

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:

Wednesday, 12 April 2006

The press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
If you are aware of omissions or have any comments or suggestions please contact
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Concord Times
12 April 2006

Taylor's lawyer files motion for trial in Salone

Story: Sahr Musa Yamba

The defense lawyer of Charles Taylor at the Special Court, Karim A.A Khan, has filed a motion for the latter's trial to be held in Sierra Leone, rather than The Hague, Peter Andersen, Deputy Chief of Public Affairs intimated Concord Times Tuesday.

Andersen confirmed the motion was filed on the 6th April.

However, Andersen says the motion filed could not be heard now because the court is on recess. He says the courts judges are away from the 10th to the 24th April after which, the court

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Taylor's lawyer files motion for trial in Salone

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could hear the said motion.

The motion filed reads: "Defense motion 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 that the trial chamber requests that the President of the Special Court to withdraw the requests reportedly made to (1) the government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to permit that the trial of Charles Ghankay Taylor be conducted on its territory and (2) To the President of the ICC for the use of the ICC building and facilities in the Netherlands during the proposed trial of Charles Ghankay Taylor."

Asked about recent newspaper reports that fighters of Charles Taylor's NPFL are in town and whether it was of concern for the Court, Andersen replied, "those are rumours and we cannot respond to them." He maintained the Special Court has a well-trained Mongolian contingent that takes care of Security and they take security issues "very seriously."

On the issue of the defense counsel, Khan that has been temporarily assigned to Taylor's case for a period of 90 days, Andersen says he could not confirm whether he has arrived in Freetown as he was expected early this week from the UK.

In a related development, the U.N. Security Council members have agreed 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 said there were 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. Taylor spent over two 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 March under international pressure and controversial drama. 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.

Standard Times
12 April 2006

President to Prisoner: Who benefits from his trial?

BY SAIDU KAMARA IN GHANA

In August, 2003 West African leaders, under the auspices of the sub-regional body, ECOWAS succeeded in brokering peace for Liberia, under which the then President, Mr. Charles Taylor was to vacate the Executive Mansion in Monrovia and take refuge in Nigeria.

That agreement brought to an end the 14 years of bitter civil war, which brought death, destruction, displacement and untold hardship to the people of Liberia. It was estimated that over 250,000 Liberians lost their lives during the civil war, with hundreds of thousands seeking sanctuary in other countries.

Events of the war in Liberia had devastating effects on other countries in the sub-region, as refugees fleeing the carnage in that country spilled over national borders, thereby overstressing the already fragile economies of host countries.

Nigeria and Ghana, played no mean part in restoring peace in Liberia, having contributed immensely to ECOMOG, the peaceful wing of ECOWAS, which for a decade kept combatants at bay and for providing sanctuary for thousands of Liberian refugees on their soil.

During those difficult years, the contribution of the International Community was very scanty and the burden of keeping the peace was left mainly on the shoulders of Nigeria, the sub-regional super power, with support from other countries, including Sierra Leone. Liberian's woes began in 1980, when soldiers led by the known Master-Sergeant Samuel Doe, to bring to an end the dominance of the Americo-Liberians, who had controlled political power in that country for a long period, overthrew the government of President William R. Tolbert Jr. on April 12, 1980.

Master-Sgt. Doe rode on the waves of food riots that rocked the country, leading to the death of many and brought general discontent to the Tolbert's government. Typical of the military dictatorship prevalent on the continent, Doe, who had elevated himself to the rank of General and Commander-in Chief of the Liberian Armed Forces, saw the collapse of the economy and the abuse of human rights became a normal political policy. In the year 1985, the ban on political activities was lifted and taking a cue from his coup maker predecessors, Mast-Sgt Doe formed his own political party, the National Democratic Party of Liberia (NDPL), and won the subsequent election. He took office as a democratically elected constitutional President in January 1986.

Doe's brutal human rights record, his marginalization of the Americo-Liberians and other tribes outside his Krahn tribe, in addition to a collapsed economy, opened him to attacks from several fronts. On Christmas Eve, 1989, the man Charles Taylor managed to put together a group of mainly Americo-Liberians and a few others from other tribes who paraded under the name, the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL), to invade Liberia from Cote d' Ivoire.

Charles Taylor finally entered Monrovia in 1990 and the events, which followed saw the brutal killing of president Doe in September 10, 1990. After several efforts, ECOWAS was able to put together a peace agreement, leading to elections which were won by Charles Taylor. The peace could not last, as Charles Taylor failed to bring into the new government all the leaders of the various combating groups that emerged during the civil war, contrary to the provisions of the peace deal agreed upon.

After months of tension, anti-government fighting broke out in 1999, and by the following year, Liberia had become ungovernable again.

It was during one of the peacemaking efforts in Accra June 2003 that the UN war crime tribunal in Sierra Leone indicted President Charles Taylor for war crimes against the people of Sierra Leone.

He was accused of aiding the RUF rebels, who were notorious for cutting the limbs of men, women and children in the Sierra Leone civil war. Those who thought Ghana will fall into a diplomatic trap by arresting Taylor while he was in Ghana, might have been dreaming. The man was in Accra not as a fugitive but the president of a sovereign nation who was there on the invitation of ECOWAS Heads of State to negotiate peace for his war-torn country.

In August 2003 after a lot of horse-trading, Charles Taylor was given a safe passage to Nigeria to begin life in exile so that the people of Liberia could have peace. That brought to an end the 14 years of civil war and created the platform for the establishment of an interim government under the terms of Mr. Gynda Bryant. Under the terms of the agreement Taylor was to enjoy immunity from prosecution.

He was also to disengage himself from politics and avoid providing support, whether overtly or covertly, to any political group in Liberia. As a result of the 2003 agreement, Liberia has enjoyed relative peace over the past two years, crowning it with general elections late last year which saw the first elected female in Africa Mrs. Eleen Johnson as President.

Now, what is the motive of those who are clamoring for the trial of Charles Taylor in Freetown or anywhere for war crimes? Presidents Kuffor of Ghana and Obasanjo of Nigeria have been at pains explaining to the American lobby why ECOWAS was not too much enthusiastic about the handing over of Taylor to the war tribunal in Sierra Leone. The West, who proclaim themselves to be champions of human rights and democracy, have forgotten so soon the carnage which swept through Liberia for almost 15 years, with its devastating effect on the people of the sub-region.

Some of these Western agents were even questioning the propriety of President Kuffor in defying a UN indictment and failing to arrest Charles Taylor while he was in Ghana. Taylor was never overthrown from office, nor was he a fugitive. He, on his own volition, agreed to go into exile to end the years of bitter war in his country. What should be realized is that Taylor's absence from Liberia, so far, so good.

Secondly, there is still enough blood on the eyes of those who fought the bitter 14 year civil war

SPECIAL COMMENTARY

and it would need a little incident to trigger them back into action. Taylor still has a lot of support among the war-hardened men who are roaming Liberia unemployed, disenchanted and ready to go into battle again, should the need arise. That is why some schools of thought believe that the man should be left along. Liberia needs time to rebuild its infrastructure that has been destroyed through years of the senseless war. It needs time to reconcile its people who have been divided by atrocious war.

Liberians now have peace, but it is till fragile. Let them mature it to bring back smiles to their face. But other schools of thought firmly believe that the law should take its course, especially victims for the 11 years rebel war in Sierra Leone. Prior to the conflict in Sierra Leone, Charles Taylor promised the people of Sierra Leone that they would taste the bitterness of war. He provided weapons and trained fighters of Foday Sankoh's RUF rebel in exchange of diamonds and money.

Taylor caused untold hardship to the people of Sierra Leone through the cutting of limbs, maiming and the destruction of houses. Charles Taylor has committed heinous crimes against humanity in Sierra Leone and he should face trial. Also his arrest and detention is a clear warning signal to anyone who would-be rebel leader in Africa that, however powerful you are, however mighty you are and the respect you have, you should bear in mind that one day you must give an account of your stewardship in power. This also goes for rebels in Cote d' Ivoire, Uganda, Somalia and Sudan.

New Vision

12 April 2006

When Taylor Became Broke

A request from ex-President Charles Taylor to the Special Court for a defense Lawyer has been immediately granted. The ex-warlord has indicated that he does not have enough money to finance his own defence in a declaration of means that he has filed with the court.

After the request the Principal defender provisionally assigned Mr. Karim Asad Ahmad Khasia renowned barrister as Taylor's acting defense counsel. Several Lawyers of eminence from Liberia's some of whom are close associates of Taylor throughout the Liberian civil war have flown into the country to constitute Taylor's defense team. The Lawyers from Liberia are headed by Counsellor Francis Garlawolo, an ex-Justice Minister and Attorney-General in the elected government headed by Taylor in Monrovia.

When did Taylor become broke? By all standards there is no doubt that Taylor has been over the war years one of Africa's richest millionaires as a result of being the sole custodian of the spoils of war in both Liberia and parts of Sierra Leone.

As a matter of fact the warlords were apt to become millionaires during the war because only they and their commanders had access to the natural resources. These commanders and civilians associates as well as foreign investors in Liberia or in the Sierra Leone operations reported directly to Mr. Taylor.

In Sierra Leone the RUF fighters of Foday Sankoh plundered the diamond fields with impunity, as there was no authority on the ground to regulate mining operations. All civil authorities were vested into the hands of RUF commanders in their controlled zones. The mining operations where the most senior commanders always hold the 'lion's share of the diamonds, with the gun-carrying fighters only being used as artisan mining labourers. In several instances mining commanders were using the barrel of the gun to hold-up or confiscate diamonds fetched by the ordinary miners. These were forwarded to senior commandos who have access to the overall boss Mr. Taylor in Gbarnga, Central Liberia.

The next link is that these top-brass contact persons like Maskita or Issa Sesay were escorted by armed body guards to Gbarnga through Kailahun. And in exchange the NPFL command center in Gbarnga offer suppliers of several bags of rice, revolvers AK-47 rifles and ammunitions to ensure the continuity of the Sierra Leone blood diamonds operations.

It was no hidden secret that from the onset of the war Taylor made enormous profits from the "blood diamonds" phenomenon. As long as diamond, gold and other valuables were being trailed to Taylor every effort was being made to prolong the war strategies in both Liberia and Sierra Leone.

Taylor in turn made provision of pocket changes to his associates within the rebellion, while the rebels scrap their livings on lootings harassments and intimidations of civilians. People spied one another for counter revolutionary or anti-Taylor elements. These were considered security threats and sometimes eliminated. The bulk of the population in rebel-held zones were living in a state of fear, scenes of brutal murders.

We appreciate the gesture of the Special Court to provide a lawyer for Charles Taylor, as a means of facilitating his trail, but it will be difficult to believe that after years of plundering looting the resources of this country and the sub-region, Charles Taylor has gone broke only after three years out of power.

Reuters

11 April 2006

UN plan to move Taylor's trial hits new snag

By Irwin Arief

UNITED NATIONS (Reuters) - A U.N. plan to move the war crimes trial of ex-Liberian leader Charles Taylor to The Hague could be further delayed by difficulties in finding a country willing to take Taylor after the trial, diplomats said on Tuesday.

The Netherlands has expressed willingness to host Taylor's trial but wants assurances before the move that another country will either imprison the Liberian if he is convicted or accept him as an exile if he is acquitted, the diplomats said.

The U.N. Security Council had initially planned to take up a resolution this week approving a shift in the trial to The Hague from the Sierra Leone capital of Freetown, but a vote may now slip into next week, they said.

Council members have been haggling for nearly two weeks over details of the move including whether the U.N. special court in Freetown would be able to come up with the extra money needed to hold the trial in Europe.

Concerning Taylor's ultimate destination, "the government of the Netherlands is looking for assurances, and no country has yet come forward to deliver those assurances," British Ambassador Emyr Jones Parry told reporters.

Sweden was among the nations approached to take Taylor but has rejected the idea, diplomats said.

"Having an end-state is important because people along the line, after he has moved to The Hague, want to know where he would go from there," U.S. Ambassador John Bolton said.

"As a matter of good management, it is important to get this resolved. I don't anticipate this is going to take a long time, though," Bolton said.

Taylor is now in a cell in Freetown guarded by U.N. peacekeepers.

The U.N. tribunal there has asked for Taylor to be tried outside the West African region for fear it could spur unrest in Liberia or neighbouring Sierra Leone.

His 1989 rise to power led to a 14-year on-and-off civil war in Liberia that spilt across regional borders.

The special court has indicted him on 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity for backing rebels who raped and mutilated civilians during Sierra Leone's 1991-2002 civil war.

Taylor fled Liberia to go into exile in Nigeria in 2003 but was returned to Liberia and transferred to the U.N. court in Sierra Leone on March 29. He pleaded innocent to the charges earlier this month.

Voice of America

11 April 2006

Sierra Leone War Victims Question Taylor Trial Transfer

By Joe Bavier
Freetown
11 April 2006

The United Nations is preparing to approve a transfer of former Liberian President Charles Taylor's war crimes trial out of Sierra Leone. However, not all Sierra Leoneans are in favor of a move.

Abubakrr Kargbo was returning home from his job as a construction worker on a building site in Freetown the day both his arms were amputated by fighters from the Revolutionary United Front.

"Because they failed their mission, when they are retreating, I met with them, six of them. They caught me. They placed me in a mango tree. They chopped both arms with an ax. They said, you'll never vote again," he recalled.

That was six years ago. And today, Abubakrr makes the trip, two-hours each way, into the capital six days out of the week to beg for enough money to feed his family of five.

He is just one of thousands of Sierra Leoneans to have suffered at the hands of one of the world's most notorious rebel groups. During the country's 11-year civil war, the RUF killed thousands of civilians, forced women into sexual slavery, and trained drug-addled child soldiers, who cut off the hands and feet of thousands.

But now, one of the men allegedly responsible for backing the group, former Liberian President Charles Taylor, is in detention in Freetown.

Taylor's mere presence at the U.N.-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone brings back painful memories.

There is little doubt in Sakr's mind that Taylor is guilty of the crimes of which he is accused.

"He was the man who brought logistics, who brought the equipment for them from the border down to Freetown. He was the main supporter. He promised the people of Sierra Leone that you people will taste the bitterness of the war. And we tasted it. So now, Charles also should taste the bitterness of his wickedness," said Sakr.

It took three years to bring Taylor to the Special Court. But now he is there, it is unlikely he will stay long. Citing security risks in the sub-region, where civil wars have raged in three countries since 1989, the international community is trying to move his trial to The Hague.

The U.K. has circulated a resolution in the U.N. Security Council to that effect. A vote is expected this week.

Though court officials say any Security Council resolution would include the increased budget necessary to transport witnesses to testify, many victims of the war are not happy with the planned move.



VOA photo - J. Bavier

RUF victim Kargbo wants justice



VOA photo - J. Bavier

For Sakr Tarallie's right leg was ripped off by the fragment from a rebel-fired rocket propelled grenade, says Taylor should stand trial in Freetown

"It will be a dissatisfaction to most of [us], the victims when he will be judged outside. Because at the present moment in Sierra Leone, we have court monitors who are victims, those who suffered during the 10-plus-year war in Sierra Leone. And when the court sittings are here in Sierra Leone, it is free for us, it is the right of all citizens to be able to go and listen," said Sakr Tarallie.

Eleven people have, so far, been indicted by the Special Court, which was set up to try those who bear the greatest responsibility for serious violations of international humanitarian law during the war.

Abubakkr says he has always supported the idea of the Special Court. It can never

make things right again, he says, but it can create some amount of accountability. And he says, that should be done if Freetown.

However, forgiveness, he says, is another matter.

"I'm not forgiving him. I won't forgive him. I won't forgive, be sure," said Abubakrr Kargbo.

Taylor is facing 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity for his alleged role in Sierra Leone's civil war. He has pleaded not guilty to all charges.



**Mongolian
peacekeeper
guarding Special
Court**

Mail & Guardian Online (South Africa)

11 April 2006

'We want to see justice'

Katharine Houreld | Freetown

War-time amputees play football at the beach in Freetown. Rebels who hacked off the hands of civilians have been helped to rebuild their lives, but their victims say they have been cast aside by society.

One month after the rebels chopped off both of Abubakr Kargbo's hands with an axe, his son was born. "I gave him my name," said the father of four, gesturing towards the young Abubakr with a stump. "I did not expect to live and I wanted my name to carry on."

Seven years later, the family lives in a small three-room house about half an hour outside the Sierra Leonean capital, Freetown.

A sign explains foreign donors built their village, Grafton, as a resettlement project for "amputees and war-wounded".

All of the families here bear some mark of the decade-long civil war that only ended after international peacekeepers intervened in 2002.

Kargbo's neighbour, Sahr Tarallie, is missing a leg after being hit by a grenade fragment. James Kpungbo had one hand amputated.

Isatu Jalloh, then 10 years old, was raped and the rebels tried to cut off her leg. She'll wear long skirts for the rest of her life. "The different militias had different signatures," explained Kargbo matter-of-factly.

Last week, the man they hold most responsible for their injuries was arrested.

The former president of Liberia, Charles Taylor, had been extradited from his luxurious exile in Nigeria and flown to Sierra Leone in handcuffs, where a United Nations-backed special court had indicted him on 11 counts of crimes against humanity.

"We are so happy for justice," said Kargbo, his son standing by his side.

"As long as I have my kids, I still have hope for the future — but Charles Taylor is a wicked man."

The court has charged members of all three warring factions. A mix of international and Sierra Leonean legal experts issued the indictments in 2003, just before Taylor left his own country for Nigeria as part of a peace deal that ended Liberia's 14-year civil war.

The charges he currently faces relate to the civil war in Sierra Leone, rather than his native Liberia.

During his first court appearance on Monday, the suited, clean-shaven Taylor was a long way from the dishevelled figure that Sierra Leoneans stood on their roofs to jeer as his helicopter landed.

Many had feared he would escape justice after he went missing last week. The former president was recaptured at a border crossing within a day, sackfuls of cash in the back of his SUV.

"Most definitely I am not guilty," he told the judge defiantly, after ignoring him for several seconds and then questioning the jurisdiction of the court.

But no one in Grafton village doubts that Taylor provided funds, training and equipment to the Revolutionary United Front, the rebel group who mutilated them as they fought for the country's rich diamond fields.

They are delighted to see him in the dock. "Let him know the bitterness of war," said James Kpungbo.

He cannot afford either a radio or newspapers, but has been following the trials by word of mouth when he goes into town to beg.

Despite promises to keep Sierra Leoneans well-informed, Kpungbo opposes moves to relocate the trial to The Hague for security reasons.

"Let Charles Taylor stay here," he insisted, resting on a cracked wooden bench. "We want to see justice."

The court's chief prosecutor, Desmond de Silva QC, is hoping that the trial will serve as a warning to other repressive heads of state.

"The lesson is going out. Impunity is giving way to accountability," he said. Although some cases were brought after the Rwandan genocide of 1994, Taylor is the first African head of state to appear before the international justice system.

But justice does not fill the stomach, says Sahr Tarallie. "Feeding is a big problem for us here and the well has run dry." He cannot walk to the nearest source of water, nearly about 3km away, on his crutches, so one of his four children must fetch it for him.

The amputees were moved out of Freetown this year to make space for a new market, but all of them say there has been no assistance from the government.

It is particularly galling when each demobilised fighter received hundreds of dollars, a retraining programme and starter packs to make a new life.

"They could address the issues of the ex-combatants but there is nothing for us," said Tarallie.

Saffie Koroma, an activist with the National Accountability Group, said Tarallie's complaints show the futility of trying to bring justice without good governance.

"It's not possible just to have the special court to bring justice to the country. We have to look at the causes of the war, like corruption and mismanagement," she said.

Her office is in darkness; four years after the war has finished, most areas in the capital still only receive a few hours of power a month. Uncollected skips piled with fetid refuse dot the street corners.

The lack of infrastructure has deterred business from investing in a country ranked the 12th-most corrupt in the world. Few expect next year's elections to make much difference.

"People were dancing in the streets when they brought Charles Taylor in," says Koroma.

"It's a good start, but you cannot address these issues in isolation. People need jobs, food, shelter. If we continue to suffer like this, if leaders continue to give empty promises, maybe we will have another war."

IRIN

11 April 2006

LIBERIA: Youths petition for war crimes court

MONROVIA, 11 April (IRIN) - With one-time rebel leader and former Liberian president Charles Taylor before a war crimes court in neighbouring Sierra Leone some Liberian youths have begun petitioning their government to set up their own tribunal.

Rebel fighters, many of them children and youths high on drugs and clad in women's wigs and underwear, killed, raped and maimed during 14 years of on-off civil war that ended when Taylor quit power and took exile in August 2003.

But Taylor's days in a seafront mansion courtesy of the Nigerian government abruptly came to an end last month after a rapid succession of developments that culminated with UN peacekeepers handing a cuffed Taylor over to the UN-backed Special Court in Sierra Leone.

Back in Liberia there is an elected government, security is guaranteed by a 15,000-strong UN peacekeeping force and donors are stumping up millions of dollars to rebuild the war-battered country.

And part of that rebuilding must include a war crimes court, say youth groups who want to see the perpetrators of crimes including summary executions, massacres, amputations and rape brought to justice.

"Justice for the people of Liberia can no longer be delayed or denied. The time has come to establish an international criminal tribunal for Liberia," said the Forum for the Establishment of a War Crimes court in Liberia (FEWCCIL) on its petition which they say has received 10,000 signatures of support.

The FEWCCIL last week took the matter to the 94-members of Liberia's newly installed elected government.

"In the interests of genuine lasting peace and reconciliation we call upon this august body to pass an act that establishes the legal framework for the creation of a Special War Crimes Tribunal for Liberia," the FEWCCIL told parliament.

A second group, the Confederation of Monrovia Youth (CMY) told legislatures such a court would end Liberia's culture of impunity.

"Bringing the perpetrators of gruesome atrocities to court would serve as a deterrent to others and end the culture of impunity that exists in this country," the CMY said.

A peace deal thrashed out in the run up to Taylor's 2003 departure called for the establishment of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission but Taylor's henchmen and rebel leaders who signed the deal fell short of agreeing to the establishment of a war crimes court.

Liberia's Truth and Reconciliation Commission was officially launched in late February and is mandated to "investigate gross human rights violations and war crimes, including massacres, sexual violence, murder, extra-judicial killings and economic crimes (such as the exploitation of

national or public resources to perpetuate the armed conflict)," reads the June 2005 law ratifying the Commission.

The Commission, headed by Liberian human rights activist Jerome Verdier, will begin hearings in July to make a public record of atrocities committed as far back as 1979 – ten years prior to the start of the civil war. Based on their investigations, the Commission cannot try alleged offenders but has the power to recommend cases for prosecution.

Verdier dismissed the calls for a Liberian war crimes court, saying that the calls were being made by people "not well informed of the trend in the peace process."

Talk of a war crimes court has rung alarm bells for others. Sekou Conneh, leader of the largest rebel group – the Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) – in the final years of the civil war, denounced the move telling IRIN that "digging up old wounds" would do more harm than good.

"Nearly everyone in this country is guilty of war crimes and we strongly believe that a [war crimes] court would not be in line with restoring peace in Liberia. Frankly, it is not necessary here," said Conneh who also ran unsuccessfully as a presidential candidate in the first round of presidential elections last year.

Pro-Taylor fighters agree with their former enemies that a war crimes court is not a good idea, said one former pro-government militia commander who still goes by his war name of "General Zig-Zag".

Most of the regular fighters that IRIN spoke with said that they had already asked for forgiveness from their fellow Liberians making a war crimes court redundant.

"After the war some of us went to our towns and villages and begged for pardon. Our people welcomed us and we are all living together in harmony – but a court would divide us and the people," said Andrew Sway, a former child soldier who has returned to school since handing in his gun.

Some of these fighters' former generals, such as General Peanut Butter and General Kai Farley, are legislators in the elected government.

On the streets of Monrovia residents were divided on the issue of a war crimes court, some strongly in favour of seeing war criminals prosecuted, and others eager to put the past behind them and get on with the enormous task of rebuilding the country.

"Liberia suffered too much at the hands of warring parties; they killed us, burned down our towns, looted our food and homes. If the court will cause them not to repeat their past deeds, then it is a good idea," said Asatu Fahnbulleh, who lost three members of her family in the war.

While Joe Blay, a local physician told IRIN, "This country's concern is not a war crimes court, but development that will bring light, water, good roads and hospitals and rebuild the damaged infrastructure."

The Analyst (Liberia)

11 April 2006

Liberia: Banks, Crane, Klein Want Liberian War Crimes Court

Former Chief Prosecutor David Crane, former SRSG Jacques Paul Klein, and former Liberian Justice Minister Philip Banks said they want a hybrid of the Sierra Leonean court in Liberia to prosecute Charles Taylor's mentors.

The four proffered the concept when they served as panelists during discussions held last week at United States Institute Peace Panel under the topic, "Charles Taylor On Trial."

According to panelist Philip Banks, there were others in the subregion and elsewhere that did not only collaborate with Taylor in his destructive schemes, but also benefited from his lootings and therefore needed to account for their actions.

Among those liable to face the court when it is set up, according to him, are President Blaise Compaore of Burkina Faso who provided training, troops and other logistic support to Taylor, Colonel Moammar Kaddafi of Libya who provided the initial training for both Taylor's NPFL and Foday Sankoh's RUF and the government of Cote d'Ivoire under Houphouet Boigny who allowed the NPFL operate openly from its territory and attack Liberia and Sierra Leone.

Echoing recent calls by many Liberians and human rights organizations, Cllr. Banks said that crimes committed by Taylor and his followers in Liberia are even greater than those for which he was being put on trial in Sierra Leone and called for the setting-up of a similar hybrid court in Liberia.

"I have difficulty to accept the fact that people who committed atrocities and plundered our resources are allowed to go free," said Cllr. Banks, Hailing Taylor's arrest as "a great day for international justice," former chief prosecutor David Crane said in his opening remarks that the destabilization of West Africa was part of a grand political strategy of Moammar Kaddafi to control the entire region through surrogate regimes.

He said the Libyan leader has not abandoned his plans, although he might have adopted a new strategy. The former prosecutor regretted that statutes of the tribunal in Sierra Leone were very circumspect and did not allow them to go after other actors, but he added, "This was necessary to maintain our focus.

This was a new undertaking for all of us and we needed to be careful as not to bite too much." Also speaking during the occasion, Ismail Rashid, a Sierra Leone native and professor at Vassar College said he hoped that Taylor would be tried in Sierra Leone.

"We want Charles Taylor to face his victims, we want our people to see his face when he is answering questions about the crimes he committed against them," Rashid said. He said the best way to avoid recurrences of these wars is to sustain the budding democratic process in the subregion.

In the past few weeks, many Liberian organizations called for a war crimes tribunal to take a look at the grave attacks on the people of Liberia by warlords over the years. Former SRSG Jacques

Paul Klein said that United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) has collected lot of forensic data and evidence that could serve as a starting point.

According to him, the crimes committed in Liberia and Sierra Leone challenged people's sense of humanity and therefore noted that the greatest achievement of a trial of this magnitude is that "it demystifies Taylor and those like him. It cuts them to size."

Several persons in the audience at USIP called for the establishment of a war crimes tribunal in Liberia while others expressed fears that security may not be adequate to contain Taylor.

Speaking at the Third King Sao Bosso Lecture in Philadelphia over the weekend, Liberian political analyst and writer, Mr. Bai Gbala who served in various governments in Liberia from 1980 before being incarcerated by President Taylor for treason in 1998, said that those who committed abuses in Liberia should also face a court of law.

Setting up a war crimes tribunal in Liberia, even if limited in scope, the panel seems to agree, would allow the understanding of the entire history of the conflict, lead to capacity building in the judiciary for the region, and prevent the recurrence such destructive wars, analyst said.

The drawback from this publicity could be that the real issues facing Liberia would be neglected, or in the end, again, be tied to the setting up of a war crimes tribunal. This may be why Jacques Klein said, before he exited the panel that "the Taylor issue could divert attention from the real problems in Liberia that President Sirleaf has to find a solution to and which include education, health, and normal basic social services that most of the world take for granted."

Rather than set up a new tribunal in Liberia, an easier solution could be to extend the mandate, both in time and scope of the Sierra Leone War Crimes tribunal to include Liberia and Cote d'Ivoire, turning it into a regional Court.

The same people were behind all three wars and would have to answer the same questions. When the Liberian conflict extended to Sierra Leone, ECOMOG, the West African peacekeeping troops were moved across the border and later, many of the same troops were sent to Liberia and later to Cote d'Ivoire. This could serve as the beginning of a new type of cooperation and regional integration.

The trial of Charles Taylor, in a way, is a critical review of the past uneven and paternalistic relationships between the US and Liberia. It was the failure of the US Cold War policies in Liberia that gave rise to Samuel Doe and subsequently, Charles Taylor and all the mini warlords that came along. To paraphrase Klein, the US must adopt a consistent policy towards Liberia, one of its most reliable allies of all times.

If the trial of Taylor has to have any lasting effect, it must be that the conditions that brought him into existence – mass poverty, corruption, state brutality, lack of justice and accountability, impunity, etc -are removed once for all.

Presidents George W. Bush and Ellen Johnson Sirleaf have promised to work together to launch a new relationship between their two countries based on partnership. That could be a start, if it ever materializes.

By Abdoulaye W. Dukulé, The Analyst

The Analyst (Liberia)

11 April 2006

Editorial

Liberia Needs No War Crimes Court

IT IS UNFORTUNATE that almost three years after Liberia opted for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) in the final peace accord that ended the 14-year civil war in the country, there are still lingering discussions meant to change the means by which Liberians hope to find the truth that is needed for reconciliation. It is even more stressful when those who are still making alternative recommendations were themselves present in Ghana in 2003 when the South African model of Truth and Reconciliation Commission was proposed and adopted as part of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement that ended the war.

MOST STAKEHOLDERS AT the Accra conference had second thought about what was done in Ghana in 2003. But those options do not include replacing an otherwise settled procedure with a new one to accommodate any new appraisals made about the magnitude of the destruction that resulted from the war. Maybe another nation coming out of conflict will study the more than a dozen truth commissions since World War II and decide that the Sierra Leone model of simultaneous war crimes tribunal and Truth and Reconciliation Commission may suite its needs best. The South Africa model is what Liberian negotiators chose in Accra, Ghana, in 2003. That is an established fact.

NO ONE, NOT even a constitutional scholar such as Mr. Phillip Banks, or United Nations war crimes prosecutor like Mr. David Crane, or former United Nations Secretary General's Special Representative Jacques Klein should take us back, not even for the benefit of hindsight. Yet, in their recent panel discussion on the topic "Charles Taylor on Trial," these eminent persons offered new menus of judicial remedies for Liberia's bloody past. Mr. Banks compared Taylor alleged crimes in Liberia to those he is charged with in Sierra Leone and concluded that Taylor's acts in Liberia were more grievous than the ones for which he has been charged in Sierra Leone. That may very well be true, but it is not relevant to how Liberia chooses to seek truth toward reconciliation.

OF COURSE WE share Mr. Banks' suggestion that those who cooperated with Charles Taylor outside Liberia's borders should be made to account for their actions the same way that Taylor is being held accountable for his alleged criminal acts in Sierra Leone. But the Liberian government has no responsibility in or control over the situation in Sierra Leone. Therefore any suggestions regarding how, for instance, Burkina Faso's President Blaise Compaore or Libya's Moammar Kaddafi could be held accountable for their contribution to the Liberian mess is not a good use of our thinking time.

WE NEED TO focus on the process we already chose. The world has gotten a better idea about extracting truth for reconciliation since the Nuremberg and Tokyo tribunals after World War II. Whether we satisfied our need for retributive justice back then, we have found a still better way toward truth and justice. Even so, some people argue that these precedents offered more warnings than guidance for South Africa in the creation of its brand of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission that we are now trying to employ in Liberia. Good as the South African model is said to be, it may not suit our needs in Liberia completely.

If we find that to be the case, we may make copious notes toward improving it for those who may want to employ it next time. Our suggestions would make for a better truth gathering next time a similar situation arises in any country with roughly our political, social, and cultural circumstances. That will be our gift to the world in the search for truth and reconciliation.

IN LIGHT OF this, we at The Analyst called on Liberians and friends of Liberia interested in bringing a permanent end to the problems of the ECOWAS subregion to remain focused at all times notwithstanding changing times and astounding list of options from which to choose. It must be noted that while atrocities against human beings is atrocities against human beings irrespective of where and when they were perpetrated, how justice is exacted rests solely on the circumstances and opportunities available. The circumstances that necessitated and enabled the establishment of war crimes court in Sierra Leone, it needs no argument, do not exist in Liberia. It must be noted with special appreciation that the Sierra Leone court grew out of the checkmating of the rebels, whilst in Liberia no rebels were checkmated. The rebels were rather rewarded as evidenced by the presence of some of them in parliament today. The question that may be pondered is, "The Sierra Leonean Parliament sanctioned the special court, does Liberia have a parliament that has such guts?" What about the CPA, are we going to be ungrateful to ECOWAS, ICGL, and the US that brokered it, led us through a two-year transitional period, and landed us on these shores of hopeful relief?

SURE LIBERIA NEEDS no war crimes court. All it needs and that should be advocated by those craving for a better Liberia, is adherence to the rule of law and basic reforms that will negate the need to go back to the drawing board of violence in order to attempt to bring liberty and justice to all.

African News Dimension

11 April 2006

Taylor will be humiliated in the Hague

By Patrick Wrokpoh

The cousin of indicted Liberian former President Charles Taylor, says they believe that the former President will be humiliated should he be transferred to the International Criminal Court in the Hague.

Mr. Sando Johnson who spoke at a news conference today in Monrovia, told journalists that the “so called crimes” which the international community claimed Mr. Taylor committed was allegedly committed in Freetown and as such, the trial should remain there.

Mr. Johnson who is one of several family members who arrived from Freetown, Sierra Leone over the weekend, where the family dispatched a delegation to meet with the former President, said Mr. Taylor will not be accorded a free and fair trial in the, Hague.

He said transferring the case to the, Hague, would not also afford the people of Sierra Leone the right to benefit from the trial.

He said hearing the case in Freetown, would be a real test for justice adding, “let the case be heard in Freetown because that is where they said Mr. Taylor committed crimes and not in the, Hague. Nobody in the, Hague was victimized, since they say it was in Sierra Leone people were victimized based on the allegation against Mr. Taylor, let the case be heard in the Freetown to test justice. ”

On the issue as to whether he thinks holding the trial in the, Hague would make the process free and fair, Mr. Johnson, a one time member of parliament, said “ this is just intended to kill Mr. Taylor. You know there are some blue eyes people who just want to make sure that Mr. Taylor is dead.”

Meanwhile, Mr. Johnson says the general position of the family after visiting Freetown, is that the family want the case heard in Freetown.

He also said the family will institute a lawsuit against the Liberian government for the way it handled the issue concerning the former President adding “we will teach this government a lesson so that it can know that the rule of law has to be respected and not the will of the President.”

Christian Science Monitor

12 April 2006

Opinion

Keep the peace or seek swift justice?

A too quick trial for Charles Taylor could trigger more violence in Liberia.

By Ibrahim A. Gambari

NEW YORK – The sight last week of former Liberian warlord Charles Taylor, handcuffed at a war-crimes court backed by the United Nations, has sent a powerful message around the world that tyrants and despots are not beyond the reach of law.

Mr. Taylor deserves to be tried and punished for the horrific cycles of violence he unleashed and fomented - not only in Liberia but around West Africa. His victims have every right to justice.

Yet in viewing this case through only this moral prism, observers may miss some of the more complex questions it represents. Not only for Liberia, but for war-scarred nations elsewhere who have struggled to come to grips with the violent legacy of their pasts while trying at the same time to build peaceful futures.

Leaders of many countries undergoing this difficult transition have questioned the wisdom of pushing too hard, too fast on the button of justice. They have raised legitimate concerns, in many cases, that trials or their prospect will risk reviving hatreds or driving warring parties away from the peace table.

For Liberia's courageous new president, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, seeking Taylor's extradition was an excruciating call. His exile in Nigeria was the basis of the peace deal that ended Liberia's civil war in 2003. His coming trial - whether in Sierra Leone or in The Hague - is raising jitters even as it elicits praise.

Some political observers have warned of a potential violent reaction from Taylor's supporters that might plunge Liberia and its neighborhood back into conflict. Only three years after the end of Liberia's civil war, it would be the last thing this poor and beleaguered nation needs.

So which should take precedent, peace or justice? And must one come at the expense of the other? Liberia is hardly alone around the world as a war-riven nation where the answers to these questions are playing out.

- The governments of East Timor and Indonesia, for example, have resisted a proposed international trial for the 1999 killings that marred the former's push for independence. Prosecutions would rekindle animosities, they've argued, threatening progress in forging reconciliation.
- In Colombia, a government peace offer to paramilitary fighters seeks to remove from that country's conflict one of its deadliest forces. But human rights officials have objected to the plan if it means granting impunity to the paramilitaries for their atrocities against civilians.
- In Afghanistan there have been calls for the warlords to be tried, but also warnings that this might undermine a fragile peace. Concerns were also expressed by some in Iraq, that the trial of Saddam Hussein would fuel sectarian tensions.

Though it has tried to help countries make the best choices in these circumstances, the international community has itself been conflicted. Those working in the diplomatic arena to bring warring parties into political agreements have clashed at times with human rights officials wary of any deals that would trade impunity for peace.

Helping to sharpen the apparent contradictions has been the recent emergence of new international institutions with mandates to bring war criminals to justice. These include the International Criminal Court and several special tribunals such as the one in Sierra Leone that indicted Charles Taylor and the UN court at The Hague where Slobodon Milosevic spent his final days.

Human rights organizations applauded when the ICC issued its first indictments last year against the Lord's Resistance Army, a brutal rebel group in northern Uganda. However, those working to bring the insurgents into peace talks cautioned that the warrants might scuttle their chances.

While the agendas of peace and justice have come into conflict in many cases, the choices may not be as stark as they seem.

Human rights advocates increasingly acknowledge that justice need not be applied bluntly, like a sledgehammer, when doing so might imperil a fragile transition to peace or democracy.

Under an evolving doctrine of "transitional justice," prosecutions can be legitimately sequenced in over time, as peace begins to set down its roots. In other words, justice may be delayed for a limited time - provided it is not denied. Trials, moreover, are not viewed as the only answer, but one very important item on a broader menu of measures to deal with the past. These include truth commissions, reparations programs, and official proclamations of responsibility and remorse for abuses.

As a longtime diplomat and current head of the UN's peacemaking department, I can attest that views are also evolving within the diplomatic community. There is a growing realization that impunity is not only morally and politically unacceptable, but also proves to be a shaky foundation on which to build peace and democracy. UN peace envoys, for example, now operate under instructions to oppose agreements that would establish amnesties for genocide, war crimes, or crimes against humanity.

Though nobody can guarantee that future warlords and dictators will not find a way to slip through the hands of justice, I believe the space for such arrangements - both locally and internationally - is slowly and surely beginning to close.

The next big test is now before us in Liberia, whose president deserves unwavering support in the days ahead, now that she has taken the first bold step.

• *Ibrahim A. Gambari is the United Nations under-secretary-general for political affairs.*

USA Today

10 April 2006

Editorial

New price for tyranny

Ah, how the mighty are, thankfully, falling.

Charles Taylor — "Pappy" to fellow Liberians — was for years Africa's brutal answer to Saddam Hussein and Slobodan Milosevic. His followers took particular delight in hacking off the limbs of those, even children, they didn't like. But now Taylor, 58, has followed the other two to the dock. He appeared last week in a United Nations-backed court in Sierra Leone after three years of gilded exile in Nigeria.

Just as Saddam and Milosevic have done, Taylor railed against his prosecutors like a child throwing a temper tantrum. His distress was understandable: Until recently, apart from the Nuremberg trials of Nazis after World War II, ex-dictators could safely bet they wouldn't have to answer for their crimes. Their standard retirement plan, if they survived coups, was comfortable exile like that of Uganda's Idi Amin, who by some estimates murdered half a million people.

But an important and different message is increasingly being sent: Dictators are no longer above the law. They are accountable. Not that there is anywhere near a perfect system or formula for such trials. But even the errors are showing a way forward.

Milosevic's trial in the Dutch city of The Hague, for example, was entering its fifth year when he died in March. He should have been stopped from being his own lawyer and making interminable political speeches. The judge in Saddam's trial has taken note.

Where is the best place to hold the trials of tyrants? Ideally, as close to their atrocities as possible — but only when possible, which can be a close call. Saddam's trial is in the proper place, in Iraq, but that risks further inflaming the insurgency. A plan to move Taylor's trial, on 11 counts from terrorism to the use of child soldiers, from Sierra Leone to The Hague for security reasons risks taking it so far from his people that, as in Milosevic's case, it loses much of its relevance.

Arguments also rage over jurisdiction. The Bush administration opposes an international criminal court set up in 2002 for fear of politically motivated trials of Americans. For now, the best models are the "hybrids," as in Sierra Leone, that mix international and national oversight. These are difficult issues, but what's important is to keep the momentum going.

Taylor once lived in the USA and escaped from a U.S. jail. Getting out of prison this time shouldn't be so easy. Liberia's Pappy and others like him need to know they live in a world where justice applies to them, too.

The Post Standard/Herald-Journal

April 2006

Events Thrust War Crimes Prosecutor Back in Spotlight
SU Law Professor Wrote Indictment of Former Liberian Dictator Charles Taylor

Greg Munno Staff writer

The calls from Africa started flooding David Crane's cell phone last week.

That's when Nigeria's president, Olusegun Obasanjo, announced he would turn over former Liberian dictator Charles Taylor to an international criminal court to face charges of crimes against humanity.

What came next was a week of dramatic ups and downs for Crane, a 1980 Syracuse University law graduate and a distinguished visiting professor of law at SU.

Crane played a key role in forcing Taylor from power in 2003 when he wrote and unveiled an indictment against Taylor, charging him with fueling a civil war in neighboring Sierra Leone and with ordering rebels there to rape, maim and murder thousands of civilians in order to gain power.

Shortly after Obasanjo announced his intention to turn Taylor over, Taylor slipped away, a crushing blow for Crane, who said that a free Taylor would mean big trouble for West Africa, and even the United States.

"When we first forced Taylor from power in Liberia, he said he would be back," Crane told The Post-Standard Tuesday. "He meant it. He is young. He has a lot of money. He has armed men waiting for him in the bush, waiting for his orders. A free Taylor roaming and scheming is a catastrophe for Africa."

Then, while sleeping in a Canadian hotel room in the early morning hours of March 29, Crane's phone registered another call from Africa, this time from Crane's former lead investigator. The news was joyous: Taylor had been caught before reaching the Cameroon border.

During a speech later that day at University of Western Ontario in London, Ontario, Crane's cell phone rang yet again. He apologized to the audience and took the call. Taylor had been safely delivered to a jail in Sierra Leone and would finally be tried.

"I immediately told the audience, and they all stood up and applauded," Crane said. "It was a wonderful moment."

Crane said Taylor is one of history's most notorious butchers, responsible for the rape, murder and mutilation of about 1.2 million people in Sierra Leone and Liberia.

Crane said members of Taylor's inner circle, whom he was able to turn against the dictator, told him how Taylor ordered rebels in Sierra Leone to use the brutal tactics that marked their campaign of violence.

They forced women into sexual slavery. They cut the arms off children and infants. They kidnapped children, brainwashed them, hooked them on drugs and then, having created what Crane describes as "monsters incarnate," sent them on missions to brutally torture civilians.

"They sent the child soldiers because the adults couldn't stomach it," Crane said. "The adults had some sense of compassion. But these children were beyond that, incapable of it. Really, I am serious when I say that there are no words to describe the horrors of the civil wars in Sierra Leone and Liberia."

Crane arrived in Sierra Leone shortly after the war there ended in 2002 as the first American chief prosecutor of a war crimes tribunal since the Nuremberg trials after World War II. His assignment was to find those who committed the most horrific offenses, build cases against them and bring them to trial. It was a three-year post. He had to leave his wife and family at home.

When he arrived, the capital of Freetown was in ruins. He was living in a country where the average person dies before 40. There was no electricity or running water.

"At first I had to shower in the rain," Crane recalled.

But Crane and his colleagues were quickly able to build a case against Taylor and other regional warlords, many of whom were trained by Libyan chief of state Col. Moammar Gadhafi.

The arrest of Taylor, one of the most notorious of all West African tyrants, is good news for Africa and the world, Crane said.

"He's only the second head of state ever indicted on war crimes, and it shows Africans that the rule of law can prevail, that a man like Taylor can be brought to justice," he said, also referring to former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic.

Americans should care about this case because Taylor was known to harbor terrorists and other criminal elements, including the members of al-Qaida who destroyed the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, Crane said.

"He was a direct threat to the United States," he said.

If found guilty of any of the 11 charges against him, Taylor will spend the rest of his life in prison, Crane said.

SU's law school and its students consider themselves lucky to have snagged Crane, who joined the university when his assignment in Sierra Leone ended last year. He will be back again next year.

"We're thrilled to have him," said Jaclyn Donati Grosso, director of communications and media relations at the law school.

International law students Kathryn Stone and Matthew Daly agree. They are both in Crane's Contemporary Issues in Atrocity Law seminar, one of two classes he is teaching this semester, along with Legal Aspects of Future Wars.

"International law is so theoretical that it's rare to learn from a true practitioner," said Stone, a second-year student and a native of New Hampshire. "Listening to professor Crane is like watching history unfold."

Daly described Crane as affable and witty.

"For someone with such a distinguished background, he is very approachable," said Daly, a third-year student and native of Palmyra.

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David Crane

Age: 55

Occupation: Visiting distinguished professor of law at Syracuse University

Why he's in the news: Crane was the chief prosecutor of the United Nations' Special Court in Sierra Leone when he indicted Liberian President Charles Taylor on 11 crimes against humanity. The move forced Taylor from office in 2003.

But in the last week since Taylor's attempted escape from Nigeria and his arrest, Crane has been interviewed by dozens of news organizations, including the Los Angeles Times, MSNBC, National Public Radio, Agence France-Presse, Africa Today and CNN.

Background: Crane is a 1980 graduate of Syracuse University School of Law who grew up living in places around the world as the son of a career soldier. He has held numerous positions in the federal government including senior inspector general for the Department of Defense and assistant general counsel of the Defense Intelligence Agency. He was the first American to be named a chief prosecutor of a war crimes tribunal since 1945.

Family: He met his wife, the former Judith Ponder, as an undergraduate at Ohio University. Ponder's father graduated from Syracuse University in 1943, influencing Crane's decision to attend SU law school. The couple lives in suburban Washington, D.C. They have two adult children. Crane spends two days a week in Syracuse, staying at the Genesee Grande Hotel.