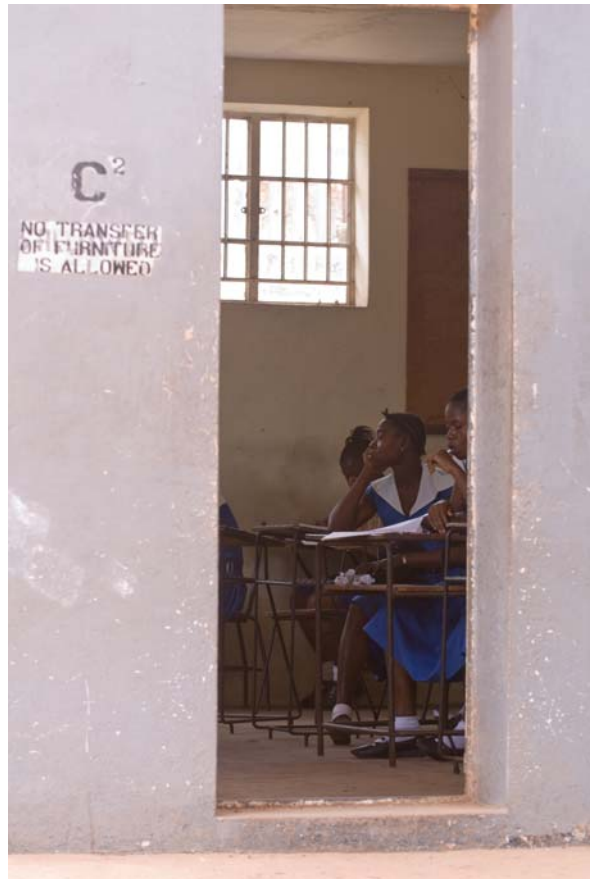


**SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
PRESS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE**



PRESS CLIPPINGS

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

as at:

Monday, 12 May 2008

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
Martin Royston-Wright
Ext 7217

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Concord Times
Monday, 12 May 2008

Taylor's \$5b claim: Prove it... "or shut up!"

- defence tells prosecutor

By **Olusegun Ogundeji**
Charles Taylor's defence team Friday filed a motion before the Trial Chamber seeking for the disclosure of evidence underlying 'prejudicial statements' made to the media

by Chief Prosecutor Stephen Rapp.

"To date we have not seen a shred of evidence to support the fact that former President Charles Taylor has salted away millions whilst he was in

power," Courtenay Griffiths, Charles Taylor's lead defence lawyer said in an interview.

BBC last Friday reported that Rapp stated that former Liberian President Taylor controlled about \$5 billion held at two US banks during his presidency.

The motion states that the defence team wants an order from the Trial Chamber compelling the Office of the Prosecutor to disclose to the Defence and the Office of the Principal Defender any and all evidence underlying the prejudicial and

unsubstantiated comments made by Prosecutor Rapp regarding allegations of privately held funds that Mr. Taylor is said to have had or still have under his control.

The defence believes the issue of Mr. Taylor's money is totally

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Taylor's \$5b claim: Prove it... "or shut up!"

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irrelevant to the indictment contrary to the prosecution's suggestion that Mr. Taylor's previous and current wealth are relevant to the crime of pillage which is contained in the Second Amendment Indictment as count 11.

"We say they ought to put up or shut up on this issue. There is no charge on the indictment relating to him stashing money away overseas. Finding the money is totally irrelevant to the indictment. The sole relevance of finding that

money would be to contradict his assertion that he is indigent and that the court should pay for his defence," Griffiths said.

Having mentioned some instances in the motion where the prosecutor should have considered applicable legal principles, the defence team judged that "the continuing prejudicial and unsubstantiated comments by Prosecutor Rapp severely impact and undermine the fair trial rights of Mr. Taylor."

The team claimed in the motion that these comments "have

significant negative impact on the Defence's ability to investigate and obtain witnesses for the Accused.

These comments have the effect of altering the perception of several distinct classes of persons in West Africa and elsewhere, some of whom invariably will conclude that if Mr. Taylor has all this money, why will he not share it with the people who he wants to come and testify on his behalf?"

The defence also stated that the prosecutor's comments violate various codes of conduct.

interview

Last year the United Nations Security Council agreed to set up a three-member panel of experts to probe into the 'hidden wealth' of the former Liberian President Charles Taylor, who has been accused of committing war crimes and crimes against humanity during the 11-year conflict in Sierra Leone. According to the Special Court Chief Prosecutor, Stephen Rapp, experts are trying to uncover Mr. Taylor's wealth, which they claim he acquired from illegal blood diamond and timber trade in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea. He says they have located \$ 375 million being part of Mr Taylor's wealth. Adolphus Williams met with Stephen Rapp in The Hague and first asked him about this discovery.

RAPP: Well, we found bank transactions in accounts that were in his personal name and were being used for his personal purposes. There's been a little bit of misinformation about this. We did find two accounts in the US in which there were \$5 billion of activity - \$5 billion US in activity - but a lot of it was money moving back and forth between the two accounts in order to maximise daily interest payments. But at least \$375 million we've identified as moving out of those accounts into other banks in the US and elsewhere around the world, and we're continuing a tracing exercise following those funds to the present to see how much is left. But we don't know at this stage how much is left. Given the circumstances we believe there are going to be some assets left here that could be available to be frozen by the UN and then eventually available, if Taylor is convicted, for reparations for Sierra Leonean victims but of course to the extent assets can be traced to Liberia and to public funds in Liberia. Clearly there will be a right for Liberia to recover as well.

If we can show money being used to buy arms going to Sierra Leone, money going to the Ukraine or something, that could help our case. That's why we've been looking at this for a long time. Additionally we have the right, if we obtain a conviction for the crime of pillage, to obtain a forfeiture order equal to

the amount of property pillaged from Sierra Leonean victims. And we're presenting evidence about diamond pillage, there's a particular shipment that we're [indistinct] a number of evidence about was taken from Johnny Paul Koroma that was about 1,900 diamonds that we think have been valued at several million dollars. If we can prove in the end of the day that Taylor pillaged diamonds from Sierra Leone we can get a forfeiture order against him.

WILLIAMS: How are you going to prove that? How are you going to determine money from Liberia, money from Sierra Leone that formed part of Taylor's wealth? It sounds difficult, you know.

RAPP: Well it involves the tracing exercise, and at the end of the day what I'm hoping on, and when I meet with Liberian and with Sierra Leone authorities I discuss ways that we could share the gains, so to speak. At the end of the day it may be difficult to tell whether money in an account came from Sierra Leone diamonds or whether it came from Liberian timber. There may be a case to make in both situations, and the money's been moved around and some has been spent, and all of that. So I think in the end of the day there will be a need to work out a formula for distribution between the two countries. But the critical thing at this point is to locate the funds, because if we

locate the funds we can get them frozen by the UN under the Security Council resolution.

WILLIAMS: So all what Taylor accumulated before, during and after the war is classified illegal and should be confiscated?

RAPP: Well, Global Witness has done studies in this area about money taken from various sectors of the Liberian economy during Taylor's administration. They estimated it at least \$100 million a year during his six years as president. The strongest evidence was the timber products study, the concession study that was done by the Liberian government in partnership with a number of foreign aid agencies that resulted in the end in the cancellation of all timber concessions in Liberia at that time. And that study I think came to the conclusion that at least 84 percent of the money gained from the timber industry during Taylor's administration ended up

in Taylor's pocket, where it should have ended up in the treasury. And so that's something that's there, but there's certainly evidence of other diversions of ship flag of convenience money and [indistinct] other places where Taylor might have gotten to the treasury. But that's going to have to yet be proven. That's not directly relevant to us in Sierra Leone except to the extent that it can be shown that that's the source of this money...and certainly we have to recognise the Liberians have a claim to stolen assets, and you can't use stolen assets, stolen from the people of Liberia, to compensate people in Sierra Leone. So that's why at the end of the day I think there'll have to be a formula or an arrangement or a negotiation.

WILLIAMS: Mr. Rapp, let's make an assumption here. Assuming the Court does not find Mr. Taylor guilty, and now the assets of the accused are frozen, \$375 million located,

is it not like we are putting the cart before the horse?



Stephen Rapp

is it not like we are putting the cart before the horse?

RAPP: Well we have to find the assets first in order to justify what we're doing in the Court, and so if at the end of the day we get a judgment for several million dollars which should go back to the people of Sierra Leone, it won't do us much good unless we've frozen the resources. The United Nations, under Security Council resolutions, has the right - indeed the Sanctions Committee is mandated with an order to freeze Taylor's assets, or to freeze the assets that are in the hands of third parties that came from Taylor. So that needs to be done in any case. And even if Taylor is acquitted, people in Liberia and others could

have claims to get that money back based upon grounds other than war crimes. It's not just on war crimes that you can recover money. You could recover money because it's theft. You could recover it under a lawsuit saying that Taylor's men had committed a particular injury to you and it would be a whole different standard. Just because we would not succeed, others could succeed in the future. But it makes sense for everyone to work together to maximise the amount of assets that are located and frozen. Once that's done I think then we'll move forward to share it.

WILLIAMS: And the Defence team agrees with you?

RAPP: Well, no! The

Defence team obviously contests whether Taylor took money. To a large extent that's not directly relevant in the case. What's relevant in the case is whether he pillaged assets from Sierra Leone. They of course have pled 'not guilty' on that. We will have to prove that. The question of how much assets he has today, that will only become relevant to the Court once we have a conviction, if we get one for that particular offence. Then the Court will have to determine whether an order should be entered that would allow us some of that money to be taken by the Court, sent to Sierra Leone, or it could be distributed to victims. Courtesy BBC World Service Trust and Search for Common Ground

Special Court Chief prosecutor on Taylor's 'stolen' assets

And even if Taylor is acquitted, people in Liberia and others could have claims to get that money back based upon grounds other than war crimes

The Spark
Monday, 12 May 2008

Witness weeps at Taylor's trial

By Alphonsus Zeon

A prosecution witness at the trial of the former Liberian president, Charles Taylor, broke down in the middle of her testimony in court on Wednesday as she gave a graphic description of yet more rebel atrocities. The wit-

ness, known only as TF1-028, said there was no shortage in the cruel acts of the AFRC/RUF rebels
CONTINUED PAGE 8

Witness weeps at Taylor's trial

FROM PAGE 1

in their dealings with civilians. When she began narrating how her two uncles were allegedly killed by rebels with machetes, tears streamed down her cheek.

"I saw my uncle lying down. He had been hacked on his neck... He was saying, 'God is great' ... Then I saw my other uncle ... My uncle was asking what his elder brother had done when they hacked him... Then they hacked him across his face, saying that was the answer...[and] he died," she said. She narrated another incident in which rebels beat up people in

Karina town, and dropped a burning plastic on the body of her brother. The rebels allegedly raped small girls and killed people.

The witness said that in one instance, a boy was killed for simply taking soap without permission, to wash. He was tied up on the orders of a rebel commander and "dragged like a goat" to the bush where, despite pleas that he would be taking his school leaving O level exams in the following year, they shot him dead.

Prosecution lawyer Shyantala Alagenda is expected to continue the direct examination of TF1-028.

The Spark
Monday, 12 May 2008

Boost for Taylor's lawyers

By Alphonsus Zeon

Lawyers representing the former Liberian president Charles Taylor at his war crimes trial at the Special Court sitting at The Hague, probably have something to smile about.

Following their rejection of protective status given to some of the prosecution witnesses and asking the Court to look at the reasons for keeping them away from the public eye, the Court agreed that TF1-215 did not enjoy protection. But Presiding Judge Theresa Doherty said the call for a review of the protective measures remained arguable.

She said: "The Defence have opposed and applied to rescind the purported protective measures for witness TF1-215. The Prosecu-

tion submit that the witness is protected by an order of Trial Chamber I of 5 July 2004, entitled "Decision on Prosecution motion for modification of protective measures for witnesses", which the Prosecution submits applies to 266 witnesses of fact including witness TF1-215. After careful consideration of that decision and the submissions of counsel, we find nothing in the decision which would entitle witness TF1-215 to any protective measures. In our view, the decision relates solely to those witnesses listed in annexes A and B of the renewed Prosecution motion for protective measures. Witness TF1-215 is not among those witnesses listed in the annexes. Accordingly, the witness will testify in open court"

Instead of bringing TF1-215 in open court, the Prosecution withdrew the witness they said should have testified to facts. Prosecution lawyer Shyamala Alagendra announced a different witness instead.

The issue had brought a heated debate in court on Tuesday, when the prosecution put another secret witness on the stand, which the defence resisted saying he, TF1-215, did not meet the criteria to be hidden from the public.

The ensuing argument between the opposing lawyers dominated proceedings on Tuesday after the previous witness, TF1-143, had left the stand.

It is not uncommon for witnesses to be protected if they so request. Lawyers pressing charges against Mr Taylor say these witnesses fear for their safety and that of their families and would not like to be

known while they give evidence.

Defence lawyer Morris Anyah had argued that the witness should not be given a pseudonym (TF1-215), nor should he give testimony behind camera. He also challenged the distortion of the witness's voice because he is not a child, a victim of sexual violence, an insider, or expert witness.

Anyah said these categories of witnesses were those covered by protective measures and that TF1-215 did not fit into any of them.

He prevailed on the judges to review the reasons for granting protective status to some witnesses, because, in the argument of the British-trained Ghanaian lawyer, times have changed so much that some of the ten-year old measures did not hold water any longer.

The prosecution counter-argued that although TF1-215 was a witness of fact, he did hold security fears.

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PERSPECTIVE

Expelled Liberian president and "Lord of war" Charles Gbankay Taylor had destabilized the West African region during his reign of terror that was terminated abruptly in 2003. Taylor is currently undergoing trial at the United Nations backed Special Court for Sierra Leone in The Hague, for backing rebels in Sierra Leone, and allegedly committing crimes against humanity. He had about \$5 billion worth of transactions held in two US bank accounts during his presidency. Mr. Stephen Rapp his chief prosecutor told the BBC recently. But it is not the first time that Taylor has been meddling with or handling enormous financial transactions in West Africa. In 1985, Taylor escaped from his jail cell in Massachusetts prison, where he was awaiting extradition for having swindled \$900,000 from the cash-strapped Liberian people and government. Taylor has denied trading weapons for diamonds, while vehemently challenging the international community to track down and seize any money maintained in any bank account in his name. If any money is discovered, he promised to "turn them over to the Liberian people." His trial was transferred from the UN backed Special Court in Freetown, Sierra Leone to The Hague, at the request of the government of Sierra Leone, because of potential security concerns.

News of Taylor's arrival in Freetown, Sierra Leone's capital quickly spread like wild fire during harmattan, the dry and dusty wind that blows out of the Sahara along the northwest coast of Africa. Taylor's arrival in Sierra Leone created serious tension and panic that left many people nervous. Some believed they were reliving the nightmare of the already concluded 11-year-long gruesome civil war, all over again that officially ended in 2002. It left tens of thousands of people dead or maimed, and thousands languishing as refugees in camps in neighboring countries or as refugees abroad. Taylor loyalists and cronies are still armed and living at large. The UN Special Court had to transfer him secretly to The Hague to ease mounting tension. War victims felt like their physical scars and emotional trauma were happening all over again. Mutilated amputees were chanting and rejoicing like ecstasy, hearing that the villain who helped to ruin their lives has been taken abroad, thousands of miles away from their view.

United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, proudly announced that the UN has made "significant progress" in its mission in Sierra Leone that's focused on supporting the government to consolidate peace and stability, strengthen security, promote human rights, the rule of law and help the West African country prepare for its upcoming local government elections. In his recent report, he warned those overly optimistic that despite the significant incremental progress the UN has bagged, Sierra Leone "continues to experience political tension along ethnic and regional lines." James Truslow Adams' dictum resonates in this context: "There are obviously two educations, one, should teach us how to make a living and the other how to live."

Sierra Leoneans and Liberians are asking: how did Taylor's transactions escape the rigid scrutiny of the super powers? Which US banks would have held \$5 billion transactions of Taylor's looted money - depriving Africa's ailing economies of much needed resources, a Sierra Leonean in the Diaspora said. This enormous amount of bank transactions almost equates the economies of Liberia and Sierra Leone combined, which is \$6.38 billion according to the CIA World Fact Book, 2007 estimates for both countries. Nationals from these countries expect the wheels of justice should take its course and finally dig up the whole truth. But, the anemic, donor driven economies of both Liberia and Sierra Leone continue to be ravaged by gigantic challenges. They are also weighed down by the turbulent effects of galloping prices, food shortages, and skyrocketing oil price, resulting in a runaway inflation. Amputees do not stand a fighting chance to be salvaged in the race for survival in this cut-throat environment. "We've certainly found evidence of hundreds of millions of dollars taken by Charles Taylor illegally in various banks at different times," chief prosecutor Stephen Rapp told the BBC's Focus on Africa program, recently. We have evidence of two accounts that were maintained in his name in the United States, during his presidency, and that they had had almost \$5bn at one time, he said. Rapp disclosed that about \$375 million had been debited from one account. He's working with friendly nations to carefully track down the funds. UN freeze will eventually take effect on Taylor's assets, he told BBC. Rapp is optimistic that the money recovered from Taylor's assets would be shared among the victims of Sierra Leone's infamous civil war and the people of Liberia, provided Taylor is found

Charles Taylor had transactions about US \$5 billion

By Roland Bankole Marke



War Lord Charles Taylor

guilty. Amputees like Mamsu, Tamba and thousands of other victims, including children are hoping and praying to put this bleak chapter weighing on their lives behind them. Hopefully, any amount of compensation they might receive will help facilitate their rehabilitation. In SL, unemployment is over 60% among youths, and job training programs are inadequate, and desperately need visionary planning as deep pocket funding. UN donors financed Taylor's legal defense cost, because he complained that he had no money to fund his defense. But the current custodians of Taylor's enormous wealth remain everyone's puzzle. The international community is aware that this is not the first time African leaders have looted money from their people, to stock pile the money in banks abroad. Late Nigerian military General Sani Abacha, had helped to fight the rebels in Sierra Leone, by supplying military hardware and soldiers. A Street in Sierra Leone is named after Abacha, who showed commitment to end Africa's most vicious, deadly war. "According to the Africa Policy Information Center, located in Washington DC a publication on June 10, 2000, and part of Dr. Mobolaji Aluko's testimony before the United States Congressional hearing, it was estimated that Nigeria's external debt was approximately \$98.8 billion. Out of this figure Abacha was estimated to have looted \$5 billion from Nigerian treasury. Abacha's loot amounts to less than 5 percent of overall funds looted out of Nigeria."

While Nigerians at the lower economic strata are eternally drowning in the dead sea of abject poverty and destitution, in a densely populated country with massive oil wealth, increasingly armed militant groups continue to interrupt crude oil production in Nigeria using terror tactics. Their rationale is to disrupt oil supply, resulting in a corresponding increase in the price of crude oil globally. The world has a big stake in the outcome of Taylor's trial. But how long would it take for justice to be served, to recover, seize and share Taylor's wealth among war victims of the Sierra Leone civil war, and the struggling people of Liberia? The outcome of this trial would set a precedent for all African leaders and would help to deter them from corrupt practices. As some might be thinking of plundering their nation's resources or wealth to convert to their own personal wealth. To inoculate the mindset of greed and the outcome of Taylor's trial is a recipe that would help move the ailing continent to take leap-frog steps forward. Credit: www.Rolandmarke.com

Independent Observer
Monday, 12 May 2008

Njala College wins Moot contest at Special Court

By Isatu Gbla

Out of the six universities that participated in the just concluded moot competition to represent Sierra Leone at the 8th international humanitarian law moot competition in Arusha Tanzania in November this year, Njala University on Wednesday emerged winners of the fourth moot competition on international humanitarian law organized by the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society.

The competition took place at the Special Court for Sierra Leone Trial Chamber II in Freetown and Justice George Gelega-King, President of the Special Court was also the chief judge of the competition. In his statement to climax the competition, the Judge said he was delighted to be part of the competition describing it as very interesting and also hope that the

Sierra Leone Red Cross will continue to organize such competition.

Emmanuel Tommy of the Sierra Leone Red Cross congratulated the two finalists saying they did their best in presenting the international humanitarian law against the background that they had no legal background

It was a contest between Fourah Bay College and Njala University students with the former as prosecutors and the latter as defence lawyers.

Representing Njala University were Sahr Emmanuel Joseph, Jestina Cumber and Emmanuel Kangi while Fourah Bay College was represented by William Freeman, Victoria Davies and Alex Bull.

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Independent Observer
Monday, 12 May 2008

Abolish The Death Penalty In Sierra Leone

Written By Joseph Sherman

As we enter a new political dispensation in Sierra Leone, it's time for President Ernest Koroma to rethink the use of the death penalty. Since the era of President Siaka Stevens, junta regimes and the government of Ex-President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah, a considerable number of Sierra Leoneans have been executed whether justifiable or through evidence of arbitrary decisions.

The idea of using violence to combat violence seems to possess an inherent contradiction. The question that comes to mind is, is the use of the death penalty the best way to solve violence problems, or does this lower the level of us as a society to the level of the violent criminals? Speaking from a personal experience, I am not sure passion and anger will ever subside if someone is executed for a crime he or she is perceived to have committed.

The physical pain caused by the action of killing a human being cannot be quantified nor can the psychological suffering caused by the fore-knowledge of death at the hands of the state. Whether a death sentence is carried out six minutes after a summary trial, six weeks after a mass trial or 16 years after lengthy legal proceedings, the person executed is subjected to uniquely cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment and punishment.

As the Human Rights set up under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights has recognized, "The right to life...is the supreme right from which no

derogation is permitted even in time of public emergency which threatens the life of the nation...." In a general comment on Article 6 of the Covenant issued in 1982, the Committee concluded that, "all measures of abolition of the death penalty should be considered as progress in the enjoyment of the right to life within the meaning of Article 40."

In reality, I think each criminal should be given another chance, they should get the chance of reform and rehabilitation, in so doing they will be able to repay the damage they have inflicted on society. Revenge cannot be the reason why a state should execute criminals. This would then be like in the Old Testament, which says, "An eye for an eye."

If any government insists on the death penalty as a solution to combat crime, that government deprives itself of the opportunity to learn forgiveness without having regret for actions already taken as we constitute society. It is by forgiving that we are forgiven. Forgiveness does not mean that criminals are to go without payment and responsibility for their actions. This does not mean that government should let hardened criminals back on the streets. Prudent prevention and safety alone preclude this. Every citizen and foreigners in Sierra Leone have the right to be safe and to live without fear. However, the sacredness of life requires us humans to arrive at the hopefully optimistic belief that government can rehabilitate all perpetrators of violence.

The time has come for Sierra Leone to abolish the death penalty. Since the early seventies to the regime of Ex-President Kabbah, experience shows that executions

brutalize those involved in the process. Nowhere has it shown that the death penalty has any special power to reduce crime or political violence. The evidence of mistakes, arbitrary decisions, the sobering knowledge that government can't provide certainty that the innocent will not be put to death- all that prompts this call for an end to capital punishment.

If any government insists on the death penalty as a solution to combat crime, that government deprives itself of the opportunity to learn forgiveness without having regret for actions already taken as we constitute society

BBC World Service Trust

Friday, 9 May 2008

INTERVIEW: **Special Court Chief prosecutor on Taylor's 'stolen' assets**

Last year the United Nations Security Council agreed to set up a three-member panel of experts to probe into the 'hidden wealth' of the former Liberian President Charles Taylor, who has been accused of committing war crimes and crimes against humanity during the 11-year conflict in Sierra Leone. According to the Special Court Chief Prosecutor, Stephen Rapp, experts are trying to uncover Mr. Taylor's wealth, which they claim he acquired from illegal blood diamond and timber trade in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea. He says they have located \$ 375 million being part of Mr Taylor's wealth.

Adolphus Williams met with Stephen Rapp in The Hague and first asked him about this discovery.

RAPP: Well, we found bank transactions in accounts that were in his personal name and were being used for his personal purposes. There's been a little bit of misinformation about this. We did find two accounts in the US in which there were \$5 billion of activity - \$5 billion US in activity – but a lot of it was money moving back and forth between the two accounts in order to maximise daily interest payments. But at least \$375 million we've identified as moving out of those accounts into other banks in the US and elsewhere around the world, and we're continuing a tracing exercise following those funds to the present to see how much is left. But we don't know at this stage how much is left. Given the circumstances we believe there are going to be some assets left here that could be available to be frozen by the UN and then eventually available, if Taylor is convicted, for reparations for Sierra Leonean victims but of course to the extent assets can be traced to Liberia and to public funds in Liberia. Clearly there will be a right for Liberia to recover as well.

If we can show money being used to buy arms going to Sierra Leone, money going to the Ukraine or something, that could help our case. That's why we've been looking at this for a long time. Additionally we have the right, if we obtain a conviction for the crime of pillage, to obtain a forfeiture order equal to the amount of property pillaged from Sierra Leonean victims. And we're presenting evidence about diamond pillage, there's a particular shipment that we're [indistinct] a number of evidence about was taken from Johnny Paul Koroma that was about 1,900 diamonds that we think have been valued at several million dollars. If we can prove in the end of the day that Taylor pillaged diamonds from Sierra Leone we can get a forfeiture order against him.

WILLIAMS: How are you going to prove that? How are you going to determine money from Liberia, money from Sierra Leone that formed part of Taylor's wealth? It sounds difficult, you know.

RAPP: Well it involves the tracing exercise, and at the end of the day what I'm hoping on, and when I meet with Liberian and with Sierra Leone authorities I discuss ways that we could share the gains, so to speak. At the end of the day it may be difficult to tell whether money in an account came from Sierra Leone diamonds or whether it came from Liberian timber. There may be a case to make in both situations, and the money's been moved around and some has been spent, and all of that. So I think in the end of the day there will be a need to work out a formula for distribution between the two countries. But the critical thing at this point is to locate the funds, because if we locate the funds we can get them frozen by the UN under the Security Council resolution.

WILLIAMS: So all what Taylor accumulated before, during and after the war is classified illegal and should be confiscated?

RAPP: Well, Global Witness has done studies in this area about money taken from various sectors of the Liberian economy during Taylor's administration. They estimated it at least \$100 million a year during his six years as president. The strongest evidence was the timber products study, the concession study that was done by the Liberian government in partnership with a number of foreign aid agencies that resulted in the end in the cancellation of all timber concessions in Liberia at that time. And that study I think came to the conclusion that at least 84 percent of the money gained from the timber industry during Taylor's administration ended up in Taylor's pocket, where it should have ended up in the treasury. And so that's something that's there, but there's certainly evidence of other diversions of ship flag of convenience money and [indistinct] other places where Taylor might have gotten to the treasury. But that's going to have to yet be proven. That's not directly relevant to us in Sierra Leone except to the extent that it can be shown that that's the source of this money...and certainly we have to recognise the Liberians have a claim to stolen assets, and you can't use stolen assets, stolen from the people of Liberia, to compensate people in Sierra Leone. So that's why at the end of the day I think there'll have to be a formula or an arrangement or a negotiation.

WILLIAMS: Mr. Rapp, let's make an assumption here. Assuming the Court does not find Mr. Taylor guilty, and now the assets of the accused are frozen, \$375 million located, is it not like we are putting the cart before the horse?

RAPP: Well we have to find the assets first in order to justify what we're doing in the Court, and so if at the end of the day we get a judgment for several million dollars which should go back to the people of Sierra Leone, it won't do us much good unless we've frozen the resources. The United Nations, under Security Council resolutions, has the right – indeed the Sanctions Committee is mandated with an order to freeze Taylor's assets, or to freeze the assets that are in the hands of third parties that came from Taylor. So that needs to be done in any case. And even if Taylor is acquitted, people in Liberia and others could have claims to get that money back based upon grounds other than war crimes. It's not just on war crimes that you can recover money. You could recover money because it's theft. You could recover it under a lawsuit saying that Taylor's men had committed a particular injury to you and it would be a whole different standard. Just because we would not succeed, others could succeed in the future. But it makes sense for everyone to work together to maximise the amount of assets that are located and frozen. Once that's done I think then we'll move forward to share it.

WILLIAMS: And the Defence team agrees with you?

RAPP: Well, no! The Defence team obviously contests whether Taylor took money. To a large extent that's not directly relevant in the case. What's relevant in the case is whether he pillaged assets from Sierra Leone. They of course have pled 'not guilty' on that. We will have to prove that. The question of how much assets he has today, that will only become relevant to the Court once we have a conviction, if we get one, for that particular offence. Then the Court will have to determine whether an order should be entered that would allow us some of that money to be taken by the Court, sent to Sierra Leone, or it could be distributed to victims.

Agence France-Presse

Thursday, 8 May 2008

Ex-vice president to testify at Liberia war crimes trial

THE HAGUE (AFP) — Ex-Liberian vice-president Moses Blah is to testify May 13 at the trial against his former boss and war crimes suspect Charles Taylor, the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) said Thursday.



"Blah will likely take the stand by Tuesday 13 May, depending on the testimony of the preceding witness," said SCSL in a statement.

Blah was Charles Taylor's vice-president and then became president himself in 2003, before being forced into exile in Nigeria later the same year.

His testimony could be particularly useful for shedding light on Taylor's relationship with the Revolutionary United Forces (RUF), the SCSL said.

Taylor faces 11 charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity, including murder, rape and recruiting child soldiers. He is currently on trial in The Hague for what the prosecution presents as a key role in supporting and controlling the RUF, which ravaged Sierra Leone from 1991 and 2001.

The former war lord allegedly funded and armed the RUF in exchange for diamonds and other resources, while rebels terrorised civilians by cutting off arms, legs, ears and noses, leaving thousands of people mutilated.

Taylor's trial before the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone was moved from Freetown to The Hague because there were fears his presence in the African country could destabilize the region.

New Democrat (Liberia)
Monday, 12 May 2008

"Testify & You're Dead..."

Blah Receives Death Threat

Chief Prosecutor Stephen Rapp has revealed that former President Moses Blah, scheduled to take the witness stand tomorrow against former ally Charles Taylor, has received death threats from sources he (Mr Rapp) could not disclose.

Speaking to journalists in The Hague, Mr Rapp said an email sent to Mr Blah read: "testify or you're dead." Asked who sent the email, the prosecutor who will be leading witness Blah in evidence said he did not want to get into details. But he said Mr. Blah had rejected offers to serve as a protected witness, saying he wanted to face Mr Taylor in court. Mr Rapp assured that Mr Blah and his family will receive full protection from the Court.

Mr Rapp: "Individuals had text messages on telephone, wire threatenings him. I don't want to jump to any particular conclusions.

"But I have seen the threatening messages, I read... Page 10



FORMER PRESIDENT MOSES BLAH, TESTIFIES TOMORROW

"Testify & You're Dead..."

some of them. They're basically saying, "Don't go. You are a traitor. You are a dead man if you testify".

In its statement released last week, the Court said Mr Blah's testimony will encompass the formation of the National Patriotic Front of Liberia, the Revolutionary United Front of Sierra Leone, Taylor's ties with Libya (where he, Blah, served as Taylor's ambassador) and Burkina Faso, circumstances of the death of Sierra Leone junta leader Johnny Paul Koroma's death, amongst others.

This is the second witness that has been threatened with death, the first being former Special Security Service office Vamunyah Sheriff whose family also claimed they were attacked following his testimony. Another witness, a Sierra Leonean, recently claimed that his family received death threats for testimony he gave against Mr Taylor.

Liberian Express (Liberia)
Monday, 12 May 2008

MOSES BLAH TO DUMP TAYLOR?

Vows To Speak The Truth



Former President Charles Taylor



Former President Moses Z. Blah

President Charles Taylor's second man in command and who later succeeded him, Moses Z. Blah, is due to testify as prosecution's witness this week at the Special Court for Sierra Leone sitting in The Hague.

Will Blah stab Taylor in the back or will he say all that he knows, is the million dollar question lingering on the minds of not only Liberians but Taylor's die-heart supporters and fanatics.

Blah, former Inspector-General of the defunct Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL), served as ambassador to both Libya and Tunisia.

He was appointed Vice President following the death of Enoch Dogolea in July 2002, a strategic post he held until Taylor was forced into exile in Nigeria.

The former Vice President reportedly got broke unable to meet up with his expenses including ensuring a daily supply of electricity in his home.

"Blah has sold almost all of the expensive vehicles acquired when he served as Vice President and short term as President, he is broke," a former closed security aide said.

Blah, a few weeks ago, said that he was subpoenaed by the UN-backed Special Court in The Hague to testify in the trial but his travel was delayed due to ill-health and absence of his wife from the country.

The former President's claim that the Special Court threatened him with a seven-year imprisonment if he refused to testify was an alibi to justify his travel to The Hague, the aide said.

Mixed reactions have greeted the departure of Blah as to whether he will do unto Taylor as Brutus did to Caesar, or he will go by his conscience to say all within his certain knowledge.

Blah has vowed to speak nothing but the truth. "I will speak the truth. That is why I am surprised that some people are worried that there is a possibility of me testifying."

Special Court Chief Prosecutor Stephen Rapp confirmed Blah's arrival and said he was in the neighborhood of the Special Court and will take the witness stand this week to testify against his former boss.

Before his departure, Blah was quoted as saying on "the night of the killing of Sam Bockarie I saw Benjamin Yeaten. And other groups were traveling and they stopped in my village. I asked them 'Where are you guys going with such a huge convoy?' Sam Bockarie was among

MOSES BLAH

them, his wife also was there,"

Blah is seemingly a special witness expected to divulge Taylor's links with African leaders including Col. Mohammed Ghadaffi of Libya, Blaise Compaore of Burkina Faso, considered major sources of support and suppliers of arms and ammunition.

Blah was among the first batch of Special Forces that trained with Taylor in a Libyan guerilla camp.

He is also expected to expose circumstances surrounding the death of Sam Bockarie, in 1998 and the 1999 alleged Revolutionary United front (RUF) led invasion of Sierra Leone which claimed more than 120,000 lives.

Blah has waived protection as a witness and will appear in his own name and is expected to testify probably Tuesday or Wednesday of this week," Rapp said.

Rapp said he will testify openly and under his own name with full direct and cross-examination before the court around May 13.

The Chief Prosecutor said security concerns raised by Blah have been addressed and ruled out that he will seek asylum after giving "evidence" in the Taylor trial.

Rapp said they are very happy that Blah will be testifying against Taylor which to them makes the prosecution case very firm.

"We are happy that this particular individual will be testifying based on the public information that everybody is familiar with, someone that was close to Taylor beginning with them undergoing training together in Libya."

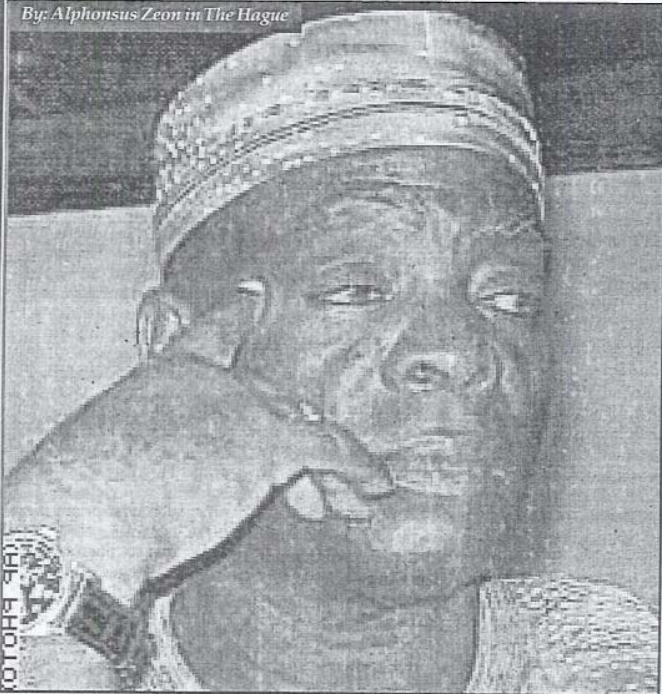
Blah was placed under house arrest, when loyalists became suspicious that that he was readily willing to seize power, when Taylor narrowly escaped arrest while attending a summit in Ghana.

He was pardoned and made to resume duty as Vice President after ethnic pressure from his countrymen.

The Monitor (Liberia)
Monday, 12 May 2008

At Taylor's Trial: **Moses Blah speaks on** **Mosquito, Johnny Paul Killings**

By: Alphonsus Zeon in The Hague



See Story on Page 6

Moses Blah

Former President Charles Taylor's war crimes trial takes on a striking session this week when his successor Moses Blah takes the witness stand to give evidence in the trial.

Blah has had long standing ties with Taylor, beginning from when they both trained in Libya as part of the National Patriotic Front rebels that led the nearly two decades long civil war. The NPFL defeated Samuel Kanyon Doe's Armed Forces of Liberia sparking an extended war theater, with seven different armed factions, joining the fray.

Blah, one of NPFL Special Forces, was named Ambassador to Libya and Tunisia, when Taylor became President.

Chief Prosecutor, Steven Rapp's office says Blah will speak to "Circumstances surrounding the killings of Sam Bockarie in Liberia by personnel subordinate to the Accused, including but not limited to the reason for the killing." The office said he will also speak to "circumstances surrounding the killing of Johnny Paul Koroma, the leader of the AFRC/RUF Junta government, in Liberia by personnel subordinate to the Accused.

The prosecution statement detailing the orbit of Blah's testimony reveals that the Former NPFL Inspector General will speak volumes. He will touch on 'relationships between the Accused and the leader of Libya as well as the President of Burkina Faso from the late 1980's onward.'

Libyan leader Muammar Khaddafi and Burkina Faso's Blaise Campaore stand out among those named as accomplices of Taylor and Foday Sankoh, the deceased leader of the Revolutionary United Front of Sierra Leone.

The prosecutor asserted Blah will also say how much he knows about 'Libyan assistance to the Accused and to Foday Sankoh from the late 1980's onward, including providing money to the Accused and providing weapons and ammunition or facilitating the Accused's ability to obtain arms and ammunition.'

Blah will go to Taylor's second alleged supporter, Blaise Campaore, to speak to 'assistance of the President of Burkina

Faso to the Accused from the late 1980's onward, including but not limited to providing arms and ammunition to the Accused, and the procedure by which such assistance was provided.'

Rapp told BBC World Service Trust/Search for Common Ground in The Hague, 'we are happy to get this man to testify in this case.'

As Liberia's Ambassador to Libya and Tunisia, Taylor recalled Blah and named him Vice President after the death of Enoch Dogolea.

Rapp said Blah 'has already arrived in The Hague' and will testify 'Tuesday or Wednesday' before surrendering to Defence lawyers to be cross examined before the public glare.

Key among charges against Taylor is that he conscripted children to fight war. So Blah will focus on the 'creation of SBUs in the NPFL and the RUF, reasons for using children in the NPFL and RUF.' Other issues that Blah will consider will be 'NPFL headquarters and base camps in Liberia from the late 1980's onward, storage of arms and ammunition in Liberia, relationship between the Accused and leaders of the AFRC/RUF, including but not limited to Foday Sankoh, Sam Bockarie and Issa Sesay, and Johnny Paul Koroma, leader of the AFRC/RUF Junta.'

He will also speak of 'Training received by the Accused and Foday Sankoh in Libya in the late 1980's, the Accused authority at that time.

The 'Creation of the NPFL, the composition and command structure of the NPFL from the late 1980's onward, the Accused's control over the NPFL' and 'Assistance provided by the Accused to the RUF, including but not limited to arms and ammunition, training in Liberia, providing Liberian personnel subordinate to the Accused to fight with the RUF in Sierra Leone, providing guest houses and Liberian escorts in Liberia' will also be discussed by Blah.

Blah will be the prosecution 27th witness. There is a total of 144 witnesses. The Prosecution is requesting that half of that number — 72 — submit written testimonies. The Chamber is yet to rule on the motion.

Taylor's trial is due to conclude 2009 with a

judgment delivered 2010.

The Inquirer (Liberia)
Monday, 12 May 2008

Blah To Testify In Taylor's Trial Tomorrow

Former Liberian President, Moses Blah, is expected to take the witness stand tomorrow in the trial of former Liberian President, Charles Taylor. His appearance on the witness stand will depend on how long the previous witness would take.

The Special Court said Mr. Blah who served

as Mr. Taylor's Vice President, will be led in evidence by the Chief Prosecutor of the Special Court, Mr. Stephen Rapp. It will be the first time that Rapp would lead a witness in the Taylor trial.

The witness may provide evidence in relation to the following: personal background information; training received by the accused and Foday Sankoh

in Libya in the late 1980; the creation of the NPFL; the composition and command structure of the NPFL from the late 1980 onward among others. Mr. Blah announced recently that he has been subpoena by the special court to testify against his former boss. He told a news conference at the time that if he fails to honor the subpoena, he may face seven years imprisonment by the court.



Ex-Pres. Blah



Ex-Pres. Taylor

National Chronicle (Liberia)
Friday, 9 May 2008

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As Blah Arrives In The Hague:

HIDDEN SECRETS TO BE REVEALED

SEE STORY ON PAGE 6

Taylor's Fate Hangs In The Balance



Former Pres. Moses Blah



Former Pres. Charles Taylor



One of the Judges

... COMPANIES MEET WITH PRES. SIRLEAF TODAY

BLAH

The former President of Liberia may get the shock of his life, when his former Vice President and Special Forces of the erstwhile NPFL, Moses Blah, meets him face to face to testify in front of the United Nations backed Special Court for Sierra Leone, on a wide range of events, commencing from the formation of the NPFL to the presidency.

According to information gathered by the National Chronicle, the former President of Liberia left on Wednesday evening on an S N Brussels flight to The Hague, and will be appearing to testify in the ongoing Taylor trial on Tuesday of next week. It was also learned that Blah clandestinely left Liberia on Wednesday, leaving close family members wondering about his whereabouts.

The press and outreach office of the Special Court has just announced that former Vice President Blah is now scheduled to take the witness stand next Tuesday, depending on how long the previous witness takes. Blah served as Vice President and was Taylor's immediate successor as President when Taylor left Liberia for exile in Nigeria in August 2003.

Blah will be led in evidence by chief prosecutor of the Special Court, Stephen Rapp. It will be the first time that Rapp has led a witness in the Taylor trial.

The court distributed the following summary of topics about which Blah may testify:

The witness may provide evidence in relation to the following:

Personal background information;

Training received by the accused and Foday Sankoh in Libya in the late 1980's, the accused authority at that time;

Creation of the NPFL, the composition and command structure of the NPFL from the late 1980's onward, the accused's control over the NPFL;

Creation of SBUs in the NPFL and the RUF, reasons for using children in the NPFL and RUF;

NPFL headquarters and base camps in Liberia from the 1980s onward;

Relationship between the accused and the leader of Libya and the President of Burkina Faso from the late 1980's onward;

Libyan assistance to the accused and to Foday Sankoh from the late 1980's onward, including providing money to the accused and providing weapons and ammunition or facilitating the

accused's ability to obtain arms and ammunition;

Assistance of the President of Burkina Faso to the accused from the late 1980's onward, including but not limited to, providing arms and ammunition to the accused, procedure by which such assistance was provided;

Storage of arms and ammunition in Liberia;

Relationship between the accused and leaders of the AFRC/RUF, including but not limited to Foday Sankoh, Sam Bockarie and Issa Sesay, and Johnny Paul Koroma, leader of the AFRC/RUF Junta;

Assistance provided by the accused to the RUF, including but not limited to, arms and ammunition, training in Liberia, providing Liberian personnel subordinate to the accused to fight with the RUF in Sierra Leone, providing guest houses and Liberian escorts in Liberia;

Command structure of the fighters in Sierra Leone in the early to mid 1990's, including the command structure of subordinates of the accused facilitating the movement of fighters into Sierra Leone;

Crimes against Sierra Leonean civilians committed by Liberian subordinates of the accused in the early to mid 1990's, including but not limited to, killing civilians and looting, the accused reaction to these crimes;

Travel of AFRC/RUF leaders including but not limited to, Foday Sankoh, Sam Bockarie, Issa Sesay, Johnny Paul Koroma, to Liberia to meet with the accused and/or his subordinates;

Communications within the NPFL in Liberia regarding activities of the NPFL and RUF, and regarding crimes being committed in Sierra Leone;

The accused's control over the Liberian armed forces, police, special units after he became President in 1997, command structure among those forces.

The involvement of the AFRC/RUF in supporting the accused against the LUF and ULIMO;

Circumstances surrounding the killing of Sam Bockarie in Liberia by personnel subordinate to the accused, including but not limited to, the reason for the killing; and

Circumstances surrounding the killing of Johnny Paul Koroma, the leader of the AFRC/RUF junta government, in Liberia by personnel subordinate to the ac-

cused.

The new turn of Chief Prosecutor Stephen Rapp leading a witness is being viewed with trepidation as he has been bent on coercing the U.N. Special Court for Sierra Leone to hold Liberia accountable and mortgage our resources, with the view of building houses for the Sierra Leonean militias and civilians, who sustained injuries during their civil crisis. It has also been reliably learned that Prosecutor Rapp is trying to seek the amount of US\$2bn and US\$1bn from the Governments of Libya and Burkina Faso, respectively. According to our highly placed source several Liberian revenue generating sectors has been earmarked by Chief Prosecutor Rapp to build the houses in Sierra Leone, without any forethought of our return from similar circumstances. Investigation continues.

New Democrat (Liberia)
Friday, 9 May 2008

VOL. 15 NO. 88

MAY 09, 2008

Blah Stars Tuesday

With Secrets Of...

Former President Moses Blah finally takes the witness stand next Tuesday against the man with whom he fought as a rebel and later succeeded as President, Mr President Charles Taylor, the Special Court has announced.

Mr Blah, the Court said, will be led in evidence by Chief Prosecutor Stephen Rapp. It will be the first time that Rapp has led a witness in the Taylor trial, the Court said.

The Court distributed the following information on what Mr Blah will be telling the world:

The witness may provide evidence in relation to the following:



JOHNNY PAUL KOROMA: DETAILS OF HIS EXECUTION TO EMERGE

Personal background information. Training received by the Accused and Foday Sankoh in Libya in the late 1980's, the Accused authority at that time.

Creation of the NPFL, the composition and command structure of the NPFL from the late 1980's onward, the Accused's control over the NPFL.

Creation of SBUs (Small Boys Units) in the NPFL and the RUF, reasons for using children in the NPFL and RUF.

NPFL headquarters and base camps in Liberia from the late 1980's onward.

Relationship between the Accused and the leader of Libya and the President of Burkina Faso from the late 1980's onward.

Libyan assistance to the Accused and to Foday Sankoh from the late 1980's onward, including providing money to the Accused and providing weapons and ammunition or facilitating the Accused's ability to obtain arms and ammunition.



POWER TRANSFER: FORMER TAYLOR & SUCCESSOR BLAH IN 2003

Assistance of the President of Burkina Faso to the Accused from the late 1980's onward, including providing arms and ammunition to the Accused, which such assistance included the storage of arms and ammunition in Liberia.

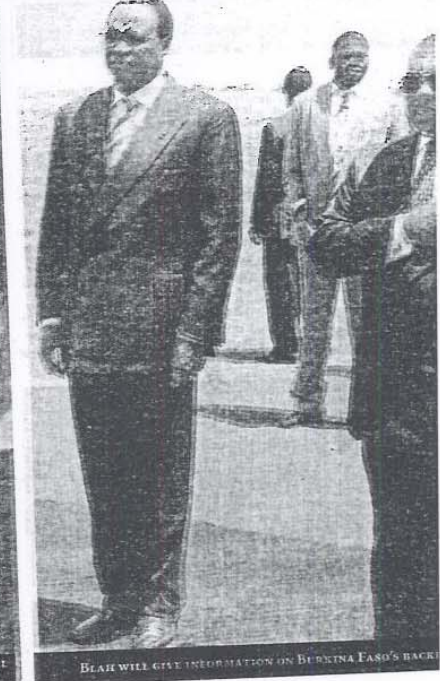
Relationship between the Accused and leaders of the AFRC, including but not limited to Sam Bockarie and Isiah Johnson Paul Koroma, AFRC/RUF Junta.

Assistance provided to the RUF, including providing arms and ammunition to Liberia, providing financial support to the RUF to fight with the RUF in providing guest houses and escorts in Liberia.

Command structure in Sierra Leone in the 1990's, including the command structure.



BLAH IS EXPECTED TO PROVIDE MORE DETAILS ON LIBYA'S ROLE IN THE REGIONAL WARS: TAYLOR WITH LIBYAN LEADER GADAFI AFTER 1997 ELECTORAL VICTORY



BLAH WILL GIVE INFORMATION ON BURKINA FASO'S BACK

Blah Stars Tuesday

of subordinates of the Accused facilitating the movement of fighters into Sierra Leone.

Crimes against Sierra Leonean civilians committed by Liberian subordinates of the Accused in the early to mid 1990's, including but not limited to killing civilians and looting, the Accused's reaction to these crimes.

Travel of AFRC/RUF leaders, including but not limited to Foday Sankoh, Sam Bockarie, Issa Sesay, Johnny Paul Koroma, to Liberia to meet with the Accused and/or his subordinates.

Communications within the NPFL in Liberia regarding activities of the NPFL and RUF, and regarding crimes being committed in Sierra Leone.

The Accused's control over the Liberian armed forces, police, special units after he became President in 1997, command structure among those forces.

The involvement of the AFRC/RUF in supporting the Accused against the LURD and ULIMO.

Circumstance surrounding the killing of Sam Bockarie in Liberia by personnel subordinate to the Accused, including but not limited to the reason for the killing.

Circumstances surrounding the killing of Johnny Paul Koroma, the leader of the AFRC/RUF Junta government, in Liberia by personnel subordinate to the Accused.

"Black Gadafa" Ex-Rebel Says Taylor Ordered Fear

A former fighter in the rebel gang called Black Gadafa, testifying against former President Charles Taylor, says Mr Taylor ordered them to institute terror and fear in Sierra Leone villages after they were recruited from within Liberia and sent back.

Witness Karmoh Kanneh said both Taylor and the late Foday Sankoh addressed them in Liberia, with Taylor allegedly telling them they would be divided into groups for the Sierra Leone operations. He said Taylor told them, with Sankoh by his side, that weapons would be provided. (Ex-

Pros: What were the sexes of the other 16?
Wit: All of us who were captured were men.
Pros: What ages were you?
Wit: There were two among us who had about 10 years of age. The others were above 23 years of age.
Pros: Describe what you mean by captured. What happened?
Wit: Those of us they met, they assembled us. We were the men among the women captured. They asked us to join them and said anyone attempting to escape would be killed.
Pros: Who was saying this to you?
Wit: One Man One.

Wit: Yes.
Pros: Did the others also go?
Wit: We all traveled the same day.
Pros: What was at Gissy Willow?
Wit: The training base for those who entered through Pujehun.
Pros: Who?
Wit: The rebels who came from Liberian. The war entered through two fronts and that was one of them.
Pros: What did you do when you were at Gissy Willow?
Wit: They started training us.
Pros: How many people were training you?
Wit: The ones I can recall were five.
Pros: Can you name them?

his real name.
Pros: Where was he from?
Wit: Liberia, a Mano.
Pros: How did you know?
Wit: They told us at the base.
Pros: You mentioned Bockerie Pepe. Where was he from?
Wit: A Liberian.
Pros: How did you know?
Wit: He hailed from Cape Mount. He told us that. He was speaking the Vai language.
Def: In the documents provided, Pepe is spelled Peppe.
Judge Doherty: Which spelling are we using?
Pros: Peppe.

tween 10 and 15?
Wit: About 50.
Pros: You mentioned there were two fronts of the war that came into Sierra Leone. What were the two fronts?
Wit: The first front was the first battalion that entered through Pujehun.
Pros: Where did the second front enter?
Wit: Through Kailahun district.
Pros: Back to the training. What did your training consist of?
Wit: When we first entered, they taught us about arms.
Pros: Did they teach you anything else apart from about arms?
Wit: Yes, they told us about discipline.

Pros: When you say that the current issue at hand was about arms, what do you mean?
Wit: Because it was a war. When you go to the base, the first thing they tell you is about arms. Things at the base might go wrong - so you can defend yourself.
Pros: Did the 50 between the ages of 10 and 15, did they receive the same training or different training than that you received?
Wit: No, they distributed everybody into platoons, women, adults, young ones - we all went through the same training.
Pros: Did they teach you anything in particular about fighting? Any methods?
Wit: Yes, they taught us how to lay an ambush. How to attack. How to make an area fearful.
Pros: What were you taught about making an area fearful?
Wit: When we attack a place, we capture civilians and clear them from the area. That is one.
Pros: What do you mean when you say "make an area fearful". What is "fearful"?
Wit: At the end of the day, you will see that nobody is living in the town again. You knew that the area is fearful.



INSIDE THE SPECIAL COURT, THE HAGUE

cerpts of the testimony, courtesy "The Trial of Charles Taylor" website)

Wit: My name is Karmoh Kanneh. I was born on January 1, 1968. I am known by the nickname that they used to call me by: Eagle. This was given to me during the war. Before the war they used to call me Owova (ph). I was born at Ngegbwema, Kenema district, Sierra Leone. I'm a Mende. I left school in 1980 after class six. I speak Mende and Krio. I do not speak or read English. I cannot read maps. In early 1991, I was mining in Zimmi Magbele (ph). I was mining diamonds for my father. I stopped mining when the war entered in Sierra Leone. The war reached me in Zimmi. I had to run away to my village, Ngegbwema. I was in my village when the rebels attacked our village. The rebels came from Liberia. Their group name was rebels.

Pros: What did they do?
Wit: They started shooting all around. Most of our colleagues escaped, but some of us were captured.

Pros: How many of you were captured?
Wit: Myself plus 16 others.

Pros: What was that person's position?
Wit: He was in control of all the rebels on the Pujehun front.

Pros: How did you know he was the leader?
Wit: He was later introduced to us as the leader.

Pros: Where was he from?
Wit: Liberia.
Pros: What happened after you were captured?

Wit: After some days they told us they were going to take us to the base.
Judge Sebutinde: How does he know this person was from Liberia?
Wit: He was speaking in Liberian tongue, and after I had joined them, I came to know.

Pros: Were you familiar with the Liberian tongue at that time?
Wit: Yes, their language is different. The man was a Gio. He was speaking Gio. In Sierra Leone, we do not have Gio.
Pros: You said they told you they were going to take you to the base. Did they say where it was?
Wit: Yes. Gissy Willow (ph)?
Pros: Did you go there?

Wit: Yes. P.I., J.R., Bockerie Peppe, Chico Mayan, and Patrick Lamin. Those were the five I can recall.
Pros: P.I. - do you know where he was from?
Wit: Yes, he was from Liberia, also a Gio.
Pros: Did P.I. have another name?
Wit: That was the name we knew on the base.
Pros: Was he with any particular group within the rebels?
Wit: Yes.
Pros: What group?
Wit: NPFL.
Pros: How did you know that?
Wit: They themselves told us that on the base. They said they were NPFL and they only came to escort.
Pros: What do you mean, they only came to escort?
Wit: They said it was Foday Sankoh who came with the war but he didn't have sufficient manpower. They were to assist so that afterwards they could hand the war to us.
Pros: Who told you this?
Wit: JR and P.I.
Pros: Did JR have another name?
Wit: Someone called Junior is always called JR in Liberia. Junior was

Judge Sebutinde: What language did he speak?
Wit: Vai.
Pros: V-A-I.
Pros: You mentioned Patrick Lamin. Where was he from?
Wit: Patrick Lamin was a Sierra Leonean.
Pros: Did he belong to any group?
Wit: Yes. The RUF.
Pros: You said P.I. was in charge of training?
Wit: Yes.
Pros: For how long were you trained there?
Wit: I spent six weeks there.
Pros: Were there other people being trained there when you arrived?
Wit: Yes.
Pros: How many were there when you arrived?
Wit: They always captured people and brought them. We were up to 500.
Pros: Of both sexes or one sex?
Wit: No, we were all mixed. There were men, there were women.
Pros: What ages were you?
Wit: There were all kinds of ages, starting from 10, 14, 15, up to 30.
Pros: How many of the 500 were be-

Pros: Was this term "make an area fearful" used in the training?
Wit: Yes. They taught us those things.
Pros: After you completed your training, what did you do?
Wit: They graduated us. Some of us were given arms and we were moved to Zimmi. That was the first target.
Pros: What was the purpose of going to Zimmi?
Wit: It was a road. They picked us up in a vehicle and we moved.
Pros: Why did you go to Zimmi?
Wit: They said we should go there and board the vehicle. It's a front line. Zimmi is on the main highway. We should get vehicles.
Pros: Did you get vehicles?
Wit: Yes.
Pros: Where did you go?
Wit: Gbuwabu.
Pros: What did you do when you got to Gbuwabu?
Wit: We had a target: Joru. The enemies were there. We supposed to go and attack.
Pros: Did you attack Joru?
Wit: Yes.
Pros: Who was the commander?
Wit: Commander Black.

Wit: Yes. They told us about discipline.
Pros: When you say that the current issue at hand was about arms, what do you mean?
Wit: Because it was a war. When you go to the base, the first thing they tell you is about arms. Things at the base might go wrong - so you can defend yourself.
Pros: Did the 50 between the ages of 10 and 15, did they receive the same training or different training than that you received?
Wit: No, they distributed everybody into platoons, women, adults, young ones - we all went through the same training.
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Pros: What were you taught about making an area fearful?
Wit: When we attack a place, we capture civilians and clear them from the area. That is one.
Pros: What do you mean when you say "make an area fearful". What is "fearful"?
Wit: At the end of the day, you will see that nobody is living in the town again. You knew that the area is fearful.

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Wit: Yes.
Pros: Who was the commander?
Wit: Commander Black.

United Nations  Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

**UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries
9 May 2008**

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

Newspaper Summary

Lawmakers Passed Anti-Corruption Act

(The New Liberia, The News, Daily Observer)

- The House of Representatives on Thursday passed an Act seeking the creation of an 'Anti-Corruption Commission' for Liberia. The Anti-Corruption Bill, according to The New Liberia, Daily Observer and The News newspapers, empowers the Commission to arrest and detain suspects based on probable cause and a prior warrant issued by a court of competent jurisdiction.
- It can be recalled that the bill was modified following stiff opposition from some quarters soon after it was introduced. The Bill was submitted by the Executive Branch and spent eight months at the lower house before it was passed on Thursday. The Daily Observer believes that by the passage of the Act, Liberia will now join other democracies that are bent on ensuring that all those who are guilty of siphoning state funds through corrupt acts do not go scot-free.

Government to Begin Demolition of Illegal Structures Saturday

(The Inquirer, The New Liberia, The News, Daily Observer)

- The government announced that it will ramp up the enforcement of its zoning laws across the country. The government says demolition of illegal structures will begin this weekend and that Redemption Road, Pipeline in Paynesville and Barnersville Dry Rice Market will be the first areas of focus for the demolition exercise which commences on Saturday.

Pro-Democracy Group Says Julu, Dorbor Must Sue Government for Damages

(The News)

- [sic]As retired army general Charles Julu and Col. Andrew Dorbor go with a not guilty verdict on treason charges, a pro-democracy campaigner has called on the two men to file a lawsuit against the government of Liberia for damages. The Executive Director of the Movement for the Revival of the Liberian Society (MORS) R. Kofa Kloh said the arrest and indictment of Julu and Dorbor was intended to defame their characters because, according to him, the government had no case to prove against the men.
- Speaking to this paper Thursday in Monrovia, Mr. Kloh pointed out that his group will combine forces with Julu and Dorbor to sue the Liberian government for damaging the hard earned reputation of the men. "The government has done wrong to Julu and Dorbor; the government should not go with impunity for damaging the image of respected men who served the nation with their sweat," Kloh stressed.

Radio Summary

Star Radio (News culled today from website at 2:00: pm)

Blah in The Hague to Testify in Taylor's Trial

- Former President Moses Blah has left the country for The Hague to testify in the trial of his predecessor, Charles Taylor. Blah is due to begin his testimony on Tuesday or Wednesday or next week.
- According to the report, Mr. Blah left Liberia Wednesday through the Roberts International Airport in Harbel, Margibi County.
- Mr. Blah earlier told the public he was subpoenaed by the UN-backed Special Court sitting in The Hague to go and testify in the trial.
- The former President said the Special Court threatened him with a seven-year imprisonment if he refuses to testify.
- However, the Chief Prosecutor at the court said it was Mr. Blah who requested the Special Court to subpoena him.

(also reported on Truth FM, ELBC, Sky FM)

Government Takes former Transitional Leader, ex-Speaker and others to Court for Theft and Economic Sabotage

- The Criminal Court 'C' at the Temple of Justice has indicted former transitional Chairman Gyude Bryant and four others for theft and economic sabotage.
- The other indictees are former Speaker Edwin Snowe, Senator Richard Divine, Mr. Shieka Sheriff and Andie Quamie.
- The indictment followed a suit filed by government for money they allegedly embezzled at the Liberia Petroleum Refining Company during the transitional period.
- The government accused Bryant, Snowe and others of embezzling US\$923,500 from the refinery. The amount includes US\$214055 for alleged bribery and act constituting criminal conspiracy.
- Mr. Snowe served as Managing Director while Devine and Sheriff served as deputies of the LPRC during the transitional period. Mr. Quamie is an aide to former Speaker Snowe.
- Under Liberian law, theft of property and economic sabotage are bailable offenses based on the submission of a valid bail bond.

Local group wants government join assets recovery drive

- A local rights group has called on government to join the Stolen Assets Recovery Initiative.
- The Stolen Assets Recovery Initiative is a partnership between World Bank and United Nation Office of Drugs and Crime, launched on September 17, 2007.
- It is intended to help developing countries recover assets stolen by corrupt leaders, help invest them in effective development programs and combat safe heaven internationally.
- Actions for Genuine Democratic Alternatives said the initiative would help recover wealth illegally accumulated and kept in other countries by present and past leaders.
- AGENDA's call comes in the wake of recent revelations made in Monrovia by the UN-backed Special Court on Sierra Leone.
- The Chief Prosecutor of the court alleged former President Taylor has billions of dollars in a bank in the United States.

New U.S. Ambassador discusses Liberia

- United States Ambassador-designate to Liberia says the post-war country is not out of the woods yet.
- Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield said Liberia's peace is fragile, its economy remains weak and high unmet expectations risk compromising Liberia's future.
- Ambassador Thomas-Greenfield promised to work diligently to continue the strong engagement of the United States to keep Liberia moving in the right direction.
- She further promised to ensure the attention and commitment of the United States to Liberia does not waver or diminish during this crucial post-conflict period.
- Facing the United States Senate, Ambassador Thomas-Greenfield warned that Liberia will face many challenges over the next several years.
- Ambassador Thomas-Greenfield also promised to use her position to confront people who will threaten Liberia's recovery process.

- The Ambassador-designate said she will not hesitate to publicly attack corruption, human rights abuses and the old ways of doing business in Liberia.
- Ambassador Thomas-Greenfield observed it was the old way that contributed so much to Liberia's breakdown followed by civil conflict.
- If confirmed Ambassador Thomas-Greenfield will replace Ambassador Donald Booth who has served the post for three years.
