

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



**PRESS CLIPPINGS**

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

**as at:**

Thursday, 12 November 2009

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

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## The Exclusive

Thursday, 12 November 2009

# Taylor Has A Reason To Lie - Prosecutors

Prosecutors told Charles Taylor that he had "reason to lie" during his four months of testimony which he had spent rebutting charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity for his alleged role in crimes during Sierra Leone. *Continued page 2*

## Taylor Has A Reason To Lie

*From front page*

Leone's brutal conflict - and that he needed to prepare to be "honest" in cross-examination, which started today in The Hague.

Lead prosecution counsel, Ms. Brenda Hollis, who is conducting Mr. Taylor's cross-examination told the former president he has not been "honest" in direct-examination and that she is ready to prove that Mr. Taylor has been telling lies.

Ms. Hollis, briefly taking Mr. Taylor through a few documents that he had discussed in direct-examination, pointed out the absence of certain key words used by the accused former president. In a letter written by Mr. Taylor to former United States president George Bush, Ms. Hollis asked Mr. Taylor to point out in the letter where he had said to Mr. Bush that he would step down as Liberian president, as claimed by the former president in his direct examination.

In his response, Mr. Taylor said that the portion of the letter which read that "I have considered recusing myself from the political process" indicated his

intention to step down as Liberian president.

"That is my understanding counsel, that is how I understand it," Mr. Taylor said.

Ms. Hollis, referencing Mr. Taylor's May 2000 meeting with United States Special Envoy for Africa, Rev. Jesse Jackson, accused Mr. Taylor of not giving Rev. Jackson an honest answer when he did not admit that former Revolutionary United Front (RUF) commander Sam Bockarie and his fighters were being trained as mercenaries by Mr. Taylor in Liberia. Mr. Taylor "misled" the US envoy, as Ms. Hollis put it to the accused.

Mr. Taylor denied the allegation, insisting that he gave an honest answer to the US Special Envoy.

"I object to the fact of mercenarization. I did give an honest answer to Special Envoy Jackson. Your suggestion that I was dishonest is not true and you should not allude to that," Mr. Taylor said.

"I was not being misleading and if Special Envoy Jackson had asked me whether I was training those men and I said no, then I would have been misleading," he added.

Mr. Taylor insisted that if he had been training Sierra Leonean rebel fighters and supplying arms and ammunition to RUF rebels, he would have said so. He also denied ever receiving diamonds from RUF rebels in Sierra Leone.

"If I had been training or supplying arms to the RUF, there is no reason why I would have denied it. If I had done so, I would have said so," the former president said.

As he denied allegations of his alleged support to RUF rebels and receiving diamonds mined in Sierra Leone, Mr. Taylor accused the prosecution of building its case on "lies."

"To suggest that I will deny something like that, remember, this whole case is a lie-my activities as president, that I sent arms to Sierra Leone, that I received diamonds from Sierra Leone, there is no evidence and your failure to accept it, it's all lies," he said.

Ms. Hollis put it to Mr. Taylor that he has more reason to lie about his actions compared to the numerous witnesses who have testified against him. Mr. Taylor responded that

"I have told this court the truth, unless you bring evidence that I am lying."

"We will prove that," Ms. Hollis responded.

Earlier in the day, as Mr. Taylor concluded his direct-examination, he discredited newspaper articles and intelligence reports on his alleged involvement in the conflict in Sierra Leone. The former Liberian president also challenged the honesty of the UN's actions in authorizing the freezing of his assets as well as UN Security Council Resolution 1688 of 2006 authorizing his trial in The Hague.

"This whole issue and how it has been handled has been strange but that is the nature of this case," he said.

Meanwhile, in a message to the press, the acting Chief Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, Mr. Joseph Kamara, also outlined how the prosecution intends to cross-examine Mr. Taylor.

"We will directly challenge Mr. Taylor in three ways-on the accuracy, the truthfulness and the completeness of his testimony," Mr. Kamara said.

## 'Obasanjo duped me'

**...cries Charles Taylor**  
Former Liberian president  
Charles Taylor has told his

war crimes trial in The Hague  
how ex-Nigerian leader  
*Contd. page 3*



The good times ... Olusegun Obasanjo and Charles Taylor

## 'Obasanjo duped me'

*From page 1*

Olusegun Obasanjo duped him of his liberty by encouraging him to go on a mysterious journey that led to his arrest.

Mr. Taylor was arrested on March 29, 2006 as he approached Nigeria's border with Chad. He told judges that Mr. Obasanjo had earlier assured him he could leave the country freely.

"He lied to the world when he said I was escaping, and he knew nothing about it," Taylor said. "Why he lied? I don't know, but as a

### setback

ducted along the peninsula. However, internal affairs minister Dauda Kamara said the budget has been approved and that he was sure the ministry of finance should have paid the police and the military operations.

"The claims could not be completely true. I was

brother and a friend, I think he ought to speak and tell the truth about it."

The ex-warlord's journey to The Hague began in 2006 when Obasanjo announced that Liberia's new government was free to take their former president into custody, despite assurances of his personal safety given to Taylor when African leaders persuaded him to quit the Liberian presidency in 2003 in order to end a vicious civil war.

Soon after the announcement was made, Taylor suddenly disappeared from his exile abode at Calabar while Obasanjo was on his way to Washington to meet then US president George W. Bush. The next day, the Nigerian government announced that Taylor was arrested near the Chad border while trying to escape. The government said he

was in disguise and also that sacks of money were found on him.

Taylor said he hopes he would live to look Chief Obasanjo in the face one day and ask him to tell the truth about what happened. He also claimed yesterday that there was a plot involving the UK and the US that led to his indictment.

The former warlord is accused of backing rebels, who committed widespread atrocities throughout the 1990s in Liberia's neighbour Sierra Leone.

He was living in exile in Nigeria in 2006 when US pressure to put him on trial for alleged war crimes increased.

Taylor had been given asylum in Nigeria as part of a deal to end Liberia's civil war, though human rights groups accused him of breaking the terms of the deal by continuing to interfere in

Liberian politics.

Tuesday was the final day of his testimony in The Hague. He claimed he was a victim of an intelligence plot involving the British and US governments that supplied weapons to the region in an attempt to topple him - as part of a plan by Washington to gain control of West African oil reserves. The US position was that "we cannot have anyone in Liberia that we don't think is going to dance to our tune", he said.

He also said he was a peace broker and repeated denials that he had supplied arms to Sierra Leone rebels in exchange for blood diamonds.

The prosecution, which is now cross-examining Taylor, says it will challenge the accuracy, truthfulness and completeness of his testimony.

## The Spark

Thursday, 12 November 2009

### Obasanjo Duped Me

# - Charles Taylor

Nigeria's President at the time Chief Olusegun Obasanjo told him lies and encouraged him to go on a mysterious journey that led to his arrest as he approached this country's border

with Chad, former Liberian President Charles Taylor said at The Hague yesterday.

Taylor told the Special Court for Sierra Leone that Obasanjo had earlier assured him he could

leave the country freely. "He lied to the world when he said I was escaping, and he knew nothing about it," Taylor said. "Why he lied? I don't know, but

*Continued page 7*



## Obasanjo Duped Me

*From front page*

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## Voice of America

Wednesday, 11 November 2009

### UN Prosecutors Seek to Limit Taylor's Contact With Lawyers During Cross Examination

By Scott Stearns  
Dakar



Liberian President Charles Taylor in court (file photo)

U.N. prosecutors at the war crimes trial of former Liberian president Charles Taylor want to limit his access to defense lawyers during cross-examination. Taylor's lawyers say that would violate his right to counsel.

Lead Prosecutor Brenda Hollis wants the U.N. Special Court for Sierra Leone to restrict Taylor's communication with defense counsel during her cross-examination.

"It is very important that this phase of the examination not be susceptible to rehearsal or other preparation," she said.

Lead Defense Counsel Courtenay Griffiths says prosecutors apparently fear Taylor's attorneys may affect the truthfulness of his responses during cross-examination.

"The particular mischief to which my learned friend's application is addressed is the suggestion that whether directly or inadvertently contact between the accused and his counsel might in some way either coach or influence the content of his testimony," Griffiths said. "That is the mischief at which it is aimed."

Taylor is pleading not guilty to an 11-count indictment that includes murder, rape, enslavement, and conscription of child soldiers during Sierra Leone's civil war. While President of Liberia, prosecutors say Taylor acted as the effective leader of the Sierra Leonean rebel group the Revolutionary United Front.

Taylor has spent most of the past 13 weeks on the stand dismissing the prosecution case as a series of lies. With cross-examination now under way, prosecutors say they intend to challenge the accuracy, truthfulness, and completeness of Taylor's testimony.

And for that they say he should not be coached in court by his lawyers. If defense counsel needs to communicate with Taylor on other issues, Hollis wants judges to order that they must first notify the court.

"It may be that other matters arise that would require consultation between defense counsel and the accused - matters not related to the accused's testimony such as the request for instructions or guidance relating to other aspects of the case, " Hollis noted, "perhaps relating to other witnesses, other evidence that the defense may choose or try to bring before the court in the future."

Hollis says she is not asking that defense lawyers disclose the content of their discussions with Taylor, simply the subject matter that they intend to discuss.

Griffiths says even that notice denies Taylor attorney-client privilege.

"The difficulty with notice is that such notice runs up against the brick wall of legal professional privilege," Griffiths said. "That is the difficulty because how is such notice to be provided without lifting the veil of legal professional privilege, which even in these courts exists between a defendant and his lawyers?"

Justice Richard Lussick ordered prosecutors to make a written submission of their request Thursday and the defense to file a written response by next Monday. Until then, he says Taylor's access to counsel will be the same as during direct examination.

"In the mean time, the normal access that has been applicable between the accused and his counsel shall continue," Lussick said. "And of course the caution shall continue to be administered everyday that the accused is forbidden to discuss his evidence with any other person."

Taylor is the last defendant before the U.N. Special Court. The Freetown session of that court has convicted the last of the Sierra Leonean rebels indicted. Taylor's trial is being held in The Hague because of concerns that his supporters might disrupt proceedings in West Africa.

## CharlesTaylorTrial.org (The Hague)

Wednesday, 11 November 2009

### **Liberia: Judges Caution Prosecution On The Introduction Of 'New Evidence' In The Cross-Examination of Charles Taylor**

Alpha Sesay

As Charles Taylor faced his second day of cross-examination, his defense counsel objected to prosecution attempts to introduce "fresh evidence" after its case was closed, calling it a trial by "ambush."

Meanwhile, Mr. Taylor tried to distance himself from the types of acts committed during Sierra Leone's brutal conflict – such as fighters forcing a mother to laugh while they buried her child — saying that he prevented such acts during Liberia's civil strife.

In a move that led to the proceedings being adjourned early today, lead prosecution counsel, Ms. Brenda Hollis, sought to ask the accused former president questions about certain provisions in the Lome Peace Accord – a peace agreement signed between the Sierra Leonean government and the country's main rebel group, the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) in the Togolese capital, Lome, in 1999.

In an attempt to present a copy of the Lome agreement to Mr. Taylor to discuss specific provisions that benefitted the RUF, Ms Hollis today aimed to establish Mr. Taylor's influence during the peace process. However, Mr. Taylor's defense counsel, Courtenay Griffiths, objected. He argued it was "new evidence" which was not submitted to the court during the prosecution's own case, not used during Mr. Taylor's direct examination. The defense called it a trial by "ambush" for the prosecution to present "fresh evidence" after it had already closed its case.

Presiding judge, Justice Richard Lussick, said that the interests of justice require consideration of all evidence against the accused, but it was necessary to "balance such need for justice with the fair trial rights of the accused." The judges ruled that Ms. Hollis could not introduce new evidence in the form of documents which had not been presented as part of the prosecution's case and were not used by the defense in direct-examination of the accused.

Instead, the Prosecution was urged to make a formal written application to allow the defense opportunity to respond about the inclusion of the Lome Accord. After that, the judges could rule on whether new documents could be introduced as part of the prosecution's cross-examination of the accused.

The judges also rejected Ms. Hollis's request to ask "good faith basis questions" which "will be premised on the documents" but without using the documents themselves. Mr. Griffiths called it "unacceptable."

"It is a back door way of getting into the tribunal," he said.

"You cannot make use of any of these documents until a formal motion is submitted," Justice Lussick ordered.

Ms. Hollis at this stage asked the court to give the prosecution more time to "consider organizing our presentation" while work is being done on the formal motion for the presentation of the documents. The judges ordered that the court will adjourn for the day to give time to the prosecution to re-organize their presentation and continue the cross-examination of the accused tomorrow.



Earlier in the morning, Ms. Hollis sought to cover a few areas relating to Mr. Taylor's direct-examination. Ms. Hollis referenced Mr. Taylor's July 20, 2009 definition of "acts of terrorism" when he said that "for me, if you went to an innocent family and held them up at gun point and there are women and children there, that is an act of terrorism."

Ms. Hollis asked Mr. Taylor whether he agrees that certain acts like sexual violence, rape, murder, attacking civilians in a village and burning their houses, or forcing a mother to laugh while her child is being buried, will constitute acts of terrorism. Mr. Taylor responded that while some of these acts will amount to acts of terrorism, many of them could be looked at as individual crimes. The accused former Liberian president did concede that if "fighters forced a mother to laugh while they buried her child," that will lead to "fear and anguish."

When Ms. Hollis pushed Mr. Taylor that these acts will individually cause fear in victims, Mr. Taylor explained that he cannot determine how people will respond under certain circumstances.

"You are asking me to hypothetically tell how someone will respond under circumstances? People respond differently. I can say anguish but I can't say fear. I am not a psychiatrist. People respond differently under certain circumstances," Mr. Taylor said.

Mr. Taylor rejected suggestions from Ms. Hollis that he was playing games in his response to questions.

"I am not before this court playing games with my life. I reject the notion of playing games," he said.

"That is why in my civil war, we did not have operations like that. Let me make it clear, I did not condone them and that is why I prevented them in Liberia," Mr. Taylor asserted.

Mr. Taylor admitted providing support to RUF rebels in 1991-1992 but rejected notions that such support continued after 1992. The former president also agreed that RUF commander Sam Bockarie visited Liberia in September and October 1998, during which he gave the RUF commander a satellite phone. He agreed that Mr. Bockarie was on a United Nations travel ban list at this time.

Mr. Taylor is responding to charges of war crimes, crimes against humanity and other serious violations of international humanitarian law committed in the territory of Sierra Leone from November 30, 1996. The prosecution alleges that Mr. Taylor was involved in a joint criminal enterprise with RUF rebels who fought an 11-year war in Sierra Leone. Mr. Taylor has denied the allegations against him.

## The Christian Science Monitor

Wednesday, 11 November 2009

### Charles Taylor war crimes trial gets mixed reviews in Liberia



Former Liberian President Charles Taylor is seen at the U.N.-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone in The Hague, Netherlands.

ROBIN VAN  
LONKHUIJSEN/REUTERS/FILE

During four months of testimony, Charles Taylor, the former leader of Liberia, denied committing war crimes. He said he was the victim of a US and British conspiracy. The prosecution now begins its cross-examination in The Hague.

By Jina Moore | Correspondent of The Christian Science Monitor

Monrovia, Liberia - The local ataye center is a small, leisurely oasis on an otherwise bustling commercial street in Liberia's capital of Monrovia. Here, men sip bitter green tea, play checkers and Scrabble, and debate the day's politics.

At first, the name of Charles Taylor, an ex-president and notorious warlord, hushes the crowd. But by the time the afternoon's heat peaks, blustery opinions drown out the latest Akon music video as some 70 men gathered here on a lunch break argue over Mr. Taylor's ongoing war crimes trial.

The trial resumed this week in The Hague, where Taylor has been held since his arrest in 2006. He faces 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity. Taylor is the first African head of state to face an international criminal tribunal. But the indictment – and the court's jurisdiction focus only on crimes allegedly committed in neighboring Sierra Leone. Prosecutors have argued that Taylor backed rebel groups during the same civil war portrayed in the film "Blood Diamond."

Many Liberians want Taylor to face trial in Liberia for the suffering he caused in their own country during 10 years of brutal warfare that killed some 250,000 people and crippled the nation's economy. Others actually miss the charismatic leader who showered loyalists and foot soldiers with money and benefits. Still, most Liberians eking

out a living on less than a dollar a day, and far from the courtrooms of The Hague, are more concerned with other aspects of life, analysts say.

"I definitely think Liberians are not well informed" about the trial, says Paul James Allen, a program associate in the Monrovia office of the International Center for Transitional Justice. "Only a very small group of elites within civil society and even among journalists are 'informed.' Liberians in general do not care about this kind of thing. Generally they are more concerned with daily life."

### **LACK OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE TRIAL**

There is a plethora of opinions on Taylor's guilt or innocence in Monrovia, but it's not clear how much factual information about the trial is getting through the din. Over the summer, when Taylor testified in his defense, locals say the trial was front-page news; now, it gets only a small mention on the inside of the paper.

Officials from the Special Court's headquarters in Freetown, Sierra Leone, occasionally hold outreach activities in Liberia, including video screenings of trial excerpts and town hall-style conversations. But the urgency of the issue seems to have faded. Last summer, when Taylor first took the stand in The Hague, video clubs across Monrovia broadcast videotapes of his testimony. Today, soccer lineups and music videos crowd out the warlord.

Robert Weah, who lives in Monrovia, thinks the Liberian government should be doing more to make the trial accessible to Liberians.

"The government should pay for air time on TV and radio stations," he says. "Liberians need to follow the former president's trial so that they'll be able to get actual facts."

But those facts are of little interest to most Liberians, especially in the rural areas, who are struggling to survive. "People here are poor," says Mr. Allen. "They are concerned with what they will put on the table tonight, with survival.... And if you are concerned with those things, you will not pay too much attention to the trial."

Those who do follow the trial want to know if Taylor will ever face justice for crimes he committed at home, where he won a democratic election (after nearly 10 years of brutal fighting) with the slogan, "He killed my ma, he killed my pa, I vote for him."

"I don't want to know about Sierra Leone. What about Liberia?" says Kollie Dwanah, taking shelter from a morning rain under the umbrella of a roadside shop in the shadow of Taylor's former home.

"I would like to see him brought to Liberia in handcuffs, to be tried here," says Richmond Kaydea, who studies communications and works at a gas station. But he'll be content, he says, with any guilty verdict at all. "I would like to see Charles Taylor go to jail. It [would be] a poetic justice."

Others refuse to weigh in on Taylor's guilt or innocence. Instead, they accuse the tribunal – and international justice in general – of bias against African leaders. "A number of Liberians believe that Charles Taylor will not be acquitted," says Allen, "because they believe this is a kind of big power play against Taylor."

(Many Africans see the International Criminal Court's indictment of Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir in a similar light )

As evidence of that conspiracy, Liberians compare Taylor's alleged involvement in Sierra Leone to George Bush's invasion of Iraq. "If there is transparency in justice, and if Taylor is in the Hague, let George Bush follow," says Michael Wehdah, a sociology student.

### **WHY SOME LIBERIANS MISS TAYLOR**

But Elisha Johnson, a history teacher and a soccer referee, says there's no alternative to international justice. He says that Taylor should be tried, but he would never face justice in Liberia. Despite the devastation he wrought, he simply has too much support, especially from young men willing to take up arms to free him, Johnson says. "Children love him. They love him. When Taylor was here, there was cash floating [around], and now times are hard," Mr. Johnson says. Young people "believe Taylor made that happen, that he made free money float."

In Taylor's old neighborhood, called Congo Town, it's not clear if Taylor could do any wrong. Most men and women milling about on a recent Saturday morning say they miss Taylor. "If even there's an election in Liberia today, Charles Taylor will win. People love him," says Maria Bappu, who was born in Sierra Leone but grew up in Liberia. She's not convinced of his guilt.

"He opened our eyes to things hidden from us, things we never knew about. Now we're thinking about education: Everybody should go to school. About human rights – we never knew about human rights," Bappu says. The small crowd gathered around her hums in agreement. "If the war had not entered here, we would never know these things."

## International Justice Tribune

Wednesday, 11 November 2009

### A Trial of Legal Principle?



**The Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) Appeals Chamber upheld sentences for three former RUF leaders on October 26th. Wayne Jordash was lead defence counsel for Issa Hassan Sesay who received a sentence of 52 years. He spoke to IJT's Karl Dowling.**

By Karl Dowling

**In upholding the RUF judgement, the court dismissed 96 defence grounds for appeal. Why was that?**

We hoped that the appeal chamber would take some action, but in large part the grounds were simply ignored. In the most significant instance in relation to Mr. Sesay, an annex which was attached to the grounds of appeal, containing 300 new or amended charges that had been disclosed to the defence throughout the prosecution case was simply dismissed because the appeals chamber argued that we had gone over the page limit.

**What about the trial as such?**

The indictment [is] the least specified indictment at any tribunal. The accused was constantly bombarded with new allegations. The fact that prosecution witnesses were paid was ignored by the trial chamber subsequently ignored by the appeal chamber. Ex-rebels were cross-examined very robustly and their evidence didn't stand-up to proper scrutiny. Nonetheless, the trial chamber accepted [it] without offering any explanation. The Sesay defence called 60 witnesses, our defence case spanned 7 months, and in a judgement of 800 pages the defence case was mentioned in 16 paragraphs. So the defence case was dismissed in 16 paltry paragraphs. If academics and legal experts study that judgement and see those types of features in this process they will arrive at the same conclusion as I have - that this really was not a satisfactory process.

**Do you feel that Sesay and his 2 co-defendants were used as scapegoats in this trial?**

Once the very top commanders Sankoh, Bockarie and John Paul Koroma could not be arrested or put on trial the focus became somewhat concentrated on these three. Given so much money had been spent on the court and given the court was set up principally to try the RUF, then clearly what was required from the judges was a careful and rigorous application of principle to ensure that politics stayed out of the equation. In my view it is difficult to argue that this trial really was a trial of legal principle.

**As international tribunals were set up to fight impunity some argue those appearing before the tribunals are instantly assumed to be guilty. How can this be tackled?**

The predominant view throughout the courts and in the public in general is that the accused must be guilty and this is the atmosphere in which the trials are contested. You could deal with that by having a registry, which is rigorous in abiding by the defence rights and you have competent and professional judges who do the same, who guard the process in a way that makes sure that those emotions, and understandable emotions, stay out of the court arena.

**In what area do you feel some tribunals fail or succeed in comparison to the others?**

I would say that the ICTY is by far and away the most impressive of the tribunals because there's a degree of transparency. It's located in The Hague where obviously there is a good deal of international scrutiny. The further you go away from that transparency the less fair these courts - it seems to me - become. The general perception among the legal community is that there is a hierarchy of competence in the jurisprudence starting with The Hague, moving down to the ICTR, moving down to the Special Court and to an extent the jury is still out on the Cambodian Court. This is not coincidental. It coincides with the degree of scrutiny.

Photo: [doughtystreet.co.uk](http://doughtystreet.co.uk)

## International Justice Tribune

Wednesday, 11 November 2009

### **Prosecution to Cross-Examine Charles Taylor**

**At the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) in The Hague, the prosecution has started its cross-examination of Charles Taylor.**

Acting Chief Prosecutor Joseph Kamara says: “After 13 weeks of direct examination, we are very happy to be beginning our cross. We’ve been waiting patiently for our turn to test Mr Taylor on his version of events. That version is very different from the evidence the prosecution presented.”

Kamara says the prosecution intends to test Taylor’s version of his role during the civil war in Sierra Leone: “Our approach and strategy will become known as the cross-examination unfolds. What I can tell is that we will directly challenge Mr Taylor in three ways – on the accuracy, the truthfulness and the completeness of his testimony.”

The prosecution hopes not to take as long as Lead Defence Counsel Courtenay Griffiths. Kamara says, “timing can depend on a number of factors, including how direct or evasive the accused chooses to be on the stand.”

After the cross-examination, the parties may ask additional questions to Taylor. Then the Defence will seek to have documents tendered into evidence and will call its other witnesses. Griffiths has not yet revealed how many, nor whom he intends to call.

Brenda Hollis will conduct the cross-examination.

## International Justice Tribune

Wednesday, 11 November 2009

### **SCSL: Convicts Serve Time in Rwanda**

Eight persons convicted by the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) were transferred to Rwanda's Mpanga prison last month, where they will begin serving sentences ranging from 15 to 52 years.

Those transferred include three former leaders of Sierra Leone's Revolutionary United Front, whose sentences were upheld on appeal three weeks ago. Also transferred were three former leaders of Sierra Leone's Armed Forces Revolutionary Council and two former leaders of the Civil Defence Forces.

The SCSL's registrar, Binta Mansaray, says that while there are no prisons in Sierra Leone that meet international standards, Rwanda is able and willing to enforce the sentences: "They have excellent facilities as far as a prison is concerned."

Mpanga prison, an hour and a half outside Kigali, was built in 2004 to house up to 7,500 genocide suspects or convicts. One wing was designed to hold potential transfers from the UN International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR). Although the ICTR has not transferred any of its detainees, it brokered the agreement between Kigali and the SCSL.

Rwanda's justice minister Tharcisse Karugarama could not understand why the Tanzania court had not returned convicts when Rwanda's jails were deemed sufficient for those convicted by Sierra Leone's war crimes court. "We signed an agreement with the ICTR to transfer the convicts to serve out their sentence here. So far they have not done it. We don't know why," he said.

Living conditions are better for those transferred than for regular Rwandan prisoners. The UN-block at the prison can house 30 prisoners, in rooms measuring 32 square meters. By contrast, the average living space for Rwandan prisoners is estimated at 2 square meters.

Photo: flickr.com kiel bryant



United Nations  Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

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## UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 11 November 2009

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

### **International Clips on Liberia** **Monrovia Tests Elections Commission**

Monrovia, Nov 11, 2009 (allAfrica.com/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- Thousands of Liberians living in Montserrado county, the seat of the country's capital Monrovia, headed for the polls Tuesday to cast their votes in a senatorial by-election to replace Senator Hannah Brent, who died in August. The election is a test for the country's National Elections Commission, which for the first time since 2005 will be conducting an election in the country's most populous county, which has almost half a million registered voters. The by-election is widely considered a 'rehearsal' for the commission - now entirely managed by Liberians - for the country's general and presidential elections in 2011. The last national election that brought in President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's administration was closely managed by the United Nations Mission in Liberia and other international partners.

### **How Obasanjo Duped Me, By Charles Taylor**

Nov 11, 2009 (Daily Trust/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- Nigeria's President at the time Chief Olusegun Obasanjo told him lies and encouraged him to go on a mysterious journey that led to his arrest as he approached this country's border with Chad, former Liberian President Charles Taylor said at The Hague yesterday. Taylor told the Special Court for Sierra Leone that Obasanjo had earlier assured him he could leave the country freely. "He lied to the world when he said I was escaping, and he knew nothing about it," Taylor said. "Why he lied? I don't know, but as a brother and a friend, I think he ought to speak and tell the truth about it." The ex-warlord's journey to The Hague began in 2006 when Obasanjo announced that Liberia's new government was free to take their former president into custody, despite assurances of his personal safety given to Taylor when African leaders persuaded him to quit the Liberian presidency in 2003 in order to end a vicious civil war.

### **Former Liberia president says he was indicted as part of US 'regime change'**

guardian.co.uk, Tuesday 10 November 2009 15.18 GMT

Charles Taylor, the former president of Liberia, claimed today that he was indicted for war crimes as part of a US "regime change" plan to gain control of West African oil reserves. In a typically defiant performance, Taylor also testified that he was duped by Nigeria into being arrested there in 2006. Taylor questioned the fairness of his trial by the Special Court for Sierra Leone, which is trying the 61-year-old former warlord on allegations that he controlled and supported rebels who murdered and mutilated thousands of civilians during Sierra Leone's 1992-2002 civil war. "I am convicted already," Taylor told the three international judges, in his final day of direct testimony in his own defense after 13 weeks in the witness box. Taylor told the panel that the American authorities believed he was a destabilizing factor in West Africa, a region Washington saw as a possible future source of oil. He said the US standpoint was that "we cannot have anyone in Liberia that we don't think is going to dance to our tune". The tribunal prosecutor who indicted Taylor was an American, David Crane. Crane did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

## Guinea

### Mediation bid unlikely to solve Guinea crisis

CONAKRY, Nov 11 (Reuters) - Prospects of international mediation breaking the political deadlock between Guinea's ruling junta and the opposition are slim, with a failure potentially leading to a new bout of unrest. Since security forces killed more than 150 protesters, according to witnesses, in a Sept. 28 crackdown on dissent, opposition leaders have called on junta leader Captain Moussa Dadis Camara to step down immediately. But Camara -- or "Dadis" as most Guineans call him since he seized power in a bloodless coup last December -- shows no sign of wanting to surrender power, and there is little scope for compromise between the two positions. "I think it's unrealistic. You can't start a negotiation by saying 'I don't want power'," Guinean Foreign Minister Alexandre Cécérou said of the opposition demands in Burkina Faso's capital Ouagadougou, where Burkinabe president and veteran regional peace-broker Blaise Compaore is leading talks this week. With no fewer than three of Guinea's immediate neighbours -- Liberia, Sierra Leone and Ivory Coast -- still struggling to recover from civil wars, Guinea's crisis has raised worldwide concern of contagion across an already unstable region.

## Cote d'Ivoire

### UN Receives Provisional Voters' List for Much Delayed Presidential Poll

Nov 11, 2009 (UN News Service/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- Cote d'Ivoire's independent electoral commission today handed over a provisional voters' list to the top United Nations envoy there, a step forward towards holding the much-delayed presidential poll in the West African country, split by civil war in 2002 into a Government-ruled south and a rebel-controlled north. But Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's Special Representative Young-Jin Choi warned that important steps remained to be taken and while the elections were now in reach, serious work was needed to overcome the final challenges. The elections, originally scheduled for as far back as 2005, are now planned for 29 November after repeated postponements, but UN officials have voiced concern at possible further setbacks. Mr. Choi, who heads the UN Operation in Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI), called for accelerating the remaining technical steps, such as the printing and distribution of national identity and voter cards.

### Fears over Ivory Coast Compensation

Source: Al Jazeera November 11, 2009

Thousands of people in Ivory Coast poisoned by toxic waste face being cheated out of \$45 million in compensation after the money which was deposited in a bank account in the West African country, was frozen. A local figure, claiming to be president of the National Co-ordination of Toxic Waste Victims of Cote d'Ivoire and who is unknown to the victims' lawyers, has now applied to have the cash moved to the association's account. The case centres around the dumping of hundreds of tonnes of sulphur-contaminated toxic oil waste by a ship near Abidjan, the country's capital, in 2006. Thousands of people became ill following the incident and Trafigura, a Dutch-based commodities trader who chartered the vessel, agreed to pay compensation to the victims in an out-of-court settlement in September. The compensation money was deposited in an Ivorian bank to be handed out, directly, in cash, to each of the 30,000 victims, but the payments were frozen last month.

### Local Media – Newspaper

#### **Poor Turnout, Confusion Rocks at By-election as Opposition CDC Takes Early lead**

(The News, Daily Observer, Liberian Express, Heritage, The Inquirer, The Analyst, FrontPage, New Democrat, The Informer, Public Agenda, National Chronicle)

- Poor turn-out, serious confusion, and disorganization yesterday marred the Montserrado County senatorial by-election with scores of electorates threatening legal and physical action against the National Elections Commission.
- Correspondents say several polling centres in Monrovia and its environs were virtually empty as only a few persons went there to cast their votes.
- Some of the voters complained that they could not vote because their names and serial numbers were not found at designated centres while other voters possibly frustrated by delays in the process abandoned the polls.
- Meanwhile, unofficial results from several polling centres have put the Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) in a slight lead in the Montserrado County Senatorial By-election.
- It is followed by the candidates of the ruling Unity Party (UP) and the Alliance for Peace and Democracy.
- The unofficial results come from the poll centres at the ATS, Ducor, Barnersville and New Georgia, parts of Paynesville, Matadi and Careysburg.
- Talled figures gathered at these centres include 1,468 votes for the CDC, while the UP obtained 1,311 votes. These results have not been confirmed by the National Elections Commission.

### **CDC Weah Warned of Serious Consequences if by-Election is Marred by Flaw**

(Public Agenda)

- The Standard-bearer of the Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) George Weah has warned of severe consequences, if the Montserrado Senatorial by-election is marred by flaws.
- Ambassador Weah said Liberia's democracy could be plunged into trouble if the election is not free, fair and transparent noting that the CDC takes the Senatorial by-election highly critical and would do all it can to maintain the seat it previously occupied in the Senate.
- He observed the voting process started some three hours late and there were allegations of misbehaviour by some staffers of the National Elections Commission.
- Meanwhile, Liberty party candidate in the Senatorial by-election Darius Dillon says expectations are high that the election will be flawed.
- Mr. Dillon said reports of fraud have already emerged from polling centres but says he's still confident of winning.
- At the same time Wilson Tarpeh, the candidate of the Alliance for Peace and Democracy (APD) has expressed concern over reports of inconsistencies and fraud in the polling process.

### **NEC Chairman Alerts Police of Alleged CDC Threat**

(New Democrat)

- [SIC] The Chairman of the National Elections Commission, Mr. James Fromoyan has reported threats on his life coming from the opposition Congress for Democratic Change.
- Mr. Fromoyan said CDC partisans have threatened to kill him and burn his home if the results are not in their favor.
- Sources said armed police have already been deployed at the home of Mr. Fromoyan while UNMIL has beefed up security around Monrovia.

### **Civil Society Coalition Describes By-election as "Disorganized"**

(The Analyst, Heritage, The News)

- The Liberia Civil Society Election Observer Coalition has issued a statement describing the Montserrado Senatorial By-election as "disorganized".
- The Coalition observed the polls began very late across Montserrado County including Central Monrovia.
- The group also noticed election materials and poll workers arrive late at designated centres causing many voters to return home because of frustration, fatigue or the weather.
- The Coalition further observed up to noon on Election Day, there was still confusion over polling centres as many voters did not know where to go and vote blaming the National Elections Commission (NEC) on the lack of information on the changes.

### **Several Computers Stolen From Public Procurement and Concession Commission**

(Heritage, The Inquirer)

- Unknown persons yesterday stole several computers from the offices of the Public Procurement Concessions Commission (PPCC).
- PPCC Information Director, Nathan Bengu said all the computers stolen contained concession agreements.
- Mr. Bengu said it has not been established as to how the thieves entered the building because all of the doors were locked and not broken into.
- He observed that the alleged thieves were selective in their choices of computers because only computers containing relevant documents were stolen.
- The PPCC Information Officer said the matter has been reported to the Liberia National Police and the National Bureau of Investigation but said no arrest has been made.

### **Former President Taylor Says Nigeria Duped Him**

(Heritage, Daily Observer, Liberian Express)

- Former Liberian President Charles Taylor said he was duped by Nigeria into being arrested there in 2006.
- Speaking at his war crimes trial in The Hague, President Taylor said Nigeria's then leader had reneged on a promise to let him leave the country freely.
- He said the President of Nigeria at the time Olusegun Obasanjo, who is currently a UN peace envoy, told him lies that cause him to be arrested.
- He told the Special Court for Sierra Leone Tuesday that Mr. Obasanjo lied to the world when he said that he Taylor was escaping from Nigeria.

### **Health Minister Extends Invitation to WACP Doctors**

(The Analyst, Daily Observer, The Inquirer)

- Speaking during the 33rd Annual General & Scientific Meeting of the West Africa college of Physicians (WACP) in Monrovia, Health and Social Welfare Minister Dr. Walter Gwenigale extended an invitation to members of the association for full employment by the government of Liberia.
- Dr. Gwenigale said that after the war in the country most qualified and dependable Liberian Doctors have left the country resulting to a brain drain in the sector.
- Minister Gwenigale said WACP was the only alternative Liberia now has to rescue its health sector from poor health operation.

### **LEC Receives Four 10-MV Transformers**

(The Analyst, The Inquirer)

- Efforts by the Government of Liberia to improve the expansion of electricity to Monrovia and its environs through the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC), received a major boost recently with the arrival and subsequent placement at various sub-stations, of four 10 MV transformers.
- The transformers are part of the European Commission funded Monrovia grid rehabilitation project being implemented by ELTEL Networks AB, a Swedish electrical company hired by the European Commission at a total cost of about 13 million Euros.
- The transformers which are expected to increase operational efficiency at the LEC'S network were placed on location at the Kru Town, Bushrod Island, Capitol Hill, and Paynesville sub-stations.

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

### **CDC Takes Slight Lead In Senatorial Poll**

### **CDC Weah Warned of Serious Consequences if by-Election is Marred by Flaw**

- The Standard-bearer of the Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) George Weah has warned of severe consequences, if the Montserrado Senatorial by-election is marred by flaws.
- Ambassador Weah said Liberia's democracy could be plunged into trouble if the election is not free, fair and transparent noting that the CDC takes the Senatorial by-election highly critical and would do all it can to maintain the seat it previously occupied in the Senate.
- He observed the voting process started some three hours late and there were allegations of misbehaviour by some staffers of the National Elections Commission.
- Meanwhile, Vice President Joseph Boakai says the Montserrado Senatorial by-election is a test case of a vote of confidence in the ruling Unity Party noting that Unity Party really needs to win the by-election to demonstrate its popularity.

### **Opposition Liberty Party Says It Expects Flaw In By-election**

- Liberty party candidate in the Senatorial by-election Darius Dillon says expectations are high that the election will be flawed.
- Mr. Dillon said reports of fraud have already emerged from polling centres but says he's still confident of winning.
- At the same time Wilson Tarpeh, the candidate of the Alliance for Peace and Democracy (APD) has expressed concern over reports of inconsistencies and fraud in the polling process.

### **"Disorganized" Civil Society Coalition On By-election**

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

### **Ninth Judicial Circuit Judge Speak Against Pre-trial Detention**

- The Resident Judge of the Ninth Judicial Court in Bong County, Boima Kontoe says pre-trial detention poses serious threat to National Security.
- Speaking at the opening of the November term of court, Judge Kontoe said the detention of people accused of committing crimes without trial is a human rights violation and must be addressed with urgency.
- According to Judge Kontoe 85 percent of the inmates in Liberia are yet to be tried in a court of competent jurisdiction.

### **Man Arrested For Impersonating As NGO Staff**

- Police in Rivercess County have arrested a 36-year-old man for impersonating as an agent of the international NGO, Peace Wind Japan.
- George McCarthy was arrested Monday in Yarnie District while registering residents for purported zinc distribution.
- According to an eyewitness, suspect McCarthy told the citizens he was a special worker of Peace Wind Japan sent to register towns for zinc distribution.
- The eyewitness said some towns paid between four hundred and one thousand Liberian dollars to qualify for the zinc distribution.
- Suspect McCarthy currently detained at the Cesstos Police station has denied all allegations against him.

### **President Taylor Says Nigeria Duped Him**

**Radio Veritas** *(News monitored today at 09:45 am)*

### **Several Computers Stolen From PPCC**

### **Police Probe Woman In Election Fraud**

- Police in Monrovia are reportedly investigating an unidentified woman accused of cheating in Tuesday's Montserrado County Senatorial By-election.
- According to reports the woman was arrested in the Township of West Point allegedly in possession of several voter registration cards.
- The police have not made any official remark on the issue.

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Hirondelle News Agency

Wednesday, 11 November 2009

## **ICTR/PROSECUTORS - ICTR AND ICTY ASK FOR MORE COOPERATION TO ARREST FUGITIVES**

Kigali, November 11, 2009 (FH) - Prosecutor of the ICTR Hassan Bubacar Jallow and his counterpart from the International Criminal Tribunal for ex-Yugoslavia (ICTY), Serge Brammertz on Wednesday appealed states to increase their cooperation to arrest remaining international's justice fugitives.

The pledge was made at the opening of the three days Colloquium of Prosecutors of the international criminal tribunals, in Kigali.

Prosecutors of the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL), the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL) are also attending the event, as well as Stephen Rapp, the American Ambassador for war crimes and a former prosecutor at the SCSL and the ICTR.

« Whilst much of the success of the tribunals has been facilitated by cooperation of member states, such cooperation needs to be intensified", Jallow said in his speech. The ICTR prosecutor, who is organizing the colloquium, added : "Top level fugitives continue to evade justice, presenting a serious challenge to the mandates of the tribunals".

July this year, the UN Security Council extended ICTR's mandate to December 31, 2010 to conclude its first instance cases. Eleven suspects, amongst whom the businessman Felicien Kabuga, are still on the run.

The ICTY is still trying to capture two accused, one of them being the former military chief of Bosnian Serbs, Ratko Mladic.

However, Serge Brammertz highlighted that the closure of the ad hoc tribunals would not grant the fugitives impunity:" No matter when and where they are arrested, there will be a trial and they will be accountable for their actions".

## Reuters

Wednesday, 11 November 2009

### **Karadzic seeking appeal to remove appointed counsel**

AMSTERDAM, Nov 11 (Reuters) - Former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic asked the Yugoslavia war crimes tribunal on Wednesday to hear his appeal against the court's decision to appoint legal counsel after he boycotted proceedings.

Judges ordered last week that legal counsel be appointed to Karadzic and adjourned his trial until March 2010 to give new defence lawyers time to prepare.

Karadzic, who has denied his 11 war crimes charges from the war, had been representing himself but boycotted the first three days of trial proceedings, arguing that he needed more time to prepare for a "case of this magnitude and complexity".

Karadzic argued in Wednesday's filing that he should be allowed to appeal against the court's decision because counsel was appointed despite his objections.

Procedural rules at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia require court approval for appeals before they can be considered.

The ruling last week allows for Karadzic to continue representing himself, but he will have to work with an appointed lawyer. If he continues to boycott the trial, then Karadzic will forfeit his right to self-representation and the appointed lawyer will take over, the court said.

The charges against Karadzic include the 43-month siege of Sarajevo that began in 1992. An estimated 10,000 people died in the siege as the former Yugoslavia was torn apart in the 1990s by Serbs, Croats and Muslims fighting for land.

Charged with some of Europe's worst atrocities since World War Two, Karadzic had been on the run for 11 years until his capture last year, bearded and disguised as an alternative healer in Belgrade. (Reporting by Reed Stevenson)

## Radio Netherlands Worldwide

Thursday, 12 November 2009

### Tribunal partially affirms the convictions against Milosevic

By International Justice Desk



*The Hague,  
Netherlands*

The appeals chamber  
of the International  
Criminal Tribunal for  
the former  
Yugoslavia (ICTY)

partially upheld the trial chamber's findings in the case of Dragomir Milošević, a former Bosnian Serb Army general, convicted for the crimes committed against civilians of Sarajevo during the second half of the 1992-1995 siege of the capital city of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The appeals chamber also granted Milošević's appeal in part and reduced his sentence from 33 to 29 years' imprisonment. The Prosecution's sole ground appeal requesting that Milošević be sentenced to life imprisonment was dismissed in its entirety.

Credit will be giving for the time Milošević already spent in the Detention Unit, where he will also await the President's decision on the state in which he is to serve the remainder of his sentence. Dragomir Milošević surrendered on 3 December 2004. His trial began on 10 January 2007 and ended in October of the same year.

Dragomir Milošević was the commander of the Sarajevo-Romanija Corps (SRK) of the Bosnian Serb Army (VRS) which encircled and entrapped the city of Sarajevo during the three and half year long conflict. Milošević assumed the command of the SRK from his former superior Stanislav Galić in August 1994 and remained in that position over a 15-month period up to the end of the conflict in November 1995.

Milošević's predecessor at the command of the SRK, Stanislav Galić was sentenced on appeal to life imprisonment in November 2006.

Since its inception 16 years ago, the Tribunal has indicted 161 persons for war crimes committed on the territory of the former Yugoslavia. The proceedings against 120 individuals have been completed.

Proceedings are currently open for 41 accused with 24 at trial stage, seven awaiting trial judgement and 14 before the Appeals chamber. Zdravko Tolimir is the only remaining Accused in custody, awaiting the commencement of trial. Two accused, Ratko Mladić and Goran Hadžić, are at large awaiting arrest and transfer to The Hague for trial.