have said. ‘So I am going to step out of the Committee of Five.’ “We were just frustrated, we were tired, we were doing our best but nothing was changing.”

Other West African leaders prevailed upon him not to quit the Committee of Five, he said, and he stayed.

Taylor also told the judges that on December 20, 1998, he closed the Liberian border with Sierra Leone in order to prevent the movement of people between both countries for military purposes.

In response to prosecution allegations that he helped RUF rebels to attack Sierra Leone's capital Freetown only weeks later, in January 1999, Taylor told judges that he “heard that the attack on Freetown was launched with the assistance of Liberian fighters.” Upon hearing this, Taylor said he immediately wrote a letter to the United Nations Secretary General to inform him that Liberia was not involved in the attack.

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United Nations  Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

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**UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 10 August 2009**

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

**International Clips on Liberia**

**Mano River Resources granted "Class A" license in Liberia**

SmallCapNews.co.uk 10 August 2009--Mano River Resources has been granted a Class 'A' Mining licence within the Beah Mineral Development Agreement, by the Government of Liberia. The licence is valid for 25 years. Luis da Silva, President & CEO of Mano commented: 'This represents another positive step forward towards commercial production from Liberia's first ever hard rock gold mine. The support from the Government of Liberia is evident to achieving the Company's goals and we are now in a position to undertake the confirmation drilling in advance of completing a bankable feasibility study in 2010 for an underground mine targeting 100,000oz pa. We are in the process of finalising a new geological model with a firm of independent consultants, incorporating the positive drilling results received in 2008 from below 200m, including 23m grading 4.95 g/t and 26m grading 5.04 g/t. In addition the Company will also be looking to further grow the resource base on the Beah MDA through advancing exploration of the satellite gold deposits at Weaju and the Silver Hills and Gondoja prospects, which lie in close proximity to the New Liberty Gold Project.'

**Liberian official meets with sexual-assault victim**

Aug. 10, 2009 (The Arizona Republic) Parents who brought their children to Africa Faith Expressions church went through their Sunday-morning family ritual as they do every weekend. They sang and prayed. They danced and swayed in the aisles. After the service, Liberian children who grew up in the same community as an 8-year-old rape victim and the four boys accused in that attack played outside the humble west Phoenix church as their families listened to community leaders address questions about the girl's sexual assault. The victim's father attended the town-hall meeting along with the parents of the two eldest boys accused in the attack, who are 14 and 13 years old. Edwin Sele, the Liberian deputy ambassador to the United States, attended the service and said he met the young rape victim at a Valley foster home. He hugged her and brought her a teddy bear on behalf of the country's president, although he said the meeting was troubling. "She does not even know that her parents are in this country," Sele said. "She thinks they have taken them away. She wants her parents. I mean, she cried so bitterly that I almost cried."

**Liberian Boy to Appear in Court**

August 10th, 2009 (Associated Press) PHOENIX - A Liberian teenager charged as an adult in the rape of an 8-year-old girl from the same country was set to appear in a Phoenix courtroom on Monday. Phoenix police say the 14-year-old was the ringleader of the three other boys ages 10 to 13 accused of luring the girl to an empty storage shed July 16 with the promise of chewing gum, then restraining and raping her. The 14-year-old is the only one charged as an adult. He is charged with one count each of kidnapping, sexual assault and attempted sexual conduct with a minor, and four counts of sexual conduct with a minor.

Prosecutors are seeking adult charges against the 13-year-old accused in the case, while two 10-year-olds are charged in juvenile court with sexual conduct. One of them also is charged with kidnapping.

## **International Clips on West Africa**

### **Local Media – Newspaper**

#### **Maryland Lawmaker Warns Executive against Prosecuting Lebanese Businessman and Colleague in “Controversial” Iron Ore Case**

(Liberian Express, National Chronicle, The News, Heritage, The Parrot, The Monitor, New Democrat, Daily Observer)

- Maryland County Representative James Biney has warned the Executive against any decision to prosecute Lebanese businessman George Haddad and former Deputy Finance Minister Tugbeh Doe for their alleged involvement in the “controversial” Buchanan iron ore deal.
- Speaking at a news conference Friday, Representative Biney said the two men were cleared by arbitration and could not be prosecuted.
- The lawmaker was reacting to public outcry against the House’s decision to exonerate George Haddad and Tugbe Doe linked to the misappropriation of over US\$7 million in a dubious iron ore deal.
- The Executive including members of the Senate had said that the House of Representative does not have the legal authority to implement the General Auditing Commission audit report.
- Meanwhile, the Maryland County Representative has insisted that he and his colleagues had not been influenced by any financial inducement to clear Haddad and reduce the House to a courtroom.

#### **TRC Report Under “Siege”, As Rival Groups Demonstrate For and Against It**

(The Parrot, The Monitor, The Independent, Public Agenda, Plain Truth, National Chronicle, The News, New Democrat, Daily Observer)

- Two separate demonstrations on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Liberia final report have taken place in Monrovia.
- The demonstrations, one opposed to the recommendations of the TRC and the other in support for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC)’s Final Recommendations and subsequent call for the resignation of President Ellen Johnson were held despite the latter being denied a permit by Government.
- The National Consciousness Movement of Liberia (NMCL) in a statement to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) condemned the TRC’s recommendation of prosecution which it says undermines the current peace and stability in the country and called for general amnesty for all participants of the Liberian civil, including those recommended by the TRC for prosecution.
- In a counter demonstration, the Forum for The Establishment of War Crimes Court (FORUM) said the TRC Recommendations must be fully implemented.
- The group has been advocating for the establishment of a war crime court in Liberia to prosecute what it continues to term major perpetrators of heinous crimes during the country’s civil war.

#### **Representative Biney Accuses Executive Branch of Lobbying to “Kill” TRC Report**

(Heritage, The News, Daily Observer)

- Addressing a news conference in Monrovia at the weekend, Maryland County Representative James Biney accused the Executive branch of Government of lobbying with legislators to kill the recommendations contained in Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Liberia (TRC) final report.
- The recommendation seeks to ban certain officials from political office for 30 years and prosecute former warlords for their role during the Liberian civil war.
- He disclosed that members of the Executive branch of government had been seen in the corridors of the House of Representatives lobbying with lawmakers to stall the implementation of the TRC report.

- The accusation by Representative Biney comes amidst reports that huge sums of money are being circulated in House of Representatives to solicit their support in rejecting the recommendations of the TRC report.

### **“Jury System Corrupt” LACC Commissioner**

(Daily Observer)

- The Chairman of the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission, Counselor Frances Johnson Morris has described the jury system in the country as extremely corrupt.
- Counselor Morris called for a thorough review of the jury system to ensure that justice is given to people who deserve it.
- She noted that long as weaknesses in the jury system are not addressed, there would be more acquittals.
- The LACC Chairman recommended that harsher measures be put in place in vetting people to serve as jurors.

### **Bar Association Welcomes Pre-Trial In Handling Cases**

(The Inquirer)

- The Liberia National Bar Association (LNBA) has concluded its third quarterly assembly in Bong County with calls for lawyers to cooperate and or insist on the pre-trial method in handling cases.
- Members of the National Bar resolved that judges of circuit and specialized courts hold pre-trial conferences in all criminal and civil proceedings.

### **UN Envoy says Law Reform Central To UNMIL’s Mission**

(Plain Truth, The Informer, Heritage, Public Agenda)

- The Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG), Ms. Ellen Margrethe Løj said Security and Rule of Law reform will remain the central thrust of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL).
- Speaking when she awarded UN peacekeeping medals to 28 Military Observers and 27 Staff Officers from 26 countries, Ms. Løj said the Mission must also assist in dealing with crime, especially armed robbery, rape and drug trafficking while enabling the Government of Liberia’s own security institutions to develop the capacity to independently deal with security, law and order.
- At the same time, over 1,600 UNMIL Nigerian military officers have also received UN peacekeeping medals for their contribution in maintaining peace and stability in the country.

**Local Media – Star Radio** (*culled from website today at 09:00 am*)

### **World Bank Gives US\$2M to Government**

- The World Bank has provided US\$2 million dollars to Government for renewable energy.
- Land, Mines and Energy Minister, Eugene Shannon said the money will be used to provide various forms of energy to rural Liberia.
- According to Minister Shannon, Government plans to build mini-hydro, eco-hydro, solar energy and bio-gas adjusters among others.
- In an interview he said e renewable energy agency established at the Ministry will be used to implement the project.
- Robertspport and Zwedru will be the first beneficiaries of the renewable energy project.

(Also reported on Radio Veritas, Sky F.M., Truth F.M. and ELBC)

### **LACC Begins Investigating Corruption Cases**

- The Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) said it is investigating a number of corruption cases currently before the commission.
- In an interview following the validation of the cases, the Chairman of the Commission, Counselor Frances Johnson-Morris said the cases it would be submitted to the Justice Ministry for prosecution.
- Counselor Morris said the cases include media reports of corruption, and an audit report from the General Auditing Commission (GAC).

- Meanwhile, the LACC will tomorrow hold a public forum to educate citizens about its role in fighting corruption.

*(Also reported on Radio Veritas, Sky F.M., Truth F.M. and ELBC)*

### **Commerce Ministry Re-introduces Price Tag Policy**

- The Commerce Ministry said it has re-introduced the price tag policy in the country.
- Commerce Authorities said re-introduction of the policy was necessary because consumers were being cheated.

*(Also reported on Radio Veritas, Sky F.M., Truth F.M. and ELBC)*

### **Radio Veritas** *(News monitored today at 9:45 am)*

#### **Residents of Rocky Hill Community Met Ahead of Demolition Exercise**

- People living within the vicinity of the Ducor Palace Hotel building in Central Monrovia yesterday met as Government surveyors began marking structures for demolition.
- Negotiations between Government and the residents for the parcel of land continue to be stalled over the issue of ownership.
- Government said a Libyan company has agreed to take over the building and has asked the over 100,000 inhabitants also claiming ownership to the land to relocate.
- In an interview, a spokesman for the residents said unless Government brings the original map of the area they will not relinquish the land.

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## ISN

Monday, 10 August 2009

### Mongolia: Stepping on the World Stage



*Members of the Mongolian contingent of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) perform a tactical exercise prior to receiving medals of honour, in recognition for their service.*

*(cc) United Nations Photo/flickr*

As Mongolia readies itself to send its next peacekeeping force to Sierra Leone, the landlocked country demonstrates a unique position with regard to its international political and economic interests writes Jody Ray Bennett for ISN Security Watch.

By Jody Ray Bennett for ISN Security Watch

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In an attempt to bolster its recognition and influence in the international area, Mongolia is gearing up to send its eighth rotating battalion of 250 troops for peacekeeping operations (PKO) to Sierra Leone, expected to land in the West African country in early August. Mongolian participation in UN peacekeeping missions around the world is largely the result of a 2003 initiative with the US called *Khaanquest*, a “bilateral peacekeeping exercise that aims to improve bilateral peacekeeping capability between the two countries.”

In 2006 alone, the US spent \$18 million to train a part of the 11,000-member Mongolian Armed Forces (MAF) for peacekeeping missions. Approximately 300 US military personnel trained roughly “600 Mongolian troops, as well as 200 others from Bangladesh, Fiji, South Korea, Thailand and Tonga.”

Praised by the United Nations for providing perimeter and site security to the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL), the Mongolian forces also secure “detainees when they are moved outside the Court’s compound, and [are] responsible for evacuating officials and detainees in cooperation with the UNMIL’s [United National Mission in Liberia] Quick Reaction Force (QRF).”

### Playing the Great Players

Mashbat Otgonbayar Sarlagtay, a senior researcher and analyst at the Mongolian Institute for Strategic Studies explained to ISN Security Watch that after the collapse of the Soviet Union, the MAF, which once held a high reputation in communist society, began to be perceived by the Mongolian public as a large waste of money during the transition from a command to market economy. Because the public no longer felt threatened at its border from surrounding Russia and China, the MAF scaled down dramatically and performed no international military operations until a small unit deployed to Iraq in 2003 - the first foreign deployment of Mongolian forces since the 1945 Soviet invasion of Manchuria.

“[Because] the MAF was on the brink of dismantlement after the Mongolian democratic revolution, the MAF had to find its *raison d’être* and UN PKO or multinational force deployment [became] the rationale.

It coincided with Mongolia's Foreign Policy Doctrine of Third Neighbor Policy, [which aims to balance] its two neighbors' influence in Mongolia by a powerful third one," Sarlagtay told ISN Security Watch.

The "third influence" here is clearly the United States, and according to Stratfor Global Intelligence, a strong enough alliance between the US and Mongolia could allow the US military to "establish forward surveillance posts for observing Russia and China, [greatly enhancing] US early warning systems for detecting missile launches and augment[ing] electronic eavesdropping operations."

This strategy has been a significant success for Mongolia. Since its military, peacekeeping and training partnership with the US, Russia and China have made significant moves to thaw relations with Mongolia in an effort to suppress the growing relationship between the landlocked country and the United States. Moscow has since excused \$11 billion of debt accumulated by Mongolia since the end of World War II, finalizing Mongolia's total debt to Russia at a mere \$300 million. China has since funneled over \$200 million to help Mongolia build a new transportation and energy infrastructure and more recently held a "six-day [peacekeeping] exercise, involving 45 soldiers from Mongolia and 46 from China, featuring instruction and cultural exchanges at a training base in northern Beijing." Seemingly allied with US interests, the Canadian Forces Language School provides Mongolian brigades and peacekeeping forces with English language training before deployment.

The MAF has also been supporting the US operation in Afghanistan, sending eight teams of no more than 25 soldiers to the Graveyard of Empires. Performing a non-peacekeeping role in the country, Mongolia is preparing to send 150 of its soldiers for six months - its largest contribution to date - beginning in September.

It is clear why the Americans want a Mongolian force in Afghanistan. Not only is Mongolia supplementing the American military in Afghanistan at a time when most of the coalition forces are scaling down or pulling out altogether, but the vast majority of the military equipment used in Afghanistan are former Soviet Union models designed between the 1950s and 1970s—the exact same models currently used by the MAF.

### **From Soviet satellite to Sierra Leone**

According to a Mongolian news source, the brigade to Sierra Leone will "provide support in enforcing the ceasefire treaty and peace process, defending UN buildings and its employees, helping to ensure humanitarian and human rights operations, assisting in building national security and training army forces and policemen."

Colonel Jargalsaikhan Mendee, former Mongolian defense attache to the United States who coordinated the first MAF multinational force mission to Iraq in coordination with US counterparts, told ISN Security Watch that part of Mongolia's interests is to bolster its recognition on the international arena, primarily through UN PKO participation.

"Mongolia wants to advance its international profile as a good member nation of the United Nations and world community. We deploy active duty military officers and non-commissioned officers [most of which have] 2-3 years of service experience. The Sierra Leone mission is the first ever Mongolian peacekeeping commitment under the UN flag in [the context] of a military contingency," Col Mendee told ISN Security Watch.

According to the colonel, the MAF has supplied 14 military observers and 2 military officers to the Democratic Republic of Congo in 2002, 21 observers and 4 officers to the Western Sahara in 2002, 9 observers and 3 officers to the Sudan in 2005, 8 observers to Ethiopia and Eritrea in 2006, and 2 observers

and 1 officer to Georgia in 2007. Aside from its coalition support in Iraq and Afghanistan, the MAF supplied 2 platoons of 72 soldiers for the coalition mission in Kosovo between 2005 and 2006. Col Mendee told ISN Security Watch that the MAF was currently preparing to deploy 800 personnel for the UN mission in Chad later this year, some of which will include Mongolian police personnel.

Mongolian participation with the UN has already earned it a recent visit by UN chief Ban Ki-Moon to a “traditional Mongolian herder community to see first hand how their livelihoods were being hit by water shortages and desertification” as a result of global climate change. This is the trade off Mongolia was hoping for: supply troops for UN peacekeeping missions and receive recognition and aid from the UN; partner with the US for peacekeeping and military training as Russia forgives debt and China jumps at the chance to participate while funding domestic projects. In this context, the government of Mongolia is demonstrating its willingness to dance with the larger international actors, either in order to garner financial aid in the absence of a soviet donor state or perhaps to secure its independence from surrounding superpowers that might otherwise have regained control of Mongolia as a periphery client state.

While the observation of Mongolian soldiers patrolling cities throughout Sierra Leone might seem peculiar, this operation is a perceived rational choice for Mongolia to the extent that international relations theory provides explanatory models of global politics. At the very least, the Mongolian role in Sierra Leone can partially be understood as a necessary means to secure gains relative to what otherwise would be absent upon a continued existence in not only one, but two hegemonic spheres of influence

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