

SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
PRESS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE



An aerial photo of an unnamed village, taken on the way to an Outreach in Kamba.

PRESS CLIPPINGS

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

Monday, 12 June 2006

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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For di People
Monday, 12 June 2006

Issa, Gborie & Others Looted Iran Embassy

CONTINUING HIS testimony at the UN Special Court in self defence, Tamba Alex Brima otherwise known as Gullit named Issa Sesay, Hassan Bangura, Tamba Gborie among those involved in looting the Iranian embassy during the Afrc-Ruf interregnum.

by
SU THORONKA *

He said an investigation into the matter was made which implicated Issa Sesay and that this fuelled animosity between the Afrc and Ruf to such an extent that Maskita decided to relocate to Kenema. That the result of the investigation was disclosed by captain S A J Musa at a council meeting.

That the chairman of the council, Johnny Paul Koroma ordered the arrest of the officers involved but Issa Sesay resisted arrest and mobilized the Ruf and launched an attack on the residence of the former Army Chief of Staff. He denied having any personal re-

lationship with Superman but that he had subsequent meetings with him at Makeni and the west side jungle when he and others were under arrest by Junior Lion and Foday Kallay in 1999.

Brima said Foday Kallay was the commander of the West side who effected the arrest of the British nationals serving with IMATT. That he got this information from the office of the National Commission for the Consolidation of Peace. The witness said he was arrested between Magbale bridge and Masiaka and was taken to George

Johnson (Junior Lion) who accused him of escaping from the forces that invaded Freetown in 1999. That Junior Lion was also known as Junior Bolo who shot him on his foot.

Brima said one Tito who tried to stop him from being shot was shot and killed by Junior Lion. He explained how he and one Foday Bah were locked in a dungeon and were only released when Johnny Paul Koroma pleaded on their behalf, while Denis Mingo, FAT Sesay, Alusine Mazin Sesay etc were arrested and locked in the same dungeon.

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Issa, Gborie & Others Looted Iranian Embassy

From Page 2

That he knew Mike Lamin as Ruf rebel whom he first met at the residence of Johnny Paul Koroma, where they were introduced by a soldier and Junior Lion as a civilian in Kono where he killed a diamond dealer and who was a batman to second accused person, Sgt Ibrahim Kamara.

"Junior Lion was arrested at small Sefadu where he also raided the shop of one businessman called Tamba Bunduka and shot a boy at the scene. He was brought to Freetown and incarcerated at Pademba road prison," Brima said.

That Mike Lamin was a supreme council member of the Afrc-Ruf and that the rest of the ruf members were introduced by colonel A K Sesay, the secretary general of the Afrc but however denied having any personal relationship with Mike Lamin. That he knew Gibril Massaquoi as Ruf in 1997 and a member of the supreme council but also denied having any personal relationship with him even though they met in Makeni in 1999.

Testifying further, he admitted knowing Morris Kallon as Ruf rebel whose brother, Jeff Kallon was in the Sierra Leone army as his squandron colleague at Benguema Training barracks, when he said was a member of the supreme council and that Gbao was Ruf rebel whom he knew in 1998 during his arrest in Kailahun where he also saw Issa Sesay.

That when he was arrested together with Johnny Paul Koroma, Captain Kaluga Kamara, Lieutenant Paul Lebbie, Lieutenant Jeff Kallon, Captain Massaquoi, captain MY Saccoh, Staff Sergeant Moses Moseray,

Captain Hindolo Trye, Captain Foday Kallon, Captain Tamba Abu, Corporal Momoh Thoronka, Augustine Kobba and many others, Maskita ordered their execution. That he knew Peter Vandy as Ruf rebel and a member of the Afrc military junta and recognized him in 2005 when he came to the Special Court detention centre to visit Ruf brothers but could not recall the ministry he had been assigned to.

"From May, June and July 1997, the regime experienced a big problem with the leaders of the Ruf because soldiers were not able to recognize the ranks of the rebels," he said but denied having a common plan with anyone to overthrow and take control of government. That he was in and out of hospital from 1997 to early February 1998 and sometimes visited his home district Kono and that the first time was in October 1997 in search of his biological mother from whom he had been separated since childhood but later came to Freetown with his mother in December 1997 although he visited Kono again to make arrangements for his customary marriage.

He said his third visit was to secure traditional treatment and that he was accompanied by a medical orderly from the military hospital by the name of Staff Sergeant Komba Maigbai assigned to him by the CMO colonel Alie Kanu. That he was in Kono when he got the information through the adjutant based there, Kaluga Kamara that the intervention force had driven the Afrc-Ruf from Freetown. He denied having hands in mining activities and that he was not in a position to offer jobs to people in the Afrc..

"When the Afrc was kicked out of office I was in Kono. I decided to escape to any neighbouring country in order for me not to engage in battle because I was not well," he said.

For di People

Monday, 12 June 2006

Gen. Issa Sessay 'Blow Mind' To Olusegun Obasanjo

YOUR EXCELLENCY it is with pain and regret that I summed up courage to write your Excellency this letter after a series of attempts without any positive response from you. I still consider myself the grandchild that you assured me I was to you when you personally asked me to accept the leadership of the RUF at a time when a leader was being sought by your Excellency and your colleagues, including your colleague and brother, Alhaji Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, president of the Republic of Sierra Leone.

As I told your Excellency, at the time I was only a child and I was not fighting for leadership of the RUF. I remember telling you and your colleagues that I did not want the position of leadership of the RUF as the leader was alive even though he might be in jail, as indeed the late Pa Foday Sankoh was then in jail at Pademba Road prison.

But your Excellency told me that you personally wanted me to lead the RUF in order to assist you and the other Ecomog leaders to disarm the combatants of the RUF so that peace could be achieved in Sierra Leone. Your Excellency assured me that if I succeeded in convincing my colleagues and the combatants to disarm without putting you to shame, I would ever remain your grand child, and that I would always be treated as such, and you would never leave me to suffer.

"I am being tormented by my colleagues and the rank and file of the RUF that I had betrayed the organization

by convincing them to disarm, relying upon your Excellency's assurances without guarantees."

From our meeting in Sefadu, Kono, to the date of the signing of the "Document" by the president of Sierra Leone and myself, declaring the end of war in Sierra Leone (18 January 2002), your Excellency did every thing to treat me as a grandchild of yours. But I am sure your Excellency is aware that after the disarmament was completed, the RUF transformed itself into RUFp (RUF Party), contested the general elections in 2002 and lost. Then early in 2003, I and some members of the RUFp were arrested and charged with alleged war crimes. We are currently being tried and could be imprisoned for life. Now I am being tormented by my colleagues and the rank and file of the RUFp that I had betrayed the organization by convincing them to disarm, relying upon your Excellency's assurances without guarantees. The arrest and prosecution of the RUFp members is seen by us as a game of political elimination of the organization by president Kabbah, aided by the secretary general of the United Nations.

Your Excellency, I find myself entrapped, dumped and woefully let down. My parents and my young family are all now living in danger and fear with thousands of ex-combatants at home and abroad, being of the opinion that I have betrayed them.

Your Excellency, as a young man, I did everything in order not to let you down in your efforts to have the combatants disarmed; which were fruitless with Pa Foday Sankoh. I do not deserve being humiliated and treated the way I and the others are now being treated for convincing

the Ruf to disarm.

Your Excellency, we are only three at present on trial and may be jailed for life by judges specially selected and appointed by president Kabbah and Mr Kofi Annan, in violation of the constitution of the sovereign state of Sierra Leone, with many thousands of Ruf members at large. Mostly young, unemployed and frustrated-suffering from some of the same ills for which the war was fought.

We have all been duped, so it now appears; and I am being blamed for believing and trusting your Excellency, but who knows tomorrow? You and your colleague Ecowas presidents are older and more powerful, and may have decided to support your colleague Alhaji Tejan Kabbah who has now gone back on the promises he made to me before your excellencies.

He also signed undertakings before honourable people like yourself and other guarantors in Lome which he has abandoned by establishing the Special Court against the expressed terms of the Lome Agreement (signed not by me) but I am now being held responsible because you, my Grandpa, whom I believed and trusted, convinced me to take up the leadership of the RUF which I never opted for nor contested.

Rather, it was your Excellency who virtually threw the leadership at me and pleaded with me as your grandchild to assist you in getting the Ruf to disarm. I am sure that by succeeding in convincing the Ruf to disarm, I did not disappoint you.

Now, I wonder why your Excellency seems to have abandoned me and become disturbingly quiet in respect of the Rufp and myself, over the issue of the Special Court, especially as the Sierra Leonean problem was concluded in favour of reconciliation (Lome Agreement) and not prosecution.

Your colleague and brother president of Sierra Leone decided to abrogate the Lome Agreement dated 7 July 1999, containing Article IX, Sections (2) & (3) which granted absolute and free pardon and 'reprieve' to all combatants and collaborators.

The Agreement went further in Article IX (3) to categorically state that no official or judicial action would be taken against any member of the RUF-SL, ex-AFRC, ex-SLA or CDF, for anything done by them from March 1991 to the time of the signing of the agreement.

I am sure, Grandpa, that you as the president of your people cannot go back on your own free and absolute pardon granted unconditionally to your people in exchange for reconciliation and peace. South Africa did not arrest and prosecute. Why should Sierra Leone? It was your Excellency who virtually gave me the leadership of the Ruf. Again, it was your Excellency and your Ecowas colleagues who guaranteed and assured me and the Ruf of our safety and continued protection against the fears and doubts that we expressed about the insincerity of president Tejan Kabbah.

I could remember even as a child that your Excellency and president Charles Taylor of Liberia were at one stage vexed with us and both of you angrily told us that presidents and heads of state of respectable nations do not withdraw their undertakings once stated and witnessed. Your Excellency has now seen that your colleague, president Kabbah, has gone back on his words and done ex-

TO GRANDPA OBASANJO!

From Page 3

actly what you assured me and my colleagues that he would not do. I wish, on behalf of my colleagues and the entire Ruf organization, to appeal to your Excellency to please do something at your earliest convenience for the members of the entire Ruf organisation who are now virtually living in perpetual fear throughout Sierra Leone, so that I can at least have peace of mind for the safety of my parents and my young family.

Please Grandpa, kindly intervene to save our country from degenerating into another problem as all the signatories were in favour of everlasting peace based on the condition of no winner, no loser reconciliation, so that all Sierra

Leoneans could reconcile and freely go about their legitimate business without fear of prosecution and persecution.

I would also like to humbly bring to your Excellency's attention and the attention of all Ecowas leaders that the charges against me, and for that matter the entire Ruf are categorically political and not war crimes under the Geneva Convention and its Added Protocols I & II as President Kabbah would want you to believe.

May I finally and respectfully draw your Excellency's attention to Article IX (2) & (3) (pardon and amnesty) of the Lome Agreement between the government of Sierra Leone and the Ruf dated 7 July

1999, which your Excellency was one of the 12 signatories representing nations and organisations that were chosen under Article XXXIV as moral guarantors to see that the Lome Agreement was implemented with integrity and in good faith by both parties.

Maybe my previous communication never reached your Excellency. So I have decided to make another attempt which I hope may reach you this time. I am looking forward to hearing favourably from your Excellency at your earliest convenience.

Faithfully,

Your Grandchild

Issa Hassan Sesay

Interim Leader (RUFP/

New Citizen
Monday, 12 June 2006

Searchlight

DOWNBELOW: SIR ALBERT CONVERSES WITH MARAH & TEACHER LAGAWO—EPISODE 6 / PART 5

Teacher Lagawo responded, "it must be stated that it was not at the initial formation of the movement that that allegation against Hinga Norman was made public. However, Hinga Norman was later appointed Deputy Minister of Defense while Tejan acted as Minister of Defense. In ac-



S. B. Marah

tual fact, Sir Albert, many Sierra Leoneans hold the view that Tejan was head of the Kamajor movement as Hinga played the role of National Coordinator. In that capacity, Hinga Norman pleaded with the soldiers to see reason and cooperate with the Kamajors who were very au fait with the terrain in



Teacher Lagawo flushing out the rebels, a development that paid dividends as not too long after the formation of the movement, the rebels were chased back to their hideouts." Sir Albert shook his head and asked, "you mean the movement was an achievement at the initial stage of its formation?"

Teacher Lagawo replied, "yes, the Kamajors succeeded in chasing the rebels to their main base called 'Base Zogoda'. Actually, the Kamajor militia accomplished several triumphs that caused a West African magazine to describe the movement as the people's police. Through the dar-

ing exploits of the Kamajors, the rebels were given a bloody nose and flushed out of the Bo and Kenema highways never to return. The two main roads were then opened to civilian traffic, hitherto under the firm grip of the rebels. One of the famous Kamajors in that operation was called Tajawai, a.k.a. Highway."

Sir Albert asked, "why was he nicknamed Highway?" Teacher Lagawo responded, "Highway was the Kamajor fighter who could disappear and traverse all the highways in the country, sniffing to unearth the dubious activities



Hinga Norman

of the rebels before they were hatched."

To be continued

Awareness Times (Online)

Friday, 9 June 2006

MOIIE'S COLUMN

Containing Charles Taylor: I knew it will happen

By Alhaji Morikeh Fofana



AUTHOR

Charlie Boy you thought you were a Demi god. Now you have fallen.

In Greek mythology Demi gods and goddesses fall from grace. One of Sierra Leone's local languages, Krio, has it that; 'Tok you yone -lef God e yone' -literally meaning; talk what you feel you can and leave the decision with God). What a world?

Lessons are learnt every second of the day. People who considered themselves as Demi gods and are determining the fate of their fellow men on earth, which also include how they should live their lives, can end up facing the supernatural arm of justice of the real God Almighty in just a twinkle of an eye.

I put this piece together today just after watching the earthquake scenes in Indonesia and then after learning about the recent incident at Rokupa, here in Freetown. Oh yes how cruel nature can be and even then see what a man like Charles Taylor was capable of doing to his fellow men.

If the deaths in Sierra Leone and Liberia had been as a cause of a natural disaster like a Tsunami, earthquake or flood we would all have started questioning ourselves in our humble African way— God please tell us why?

In the circumstance of Charles Taylor, his innocent compatriots and citizens of his sister countries are now asking, "Charlie, why did you scheme up your war machinery against your fellow Africans O thou fallen Demi god?"

In Africa we've had people like Emperor Bokassa of the Central Africa Republic; he went into oblivion after committing atrocities against his innocent compatriots, Field Marshall Idi Amin Dada of Uganda and Saaid Barre of Somalia; now in seclusion somewhere around the world. All these individuals had their moments when they felt they were untouchables and presented themselves as gods on earth over their people. But when they long arm of the true God's justice reached at them, they had to pay the highest prices.

Of course we all know the Adolf Hitler war, his SS Camps, doctrine of race supremacy (blue eyed blondes) as perfect and all the others less intelligent and thus lower species of human beings, who by his principle were not supposed to exist on planet earth.

Hitler's holocaust therefore; the killing millions of Jews led in principle to the setting up of the United Nations body.

Even then some men had still made themselves to become beasts. Europe for example, had Slobodan Milosevic who died recently in his conceited arrogance. But now I want to talk about Charles Taylor the fallen West African War Lord and Demi god.

He proved his self designed status as Demi god by ensuring that Sierra Leoneans tasted the bitterness of war as he promised. Way back in 1991.

I know someone who actually travelled to Marseille in France only to watch a shipment of timber sold by Ghankay Taylor for one million dollars a berth. On hearing this at the time, I wondered whether Taylor was amassing such huge sums of money to reconstruct both Liberia and Sierra Leone after he would have finished destroying every fabric of these states, just to get his wish as a god on earth. This also kept me wondering as to how he intended to rule his people.

It was rather a shock to me and certainly that my friend to hear that the money he has so amassed will not do to pay for his legal representation at the Special Court; thank God the court is providing him with a team of defence Lawyers.

But I am writing this piece to pass judgment on Taylor or to state anything that could be prejudicial to his trial nor be contemptuous to the Special Court.

I only crave that the inner healing attributed to seclusion get a hold on Charles Taylor and he be made to confess. To confess to the thousands of innocent Sierra Leoneans, who were killed thanks to his tasting of us of the bitterness of war; Sierra Leoneans, most of whom died and their bodies were not seen by their relatives, most of whom who died and their bodies were eaten by birds and wild animals, most of whom, decent and respectable people were buried like criminals.

May the walls of the prisons of the Special Court speak to Taylor; I dare not question his humanity. Oh no! Not his African pride-never. Not even his love for his fellow human beings, he just could not have had any love for anybody to the extent of causing the brutal killing of one such human being.

His actions have manifested that he could be a human species with a difference and which requires an in-depth scientific research into his genes to determine how extraordinarily they were created. Those now silent voices will themselves be empowered to talk to Charlie while in his quiet moments within the confines of the walls of his prison, to ask him; why did he do or cause to do what happened to them. An African, I am sure Charlie has that belief that our spirits do not normally rest especially when they know they've been disadvantaged. If only these spirits, both Sierra Leonean and Liberian can now starting their respective questions, the Special Court will not have much time in reaching its decisive judicial conclusion on him. Their pressure will let him plead guilty so as to save him help. The fact that Taylor's actions led to the massive loss of lives and the destruction of properties is all I keep thinking about as I write this piece totally shattered.

As a Demi god Charles Taylor felt it was his 'divine' right to proclaim, "Sierra Leoneans will taste the bitterness of war" and acted like God by machinating all his plans to ensure that it happens as he had told the world on BBC.

Today, his detention on the very soil he had proclaimed doom for proves that he was not even a Demi god. It proves that Taylor was a mere human being whose selfish ambitions had over ridden his conscience and made a bloke of his actions. Now he is at the mercy of the world body that stood its ground, on the powers of the true God to ensure that he was first arrested as he tried to make good his escape and now he is under the custody of some of those people he had so caused to be terrorized. He caused Sierra Leoneans to have shock, that is history now, but he is currently getting his own share of the shock that will not let him see the light of day never again. BUT, and the big BUT about Charlie Boy is that he is now been prevented from tasting the SWEETNESS OF FREEDOM and DOOMED to ISOLATION for a LONG, LONG TIME.

My warning however to Charlie is, don't commit suicide! If you do those Sierra Leoneans and Liberians whose deaths you caused so prematurely will harass you into returning back. So don't even bother.

Any way, may be the Yankees can help to avert that by taking him to Guantanamo or Alcatraz. The choice is no longer yours, Charlie BOY.

I learnt in the course of my studies that prisoners sometimes get messages from the walls. I pray that those people you killed send you emails from your cell.

Indeed Sierra Leonean tasted the bitterness of war but they knew fully well that the good Almighty will revenge on their behalf by bringing that singular person who, because he had arrogated to himself the powers of god on earth, caused them to suffer for ten good years and caused them to lose people who might have brought glory and other betterment to their country. I knew it will happen and indeed it had happened.

BBC Online

Friday, 9 June 2006

By Norman Smith

UK pressed to jail Charles Taylor

Sierra Leone's leader says it would be "very helpful" if the UK were to jail ex-Liberian President Charles Taylor if he were convicted of war crimes.

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

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

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

Sierra Leonean President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah told the BBC that while people in Sierra Leone believed that justice would be done, they were frustrated by the amount of time it was taking to complete the trial.

Mr Taylor is being held as a prisoner at the Special Court in Sierra Leone's capital, Freetown, with eight other men accused of being primarily responsible for many of the atrocities committed during the civil war.

Fear

Mr Kabbah said he did not know whether the British government would agree to accept Mr Taylor as a prisoner but that it would be "very helpful" if they did.

TAYLOR TIMELINE

1989: Launches rebellion

1991: RUF rebellion starts in Sierra Leone

1995: Peace deal signed

1997: Elected president

1999: Lurd starts rebellion to oust Taylor

June 2003: Arrest warrant issued

August 2003: Steps down, goes into exile in Nigeria

March 2006: Arrested, sent to Sierra Leone

Officials at the Special Court have expressed unease about allowing Mr Taylor to stand trial in Freetown because of the possible security risks.

Privately they fear his appearance in court could prompt a rescue attempt or even lead to renewed fighting in Sierra Leone.

Special Court registrar Lovemore Munlo said that the court had secured the agreement of the Dutch government to allow Taylor's trial to be transferred from Freetown to The Hague.

"But they want to be assured that immediately the trial is finished, whether he is convicted or acquitted, he will not stay a day longer in The Hague," Mr Munlo said.

"The only reason they will allow us to take him there is for the purpose of trying him."

Mr Munlo confirmed that the British government had been asked if Mr Taylor could serve any sentence in a British prison.

It is understood three other countries have also been asked to take Mr Taylor. They are Sweden, Austria and Denmark, which has already said it will not accept him.

Privately, government officials in London have confirmed that they are considering the request.

However it is understood that there is concern among ministers that the move could prove politically difficult because of the recent row in the UK over the failure to deport foreign prisoners.

Institute for War and Peace Reporting, UK

Friday, 9 June 2006

http://www.iwpr.net/?p=acr&s=f&o=321554&apc_state=henpacr

Trying Times for Sierra Leone Court

Sweden offers a prison cell as debate continues over where former Liberian leader Charles Taylor should stand trial.

By Ayesha Kajee in Khartoum (AR No. 66, 09-Jun-06)

A decision by the Swedish parliament to allow former Liberian president Charles Taylor to be imprisoned in Sweden if he is convicted of war crimes has removed a major blockage to a trial in The Hague.

Taylor's trial by the United Nations-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone has been stalled on several counts following his extradition in March from exile in Nigeria.

He faces 11 charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity, including murder, rape and funding rebel fighters in Liberia's neighbour Sierra Leone, who terrorised civilians by hacking off hands, feet, ears and lips.

Normally such a trial would take place at the Special Court's headquarters in Freetown, the Sierra Leonean capital. But the court, fearing that trying this powerful figure in Africa might endanger regional stability, has asked the International Criminal Court, ICC, to host the Taylor trial at its high-security facilities in The Hague,

Charles Taylor's name still evokes extreme fear throughout West Africa, where he conducted a reign of terror both in Liberia and by proxy in neighbouring countries, conscripting schoolchildren to maim, pillage and murder. Even now, he wields significant financial and political influence in the region, with several supporters holding high-ranking positions in Liberia's fledgling democratically elected government.

Taylor also has a record of escaping from incarceration several times, on one occasion from a prison in the United States where he was awaiting extradition. Liberia's request for him to be extradited was almost thwarted when Taylor tried to flee from Nigeria to Cameroon in late March, and he was only apprehended at the border.

Apart from the danger that he could escape again, there are real fears that even in captivity in Sierra Leone, his very presence would destabilise the fragile peace in the region.

The Liberian government, which formally requested the Nigerian authorities to hand Taylor, quickly dispatched him to Sierra Leone. The jubilation expressed by human rights activists when Taylor was finally handed over to the Special Court, which had issued a warrant for his arrest in 2003 while he was still Liberian president, has been dissipated by the obstacles which have arisen to a speedy trial.

The Swedish parliament's decision on May 31 will help speed up the process. The Dutch government was only prepared to host the trial on condition that a third country agreed to imprison the accused if a conviction was secured.

Liberian president Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, on a visit to Britain, gave her backing to a trial outside Africa, explaining that "a little bit of distance gives us [Liberians] a little more comfort".

In a veiled reference to Taylor's continued support base, the president, elected in November 2005, noted, "There are too many risks associated with an overbearing presence."

The trial has also been held up by arguments from Taylor's defence counsel that he will not get a fair trial in the Netherlands, as well as by bureaucratic delays resulting from the change in the presidency of the Special Court. The court's appeals chamber recently dismissed a motion by Taylor's British lawyer, Karim Khan, to withdraw the request for a change of trial venue. In the interim, court president and chief prosecutor Desmond Da Silva, who submitted the request, had resigned. His successor, Sierra Leonean judge George King, assumed his duties on May 27 and is expected to make a final decision on the trial venue soon.

The venue issue has polarised opinion in the region. Some want a trial in Freetown, saying Africans must see justice being done, and that the victims and families have a right to be present during hearings on the crimes of which the former Liberian leaders stands accused.

In a recent opinion piece in the New York Times, John Leigh, Sierra Leone's former ambassador to the United States, argued that "witnessing the proper administration of justice will render us Africans better able to protect our rights and more reliant on democratic principles rather than on superstitious beliefs". A Freetown trial, he said, would "drive home the democratic principle that no one is above the law".

Indeed, it was for precisely these reasons that the Sierra Leone court, unlike the international tribunals for Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia, was set up in the country where the crimes took place.

When the Sierra Leone court was established in late 2002 with a three-year mandate, it was also hoped that this "hybrid" court - combining international and domestic law - would operate more speedily than the two tribunals. But so far it has failed to live up to expectations.

The court's sluggishness came under fire when Taylor's Sierra Leonean ally Foday Sankoh died in July 2003 while awaiting trial. Sankoh was responsible for kick-starting Sierra Leone's civil war in 1991, and was notorious for his cruelty and for inciting his troops to mutilation, torture and cannibalism.

The death from natural causes of the Special Court's number one indicted suspect before he was brought to trial was a major blow. David Crane, chief prosecutor at the time, commented that Sankoh received the "peaceful end that he denied to so many others".

The court began holding trials in June 2004 but has been hamstrung by funding constraints and the lack of adequate infrastructure in war-damaged Sierra Leone. A report by the US-based watchdog Human Rights Watch acknowledges that "the court has made tremendous achievements on scarce and insecure resources", especially in terms of outreach and witness protection.

In making a final decision on a venue for Taylor's trial, Justice King will need to weigh all these factors carefully. He has already gone on record stating that the Special Court needs more time and more funding, and that "any thought of the court ending this year or even in 2007 is unrealistic".

Amnesty International has warned that a change of venue will require further human and financial resources, and that this should only be considered if the international community cannot provide effective security for proceedings in Sierra Leone.

Unlike the war crimes tribunals for Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia, which are directly financed by UN member states, the Sierra Leone court operates on voluntary funding from a few countries. As of last month, the court had received less than half of its 25 million US dollar budget for the year.

At the same time, King will need to recognise the need for a speedy resolution to the dilemma, so that a trial can get under way soon. Following the death in custody of former Yugoslav president Slobodan Milosevic earlier this year, the reputation of the international justice system will be significantly damaged if Taylor is allowed to languish without trial for much longer.

Ayesha Kajee is a researcher at the South African Institute of International Affairs; her expertise includes the International Criminal Court.

Observer (UK)

Sunday, 11 June 2006

Sierra Leone fury at switch in Taylor trial

Chris Stephen in Freetown

Anger is growing in Sierra Leone over a plan by Britain and the US to move the war crimes trial of the former Liberian President, Charles Taylor, from Freetown to The Hague.

Taylor is the first African 'big man' to face such charges, and there were expectations that a trial would prove Africa capable of dispensing its own justice. But now London and Washington say security in this war-torn former British colony is too precarious. 'We want to see justice done,' said James Matthew of Sierra Leone's Movement of Democracy and Human Rights. 'Other trials have gone on peacefully here; why should the Taylor trial change that?'

In 1991 Taylor supported a Sierra Leone rebel group, allegedly to plunder the country's diamond fields. The fighting saw cannibalism, murder and mass rape. Prosecutors say that Taylor used diamonds to fund a criminal empire. He fled to Nigeria in 2003. In March this year Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo ordered Taylor's arrest.

In 1999 Alusan Konte, a chef, was stopped by Taylor's forces and given a choice: the rebels would chop off one of his hands and one of his four-year-old son's, or take both his hands and spare his son. 'I thought I'd better do it,' he said. 'They took both my hands.'

He is angry the trial will take place far away. 'Charles Taylor should be tried here, tried according to the law,' he said.

BBC Online

Friday, 9 June 2006

Taylor to watch World Cup in jail

By Norman Smith
BBC, Freetown

Charles Taylor will be able to watch the football World Cup from the comfort of his prison cell, where the former Liberian president is awaiting trial for his part in the civil war that devastated Sierra Leone.

Staff at the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone have equipped his cell, which is about 6m by 4m, with a television, a radio and a DVD player. Coffee and tea are also available, as are books and films.

He enjoys better living conditions than most people in Sierra Leone, even though he is in jail.

Outside of the prison most ordinary people have to make do without any electricity or drainage.

They live in ramshackle structures often made of little more than rusted sheets of corrugated iron. Television is a rarity.

Earning perks

When I visited the cell block where Mr Taylor is being held, I was not allowed to see him, but I was shown into an identical cell adjoining his.

It consists of a single bed, covered with a mosquito net, a desk and chair, and a fan.

Outside is a prison yard, where Taylor is free to walk from 0700 until 2000 each day.

There is a state-of-the-art medical facility next to the cell block, which prison staff say is probably the best in Sierra Leone.

Mr Taylor and the eight other inmates are provided with regular medical supervision to ensure they cannot later claim they were subject to any ill treatment while being held in the prison complex at the Special Court.

There is even what is called "a detainee earning scheme" whereby Mr Taylor and the eight other inmates can earn money to pay for perks, like Coca-Cola and cigarettes, by doing cleaning jobs around the prison complex.

They can also give the money they earn to their relatives.

Four days a week, relatives are allowed to visit Taylor.



Charles Taylor is accused of war crimes in Sierra Leone



Security at the prison is tight

The chief detention officer Raymond Cardinal told me that Mr Taylor liked to spend his time reading books, watching movies and banging a tennis ball against the cell wall.

“
RUF and CDF are well
”
Raymond Cardinal
Chief detention officer

The cell, said Mr Chandler, was actually larger than what is required under European prison standards.

Although the nine inmates fought on rival sides during the civil war, they now appear to get on.

Defendants from the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC), which seized power in 1997; their allies the rebel Revolutionary United Front (RUF); and the pro-government Civil Defence Forces (CDF) mingle freely with each other in the exercise yard.

"The three groups, AFRC, RUF and CDF are well integrated," said Mr Cardinal.

"There is no problem because they made an expression some time ago when we were talking about segregation that they were brothers now, even though they were combatants before.

"They have a common cause now."

The Star-Ledger (New Jersey, USA)

Friday, 9 June 2006

Jersey man accused of spying in Africa is expected to be freed

BY MARK MUELLER

Star-Ledger Staff

A judge in Sierra Leone said yesterday he expects prosecutors to drop espionage charges against a New Jersey man who has been held in the west African nation since April, the man's family said.

Michael Chemidlin's sister, Emmy Salerno, said she learned of the development in an e-mail from the U.S. Embassy in Freetown, Sierra Leone's capital. Embassy officials have been monitoring Chemidlin's court hearings to ensure his rights are protected.

Chemidlin, a 58-year-old Scotch Plains resident, was arrested April 29 for photographing a court complex where former Liberian President Charles Taylor awaits trial on war-crimes charges. Prosecutors branded Chemidlin a "terrorist" who had plotted to free Taylor.

Chemidlin's family members have called the arrest a misunderstanding, saying he was taking photos of people and places to document his first trip to Africa. A born-again Christian, Chemidlin told relatives he was visiting the continent to proselytize.

The judge overseeing Chemidlin's case had been scheduled to decide yesterday whether prosecutors have enough evidence to support the espionage count, which carries up to 15 years in prison. But according to the e-mail from the family's contact at the U.S. embassy, prosecutors failed to show up for the hearing.

The judge rescheduled the hearing for Tuesday, at the same time announcing he expected prosecutors to seek a dismissal of the charge, Salerno said the embassy official wrote.

Chemidlin, who served in Iraq last year with the Army National Guard, is free on bail but may not leave the country.

"He's stuck," said Salerno, 62, of Edison. "We're all continuing to pray for his safety and for him to come home as soon as possible."

Deutsche Press Agentur

Friday, 9 June 2006

Initiative Launched in Liberia to Raise funds for Taylor's Trial

Monrovia- A close associate of former Liberian president Charles Taylor has launched an initiative to raise 5 million dollars for his trial before a UN-backed war crimes tribunal.

John T. Richardson, a former spokesman of Taylor's defunct National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) said Taylor had been neglected by his old friends and the Liberian government.

He said he would rally the support of Taylor's sympathizers to hire the best lawyers to plead his case.

Richardson who also served as public works minister in Taylor's government, said he was optimistic that the court would find no evidence to convict Taylor, and that the former Liberian president would walk from the court a free man.

Environmental News Service

Monday, 12 June 2006

<http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/>

Dutch Timber Dealer Convicted of Breaking UN Arms Embargo

THE HAGUE, The Netherlands, (ENS) - The Dutch timber merchant Guus van Kouwenhoven has been sentenced to eight years in prison for breaking a United Nations arms embargo on Liberia. A Dutch court found that Kouwenhoven had sold weapons to the former Liberian president Charles Taylor in return for timber rights.

But he was acquitted of war crimes charges based on allegations that private militias formed by his two timber companies had carried out atrocities.

During the three week trial that ended Wednesday, prosecutors described Kouwenhoven as one of Taylor's "inner circle" and demanded a 20 year prison sentence and a fine of 450,000 euros (US\$575,000).

But the court ruled, "The evidence was insufficient to show factual involvement and



Only after July 7, 2003, when the UN Security Council imposed sanctions on Liberian timber exports, were the ties between Kouwenhoven and the European timber trade terminated. A month after the ban in timber exports came into effect, the civil war ended and Taylor fled to Nigeria.

During the trial Kouwenhoven denied the charges, and his lawyers claimed prosecution witnesses were paid.

The investigative non-governmental organization Global Witness, which documented Kouwenhoven's role in the Liberian conflict since 2000, applauded the courage of the

Liberian and international witnesses who testified despite the threat of intimidation.

"The barbaric regime of Charles Taylor was financed and maintained by the revenues generated from the timber trade, in which Guus Kouwenhoven was the biggest player," said Global Witness campaigner Alex Yearsley. "This conviction will send a stark warning to individuals who feel that they can profit with impunity from trading in a conflict region."

Yearsley says reports by Global Witness and by United Nations expert panels not only resulted in UN-imposed sanctions on Liberia's timber trade in 2003, but directly led to an investigation by the Dutch Ministry of Justice into Kouwenhoven's activities.

Greenpeace participated in investigating the Liberian "blood-timber" trade and bringing public attention to the Liberian timber for arms trade, revealing that European timber dealer, including Swiss-German Danzer, Danish DLH Nordisk, Dutch Wijma, Greece-based Shelman, German Feldmeyer-Group, and the Italian company Tecnoalp were all involved in buying timber from Kouwenhoven's two



imports of illegal or conflict timber contributed to this horrible example of destructive exploitation of a natural resource, fueling civil war and related crimes against humanity," said van Praet. "Governments must take up their responsibility to stop illegal and blood-timber trade right now."

Saying that timber from "conflict-prone" countries like Burma, Ivory Coast and the Democratic Republic of Congo continues to be freely traded on the international market, Greenpeace is urging governments and timber traders to ban the importing of timber from illegal and destructive logging.

Yearsley says the international community should also "swiftly adopt an internationally agreed definition of conflict resources," which would help curtail the trade in conflict resources in a more systematic and responsive way.

United Nations  Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 10 June 2006

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

International Clips on Liberia

BBC Last Updated: Friday, 9 June 2006, 20:50 GMT 21:50 UK

UK pressed to jail Charles Taylor

By Norman Smith, Freetown

Sierra Leone's leader says it would be "very helpful" if the UK were to jail ex-Liberian President Charles Taylor if he were convicted of war crimes. He faces the charges in the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone, which requested his trial be transferred to The Hague for security reasons. But the Dutch government said it would only accept this if any ensuing jail term was served in another country. Mr Taylor is accused of backing rebels in Sierra Leone's 1991-2002 civil war.

Tribune de Genève 6 June 2006

The First Woman elected Head of State in Africa, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Inherits a Country Ravaged by 14 Years of War

By Gustavo Kuhn

"Unemployment is one of the main challenges facing Liberia: 85 percent of the active population is jobless," affirmed President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. "For us, work is synonymous with peace." The first woman elected to lead an African country finished a European tour intended to "change the image of Liberia" at the Place of Nations. In Geneva this week, she participated in two meetings which greatly concerned her country, ravaged by a 14-year civil war that left 300,000 dead: the meeting on small arms and development, and the annual conference of the International Labor Organization (ILO)—an institution from which Johnson Sirleaf has requested immediate technical assistance. The President of Liberia also requested international aid and private investment.

[Excerpt translated by UNMIL Public Information]

Liberian Refugees Barricade UNHCR

By Mohamed Konneh

Jun 09, 2006 (Standard Times/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) --Liberian refugees in Freetown yesterday, Thursday 8th June barricaded the entrance of the United Nations High Commission Office (UNHCR) headquarters in Freetown at Wilkinson Road. Speaking to some of the refugees during the action, they noted that the resettlement programme for them is no longer adequately coordinated, complaining that it has been infiltrated by corrupt elements who use Sierra Leoneans instead of Liberians for the programme.

International Clips on West Africa

VOA 10 June 2006

Ivory Coast Plays Its First-Ever World Cup Game Saturday

By Parke Brewer, Hamburg

Four of the five African nations that qualified for the World Cup in Germany are making their first-ever appearance at football's premiere event. One of them is Ivory Coast and VOA Sports Editor Parke Brewer caught up with a group of the team's fans in Hamburg. Ivory Coast will play its inaugural World Cup match here on Saturday night against Argentina. And it does not get any easier for the African team, nicknamed "The Elephants." The Elephants' other matches in Group C are against the Netherlands and Serbia and Montenegro.

Local Media - Newspapers

Immigration Commissioner Says Borders Are Porous

(National Chronicle)

- During an acquaintance meeting with members of the press yesterday, Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization Commissioner Christopher Massaquoi said that Liberia's border posts were porous and that the Bureau lacked the required logistics and trained personnel to man them.

Congress for Democratic Change Official Wants Associate Justice Commissioned

(National Chronicle)

- In an interview yesterday, the Congress for Democratic Change standard bearer's Public Relations Officer, Willie McGill Dweh, appealed to those seeking to prevent the commissioning of Associate Justice Kabineh Ja'neh to withdraw their protest for the sake of peace.

Local Media – ELBS Radio

Chinese Envoy Says Visitor Exchanges Demonstrate Good Ties between Liberia and China

- The charge' d'affaires at the Chinese Embassy, Gou Haodong, said that the Government of China was committed to good relations between Liberia and China, adding that the frequent visits of people to the two countries demonstrated cordial relations. During his visit to Star Radio station yesterday, Mr. Haodong cited the visit to Liberia of the Chinese Foreign Minister and a reciprocal visit to China of Liberian politicians. Star's station manager, James Morlu, said that the station has tailored its programming to enable Liberians to participate in the activities that impact their lives.

(Also reported on Star Radio)

Margibi County Superintendent Accuses Companies of Polluting Rivers

- Speaking at the launching of an environmental awareness program in Gbarnga, Bong County recently, Margibi County Superintendent Levi Piah pointed out that the companies operating in the county have polluted its rivers.

(Also reported on Star Radio)

Taylor's Relations Want Probe into Looting of Taylor Residence

- The spokesperson of former President Charles Taylor's family, Sando Johnson, has urged the government to institute a speedy investigation into the looting spree that went on in the residence of the former President. In an interview yesterday, Mr. Johnson said that it was unusual for unknown persons to loot such a residence which is guarded by UN personnel.

(Also reported on Star Radio)

Red Cross and Red Crescent Head of Mission Dies in Liberia

- According to a press statement issued in Monrovia yesterday, the Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Liberia announced the death of its Head Delegate, Sally Miller, a 66-year-old Canadian, at her residence in Monrovia.

(Also reported on Star Radio)

Security Prevented from Probing Accused Czech Diplomat

- Acting National Security Minister Yenk Zubah said that his ministry was being prevented from probing Czech Diplomat Kore Socher because of his diplomatic status

(Also reported on Star Radio)

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 9 June 2006

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International Clips on Liberia

LLOYDS LIST June 09, 2006

Liberia is first nation to sign ILO maritime convention

John Zarocostas in Geneva

LIBERIA'S newly-elected president Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has pledged to raise the skills of the country's seafarers. Ms Sirleaf made her comments during a visit to the International Labour Organization in Geneva, where the African nation became the first country to sign the new maritime labour standards convention.

BBC Last Updated: Friday, 9 June 2006, 10:29 GMT 11:29 UK

Taylor to watch World Cup in jail

By Norman Smith, Freetown

Charles Taylor will be able to watch the football World Cup from the comfort of his prison cell, where the former Liberian president is awaiting trial for his part in the civil war that devastated Sierra Leone. Staff at the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone have equipped his cell, which is about 6m by 4m, with a television, a radio and a DVD player. Coffee and tea are also available, as are books and films.

International Clips on West Africa

VOA 08 June 2006

Ivory Coast Militias Set New Disarmament Date

Officials in Ivory Coast say pro-government militias have promised to begin disarming on June 16 after missing a Thursday deadline to lay down their weapons. Militia leaders said they needed more time to inform their members about the process. The disarmament of pro-government militias is to be the first step of a broader disarmament that includes rebel and government troops. Ivory Coast has yet to set a date for the rebels and soldiers to give up their guns.

Local Media - Newspapers

Czech Diplomat Arrested for Forgery

(The News, Daily Observer and Heritage)

- The Monrovia City Court on Thursday ordered the arrest of a Czech diplomat on a US\$15 million forgery charges.
- Mr. Kore Socher was accused for allegedly forging the signature of a business partner, Nathaniel Barnes and sold his share to a Czech national, Vladimir Juha. Mr. Socher had allegedly resisted arrest on grounds that he is a diplomat and that the Liberian government should have informed his government on the matter.

Government Sets Priorities for Electrification

(The News, The Inquirer and Daily Observer)

- Addressing lawmakers on the status of the Emergency Power Plant (EPP) Project on Thursday, Liberia Electricity Corporation Managing Director Harry T. Yuan said electricity would be provided mainly to schools, hospitals, and small businesses along the power distribution route. Mr. Yuan said that the government has targeted strategic installations including the streets for electrification during the emergency exercise.

Presidential Guards Jostle Journalists at Airport

(Daily Observer)

- According to *Daily Observer*, some members of the Special Security Service (SSS) detail and a U.S. Secret Service agent assigned to President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf on Wednesday manhandled some members of the Executive Mansion press corps, causing at least one journalist to sustain neck injury and the loss of his cell phone. The reporters had gone to cover the President's arrival from a conference of the International Labour Organization in Geneva, Switzerland.

Community Watch Teams Arrest Looters of Taylor's House

(The News)

- A community watch team claimed it arrested two criminals on Thursday for looting the Congo Town residence of former Liberian President Charles Taylor. One of the men arrested has been identified as Otis Benjamin, an ex-combatant. The suspects were caught with a huge carpet and other valuables that they admitted stealing from the former President's house.

Islamic Group Accuses President of Not Appointing Muslims

(The Inquirer)

- In a press statement issued on Thursday, a group of concerned Muslim youths expressed disappointment over President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf's failure to appoint Muslims to cabinet positions. The group claimed that such exclusion policy is an outright denial of Muslims to participate and have a say in the governance of the country.

Sinoe County Prison Exposes Inmates to Health Hazards

(Heritage)

- Conditions at the Greenville Prison Compound in Sinoe County have worsened as such that inmates at the prison center are increasingly exposed to health hazards.

University of Liberia Suspends Placement Examinations

(The Informer)

- Authorities at the University of Liberia have temporarily suspended administering entrance and placement examinations for high school graduates until the necessary adjustments are made to cope with the influx of new students.

Local Media – ELBS Radio

Libyan Government Delegation Visits Liberia

- An Executive Mansion press statement said that a 15-member Libyan government delegation headed by President Muammar Qaddafi's Special Envoy, El-Haq Bashir Selah, has arrived in the country as guests of the Liberian Government. The delegation's visit is to explore investment possibilities in Liberia. President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf had visited Libya twice in less than a month.

(Also reported on Star Radio)

Local Forest Conservationist Says Conviction of Dutchman Boosts International Law

- In a press release issued in Monrovia yesterday, a local forest conservationist group, Green Advocates, said that the conviction of Dutch arm dealer Gus Van Kouwenhoven boosted international law over unwholesome business enterprises around the world. The group said that it welcomed the verdict because the arms Mr. Kouwenhoven traded with former President Charles Taylor were key sources of crimes against humanity.

(Also reported on Star Radio)

Agriculture College Needs US\$400,000 to Manufacture Animal Feed in Liberia

- University of Liberia lecturer of Agriculture, Neigon Togoan told journalists in a press interview that the University's College of Agriculture needed about US\$400,000 to begin manufacturing feeds for animals in Liberia. He noted that the country was endowed with crops and expertise to produce the feeds locally.

(Also reported on Star Radio)

Catholic Radio Veritas Suspends Broadcasts to Upgrade Studios

- The management of the Catholic-funded Radio Veritas, in a press statement yesterday, said that the station has suspended broadcasting activities to install its new digital transmission and studio equipment which would improve the sound quality of the station.

(Also reported on Star Radio)

Security Forces Nab Suspected Murderers in Grand Gedeh County

- A resident of Grand Gedeh County, Neewili Batuna said that the Liberian National Police and the Ethiopian contingent of UNMIL have arrested some people who have been implicated in the alleged murder of 7 persons in the county in 2003.
- Mr. Batuna said that the victims allegedly died after some traditional priests had found them guilty of participating in the killings.

(Also reported on Star Radio)

Magisterial Court Orders Detention of Czech Diplomat for Forgery

(Also reported on Star Radio)

Power Generators to Light up Monrovia Arrive Soon

(Also reported on Star Radio)

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

Star Radio Station Manager Urges Liberians to Refrain from Destructive Criticisms

- In a press interview yesterday, Star Radio Station Manager James Morlu urged Liberians to refrain from destructive criticisms if the country must move forward. Mr. Morlu said that true critics should rather recommend solution to problems than to engage in criticisms over issues they do not understand.

Complete versions of the UNMIL International Press Clips, UNMIL Daily Liberian Radio Summary and UNMIL Liberian Newspapers Summary are posted each day on the UNMIL Bulletin Board. If you are unable to access the UNMIL Bulletin Board or would like further information on the content of the summaries, please contact Mr. Jeddi Armah at armahj@un.org.

Special Court Supplement

New Members of Staff – 1 May through 6 June 2006



Serge Tshibambe Ngoie (Admin. Assistant – OTP) joined the Court on 5 June. His trip to New England was a short one: He previously worked across town in UNIOSIL's Security Section.

Before that, he served at UNAMSIL as a UN Volunteer and was in charge of Asset Management.

“Tshibambe”, as he likes to be called, graduated from the Air Force College in the Democratic Republic of Congo with an Officer Diploma. He then went on to work for the United Nations Monitoring Group in the Congo (MONUC), where he was in charge of Asset Management at CITS.



Wendy Van Tongeren (Trial Lawyer – OTP) joined the Office of the Prosecutor on 14 May. She comes to the Special Court with twenty-six years prosecution experience with the Ministry of the Attorney General, British Columbia, in western Canada.

Ms Van Tongeren has specialised in the prosecution of crimes against women and children, and she has dealt extensively with children and other vulnerable witnesses.

Prior to coming to Sierra Leone, she taught courses in the Introduction to Criminal Law and Crimes Against Children at the University College of the Fraser Valley. She has many publications to her credit, including the co-authorship of *Sexual Offences Against Children and the Criminal Trial Process* published by Lexis Nexis, Markham, Canada.



Omoegho Keke Unuigbo (General Services Officer-Contracts) started her Special Court experience on 6 June, replacing Suresh Purayath, who is now GSO-Administration. "Omoh", as she is generally called, is from Nigeria.

After serving in various managerial levels at the United African Company of Nigeria Plc. (UAC), she plans to inject her fourteen years experience as a logistician into the operations of General Services.

She is a graduate of the University of Ibadan, where she earned degrees in Chemistry and Business Administration. Omoh enjoys travel and meeting people.



Lydia Harrison (Personnel Assistant – Personnel) started working with the Special Court on 25 May 2006. She brings with her experience from the UNAMSIL Personnel section, although she spent the past four years out of Sierra Leone, living and working in Mauritania and, most recently, in the Kingdom of Cambodia.

She is very happy to be back home in Sierra Leone, and she says she hopes her role in Personnel will help staff members she interacts with reach their God-given potential.

She enjoys reading, singing, travelling, keeping fit, spending time with her son Matteo, and catching up with family and friends.



Alpha Bannie Jalloh (Audio – Visual Assistant, CITS) joined the CITS unit on 1 June as an audio visual assistant, after serving briefly as an intern with the National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA). Earlier, he was the legal affairs correspondent for the Trumpet newspaper.

His community activism has aided him in dramatising human rights issues and raising awareness about human rights.



Alex Albert M'bayo (Integrated Security Systems Assistant) joined the Special Court on 1 June after four years with UNAMSIL's Electrical Unit. Mr M'bayo has a wealth of experience in electrical and electronics engineering.

After graduating from Fourah Bay College with an engineering degree in 1999, he taught for a year at the East End Polytechnic in Kenema, and later spent two years at the Sierra Leone Ports Authority before joining UNAMSIL.

He likes football and writing short stories.

“I see my task at the Court as challenging”, Mr Mbayo said.

