

SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
PRESS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

PRESS CLIPPINGS

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

Monday, July 11, 2005

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.
If you are aware of omissions or have any comments or suggestions please contact
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Ext 7217 / 7216

Awoko. Monday July 11th, 2005.

Witness testifies how they were told to capture Kabala

By Betty Milton

Prosecution witness TF1-180 told the court that Major Sheik told them that they the child soldiers should capture Kabala. In his evidence, the witness said that four RUF rebels

abducted him in Tombodu when he was sent by his mother to sell some items. His mother the witness said was killed when she pleaded for them to release him. "Twenty of us were abducted on that day and we were taken to the Makeni Police Barracks

where we were trained for four months. After the training we were given hard drugs." The form two (2) Pupil further stated that while they were in Makeni, Major Sheik told them that he has received orders from Gullit, 55, Issa Sesay, and 05 that the small

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Witness testifies how they were told to capture Kabala

From Front Page

boys should go on food finding and that they should come along with boys captured in the operation. During the operation fifty boys were abducted and taken to Makeni where they were trained. The 19-year-old boy also informed the court that they were ordered by the commanders to

capture Kabala because the Guinean and ECOMOG troops are based there. They were supplied ammunition on their way to Makeni; they made their first stop at Kamaseke where the commanders alighted from the vehicle and took to the bush. The operation in Kabala the

witness said started at night as they went and attacked the two groups there. "The first attack in Kabala was not successful as the faction at that time comprised of partly members of the Sierra Leone Army, ECOMOG and Guinean troops. During the second attack we were able to capture Kabala and as we ousted the two groups, the S.L.A's joined us."

The Exclusive. Monday July 11th 2005.

Taylor To Be Extradited Soon

Liberia's interim government has called for the exile agreement of former president Charles Taylor to be re-

viewed, after accusing him of repeatedly breaking the terms of his asylum in Nigeria with daily phone calls back home

and orders to supporters that could threaten peace in Liberia and beyond.

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Taylor To Be Extradited Soon

From front page

Taylor and his trademark white suit flew into exile in Nigeria under the terms of the August 2003 peace deal that ended Liberia's 14-year civil war. The warlord, accused of fermenting strife across the West African region, is now holed up in a luxury compound in the remote town of Calabar in the Niger Delta.

"(The) preponderance of evidence of Mr. Taylor's interference in Liberian politics as well as his destabilization efforts of the sub-region combines to provide compelling legal necessity for a review of that internationally-brookered exit agreement," said a statement from the Liberian Justice Ministry, issued late Wednesday.

"The ex-president's current activities include daily phone calls to cronies in Liberia and other parts of the world, through which he issues orders and instructions, much to the detriment of peace and security of Liberia and the sub-region," the statement said.

"The ex-president cannot continue to be beneficiary of this agreement in the face of increasing compelling evidence of his notorious

violation of that self-same agreement," it added.

Taylor's asylum deal is currently protecting him from standing trial in a UN-backed court in Sierra Leone on a 17 counts charge of crimes against humanity perpetrated in that country's civil conflict.

He is accused of supporting the brutal rebellion waged by the Revolutionary United Front in Sierra Leone's decade-long war that officially ended in 2002, by supplying its leaders with weapons and ammunition in return for smuggled diamonds.

Despite a chorus of calls from Western governments and international human rights groups to hand over Taylor to face justice, Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo has so far refused to expel the one-time Liberian leader until he has concrete proof that the terms of his asylum agreement have been violated.

Diplomats at the UN Security Council in New York have stopped short of a resolution officially calling for Taylor to be handed over, but have hinted that discussions were taking place in Africa on the subject.

Wednesday's appeal from Liberia's interim government to review the terms of Taylor's exile agreement may well be the first step.

It will certainly increase the pressure on Obasanjo, who has publicly promised to send Taylor back to Monrovia to stand trial, should a future elected government in Liberia ever decide to press charges and demand his extradition.

Interim leader Gyude Bryant had previously said that Taylor's presence in Nigeria was part of the peace process, but warned that if Taylor starts behaving in a way that is likely to derail peace, it would change things.

Nigerian officials in Abuja were not immediately available to comment on Thursday on the statement from the Liberian government.

The Justice Ministry did not provide specifics about who Taylor had been calling from his Nigerian hideaway, nor details of the orders he was giving. Spokesmen for both the Ministry and the government declined further com-

ment when contacted by IRIN.

But as Liberia prepares for the 11 October elections, the final chapter in the country's transition to democracy, allegations of meddling by Taylor have been numerous. Reports from research groups Global witness and the Coalition for International Justice have said Taylor is controlling or helping to finance at least nine of the 20 or so political parties that have thrown their hat into the ring for the October ballot.

Special Court prosecutors in Sierra Leone have accused Taylor of wiring US \$160,000 to his supporters in the Liberian capital Monrovia last October to help start riots that killed 16 people and injured hundreds of others, and have named him as being involved in a January 2005 assassination attempt on ailing Guinean President Lansana Conte.

Liberia says exiled Taylor still meddling at home

Fri 8 Jul 2005 5:21 PM ET

By Alphonso Toweh

MONROVIA, July 8 (Reuters) - Liberia has evidence that former President Charles Taylor is trying to destabilise his country from exile in Nigeria and his asylum deal should be reviewed, Justice Minister Kabineh Ja'neh said on Friday.

Taylor, a former warlord voted in as president in 1997, went into exile in Nigeria in 2003 under an asylum deal to end years of civil war and pave the way for the deployment of United Nations peacekeepers to the West African country.

Human rights activists have demanded Taylor be extradited to face trial in neighbouring Sierra Leone's special war crimes court for his role in fomenting a parallel 10-year civil war in that country by supporting rebels there in return for diamonds.

But Nigeria has said it will not extradite him unless it is proved he has broken his exile agreement -- which prohibits him from interfering in Liberian affairs.

"Taylor is not only active in Liberia, but there is incontrovertible evidence that he is deeply involved in the political activities of Liberia as well as endeavours calculated primarily to destabilise the sub-region," Ja'neh said, quoting from a government statement released this week.

There has been growing pressure to try Taylor. Last week human rights groups launched a campaign to urge Nigeria to send him for trial, and in June British Ambassador to the United Nations Emyr Jones Parry said there were sensitive discussions taking place in Africa on bringing Taylor to justice.

Taylor is accused of backing Sierra Leonean rebels who killed, raped and maimed thousands of men, women and children.

Ja'neh, who serves in an interim government ruling Liberia ahead of parliamentary and presidential elections on Oct. 11, said Taylor was in regular contact with Liberia by phone.

"Taylor's current activities include daily telephone calls to cronies in Liberia and other parts of the world, through which he issues orders and instructions, much to the detriment of peace and security of Liberia and the sub-region," he said.

The acting head of the U.N. mission in Liberia, Abou Moussa, told reporters on Wednesday there was no evidence that Taylor was interfering in Liberia's domestic politics.



<http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/sunday/commentary/la-oe-brooks10jul10,0,3481853.story?coll=la-sunday-commentary>

ROSA BROOKS

Time is running out for the bad guys

Around the world, justice is finally catching up with abusers of human rights. In the U.S., leaders should pay attention.

July 10, 2005

On July 11, 1995, armed U.N. peacekeepers stood by passively as Bosnian Serb troops overran the Bosnian town of Srebrenica. Although the U.N. Security Council had declared Srebrenica a "safe area," the Bosnian Serb forces massacred nearly 8,000 Muslim civilians in the days following the city's fall.

Few of the massacre's planners have been brought to justice. The International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia has charged Radovan Karadzic, the wartime Bosnian Serb president, and Ratko Mladic, his top general, with war crimes. But although their whereabouts have been an open secret for a decade, neither NATO nor the Bosnian Serb authorities has summoned up the political will to arrest them.

Little wonder, then, that elaborate plans to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Srebrenica massacre have left some with a bad taste in their mouths. Carla Del Ponte, the international tribunal prosecutor, has refused to join dignitaries at the commemoration. Calling the failure to apprehend Mladic and Karadzic a "disgrace and a shame," Del Ponte says she "cannot face the victims."

Justice isn't everything, of course. Neither Del Ponte nor anyone else should imagine that punishing Mladic and Karadzic will compensate Bosnians for the suffering, or erase the international community's culpability for failing to prevent the Srebrenica massacre in the first place. The dead will stay dead.

But though it's only a distant second-best to preventing atrocities, punishing perpetrators is still important. It acknowledges the suffering of the victims and in the long run could help deter future abuses by forcing the bad guys to ask themselves if the abuses are worth it, given the increasing likelihood of ending up in jail somewhere down the line.

Even with Mladic and Karadzic still at large, events of the last decade offer reason to hope that the age of impunity is gradually coming to an end. In March 1999, the British House of Lords ruled that Augusto Pinochet, Chilean dictator from 1973 to 1990, had no immunity from prosecution for the torture of political dissidents. The landmark decision brought about a sea change in Chile's domestic politics, giving Chileans the courage to hold Pinochet — long considered politically untouchable — responsible for the misery he had caused. Today, he faces charges of murder and torture in Chile's courts.

Elsewhere, high-level perpetrators have similarly been forced to face the music. In June 1999, former Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic was transferred to the tribunal's custody, and he is now on trial for his role in the former Yugoslavia's wars. In Rwanda, where the 1994 genocide engineered by the Hutu

government killed 800,000 ethnic Tutsis, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda has convicted several top political officials, including Jean Kambanda, Rwanda's former prime minister.

In Sierra Leone, an internationally backed Special Court is trying several former government ministers for their actions during the country's brutal civil war. In Argentina, where the government's "dirty war" killed an estimated 14,000 dissidents between 1976 and 1983, the Supreme Court recently declared unconstitutional amnesty laws that have long hindered prosecutions of those responsible. And in Iraq, Saddam Hussein is finally being held accountable by his countrymen for his years of rule by terror.

The quest for justice has met with inevitable setbacks as well as successes. At the Hague, Milosevic's trial has dragged on for four years with no end in sight. In Indonesia, political interference with trials has led to the acquittal of nearly all military officials responsible for massacres in East Timor. Another semi-international court, the Special Tribunal for Cambodia, may not have sufficient political independence to bring surviving Khmer Rouge officials to justice. In 1998, an international treaty established a permanent International Criminal Court at the Hague, but its viability remains in question because the Bush administration opposes it, citing fears of politically motivated prosecutions.

All the same, I doubt that Mladic and Karadzic sleep soundly these days. They must know that sooner or later, they're likely to end up in the dock. Already, neither man can travel abroad for fear of arrest.

As Martin Luther King Jr. said, "The moral arc of the universe is long, but it bends towards justice." Around the world, the message is going out to those who commit human rights abuses, whether insurgents, terrorists or government officials: You may get away with it for years — but you won't get away with it forever.

It's a message our own political leaders would do well to heed. The human rights abuses committed by the United States in the war on terrorism don't begin to approach the severity of the abuses routinely committed in many other parts of the world. Still, some U.S. policies have rightly drawn international condemnation.

Our indefinite detention of prisoners at Guantanamo Bay without due process, our alleged use of interrogation techniques such as "waterboarding" (strapping detainees to a board and lowering them into water so that they think they're being drowned) and our system of secret "renditions" (seizing suspected terrorists in one country and transporting them to another to be held, interrogated or imprisoned) violate both international and U.S. law.

Although for the time being the American public seems oddly passive in the face of these abuses, the experience of other nations suggests that this passivity won't last forever.

Ultimately, the Bush administration's actions in the war on terrorism will be judged by history. Someday, they may also be judged by the courts.

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International Clips on Liberia

08/07/2005 15:46:48

Liberia justice minister seeks to revisit Taylor exile agreement

By Zoom Dosso

MONROVIA, July 8 (AFP) - Liberia's justice minister said he will seek a revisiting of the exile agreement granted to Charles Taylor, amid mounting accusations that the warlord turned president has repeatedly violated terms of his asylum.

In a letter to UN special envoy Abou Moussa, a copy of which was seen Friday by AFP, Justice Minister Kabineh Janeh said Taylor was "not only active" in Liberia but "deeply involved in political activities as well as endeavors calculated primarily for the destabilization of Liberia and the sub-region".

International Clips on West Africa**UN report links Ivory Coast massacre to Liberian mercenaries**

By Joe Bavier

Abidjan, 07 July 2005 - An internal United Nations intelligence report has linked Liberian mercenaries to a massacre that killed dozens in Ivory Coast's volatile west last month. The report has surfaced as the UN's human rights chief is in the country to combat rights violations.

The report focuses on the events surrounding massacres in the western villages of Petit Duekoue and nearby Guitrozon, where more than 40 people were shot, hacked to death with machetes, or burned alive in their homes in the early hours of June 1.

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International Clips on Liberia

08/07/2005 16:34:04

Liberia accuses ex-president Charles Taylor of meddling in Liberian affairs from exile

By JONATHAN PAYE-LAYLEH

MONROVIA, Liberia (AP) _ Liberia's justice minister on Friday accused ex-President Charles Taylor of meddling in Liberian politics in violation of an agreement under which he lives in exile in Nigeria.

"We know that Mr. Taylor is literally making telephone calls to his cronies in Liberia and other parts of the world daily. During these telephone discussions, he issues instructions and orders which impact directly on the politics of Liberia," Justice Minister Kabineh Ja'neh said.

"We also know that there are, have been, people coming in and out of Liberia that work directly with Mr. Taylor," Ja'neh added.

International Clips on West Africa**Côte d'Ivoire: Disarmament talks continuing after two days**

[This report does not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations]

YAMOUSSOUKRO, 8 July (IRIN) - Talks to agree a disarmament timetable to end Cote d'Ivoire's three-year civil war were continuing on Friday evening after two days of efforts to reach agreement.

As dusk fell over the official capital of the world's top cocoa producer, officials said the two sides in the conflict - rebels who hold the north and government forces who control the south - were still fine-tuning a deal.

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International Clips on Liberia

International Clips on West Africa

10/07/2005 13:38:41

Ivory Coast army, rebels agree to start disarming before October election

By SERME LASSINA

YAMOUSSOUKRO, Ivory Coast (AP) _ Army and rebel officials in Ivory Coast have agreed to begin disarming by late September, just one month before crucial Oct. 30 presidential elections, officials said Sunday.

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For Immediate Release
Office of the Press Secretary
July 8, 2005

Fact Sheet: United States and G8 Renew Strong Commitment to Africa

"We believe Africa is a continent full of promise and talent and opportunity, and the United States will do our part to help the people of Africa realize the brighter future they deserve."

President George W. Bush, June 13, 2005

Presidential Action

- **President Bush today with his G-8 partners launched an historic commitment to assist Africa in bolstering its economic development through the strengthening of African leaders and African people. The United States will help ensure that reforms in Africa continue to gain momentum. The President also welcomed G-8 support for new initiatives that tangibly address real needs with real solutions.**

Africa is a continent of promise, and the United States will work to see that the children of Africa have the opportunity to grow up healthy and realize their dreams. As freedom is on the march around the world, it is vital that democracy and prosperity continue to find a permanent home on the continent of Africa - a healthy, prosperous Africa will make this world a better and safer place.

The United States welcomes G-8 support for initiatives that advance U.S. priorities:

- Agreeing to debt relief
- Scaling up the fight against malaria
- Addressing urgent humanitarian needs
- Improving education, particularly for girls
- Increasing development assistance
- Greater Trade and Investment
- Greater support for Peace and Stability

Debt Relief - A Clean Slate for Financially Over-Burdened Countries

- With leadership from President Bush and Prime Minister Blair, the G-8 countries agreed to cancel 100% of the bilateral and multilateral debt for qualifying Heavily Indebted Poor Countries. It is also important that the agreement preserves the financial integrity of the international financial institutions.
- In June of 2001, President Bush called on the World Bank and other development banks to "stop the debt" by providing up to 50 percent of their assistance to the poorest countries in the form of grants. At the time, more than 99% of all multilateral development bank assistance was provided as loans. The World Bank has made steady progress on this ambitious goal. The latest International Development Association (IDA, the concessional arm of the World Bank) and African Development Fund replenishments stipulate that approximately 45% of assistance to the poorest countries will be provided on grant terms, with approximately 40 countries receiving 100% grants.

Fighting Malaria - Cutting Mortality by 50%

- Responding to the President's challenge on June 30 to dramatically reduce malaria as a major killer of children in sub-Saharan Africa, the G-8 agreed to work with African countries to increase funding for fighting malaria to reach 85% of the vulnerable populations with the key interventions. This will save children's lives and reduce the drag on African economies.
- The President pledged to increase U.S. funding of malaria prevention and treatment by more than \$1.2 billion over five years. The goal is to reduce malaria deaths by 50 percent in targeted African countries.
- The additional funding provided by the United States will eventually benefit more than 175 million people in 15 or more African countries. This commitment to expand malaria prevention and treatment programs in Africa is in addition to the \$200 million the U.S. already spends on malaria prevention, treatment, and research worldwide.
- The President calls on other donors, foundations, and private, public, and voluntary organizations to complement the United States commitments by providing additional funding.

Addressing Humanitarian Needs - Saving Millions of Lives

- Responding to the call of President Bush and Prime Minister Blair, the G-8 agreed to help sufficiently fund the urgent needs of millions of Africans affected by humanitarian emergencies on the continent. They further agreed to work with other partners to improve the timeliness, predictability and effectiveness of humanitarian aid and to ensure the root causes of these crises continue to receive adequate attention.
- On June 7, 2005, President Bush announced approximately \$674 million of additional resources to respond to humanitarian emergencies in Africa. The President took decisive action to avert famine in the Horn of Africa, where approximately \$414 million of the additional resources are being provided.
- The United States has already provided nearly \$1.4 billion this fiscal year for humanitarian needs in Africa, some through the United Nations and some directly to non-governmental organizations providing relief in emergency settings. The \$674 million announced June 7 will bring total funding for FY05 to more than \$2 billion.
- The G-8, through its "Ending the Cycle of Famine" initiative, is engaged with the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and others to address the root causes of famine, including through more sustainable land and water management, market-oriented agricultural policies, improved infrastructure, access to finance, more developed regional markets, and science and technology.

Education - Hope for the Future

- The G-8 agreed to invest more in greater educational access, increased teacher training, and the establishment of new schools. It will also support the Education for All agenda in Africa.
- The President announced on June 30 \$400 million to continue and to increase the funding of the African Education Initiative (AEI) from 2007 to 2010 to train teachers and administrators, award scholarships, build schools, buy textbooks, and expand opportunities inside and outside the classroom.
- The goal of the AEI is to provide:
 - Training for 500,000 teachers and administrators;
 - 300,000 scholarships under the Ambassador's Girls Scholarship Program with an emphasis on educational opportunities for girls;
 - Development and distribution of 10-million textbooks and related learning and teaching materials;
 - Improved access for marginalized students and teachers to learning, education materials, and training;
 - Improved access to education and training for out-of-school youth, orphans, and other vulnerable children; and
 - Improved access to productivity-increasing job skills training and development.

Increasing Development Assistance - Reinforcing Africa's Commitment to Reform

- President Bush announced that the United States will again double assistance to Africa between 2004 and 2010. Consistent with the President's policy, the G-8 agreed that development requires not just aid, but better governance, stability and peace in order for the private sector to grow and create jobs.
- The U.S. provided around \$4.3 billion in bilateral and multilateral official development assistance to sub-Saharan Africa in 2004. This assistance helps relieve poverty, provide essential health and medical services and spur economic growth.
- In 2004, the Congress established the **Millennium Challenge Account (MCA)** proposed by President Bush to provide aid to poorer nations based on the common sense idea that aid works best in countries that are proving their commitment to govern justly, respect the rule of law, invest in their citizens, and open up their economies.
 - Of the seventeen MCA eligible countries, eight are Sub-Saharan African countries. The first Millennium Challenge Compact was with Madagascar, for nearly \$110 million, and a second Millennium Challenge Compact with Cape Verde, for approximately \$110 million, was signed July 4, 2005. Seven of thirteen countries eligible to apply for the MCA threshold assistance program are in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Greater Trade and Investment - The Engine of Economic Growth

- The G-8 reaffirmed the belief that private enterprise is a prime engine of growth and development. Consistent with the President's policy, the G-8 agreed that an ambitious and balanced conclusion to the Doha Round is the best way to make trade work for Africa and increase African countries' integration into the global economy.
- In 2001, President Bush extended the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). Because of AGOA, which offers preferential trade benefits to eligible sub-Saharan African countries (currently 37), two-way trade between the United States and sub-Saharan Africa topped \$44 billion in 2004.
 - From 2000-2004, U.S. imports from Sub-Saharan Africa increased by more than 50% and U.S. exports to Sub-Saharan Africa increased 44%, thanks in part to the more business-friendly environment AGOA has promoted.
 - AGOA has helped African countries to diversify exports. Non-oil AGOA imports - including apparel, automobiles, and processed agricultural goods - have more than doubled since 2001 (the first full year of AGOA), reaching \$3.5 billion in 2004.
 - Over 98% of imports from AGOA countries entered the United States duty-free in 2004.
- The U.S. accounts for more than 24 percent of exports from Sub-Saharan Africa; the largest single-country share of all of Africa's major trading partners. The U.S. share of the exports from Sub-Saharan Africa rose by 21 percent between 1998 and 2003.
- As the world's largest single-country contributor of trade capacity building assistance, the U.S. committed more than \$400 million in 2002-2004 to technical assistance programs aimed at helping sub-Saharan African countries to further develop their capacity to trade.

Peace and Stability - The Foundation for Development

- The G-8 affirmed that peace is the first condition of successful development and recommitted to support Africa's efforts to build a peaceful and stable Africa. The President urged the continued support to African initiatives to prevent, mediate and resolve conflict, particularly backing the continued capacity development of the African Union.
- The G-8 agreed to support within their own governments' mechanisms for more effective and flexible crisis response and to promote more comprehensive and coordinated support to the United Nations, African Union and other key regional organizations.
- Over half of the African peacekeeping units deployed worldwide have received U.S. training and equipment.
- Through the President's Global Peace Operations Initiative (GPOI), the goals of which were endorsed at Sea Island in 2004, the U.S. will spend approximately \$100 million in FY2005, most of which will go towards Africa, and an expected total of \$660 million over 5 years to increase global capacity for peace support operations in Africa and elsewhere.

- The African Contingency Operations Training and Assistance program will permit training of more than 40,000 peacekeepers over 5 years. The U.S. will also support conflict prevention and management efforts of regional and sub-regional organizations, such as the AU and Economic Community of West African States.
- The U.S. played a key role in negotiating the peaceful resolution of the 20-year conflict between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan Peoples Liberation Movement that led to the signing on January 9, 2005 of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and the formation of the Government of National Unity to be sworn in on July 9, 2005. This process provides a framework for resolving other conflicts in Sudan, including Darfur.
- The Administration has led the international community's successful efforts to remove Charles Taylor from power peacefully and to help Liberia recover from decades of civil war and a near-total absence of government services and of respect for the rule of law. In FY2004-2005, the Administration has allocated over \$700 million for international peacekeeping efforts, security sector reform, good governance, elections, as well as humanitarian relief, resettlement, education, and community revitalization programs for those affected by the fighting. Peace has returned to Liberia, and elections are scheduled.
- The U.S. facilitated the drafting and signing of the Tripartite Agreement between DRC, Rwanda and Uganda that has resulted in the reduction of violence in Eastern Congo and major steps towards the normalizations of relations and the government of Rwanda agreement to accept the return of the FDLR rebels into Rwandan society. The U.S. formed the Great Lakes Contact Group with European allies to coordinate international efforts to support the peace process and political transition in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- The U.S. supported international efforts that helped end the civil war in Sierra Leone in 2002 and has been the largest contributor to the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL), which is helping to secure long-term peace and stability by prosecuting war criminals. The U.S. has taken a lead in addressing the threat to stability posed by unregulated alluvial diamond mining, illicit trading, and exploitation of young miners.

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