

**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:**

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Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.  
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact  
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## New Vision

Tuesday, 11 October 2011

# ICC hasn't business to observe election

By Mohamed Kallon

The Executive Director of the Sierra Leone Institute of International Law, Ambassador Alieu Kamara yesterday said that it is not the business of the International Criminal Court (ICC) to observe election in any country including Sierra Leone. He said the mandate of the court is to disseminate, teach and appreciate international laws. The director's clarification is said to

pronouncement to invite the court here in Sierra Leone to observe next year's trumpeted general elections for possible violent incidents. Ambassador Kamara said he believes the president had only mentioned the court to send a warning to those who may want to resort to violence during and after the elections to desist, given that the menace has already started ahead of the important event.

## *Ambassador Kamara clarifies*

Ambassador Kamara believes people have misunderstood or misinterpreted President Koroma's threat. The director emphasized: "first of all you don't just sit in your country and say I am going to invite the ICC to observe our election." The director further clarified that the court only comes in when crimes

are committed to investigate and possibly prosecute those that are found culpable if only the offences committed are within the jurisdiction of the ICC. "May be the court will consider election observation in future," the director stated, but insisted that is yet to happen.

## **CORRECTION**

The correct name for the executive director of the Institute of International Law carried in the story "ICC hasn't business to observe elections" published yesterday in page 2 would have been Ambassador Alieu Kanu instead of Alieu Kamara. We are sorry for the inconvenience.

## Sierra Express

Tuesday, 11 October 2011

### ABC Secretariat urges prisons' officers to be positive

By: SEM Contributor on October 11, 2011.

The Executive Director of Attitudinal and Behavioral Change (ABC) Secretariat, Dr. Ivan Agibola Thomas, has on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2011 called on prison officials to be positive in their attitude towards prisoners and their work. He made this statement at a meeting with various national heads of the Sierra Leone State Prisons



Department at the Sierra Leone Prisons Headquarters, New England Ville Freetown.

The Executive Director said inmates are not well cared for by the prison officials, adding that the prisoners' food is not properly prepared. He observed that their beds are not fit for them to continue lying on, saying that sanitation is a serious problem within the confines of the prisons throughout the country. "...prisoners are treated badly because they are prisoners..." he noted, this he said is a negative attitude which needs to be stopped by the officials.

Dr. Thomas said the prisons are congested throughout the country. He singled out the Pademba Road Maximum Prisons, which he said was not built to accommodate the current number of inmates it is housing. He added that people should not be sent to prison for what he described as "petty crimes".

The Executive Director stated that prison officials are part of the justice chain in the country. He reiterated that the role of the officials is to work with the police and the judiciary to provide safe housing for those who are in conflict with the law. He maintained that most times, prisoners have escaped from prisons through the aid of some prison officials.

The Second-in-Command and National Coordinator of ABC, Nanette Thomas reiterated that the role of the ABC is to help Sierra Leoneans change their negative attitude, noting that change of negative attitude is very important if the country is to develop. Madam Nanette Thomas encouraged the officials to read books on positive attitude and behavior, citing out "Who Moved My Cheese" by Spencer Johnson M.D. and "Attitude Is Everything" by Jeff Keller

The National Coordinator said positive change is something that is difficult to be attained. She urged them to accept positive changes as it pivotal to the development of a nation. Madam Nanette defined positive attitude as “the thing that helps someone reaches the brighter side of life”, while negative attitude is self defeating and destroys someone. She pleaded with them to leave their personal problems at home, saying that they affect the output of their work and those around them.



The National Coordinator reminded the officials of their role to rehabilitate and clear the mindsets of inmates. He admonished them to desist from the habit of giving drugs like marijuana and alcohol and the like to prisons.

She said the Secretariat would only succeed to change the negative attitude of prison officials if they start to do the right thing.

The Acting Director of Prisons, Sanpha Bilo Kamara congratulated the ABC Secretariat for the good work it is doing and called on his colleague senior officials to accept and adopt the message of the ABC in the interest of national development. Mr. Kamara told other officials to be very accurate when supervising their juniors. He advised them not to forget to supervise themselves by making sure that they do the right thing.

Head of Corporate Unit Superintendent of Prisons, Ahmed A. Turay confessed that some of them saw themselves in everything that was said, adding that they are working very hard to positively shape the behaviors of prison officials.

He expressed the need for words on positive attitude and behavior to be written on cards and placed on the walls in every office within the prisons so that they could be remembered by the officials.

*By John Sorsor Samura, Intern*

Awoko

Wednesday, 12 October 2011

## Sierra Leone Prison Service...

# Under pressure & at a breaking point

*By Winston Ojukutu-Macaulay Jnr*

**A**s the high command of the Sierra Leone Prisons Service wait desperately for the government to give the go ahead for the long awaited reforms needed, many Prison Officers and members of the Justice Sector are now not only worried and expressing their concerns and fears about the present Prison population, but are also calling for the relocation of the Pademaba Road Prisons.

With the report on the last audacious Prison-break on the 5<sup>th</sup> December 2010, yet to be made public, Senior Officers and their junior ranks continue to battle everyday to meet the basic mission of the Prisons Service which is "to protect the society by keeping prisoners in secure and humane conditions while encouraging and assisting offenders in their rehabilitation and re-integration into society as reformed

citizens. Speaking to **Awoko** recently, the Acting Director of Prisons Service, Mr. Sanpha Bilo Kamara disclosed that "Prison Officers face many challenges; and one of the greatest is that they usually have little control over the kind and number of people sent to prison or the length of their stay, but more importantly," he went on, "we are always underfunded and too often, inadequately prepared for the work, because we do not have the space and necessary logistics for the prison to be a secure, caring and reliable service provider."

The Acting Director of Prisons called for Pademba Road Prisons to be moved from the centre of Freetown.

He disclosed that 6 to 7 years ago, the Prison Service "identified somewhere in Songo, about 28 miles from Freetown for the location of a modern top security prison,"

## World Death Penalty Day Observed

By Ayodele Lewis

Amnesty International Sierra Leone section (ALSL) joined others around the world to observe the World Death Penalty Day worldwide on October 10th.

The day, which was celebrated around the world, is a global campaign to draw government's attention to the issue of the abolition of the death penalty.

According to the former United Nations Secretary General, Kofi Annan, in December 2000; "The forfeiture of life is too absolute, too irreversible, for human beings to inflict it on another, even when backed by legal process... it is tragic that while the nations debate this problem, people continue to be executed."

In an exclusive interview, the Direc-

tor of Amnesty International Sierra Leone, Brima Sheriff, said that October 10 has become a tradition to them as a human rights institution. He said they are using a lot of media interviews to draw government's attention towards the Universal Periodic Review, and also for the Optional Protocol and International Commitment on the Civil and Political Rights.

He said Amnesty opposes the death penalty in all cases without exception, regardless of the nature of the crime, the characteristic of the offender, or method used by the state to kill the prisoner.

He said the death penalty is an ultimate denial of human rights, the premeditated and cold blooded-killing of a human being by the state in the

name of justice.

He said it's a total violation of a human's right to life as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, an ultimate cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment.

"The death penalty is discriminatory and often used disproportionately against the poor, minorities and members of racial, ethnic and religious communities. It is imposed and carried out arbitrarily. The state's attempts to select the "worst of the worst" crimes and offenders out of thousands of murders committed each year inevitably leads to inconsistencies and errors, inescapable flaws which are exacerbated by discrimination, prosecutorial misconducts and inadequate legal representation. As long as human justice remains fallible, the risk of executing the innocent can never be eliminated. Amnesty International continues to demand unconditionally the worldwide abolition of the death penalty. To end the death penalty is to recognize that it is a destructive and divisive public policy that is not consistent with widely held values. It not only runs the risk of irrevocable errors, it is also costly to the public purse, as well as in social and physiological terms. It has not been shown to have a special deterrent effect. It denies the possibility of rehabilitation and reconciliation. It promotes simplistic responses to complex human

problems, rather than pursuing explanations that could inform positive change."

He said AI in no way seeks to minimize or condone the crimes for which those sentenced to death were convicted.

He said in most cases the victims were sentenced to death after unfair trials, adding that the death penalty has been and continues to be used as a toll of political repression, as a means to silence forever political opponents, to eliminate political "troublesome" individuals.

The campaign and growth coordinator of Amnesty International, Solomon Sobandi said this year they embarked on community theatre and media interviews as a way to educate people on the dangers of the death penalty.

He said community performances were done by the Amnesty International artist group at Cotton Tree, Eastern Police, Up-gun, Shell and Calaba Town markets, to observe the October 10th death penalty day. "Amnesty international views the death penalty as a violation of human rights as adopted by the UN General Assembly in December 1948 (article 3) which recognizes each person's right to life, and (article 5) which categorically states that, "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel inhuman degrading treatment or punishment."



Brima Abdulai Sheriff of Amnesty International Sierra Leone

## **British High Commissioner's Blog**

"The burning of the house of an offender is not permissible punishment for arson. The rape of the offender is not permissible punishment for a rapist. Why should murder be a permissible punishment for murder?" - Justice Ismail Mahomed (South Africa)

Posted 10 October 2011 by Ian Hughes | 1 Comment

Benjamin Franklin said that only death and taxation were certain. He may have been right, but his two certainties could hardly be more different.

Death is part of the immutable framework of life. It existed before humanity came to be. It will exist long after we are gone. We each have but one life which once taken away cannot be returned.

Taxation is a human law. It changes with human experience, with society's preferences. It can go up or down; it can be applied rigorously or forgiven; overpayments can be refunded.

Death's permanence is the root of my problem with capital punishment.

We yearn for justice, strive for it, and demand respect for it. Yet our expectations of it change from generation to generation, from year to year, from experience to experience. In its essence, justice is an aspiration. While trying to work out how to achieve it, we settle for the rule of law, which hard experience shows is our best defence - often our only defence - against another law: that of the jungle.

The rule of law tells you that if you do certain things you will be punished: steal from your neighbour, punished like this; bribe a judge, punished like that; kill someone, punished like the other. Does the law dispense justice? Sometimes. Is it effective? Sometimes. Is it wrong? Sometimes. And if the law can make mistakes, its decisions must be reversible.

Execution - legal killing to enforce the law - has been with us for as long as there have been laws. It used to be applied widely. Nowadays it is mostly reserved for murder. If you take a life, the law can say, you forfeit your own. Is execution consistent with the rule of law? Yes. Is it also justice? Sometimes. Is it right? No. Why not? Because the rule of law is unjust if it is incorrectly applied: mistakes must be correctable. And miscarriages of justice in capital cases cannot be repaired. It is therefore a longstanding point of principle for UK governments to oppose capital punishment in all circumstances.

While there have been no executions in Sierra Leone since 1998, execution is mandatory for murder convictions. A number of Salone men and women languish on Death Row in Pademba Road.

Many Sierra Leoneans I talk to believe that the threat of execution is essential to keep the peace. I respect that view, but disagree with it and hope to change it as part of a

debate between us on what democracy means, how it works, and what it aspires to be.

My team and I have been working with our EU colleagues to engage with government, Parliament and Civil Society. We hope the moratorium will evolve into full-fledged abolition soon. In the meantime we encourage and support those like Advocaid who facilitate effective measures to examine the facts, procedures and circumstances relating to capital cases considered by the Judiciary.

I point to the discharge by the Court of Appeal in Manso of "MK", the longest serving woman on Pademba Road's death row. The Honourable Justices' decision demonstrates my point about the need to be able to reverse decisions that may be mistaken.

Today is the eighth World Day against the Death Penalty. Around the world British Ambassadors and High Commissioners are marking this occasion with discussions with governments, civil societies and Parliaments. In London our Human Rights Minister, Jeremy Browne, has made a statement setting out the case for permanent abolition of this measure.

I am pleased that the government of Sierra Leone, too, is active. In April President Koroma commuted all death sentences to life imprisonment, and three death-row prisoners have been pardoned. Abolition is on the legislative agenda but it needs to move from theory to practice. It has been discussed during the Constitutional Review Process, and will continue to be a topic there after the 2012 election.

I welcome this debate and encourage further action to bring Sierra Leone justice into the twenty first century. The Sierra Leone Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Report said: "Respect for human dignity and human rights must begin with respect for human life. Everyone has the right to life. A society that accords the highest respect for human life is unlikely to turn on itself...The abolition of the death penalty will mark an important and symbolic departure from the past to the future". What do you think?

**Many Sierra Leoneans I talk to believe that the threat of execution is essential to keep the peace. I respect that view, but disagree with it and hope to change it as part of a debate between us on what democracy means, how it works, and what it aspires to be.**



CNN

Tuesday, 11 October 2011

## **Court: Bosnia Serb genocide suspect faces health problems**

By the CNN Wire Staff



(CNN) -- Bosnian Serb genocide suspect Ratko Mladic is suffering health problems, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia said Tuesday.

The court, however, denied media reports Mladic had collapsed, and refused to comment on reports he had pneumonia.

"Mladic was transferred to the Tribunal with a series of pre-existing medical conditions for which he is receiving treatment. The Tribunal continues to provide Mladic, as any other detainee, with the best possible medical care and attention available in The Netherlands," spokeswoman Nerma Jelacic said in a statement.

Mladic, wanted in connection with the massacre of nearly 8,000 Muslim men and boys at Srebrenica, Bosnia in 1995, among other crimes, was captured in May after 15 years in hiding.

He is 69 and told the tribunal in June that he was "gravely ill."

Prosecutors want to try the former general in two separate cases, they said in August -- once over the Srebrenica massacre and once for spreading terror in the Bosnian capital of Sarajevo and for taking UN personnel hostage.

Mladic faces charges of genocide, crimes against humanity, and violations of the laws and customs of war in both cases, prosecutors said in an August 17 statement.

Mladic led Bosnia Serb forces in the civil war that broke out in Bosnia-Herzegovina when Yugoslavia dissolved in the early 1990s.

More than 200,000 Muslims and Croats died in the 1992-95 civil war in Bosnia-Herzegovina, including nearly 8,000 slaughtered at Srebrenica -- Europe's worst massacre since World War II.

Mladic has been a combative witness at the ICTY.

At a July 4 appearance, Mladic refused to enter a plea, demanded new lawyers and repeatedly interrupted the judge until he was removed from the court.

The case is now in pre-trial hearings.

CNN

Tuesday, 11 October 2011

## 'Merchant of death' trial to open in New York

By Mick B. Krever, CNN



New York (CNN) -- After evading international authorities for nearly two decades, alleged international arms and drug smuggler Viktor Bout, widely dubbed the "merchant of death" by his accusers, will go on trial in New York Tuesday.

The Russian businessman is charged with a wide range of counts, including conspiracy to kill Americans, attempting to sell arms to undercover federal agents, wire fraud and violating U.N. Security Council sanctions. Bout pleaded not guilty to all charges last year.

"I'm very confident that the trial will make it transparent that Viktor Bout did not intend to sell arms to anyone," Bout's lawyer, Albert Y. Dayan, said during pretrial hearings.

International security experts say that the charges encompass only a small fraction of what they believe Bout is responsible for.

Kathi Lynn Austin, an arms researcher, called Bout "the quintessential war profiteer" in an interview with CNN. By providing larger and more-powerful arms than rebels would otherwise have had access to, Austin said, Bout "has actually initiated wars in countries such as Liberia and Sierra Leone."

"He unquestionably made some of the worst wars of the 20th century, early 21st century, much worse than they would have been," said Douglas Farah, a national security consultant who co-wrote a book about Bout.

The 2005 movie "Lord of War," starring Nicholas Cage, was inspired by Bout's life.

The heart of the charges against Bout stem from a 2008 sting operation in Thailand by the Drug Enforcement Agency. According to a 2008 federal indictment, undercover agents, posing as rebels from the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, attempted to buy large caches of weapons from Bout.

Agents attempted to buy 700 to 800 surface-to-air missiles, thousands of AK-47s, and landmines, according to the indictment. They told Bout that they wanted the arms "to kill Americans," to which Bout said that he "was going to prepare everything the FARC needed."

"It's like getting Capone for a single homicide or a single jug of whiskey," Farah said. "It's actually what he was doing, but on a much smaller scale." Al Capone was a powerful Chicago gangster of the 1920s who was sent to prison on tax evasion charges.

The DEA struggled to draw Bout out of his Russian homeland, which had long sheltered and defended him. Undercover agents met with Bout's associates the world over, from Curacao to Copenhagen, in an attempt to set up a meeting with their target, according to the indictment.

"He wanted to close the deals himself, he liked to shake hands with the person he was selling the weapons to," Farah said. "Ultimately, that was his undoing in Bangkok, because he wanted to fly in and close the deal himself."

Bout has maintained that he was simply in the business of shipping, and has never been involved in arms sales.

"I'm not afraid. I don't do anything in my life I should be afraid," Bout told CNN's Jill Dougherty in a 2002 interview in Moscow. "This whole story looks to me like a witch hunt."

**BBC**

Tuesday, 11 October 2011

**Liberia election: Large turnout in Sirleaf-Tubman vote**



Many Liberians started to queue before dawn

Liberian voters have braved heavy rain to cast their ballots in the country's second election since the end of a 14-year civil war.

President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, 72, is expected to face her strongest challenge from former UN envoy Winston Tubman, a nephew of an ex-president.

Both candidates praised the peaceful and disciplined nature of the vote.

Africa's first elected female head of state was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize last week.

But Mr Tubman, 70, says she has not done enough to tackle corruption.

Mrs Sirleaf won the 2005 election after the conflict ended in 2003.

She defeated former football star George Weah, who is Mr Tubman's running mate this time.

The BBC's Jonathan Paye-Layleh in the capital, Monrovia, says hundreds of people started queuing to vote before dawn at polling stations in the city centre.

**“Start Quote**

One out of every three Liberians cannot feed themselves... They couldn't care less about the Nobel prize”

Charles Brumskine Opposition candidate

John Plato, 60, waiting for four hours before voting at a school in Monrovia.

"I feel very happy having cast my ballot. These elections are crucial in the eyes of Liberians and the international community and so it was important for me to vote to be part of the history-making process of the country, " he told the AFP news agency.

This is first election the National Elections Commission has organised as the previous one was run by the UN.

President Sirleaf praised the voters for their patience and discipline.

"I feel so good for the Liberian people, they have demonstrated a certain level of political maturity."

Mr Tubman told the BBC that turnout was "huge" - a sentiment backed by former Nigerian head of state Yakubu Gowon, who was observing the the election.

"The rain has not dampened the enthusiasm of the electorate to come and cast their vote," he told the BBC's Focus on Africa programme.

'Abject poverty'

Mrs Sirleaf had said she would only seek a single term but explained her U-turn by saying she wanted to finish the work she had started.

### **Liberia's presidential rivals**

#### **Ellen Johnson Sirleaf:**

- Africa's first female elected head of state
- Harvard-trained economist
- Finance minister before Samuel Doe's 1980 coup
- Twice forced into exile
- Initially backed then-rebel leader Charles Taylor before falling out with him
- Won 2011 Nobel Peace Prize for helping end Liberian conflict

#### **Winston Tubman:**

- Nephew of Liberia's longest-serving President William Tubman
- Harvard-trained lawyer
- Justice minister under Samuel Doe
- UN envoy to Somalia from 2002 to 2005
- Came fourth in 2005 election
- Running mate is ex-football star George Weah

Fourteen other challengers

Our correspondent says central Monrovia has been transformed since the end of the war, with roads paved and many new buildings.

While Mrs Sirleaf is well regarded by the international community, some analysts say she is less popular at home and predict a tight race, possibly going to a run-off.

Her 15 challengers accuse her of not doing enough to improve the lives of ordinary people, who remain among the poorest in the world.

"One out of every three Liberians cannot feed themselves. They live in abject poverty. And they couldn't care less about the Nobel prize," said 60-year-old opposition candidate Charles Brumskine.

Mrs Sirleaf has also been criticised for backing former President Charles Taylor - currently on trial at The Hague for alleged war crimes - when he began his rebellion in 1989.

She has apologised and the pair later fell out but Liberia's Truth and Reconciliation Commission said she should be barred from holding public office.

The campaigning was generally peaceful but some 8,000 UN peacekeepers have been deployed across the country to prevent any violence.

Voters were also choosing members of the House of Senate and House of Representatives.

Liberia is Africa's oldest republic - it was founded in 1847 by freed US slaves, hence its name.

## Independent

Tuesday, 11 October 2011 **AS CORRECTED**

### **Liberia election challenger backs return of former warlord**

Opposition leader says Charles Taylor would be welcomed home if acquitted of war crimes

By Daniel Howden in Monrovia



Mr Taylor, 63, is the first African ex-ruler to stand trial for war crimes for his role in the war in neighbouring Sierra Leone

AP

Mr Taylor, 63, is the first African ex-ruler to stand trial for war crimes for his role in the war in neighbouring Sierra Leone

The man hoping to defeat Ellen Johnson Sirleaf in today's Liberian elections has said he would welcome former warlord Charles Taylor back into the country and that he could return to politics if acquitted of war crimes by the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL).

Winston Tubman, the leader of Liberia's main opposition Congress for Democratic Change (CDC), also warned that he may have trouble controlling his own supporters if the poll goes against them. The presidency will be decided at a runoff next month unless one of the candidates secures more than half of votes cast today.

Mr Tubman, whose coalition includes Mr Taylor's ex-wife, Jewel Howard Taylor, said the former president – identified by the international community as most responsible for the 14 years of war and chaos that ravaged parts of West Africa – remains "innocent until proven guilty" and would have the same rights as other Liberians.

Liberia's second election since the end of the war has been conducted in the shadow of Mr Taylor's war crimes trial at the SCSL where he faces charges including instigating murder, rape and enslavement during the war in neighbouring Sierra Leone that left thousands of people dead. He denies the charges and the court is widely seen to have delayed issuing a verdict in the case until the elections are safely out of the way.

Mr Taylor is still popular with some Liberians and Taylor loyalists have publicly backed the opposition. "He (Charles Taylor) is a Liberian citizen, if he's found not guilty he could come back home," Mr Tubman told The Independent. "Even if we think that some leaders were bad that doesn't mean their supporters are bad."

Speaking before the vote, with tens of thousands of CDC supporters dancing and chanting in a rainstorm outside, the former ambassador to the UN said that Mr Taylor would be free to become a farmer or "re-enter politics".



He refused to rule out a government position for the man accused of war crimes and suggested that his ex-wife would be part of a new administration if he won today's vote: "People like Jewel Taylor are helping us, and our government would stronger if she had a post in it," he said.

The opposition has told its supporters to expect cheating by the ruling party and said it would issue its own count after polls close. Mr Tubman warned that it would be "difficult to calm down" his supporters if they feel aggrieved by the results.

The Harvard-educated diplomat has recruited the country's football hero George Weah as his vice presidential running mate. The former AC Milan forward is mobbed wherever he goes and campaigns with a rowdy entourage dressed in "Weah All Stars" t-shirts, while his would-be boss (a nephew of the country's longest serving president William Tubman) favours a suit and tie and passes almost unnoticed.

"Every Liberian politician wanted to recruit Weah and I did it," he said.

Charles Taylor

Mr Taylor, 63, is the first African ex-ruler to stand trial for war crimes for his role in the war in neighbouring Sierra Leone, where he backed rebels responsible for atrocities. Mr Taylor used to work for the Liberian President Samuel Doe until he was accused in 1983 of embezzlement and fled to the US. He was jailed there but escaped and returned to Africa to launch a rebellion to topple Mr Doe, which left 250,000 dead. Mr Taylor was president for six years from 1997 when he went into exile in Nigeria.

## ABC News

Tuesday, 11 October 2011

### Liberia: Opposition Would Welcome Warlord Charles Taylor Home



By RANDY KREIDER

Oct. 11, 2011

The opposition party in Liberia, where elections are being held today, said it would welcome back former warlord Charles Taylor if he is acquitted of war crimes in an international criminal court.

Winston Tubman, who is challenging Nobel prize winner Ellen Johnson Sirleaf for the presidency, told the U.K.'s Independent newspaper that since Taylor is a Liberian citizen, he would be allowed to return to Liberia if Tubman wins the election. Taylor, who was president of Liberia from 1997 to 2003, is being prosecuted on charges of war crimes, including using blood diamonds to buy weapons for rebels in neighboring Sierra Leone, where a civil war cost thousands of lives. His ex-wife, Jewel Howard Taylor, is a member of Tubman's political party.

Incumbent president Sirleaf won a share of the Nobel Peace Prize just last week, but local observers give Tubman and his running mate George Weah, a former international soccer star, a real chance at denying Sirleaf a clear victory in the first round of voting today, forcing a run off on November 8. Fourteen other candidates are also vying for the post, including Prince Johnson, infamous for presiding over the videotaped mutilation and execution of ex-Liberian dictator Samuel Doe while drinking a beer.

Taylor has been on trial at the Special Court for Sierra Leone in the Hague since 2006. A verdict has been expected in the case but has not yet been entered, leading to speculation in Liberia that it had been delayed because of the election. Peter Andersen, a spokesman for the court, told ABC News that the timing of the verdict had "nothing to do" with the Liberian elections. "It has more to do with the 50,000+ pages of trial transcripts and around 1,100 exhibits in this very complex case."

Did Naomi Campbell Tell The Truth? Watch Video

Brian Ross Investigates: Blood Diamond Watch Video

## Diamond Trial: Naomi Campbell Testifies Watch Video

Andersen said a verdict had been expected this month, but "since we have not received the promised one-month notice I suspect it will not be October." Andersen declined to comment on the Independent's report that Tubman would allow Taylor to return.

Taylor, 63, stands accused of 11 counts of war crimes, including acting with or directing militant groups in Sierra Leone who used child soldiers and committed acts of murder, rape and sexual slavery, as well as using illegal "blood diamonds" to fund the Sierra Leone rebels.

In closing arguments in March, Taylor's defense attorney Courtenay Griffiths did not deny the atrocities took place, but argued that there was no proof directly linking Taylor to the crimes.

Griffiths argued instead that the trial was politically motivated, evidenced by the fact that Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi was not brought to trial, despite allegations he too supported some of the same rebel groups, because of British economic interests in Libya.

"This was a court, ostensibly and publicly, set up, we are told, to try those who bear the greatest responsibility," Griffiths told the court. "So why is Colonel Moammar Gadhafi not in the dock?"

Griffiths also said that the trial had gone relatively unnoticed until supermodel Naomi Campbell and Hollywood actress Mia Farrow became involved.

Campbell was subpoenaed by the international tribunal following an ABC News report about allegations that Taylor had given her uncut "blood diamonds" on a trip to South Africa.

In August 2010, Campbell took the stand and admitted she received diamonds from men she believed to be representatives from Taylor.

Farrow, who ate breakfast with Campbell the morning after she received the diamonds, testified a few days later to dispute Campbell's previous statement to ABC News that she did not receive any diamonds. Farrow had told ABC News that Campbell told her during the 1997 trip that she had received a diamond.

[Did Naomi Campbell Tell The Truth? Watch Video](#)

[Brian Ross Investigates: Blood Diamond Watch Video](#)

[Diamond Trial: Naomi Campbell Testifies Watch Video](#)

After Campbell's testimony, uncut diamonds were ultimately recovered from Jeremy Ractliffe, an officer of Nelson Mandela's children's charity, who said that Campbell gave him the gems after receiving them in 1997. Campbell said she intended the gems to be a donation. Ractliffe said he had taken the gems from Campbell because he was afraid she would get into trouble if she tried to take them out of the country, and then did not turn them over to authorities because he did not want to harm the charity's reputation.

## ICTJ Newsletter

October 2011

### **ICTJ Welcomes Establishment of UN Special Rapporteur on Truth, Justice, Reparation and Guarantees of Non-Recurrence**

NEW YORK, September 29, 2011—The International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ) enthusiastically welcomes today's decision of the United Nations Human Rights Council to establish a mandate for a special rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence of serious crimes and gross violations of human rights.

“This is a highly important resolution and a significant contribution by the Council to establish accountability for serious crimes and human rights violations,” said ICTJ president David Tolbert.

The special rapporteur will be an important new instrument to enhance the visibility of transitional justice issues at the Human Rights Council. The mandate will include advising on possible assistance and reporting on country situations, normative frameworks, and national practices related to transitional justice mechanisms addressing gross violations of human rights and serious violations of international humanitarian law.

In addition, the special rapporteur will make recommendations on strategies for addressing serious crimes and human rights breaches. The resolution calls for a victim-centered approach and a gender perspective to be integrated throughout the work of the mandate.

“We are especially encouraged by the strong support for the resolution, which was co-sponsored by 75 countries across different regions and continents and adopted by consensus,” added Tolbert. “The continuing support will be crucial in the future when the mandate gains concrete definition and the special rapporteur begins engaging in specific contexts.”

The primary challenge ahead will be to identify a strong candidate for the position, which will carry significant challenges given the vast and rapidly developing field of transitional justice.

“The selection process should be transparent and include consultations with civil society. ICTJ looks forward to supporting the process in every way and working closely with the future special rapporteur,” concluded Tolbert.

#### About ICTJ

The International Center for Transitional Justice works to redress and prevent the most severe violations of human rights by confronting legacies of mass abuse. ICTJ seeks holistic solutions to promote accountability and create just and peaceful societies. For more information, visit [www.ictj.org](http://www.ictj.org).