

**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, 13 August 2009

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

Thursday, 13 August 2009

# Taylor-made truth: What is justice when limbs have been lost?

**C**harles Taylor, former president of Liberia has taken the stand intent on deflecting the numerous charges brought against him by the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone.

Eleven counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity include enlisting child soldiers and encouraging the use of rape, sexual slavery, and mutilation in the overlapping Liberian and Sierra Leonean civil wars. Taylor's emotive attempt at self-vindication was to say "It is very, very, very unfortunate that the prosecution, because of disinformation, misinformation, lies, rumours, would associate me with such titles or descriptions."

Here was a proverbial raising of the hand, to declare 'the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.'

The international court only issued a warrant against Taylor in 2003, and he was arrested in neighboring Nigeria in 2006, but Liberia's ex-president had been a fugitive of justice

before, and his reputation was sullied many years prior to the delivery of those 11 counts. In the early 1980s, while overseeing an important Liberian budgetary office under then-president Samuel Doe, the wily Taylor was accused of embezzlement and forced to seek refuge in America. Charles Taylor had received a good education, and spent much of the 1970s as a student in the United States. Fleeing the West African nation for America, many years later, must have been, in a sense, like returning home.

The Special Court for Sierra Leone is actually conducting Taylor's trial in The Hague, home of the International Criminal Court (ICC), "amid fears the trial could create instability in the [region]. The ICC, which itself took 50 long years to fully materialize, would probably have been more effective as a deterrent if it had existed during the tenures of such African strongmen as Idi Amin and Mobutu Sese Seko

## Total News

Thursday, 13 August 2009

# Charles Taylor testified to the arrest

At his war crimes trial in The Hague, Indicted Former Liberian President, Charles Taylor gave a chronology of steps taken by his government to restore peace to war-torn Sierra Leone. He claims to have expelled RUF Collaborators from Liberia and convinced the rebels to observe a cease-fire. Mr Taylor disclaimed any responsibility for the onslaught on the Sierra Leonean Capital, Freetown which killed thousands on January 6, 1999.

John Kollie transcribes reports from The Hague for the BBC World Service Trust Charles Taylor Trial project....

On Tuesday Mr. Taylor testified to the arrest and expulsion from Liberia of a British National and a Sierra Leonean Diplomat on February 17, 1999 for secretly collaborating with RUF rebels. He told the court the two men secretly dealt with the RUF through a company called Red Deer International which operated in Monrovia. The Accused

Former Liberian Leader testified that state security found several items when they raided the Red Deer Company offices in Monrovia.

In January 1999 the RUF Rebels announced a unilateral cease-fire after being defeated in Freetown by the West African Peacekeeping Force, ECOMOG. The cease-fire was announced on January 14, 1999, not by the RUF, but by then Liberian President, Charles Taylor.

Defence Lawyer, Courtenay Griffiths

asked Mr. Taylor why Liberia took the lead to make an announcement for the Sierra Leone rebels. Here Mr. Taylor claimed he was acting in the spirit of the West African initiative for peace which his government was a part of.

After the West African Peacekeeping Force, ECOMOG repelled the RUF and the Junta from Freetown, the United Nations reported massive destruction of lives and property.

According to the UN, the casualties on the side of

ECOMOG, RUF, Junta, Sierra Leone Police and Civilians were about 5000. The UN also said 2000 children went missing and ended up in the rebel army.

Tuesday's session of Mr. Taylor's war crimes trial started 35-minutes late.

The computers used to monitor the witness' testimonies on the Defence side of the court became faulty minutes to the arrival of the Judges in the courtroom.

The trial of the former Liberian president continues.

## Standard Times

Thursday, 13 August 2009

### As Charles Taylor's Trial Continues, We Should Keep Reminding Ourselves of What Happened

## Reflection

BY IBM KAMARA

I am pretty certain that if you have been reading the articles carried under this column then it is becoming clearer to you as to what went wrong especially those activities that moved this Country backwards. Furthermore you would have had a slight knowledge of certain political moves that were either misplaced or misdirected to restore sanity and peaceful co-existence.

Which ever way you asses the situation, the fact remains that the cumulative effect of those activities and resultant consequences that happened are not only responsible for the state we are today but the Herculean task we face now to rebuild a shattered nation and to re-brand the image of a country that had won the admiration of the sub-region in particular and Africa in general. Today, as I write, the task to handle the problems is enormous, yet the awakening reality that no one is to make Sierra Leone for us, but our very selves has not only become crystal care, but has also raised the awareness that together we stand, divided we fall. All hands must be on deck to restore our past glory.

A glory that will remove our over dependence on foreign hand-outs and that will move us from the bottom index of underdevelopment. It is a situation that should be tackled seriously and with a sense of purpose. No half-hazard approaches will suffice.

This is the more reason why I keep refreshing you memory of the darkest period of our history, simply for you to comprehend the disaster we went through. Please read more of that history.

"At the outbreak of war, other problems occurred simply as the result of a familiar pattern of ingrained corruption within the military. Senior and top echelon officers responsible for the disbursement of war funds must bear deep blame for the misappropriation that became public knowledge. Between April and August 1991 a total amount of over Le 2.6 billion was expended on the military, excluding Le 200 million monthly for salaries.

Despite this massive expenditure, soldiers in battle fronts suffered a variety of shortage-of food, fuel, medication and vehicle spare parts.

In the border south-east combat zone, there were 1,503 troops with 400 civilian volunteers. These were provided with 48 mostly old transport vehicles for which a required monthly supply of fuel was 5,000 gallons of diesel and 3,000 gallons of petrol. Actual quantities received in the course of several monthly supplies were 3,000 gallons of diesel and 1,800 gallons of petrol. While much of the rest was sold clandestinely some found its way into the private dia-

mond mining enterprises of military officers.

Meanwhile in the combat zone, five senior army officers accused of desertion or collusion with the enemy by giving them information on government troop movements, received the light penalty of a simple dismissal from military service.

All those difficulties were the product primarily of neglect, ineptitude and venality in the military. They also came in the wake of a declining economy which compounded the problem.

The rebels were hardly hamstrung by such problems. Trained in the tactics of insurgency warfare, they operated in a terrain that was similar to what they were accustomed to in Liberia. The first waves of invaders were augmented by Sierra Leone youths who were captured, terrorized, trained and inducted into their ranks. Among these they obtained knowledgeable guides for their jungle movements. In their arse-

nal were brand new AK-47 assault rifles, rocket propelled grenade launches (RGPs) and heavy machine guns, with a seemingly inexhaustible supply of ammunition. There was also the 'simulator' a curious device which simulated the sound of intense machine gun fire and exploding mortar bombs. Its use in the initial stages of the war was clearly unnerving to government troops unfamiliar with it.

It created panic and chaotic retreats that often led to casualties.

The entire rebel arsenal was new, supplied from Charles Taylor's stocks in Liberia. In spite of these advantages, government forces rapidly seized the initiative from the rebels pushing them out of many areas they had laid waste and looted. Regarding looting however many government soldiers even so early in the war, were behaving with comparable brigandage.

But there was one factor which made an impressive impact on the success of the Sierra Leone army. This was the ULIMO Factor.

The Liberian war had led to a massive influx of refugees into

Sierra Leone. Among these were former supporters of the murdered President Doe, his ethnic kith and kin, anti-Taylor elements, members of Doe's national army and ethnic Mandingos, all severely victimized in the onslaught of the NPFL forces. In early May 1991, a small group of four was formed in Sierra Leone comprising of Arma Youlo former Assistant Director for intelligence at the National Security agency in Liberia. He was also Director of Operations and Special services dealing with espionage; Alhaji G. V. Kromah former Minister of Information in President Doe's government, as well as former assistant Professor of Mass Communications at the University of Liberia, James Chelley, Senator from Montserado Country; Major-General Albert Karpah, Ambassador of Liberia to Sierra Leone. This group was to be joined later by Raleigh Seekie and Roosevelt Johnson. Edward T. Kamara former Minister for Party

Political affairs in Sierra Leone acted as the link between the group and President Momoh.

The group which began meeting in March 1991 became known as the Liberian United Defence Force (LUDF). As time went on, the depth of commitment of Kromah, Youlo, Karpah and Johnson to the objective of liberating Liberia from the grip of the NPFL, made them the leading figures in the organization. When the war began in Sierra Leone, they offered to fight the rebels on the understanding that government would provide base facilities for the force they were training to fight the NPFL in Liberia afterwards. To this the government of President Momoh gave its consent.

On 6th April 1991, following the training of the first 150 Liberians in Kenema, the LUDF which later changed its name to the United Liberation Movement of Liberia (ULIMO), commenced operations. The first engagement was in Gofur, eleven miles from Kenema town, from where government troops had retreated in the face of heavy rebel attacks.

ULIMO troops engaged the rebels here in a three hour battle and succeeded in pushing them back to Joru, where another five hour battle was fought with rebels sustaining heavy casualties. ULIMO soldiers fighting under the command of Arma Youlo sustained no casualties. A second engagement between ULIMO and the rebels was in Gorahun Tunkia in Kenema district where 22 Ulimo soldiers under the command of the late Lieutenant Solomon Kamara, a Krahn from Kakata in Liberia, and the late Warrant Officer Freekalar successfully defeated the rebels.

Following these successful engagements, ULIMO became a significant factor in the war against the insurgents who had by this time swelled their ranks with a considerable number of forcibly recruited Sierra Leoneans. Other engagements took place in several towns in Kailahun and Kenema districts where ULIMO front line commanders like J. Domingo

Bawah or Cobra, a Krahn from Grand Gedeh County in Liberia distinguished themselves.

In late May 1991, Cobra was summoned to Daru army based by Colonel Marray Conteh. At Daru it was decided that a combined force of Sierra Leoneans, Guinean and ULIMO troops was to be assembled for the recapture of Bunumbu, which was now a heavily fortified rebel base, and from where rebels had carried out several attacks over a wide area including Gandorhun in the Kono district.

The town of Bunumbu in Kailahun district hosting one of the oldest educational institutions in the country had developed as a small and prosperous rural community. Its growth as a commercial centre had largely depended on the Teacher Training College established in the 1930s. With funding from the International Development Agency (IDA) beginning in the 1970s, the Institutur expanded its Teacher Training Programmes and its structural facilities to some of the best in the nation. Bunumbu College, with highly trained and competent teaching and

administrative personal was the pride of the nation. The town and the college fused in a harmonious, tranquil and prosperous relationship. It consequently became a prime target for rebel attack.

On 16th April, the town of Manowa, eight miles from Bunumbu fell to the rebels who had by-passed Daru army base.

The fall of Manowa was a blow to the military, and it sent shock waves to the Bunumbu community and nearby towns. The Principal of the college sought urgent military protection for the college from the army garrison in Kenema but to no avail. The security of Bunumbu was raised in cabinet as information reached Freetown of an imminent attack.

The town and the college possessed massive stocks of private and government property and thus a tempting target for banditry.

The casual military response to the potential danger facing Bunumbu convinced the Principal of the urgent necessity to evacuate the staff, their families and students. On 22nd April, the precipitate flight from Bunumbu began and completed on the 28th. Four days later on 2nd May, the rebels struck.

The attack on Bunumbu conformed to a now familiar pattern.

## The Senator

Thursday, 13 August 2009

# How Taylor Expelled RUF From Liberia

## *-Court Told*

*By Alpha Sesay*

*Charles Taylor has told Special Court for Sierra Leone judges that when he became president of Liberia, he arrested and expelled a British citizen and a Sierra Leonean diplomat who were secretly collaborated with rebel forces in Sierra Leone.*

Mr. Taylor also gave a chronology of steps that he took as president of Liberia to bring the conflict to Sierra Leone to a peaceful conclusion.

Mr. Taylor told the court that the British citizen and Sierra Leonean diplomat who collaborated with Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels in Sierra Leone did so through a company operating in Monrovia called Red Deer International. According to Mr. Taylor, when security forces raided the premises of the Red Deer International company, they discovered several items which, intelligence sources suggested, were for use by RUF rebels.

"We saw some suits of uniform, military uniform, the police seized hand-held walkie talkies, the Government of Sierra Leone was fully briefed about what was going on," Mr. Taylor said.

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Mr. Taylor has been accused of providing support to RUF rebels in Sierra Leone through the supply of arms and ammunition. The prosecution has also alleged that he helped RUF rebels plan attacks on civilian populations in Sierra Leone. Mr. Taylor has denied these allegations.

In his testimony today, Mr. Taylor went through a list of steps he took to assure Sierra Leone and the international community that he was not supporting RUF rebels and that he wanted a peaceful end to the conflict in Sierra Leone.

On May 5 1998, Mr. Taylor said he wrote a letter to the United Nations Secretary General denying allegations by the Nigerian Ministry of Defense that he was involved in the conflict in Sierra Leone. On June 24 1998, Mr. Taylor sent a delegation to meet with former Sierra Leonean president Ahmed Tejan Kabbah, a step Mr. Taylor called a "diplomatic move to assure your neighbor that these are just false allegations and there is no need to worry."

President Tejan Kabbah also attended Liberia's independence celebrations in Monrovia on July 26, 1998. Mr. Taylor said this move by President Kabbah proved that there was no animosity between the two leaders.

"If this conflict was so serious, Kabbah would not have visited me. Presidents at war with each other will not pay visits," Mr. Taylor said.



The Exclusive  
Thursday, 13 August 2009

# Taylor Takes Credit

At his war crimes trial in The Hague, Indicted Former Liberian President, Charles Taylor gave a chronology of steps taken by his government to restore peace to war-torn Sierra Leone. He claims to have expelled RUF Collaborators from Liberia and convinced the rebels to observe a cease-fire. Mr Taylor disclaimed any responsibility for the onslaught on the Sierra Leonean Capital, Freetown which killed thousands on January 6, 1999.

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pany called Red Deer International which operated in Monrovia. The Accused Former Liberian Leader testified that state security found several items when they raided the Red Deer Company offices in Monrovia.

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Defence Lawyer, Courtenay Griffiths asked Mr. Taylor why Liberia took the lead to make an announcement for the Sierra Leone rebels. Here Mr. Taylor claimed he was acting in the spirit of the West African initiative for peace which his government

was a part of.

After the West African Peacekeeping Force, ECOMOG repelled the RUF and the Junta from Freetown, the United Nations reported massive destruction of lives and property.

According to the UN, the casualties on the side of ECOMOG, RUF, Junta, Sierra Leone Police and Civilians were about 5000. The UN also said 2000 children went missing and ended up in the rebel army.

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The trial of the former Liberian president continues.

## Share Your Views

The trial of former Liberian president, Charles Taylor is being broadcast live from Monday to Thursday at The Special Court for Sierra Leone, Jomo Kenyatta Road, New England Ville. Due to the time difference between The Hague and Sierra Leone, the telecast commences between 7.30 am and 8 am. The Exclusive wants to hear what you have to say about the trial. Call or sms with your full name and address to 076 647 178.

**BBC** WORLD SERVICE TRUST  
**Wednesday, 12 August 2009**

**Report from The Hague**

By John Kollie

*On Wednesday Former Liberian President, Charles Taylor said he alone did not facilitate the release of some UN Officials, ECOMOG Soldiers and Journalists held by the West Side Boys on Occra Hill in Freetown in 1999. Taylor came face to face with an incriminating document from the British Government. Mr. Taylor said his advice to Former RUF Leader, Foday Sankoh was far from the Prosecution allegation that he's a Military Terrorist. John Kollie reports for the BBC World Service Trust on the compilation of the Hague Reports on the Trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor...*

Mr. Taylor told his war crimes trial in the Hague on Wednesday that his participation in the release of some UN Officials, ECOMOG Soldiers and Journalists from the detention of the West Side Boys in Freetown in 1999 was not secret.

The West Side Boys was a dissident group from the Sierra Leone Army loyal to former leader, Johnny Paul Koroma. According to the Defence Document read in court the West Side Boys held the UN, ECOMOG Soldiers and Journalists in demand for the release of Johnny Paul Koroma who was detained by the RUF.

Mr. Taylor explained to the court how he facilitated the transportation of an RUF Commander from Liberia to Sierra Leone to release Johnny Paul Koroma. He also testified that Johnny Paul Koroma was brought to Liberia to communicate with his boys for the release of the UN and ECOMOG Personnel.

British Ambassador accredited to Liberia and the Ivory Coast wrote a letter to Mr. Taylor on June 10, 1999 and indicated Liberia's involvement in the Sierra Leone war.

The British Ambassador's letter to Mr. Taylor preceded the Lome Peace Talks between the RUF Rebels and the Sierra Leone Government in 1999, It has been revealed in court.

Portion of the British Ambassador's letter read: "We therefore welcome your recent positive comment on the Lome negotiation and your assurances that Liberian diplomatic support for the rebels will cease; We hope you will continue to use your influence with the rebels to ensure that the peace agreement is secured and fully implemented."

Mr. Taylor dismissed the British allegation that he had influence over the RUF Rebels.

The Lome Peace Talks on Sierra Leone ended on July 7, 1999 with the signing of a peace agreement between the RUF and the Tejan Kabbah government.

The Former Liberian Leader said contrary to the Prosecution indictment that he's a terrorist; he advised RUF Leader Foday Sankoh to abandon the war and take the peaceful political path.

## Charlestaylortrial.com (The Hague)

Wednesday, 12 August 2009

### **Liberia: 'My Interest In Sierra Leone Was Peace For The People, Not Foday Sankoh', Taylor Says**

Alpha Sesay

Charles Taylor was only interested in achieving peace in Sierra Leone for the people of the country, not for the benefit of the country's rebel leader Foday Sankoh, Mr. Taylor told Special Court for Sierra Leone judges today at his trial in The Hague.

"My plan to bring peace to Sierra Leone was not for Foday Sankoh but for the people of Sierra Leone," Mr. Taylor told the court today.

Mr. Taylor explained that when he became president of Liberia in 1997, he was anxious for peace to return to Sierra Leone in order to bring development to his own country.

"This has never been for Sankoh but for Sierra Leone. I was in a hurry to do something for my people in Liberia and this cannot move ahead without peace in Sierra Leone," Mr. Taylor said. "If there is no peace in Sierra Leone, there will be no peace in Liberia."

Mr. Taylor told the judges that he became very active in efforts to bring peace to Sierra Leone. He told the judges that when the government of Sierra Leone finally decided to hold peace talks with the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels in Togo, which eventually resulted in the 1999 Lome Peace Agreement, Liberia had a permanent delegation based in the Togolese capital to help Sierra Leone's peace efforts.

"They were there because of my role, we wanted somebody on the ground that could brief me regularly on progress with the peace talks," Mr. Taylor said.

Mr. Taylor himself eventually traveled to Togo for the final signing of the peace agreement between the government of Sierra Leone and the RUF. As a member of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Committee of Five [a committee set up to facilitate a peaceful end to the conflict in Sierra Leone], he was made to sign the final peace agreement as a moral guarantor to the peace efforts between the two parties.

Mr. Taylor said that after the signing of the peace agreement between the government of Sierra Leone and the RUF, he advised RUF leader Foday Sankoh to change the RUF into a political machine and seek a mandate from the people of Sierra Leone like he (Taylor) did in Liberia.

"Stop the war, go into politics, drop the gun and go into politics. You can't go into politics with a gun in your hand," Mr. Taylor said he told Foday Sankoh.

The prosecution has accused Mr. Taylor of providing support for the RUF rebels in Sierra Leone through the supply of arms and ammunition as well as provision of personnel for combat against the government and people of Sierra Leone. There have also been allegations that the RUF rebels sought advice from Mr. Taylor and that he used his position of authority to influence the rebel forces. Mr. Taylor has denied these allegations and insists that his involvement in Sierra Leone was purely for peaceful purposes based on a mandate from ECOWAS leaders.

Mr. Taylor also told the court today that when United Nations officials, West African peace keepers and journalists were held captive by the West Side Boys — a dissident group from the Sierra Leone army who were loyal to Armed Forces Ruling Council (AFRC) leader Johnny Paul Koroma — he was able to peacefully negotiate the release of the hostages.

In 1999, the West Side Boys held UN, West African Peace keepers and journalists hostage in demand for the release of Johnny Paul Koroma, leader of the AFRC, who had been held captive by RUF rebels in Kailahun. The AFRC was a group of Sierra Leone army soldiers who overthrew the government of President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah in 1997. They formed an alliance with the RUF but were forcefully removed from power by West African peacekeepers in 1998.

Mr. Taylor said that upon hearing reports of what the West Side Boys had done, he facilitated the release of Johnny Paul Koroma after convincing the RUF commanders at a meeting in Liberia to let Mr. Koroma go. Mr. Taylor said he also had Johnny Paul Koroma travel to Liberia to speak with the West Side Boys to release the hostages. He said it was no secret that he did this because he wanted peace in Sierra Leone.

"The United Nations know, I know, Tejan Kabbah knows, Obasanjo knows, Eyadema knows, everybody is aware of what is going on," he said.

Asked by his defense counsel Courtenay Griffiths whether he secured the release of Johnny Paul Koroma because he "was in charge of the RUF," Mr. Taylor responded "no no no, I am not speaking ever or dealing with the RUF as president of Liberia alone. I am dealing with them as a member of the Committee of Six [Previously Committee of Five], the principal person responsible for the Sierra Leone process. That's how am dealing with them."

Mr. Taylor's testimony continues tomorrow.

**United Nations**  **Nations Unies**

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

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**UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 12 August 2009**

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

**International Clips on Liberia**

**Liberians pin hopes on visit by U.S. secretary of state**

MONROVIA, Aug. 12 (Xinhua) -- Ahead of the visit by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on Thursday, Liberians from various spectrum of the country have called on the government led by Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf to use the chance to frankly tell the U.S. government that it is obliged to play its role as a traditional friend by increasing its investment in the western African country. They said Liberian President Sirleaf must boldly tell Hillary Clinton that the United States needs to increase investment in Liberia in the areas of banking and factories; something which they said will help guarantee the peace and stability of the war-ravaged nation. Alphonso Toweh, the manager of a local consultancy firm, told Xinhua that Liberia needs more American related business institutions in the country as a way of attracting American interest in Liberia's post war reconstruction efforts.

**Global Witness Restates Warnings over Logging of Forests [press release]**

Aug 11, 2009 (Global Witness/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) --

Campaign group Global Witness today restated its concerns that two firms linked to Malaysian timber giant Samling, a company notorious for illegal logging and conflicts with local communities, are being considered for major logging contracts in Liberia because of flaws in the bid evaluation process. A third Samling-associated Company has already had its forest management contract (FMC) ratified. Global Witness also published a rebuttal of allegations by the companies in question. On 15 July 2009, Global Witness issued a press release that set out our concerns about the FMC allocation process. In response to this press release, three of the companies named - Alpha Logging, Atlantic Resources and Southeast Resources - issued two press statements and a letter via a media consultant. Today, in a document to be published in Liberian newspapers, Global Witness clarified its position and responded to allegations made by the three companies.

**International Clips on West Africa**

**Charles Taylor Expelled RUF Collaborators From Liberia, Gives A Chronology Of Steps He Took To Bring Peace To Sierra Leone**

Aug 12, 2009 (CharlesTaylorTrial.org/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- Charles Taylor today told Special Court for Sierra Leone judges that when he became president of Liberia, he arrested and expelled a British citizen and a Sierra Leonean diplomat who were secretly collaborated with rebel forces in Sierra Leone. Mr. Taylor also gave a chronology of steps that he took as president of Liberia to bring the conflict to Sierra Leone to a peaceful conclusion. Mr. Taylor told the court that the British citizen and Sierra Leonean diplomat who collaborated with Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels in Sierra Leone did so through a company operating in Monrovia called Red Deer International. According to Mr. Taylor, when security forces raided the premises of the Red Deer International company, they discovered several items which, intelligence sources suggested were for use by RUF rebels.

**Local Media – Newspaper**

**Press Union Protest Closure of Two Newspapers**

(The Informer, The Analyst, Daily Observer, Public Agenda, Heritage)

- The Press Union of Liberia (PUL) has protested attempts by the Ministry of Information to hold back the publication of two local newspapers.
- In a statement the PUL condemned the action against the New Broom and The Bilingual newspapers terming it as gross violation of the Constitution.
- The union said the continuous seizure of the papers without judicial action contradicts Government's professed commitment to press freedom.
- The Press Union alleged that the Ministry of Information has ordered two printing Houses in the country not to print the newspapers for allegedly violating the Ministry's regulation.
- In its reaction, the Ministry denied knowledge of ordering a halt to the printing of the Bilingual but justified the action against the New Broom. The Ministry cited the failure of the paper to register in keeping with the ministry's regulation.

### **U.S. Secretary of State Arrives in The Country Tomorrow**

(Liberian Express, Public Agenda)

- United States Secretary of State, Hilary Clinton is due in the country tomorrow as part of a seven nation African tour.
- Secretary of State Clinton tour has taken her to Kenya, South Africa, Angola the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- She is visiting Nigeria today and is expected in the country tomorrow.
- Liberian Government authorities say President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and Mrs. Clinton will discuss bilateral relations between the U.S. and Liberia.
- President Sirleaf is expected to brief the U.S. Secretary of State on the progress Liberia has made towards national reconstruction and development.
- While in the country, she will visit the John F. Kennedy Hospital in Sinkor and the Police Training Academy.

### **Global Witness Restates Warnings over Logging of Liberia's Forest**

(Heritage, The Analyst, New Democrat)

- The campaign group Global Witness has restated its concerns that two firms linked to Malaysian timber giant Samling are being considered for major logging contracts in Liberia because of flaws in the bid evaluation process.
- Global Witness said the company is notorious for illegal logging and conflicts with local communities.
- The group said a third Samling-associated Company has already had its forest management contract (FMC) ratified.
- The companies, Alpha, Atlantic and Southeast have since said they are independent but the campaign group said investigations have uncovered a series of interconnected relationships with Samling Global.

### **Controversy Mars Passage of US\$200M Mineral Development Agreement**

(The Analyst, New Democrat, Heritage)

- The House of Representatives Tuesday "controversially" approved three mineral development agreements worth about US\$200 million.
- The passage of the agreements between Government and AmLib United Minerals came barely a day after a joint Legislative committee raised doubt about the financial capability of the company.
- Correspondents say the debate on the passage of the agreement was marred by protest from some lawmakers claiming that the deal was not in the interest of their constituencies. The agreement has now been sent to the Senate for concurrence or rejection.

### **News Polio Cases Uncovered In the Country**

(The News, The Inquirer, Heritage, New Democrat)

- Health authorities have announced that polio has resurfaced in the country.
- On Tuesday, Senior Health workers told a public hearing that 8 new cases had been discovered in the country saying the outbreak was serious and required emergency treatment.
- They attributed the transmission of the disease to the country's porous border with Cote D'Ivoire and Guinea.
- In Guinea 15 new cases were confirmed recently. New cases were also reported in Cote D'Ivoire.
- Montserrado, Rivergee, Maryland and Grand Gedeh are among counties in which the virus was detected.

### **Residents, Monrovia Mayor Clash Over Reports of Demolition**

(New Democrat)

- A meeting between Acting Monrovia City Mayor and residents of the Wroto Town suburb of Monrovia ended in deadlock on Tuesday.
- The meeting which was held to discuss reports of a "planned" demolition ended abruptly with the residents accusing the mayor of raining insult on them during the discussion.
- The Acting Mayor has meanwhile denied the claims saying the Monrovia City Corporation was invited to the community on Monday to clear a stockpile of garbage and did not go there to demolition structures.

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

#### **"Secret Distribution" of Money Uncovered at Legislature**

- [SIC]Reports say a team of journalists on Tuesday uncovered the secret distribution of an unspecified amount of United States dollars at the House of Representatives.
- The discovery was made hours after the House "controversially" passed into law three Mineral Development Agreements between Liberia and AmLib.
- The secret distribution of the unspecified amount of US dollars took place in the chambers of the House of Representatives.
- Attempts to get words from the lawmakers failed as they all remain tight-lipped on the issue.
- Earlier, chaos erupted in the House of Representatives during proceedings that resulted in the passage of three mineral development agreements.
- The House on two occasions controversially voted to pass the mineral agreements for AmbLib to mine in Montserrado, Rivercess and Grand Gedeh. The mineral agreements would now be sent to the Senate for concurrence.
- Meanwhile, the House Press Bureau has denied claims of bribe taking in connection with Tuesday's passage of three mineral agreements.

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

#### **Pressure Mounts on Catholic School System to Reverse Decision on Tuition**

- Pressure is said to be mounting on the administration of the Catholic School System over the increment in tuition fees and a new system of acquiring uniforms.
- The spokesperson for a group of concerned parents alleged the administration of the Catholic School System has arbitrarily increased its tuition by thirty percent and was also demanding US\$20 for a set of uniform per student.
- The Concerned Parents described the decision by the School System authorities as unilateral and called on authorities at the Education Ministry to compel them to reverse their decision.
- The Acting Head of the Catholic Education Secretariat, Siewon Nagbe has however maintained that the policy remains unchanged.

#### **Over 90 persons Benefit from Free Surgery in Grand Bassa**

- Over ninety persons have benefitted from a week long free surgical operation in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County.
- The medical operation carried out by the Liberia Surgical Outreach Program covered women, children and the elderly.

- According to a release, the group conducted various surgical operations including hernias, fibroids, lymphomas and goitres.
- The release said the free-surgical campaign targeted the rural poor who cannot afford the cost of surgical services at health centres. The team of surgeons was headed by former Health Minister Dr. Peter Coleman.

### **Radio Veritas** *(Monitored today at 9:45 am)*

#### **Press Union Protest Closure of Two Newspapers**

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

#### **Reports Say U.S. to Press for Implementation of TRC Final Report**

- [SIC]There are unconfirmed reports that upon her arrival in the country tomorrow, U.S. Secretary of State, Hilary Clinton will prevail on President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf to accept the final report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Liberia (TRC).
- The Liberian Government has however said that the TRC report is not the prerogative of the U.S. Government to decide whether it is implemented or not.
- In an interview, Information Minister Laurence Bropleh dismissed the notion that the U.S. Government will dictate to Liberia on the TRC report.
- He said the Senior U.S. official was visiting the country to review progress made by Government and strengthen bi-lateral relations.

### **Truth F.M.** *(Monitored today at 10:00 am)*

#### **Residents, City Mayor Clash Over Reports of Demolition**

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## Media for Freedom

Wednesday, 12 August 2009

### **The TRC's Recommendations - an Ill-Fated Conclusion!**

By: Ingrid Schittich

After more than 15 years of riots, unrest, and civil war in Liberia, a “Truth and Reconciliation Commission” (TRC) was established and mandated to pave the way to reconciliation and justice by facilitating interchange between victims and perpetrators, and by combating impunity. The Commission presented its results in July 2009. One of the most controversial issues of the TRC report is its ban against Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, which would exclude her from holding positions for thirty years, as she allegedly had helped financing Charles Taylor.

The following comment is made by one of the founders of the Center for Youth Empowerment (CYE) in Monrovia, a Liberian grass-roots project providing children and youths with schooling and peace education.

There is a common adage in Liberia that “once bitten by a snake, a man fears even the shadow of a lizard”. The Liberia's TRC final report scared me and I thought my country was about to revert to the ugly past that recorded nearly fifteen years of carnage; the ugly past that killed many dreams and aspirations of youths. While our age groups in other parts of the world were achieving their academic ambitions, earning Bachelors, Masters and even Doctorate Degrees, we in Liberia were languishing in bushes and refugee camps and many other brutally killed. I have struggled to bury the trauma and the hurts of the war, but the release of the TRC's report and the events and reactions that greeted it have all certainly invoked the images of the bloody past again.

Amongst other things the TRC called for the establishment of a war crime court to prosecute all warlords and agents and a thirty-year ban from holding positions for financiers of the war. Commendations and trouncing of the report seized the airwaves of Liberia since the date of release. I listened to various radio talk shows; read various newspapers and even invited myself to various teashops discussing the implications of the report. My analysis of all that I saw and heard suggests that this nation is still politically and tribally polarized and national interest is only an apparition. All opposition political party discussants were interested only in the portion of the report banning the current president from holding position for thirty years for her role in the war. Their reasons are obvious. The current president stands to win by landslide the 2011 elections considering her remarkable achievements.

The families and cronies of the warlords and agents all of whom are natives see the report as a plan for vengeance against the natives. Interestingly one time arch-enemies (warlords from different warrant factions) had a joint press conference on a local television station, and they all spilled venoms of fear, threatening to resist all attempts compelling them to submit to the terms of the report. They trashed the report and averred that the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in Accra, Ghana that ended the war granted them amnesty and it was on this basis that they agreed to lay down their arms. They questioned the neutrality of the TRC's report authors on grounds that most of them were main characters on the war stage. We all in Liberia know that a TRC's commissioner served as a militant with one of the warrant factions. We also know that most of the commissioners financially supported different warrant factions. Hence the warlords have a point here. They also claimed that the report was selective. They also have a point because we all in Liberia know that the list left out well known key perpetrators either due to political or fraternal linkages.

The TRC was created and given the mandate to reconcile the people. It was charged with bringing the perpetrators and victims face-to-face to reconcile. Our forefathers used the palaver huts to end conflicts. I am sure the framers of the TRC had this on mind.

Unfortunately, TRC interrupted the healing process by releasing a report that is far more divisive than reconciliatory. Despite the overwhelming willingness of victims to reconcile with perpetrators as contained in TRC's own findings across the country, just less than ten Liberians serving as commissioners betrayed the trust and confidence of over three million war-weary Liberians. This clearly takes me down a bitter memory lane when only very few affluent Liberians took advantage of the poor and illiterate to plunge the country into a bloody civil war.

TRC failed to consider national interest. The 1997 election that voted Charles Taylor and 2005 that brought Africa's first female president to power taught many lessons that TRC should have learned. Liberians are forgiving people. This is the lesson! Victims of Taylor chanted "You killed my mother, you killed my father I will vote for you!" and indeed they voted. The 2005 elections saw natives and settlers on the same side voting not on tribal lines despite the facts that the civil war once divided them. This is how unique we are. We forgive quickly with no strings attached.

I am extremely relieved that the recommendations have generally received condemnations from Liberians far and near; rich and poor; Congo and native. It is now my ardent hope that the House of Legislatures will listen to the voice of the people and rubbish the conflict-ridden TRC's recommendations.

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## Siegel Online

Wednesday, 12 August 2009

### 'A RECIPE FOR CHAOS'

#### Will Reconciliation Efforts Tear Liberia Apart Again?

By Horand Knaup

A traumatized Liberia is still recovering from 15 years of civil war. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission has published its recommendations, but former warlords -- and the country's once-idolized president -- are vociferously opposing them.

Dr. Jekyll is wearing a well-fitting suit. He has a carefully trimmed beard and a mutilated middle finger. He is sitting in his office in Liberia's House of Representatives in its capital, Monrovia, with a flag of the country standing next to his desk.

A book entitled "Parliamentarians as Peacemakers" sits on his desk. Dr. Jekyll says: "We don't want any trouble here anymore," he says. "We want peace." Dr. Jekyll's real name is Prince Johnson, and he is a 50-year-old member of the Liberia's Senate.

There was a time when Prince Johnson was decidedly more of a Mr. Hyde. According to a recent report by the Liberian Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), he figures prominently among the country's war criminals. The panel spent three years investigating the atrocities of the civil war waged between 1989 and 2003, which cost roughly 250,000 Liberians their lives. The conflict displaced well over a million people, more than half the country's women were raped, and 700,000 refugees fled to other countries. It was a devastating act of bloodletting for a country with a current population of only about 3.5 million people.

Finding evidence to indict Johnson was not difficult. A video that shows what he is capable of has long been available in Monrovia. The tape shows Johnson's soldiers cutting off former President Samuel Doe's ears and shoving the bloody pieces of flesh into their victim's mouth, while Johnson looks on, calmly sipping his beer. Although the video is 19 years old, there is evidence of many other atrocities Prince Johnson is alleged to have committed.

But Johnson is not the only presumed culprit that the commission -- after hearing the testimony of more than 22,000 witnesses -- has exposed as a war criminal. Its 380-page report names a number of politicians and businessmen, including the country's current president, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. The commission has recommended that, after completing their current terms, she and 49 others be banned from holding public office for 30 years. A hard core of eight warlords is to be brought before a special tribunal. Among them are Johnson and Charles Taylor, who is already on trial before the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone in The Hague for war crimes he allegedly committed in that country, a neighbor of Liberia.

Many countries in Africa are still coming to terms with their bloody pasts. Truth and reconciliation commissions in Sierra Leone and South Africa have already completed their work. Kenya is struggling to find resolution after its bloody unrest in 2008. And, in Rwanda, village tribunals have been used to try those responsible for the genocidal murders of up to 800,000 ethnic Tutsis in 1994. Similar efforts might also be made in Sudan, Zimbabwe, the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo and perhaps even Somalia to cope with and hopefully resolve bloody events in each of these countries' pasts.

Addressing the horrors of the past might be necessary, but the process does not always establish peace between the conflicting sides. Liberia has been in an uproar since early July, when its Truth and Reconciliation Commission released its report. Members of the commission have received death threats, the former warlords are saying they'll oppose its recommendations, and the president -- who has been celebrated around the world as a peacemaker -- is working behind the scenes to find a way to save face and stay in office.

## **A History of Strife**

Liberia's history is unique. Founded by freed American slaves in 1847, the country -- which is about the size of Bulgaria -- was long one of only a handful of independent countries in Africa. It was also an anchor of stability -- at least until 1980. In that year, Master Sergeant Samuel Doe murdered the sitting president -- probably with American support -- and transformed Liberia into a repressive dictatorship. In 1989, Charles Taylor began his march on Monrovia. And, in September 1990, Prince Johnson -- who had parted ways with Taylor a short time earlier -- deposed Doe. It was the beginning of a civil war that transformed Liberia into a slaughterhouse.

It was only in 2003 that all the parties involved in the conflict signed a peace treaty. Charles Taylor, who had been elected president in 1997, yielded to international pressure and left the country. Two years later, in 2005, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf was voted into office as Liberia's new president in an uncontested democratic election.

Johnson Sirleaf, who was 67 at the time, got off to an impressive start. She made fighting corruption one of her top priorities, reduced the country's debts and encouraged foreign investment. Likewise, she was also one of only a handful of African leaders to call for the resignation of Zimbabwean dictator Robert Mugabe.

And she was successful. The economy grew, inflation finally started to drop, investors became interested in Liberia and more than 200,000 soldiers -- including countless children -- were successfully demobilized. Although 11,400 United Nations troops are still in the country to provide security, peace seems to have returned to Liberia -- at least for now.

The president's brisk manner was widely lauded. German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who normally keeps her distance from Africa's potentates, praised Johnson Sirleaf's "impressive courage" and forgave Liberia €268 million (\$385 million) in foreign debt. Then US President George W. Bush awarded her the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and Sweden recently approved a \$100 million aid package, which is no trivial amount for a country like Liberia, which has an annual budget of \$273 million.

Johnson Sirleaf was the continent's squeaky-clean politician. And that's exactly why hardly anyone expected that the Harvard graduate would stand accused -- as she does now -- of misconduct during the civil war years.

So far, she has admitted donating \$10,000 to Charles Taylor in 1989, when she was living in the United States. She defended herself before the commission by saying that it was a time when Samuel Doe was still in power and many Liberians, both at home and abroad, were conspiring to depose the dictator -- and that she distanced herself from Taylor a short time later. But apparently that was only part of the truth.

## **Fallen Heroes**

Massa Washington, a 45-year-old journalist, was one of the nine members of the commission. The commission was not spared any of the gruesome testimony, and it was a painful experience for Washington. She was forced to listen to witnesses describe incidents of cannibalism, hearts being cut out of victims' bodies, babies being hurled against walls, massacres and defenseless victims being thrown to the lions.

Washington has known Johnson Sirleaf since 1985. At that time, acting on behalf of the International Red Cross, Washington visited the then opposition politician in prison after Doe had had her locked up. "Ellen was always a strong woman," Washington says. "She was our hero." Photographs of Washington and Johnson Sirleaf from the days when they championed the same causes hang on the walls in the journalist's office.

It was difficult for Washington to see the president in a different, darker light, but she had no choice. "She told us, at best, 20 percent of the truth," Washington says. "In fact, there was much, much more. And her support for Taylor lasted much longer than she told us."

Johnson Sirleaf's case has also been hurt by what Charles Taylor recently said in The Hague: that Johnson Sirleaf was his party's international coordinator as recently as the mid-1990s.

The president did not comment on the commission's report for four weeks. Then, in late July, she issued her first statement on the matter, in which she repeated her claim of having only briefly supported Taylor. And, in doing so, she has made it clear that she intends to ignore the commission's recommendations and run for a second term, in 2011.

The president is not the only one resisting the commission's recommendations. Seven former warlords, who had been openly feuding until recently, issued a joint statement in which they announced that the report "sought to undermine democratic government and stability in Liberia."

One of the seven was Prince Johnson. "Why are we being persecuted, and why have others been given amnesty?" he asks, extending his arms as if he were still a military commander. "Why was there no opportunity to confront the witnesses? Is that fair?" he roars. "I parted ways with Taylor because his people were too brutal. I had rapists among my people executed immediately." He shouts himself into a rage, and his protestations are loud enough to be heard at the other end of the hallway.

### **Forgive and Forget?**

The controversy has triggered an uproar in Liberia. Human rights organizations and 60 other civil rights groups are demanding that the commission's recommendations be implemented. But the warlords have announced that they will do everything they can to resist them.

The perpetrators are not the only ones who want things to be forgotten. So do many Liberians, who are anxious to see reconstruction efforts proceed more quickly. They want to leave past horrors behind -- and usher in the future.

Steve Johns is one of them. A 37-year-old engineer and father of three children, Johns lost his father and a brother in the war. He fled the country as part of a long line of people marching away on foot and studied abroad. Today, his job is to maintain the two dozen automatic bank teller machines in Liberia.

Sitting in his courtyard office in the southern part of Monrovia, Johns says: "The commission's recommendations are a recipe for chaos." His desk is covered with stacks of files, cables, pliers and CDs. "For the first time, the warlords of the past have come together," he argues. "And if things get going again, they'll be unstoppable. We should leave the past well enough alone."

Massa Washington takes a completely different approach. Over the past three years, she has been too close to the horror to ignore it. Despite having received death threats on her mobile phone, she is still devoted to her mission. "If the president and the warlords hate me to the same extent," she says, "I will have done my job well."

Washington's children are playing outside, in front of her office. They can no longer be left unattended. Still, she says: "My hope is greater than my fear."

Translated from the German by Christopher Sultan

Examiner.com

Wednesday, 12 August 2009

## **Establishment of an Independent Counsellor at the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia**

Lawrence Gist - LA County Foreign Policy Examiner

Cambodia suffers from a range of governance and anti-corruption challenges, including vote-buying and political financing scandals to privatizations that have tended to favor a small group of wealthy elites. Media independence is compromised by self-censorship: a common occurrence in most media houses. Judicial appeals offer little redress for most citizens or small businesses: "For politically-related [court] cases, the following is the rule of thumb: For my friends, everything they want. For my enemies, the law." -- Global Integrity Report

Marie Okabe, Deputy Spokesperson for the Secretary-General said today during a United Nations press briefing that the United Nations and Cambodia have signed an agreement to establish an Independent Counsellor at the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC), the UN-backed institution mandated to try perpetrators of the crimes committed under the Khmer Rouge regime.

The UN Office of Legal Affairs (OLA) says that the designation of an Independent Counsellor builds on the existing structure of national and international ethics monitors and the joint sessions among both parties of late 2008 and early 2009. OLA, the Office of Legal Affairs, says it represents a further step to strengthen the human resources management in the administration of the tribunal, including anti-corruption measures to ensure the requirements of due process, including the full protection of whistle-blowing staff members. We have the full text of the agreement upstairs.

Following is the text of a joint statement on the establishment of an Independent Counsellor at the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia:

Further to the meetings of 9 December 2008, 23 February 2009, and 6 to 8 April 2009, Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the Royal Government Task Force on the Khmer Rouge Trials, H.E. Sok An, and United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, Mr. Peter Taksøe-Jensen, are pleased to announce that they have concluded the text of an "Agreement to Establish an Independent Counsellor at the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia". The Agreement is based on the significant achievements made by the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) as witnessed by the over 12,000 Cambodian citizens who have so far attended court proceedings in the first case. Both parties recognised the continuing importance of this progress toward addressing impunity for the crimes of the former Khmer Rouge regime. The Agreement was reached following detailed consultations with, and with the full support of, the Friends of the ECCC (the Ambassadors of the principal donor countries). The text of the Agreement is attached to this Joint Statement.

The designation of an Independent Counsellor builds on the existing structure of national and international Ethics Monitors and the Joint Sessions established by the Joint Statements of 10 December 2008 and 23 February 2009. It represents a further step to help strengthen the human resources management in the entire ECCC administration, including anti-corruption measures, to ensure the requirements of due process of law, including full protection of staff on both sides of the ECCC against any possible retaliation for good faith reporting of wrongdoing. In this context, the Independent Counsellor will be available to all staff to bring forward any concerns confidentially, and will be empowered to address such concerns.

Pursuant to the terms of the Agreement, the Royal Government of Cambodia and the United Nations have respectively proposed a number of individuals as candidates for the role of Independent Counsellor. After due consideration and extensive discussion between the parties, and after consultation with, and with the full support of the Friends of the ECCC, the parties have mutually agreed that H.E. Mr. Uth Chhorn, the Auditor General of Cambodia, should be selected to serve as the Independent Counsellor.

H.E. Sok An and Mr. Peter Taksøe-Jensen firmly believe that this new mechanism will enable staff in the entire administration of the ECCC to raise concerns confidentially, without fear of retaliation, and that it should be capable of effectively addressing any allegations of misconduct. The parties will carefully monitor the implementation of the existing structure and the function of the Independent Counsellor established by the attached Agreement, and will keep open the possibility of reviewing the arrangements in order to take any opportunities to improve them further, as appropriate.

The full text of the Agreement follows:

#### Agreement to Establish an Independent Counsellor

At the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia

Noting the Agreement between the United Nations and the Royal Government of Cambodia signed in Phnom Penh on 6 June 2003 (hereinafter referred to as “the Agreement”) concerning the Prosecution under Cambodian Law of Crimes Committed during the Period of Democratic Kampuchea in the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (hereinafter referred to as “the ECCC”), and the Joint Statements issued by the parties on 10 December 2008 and 23 February 2009 concerning the Joint Sessions between the national and international sides of the ECCC; and,

Recalling the Joint Statement of 23 February 2009, in which the parties noted that the Joint Sessions had promoted greater mutual understanding of the need to strengthen the human resources management in the entire administration, including anti-corruption measures, and agreed that a structure should be established, based on existing mechanisms, to ensure the requirements of due process of law, including full protection of staff on both sides of the ECCC against any possible retaliation for good faith reporting of wrongdoing;

Therefore, the Royal Government of Cambodia and the United Nations agree to the following:

1. In addition to the existing structure of national and international Ethics Monitors and the Joint Sessions, the Royal Government of Cambodia (“RGC”) and the United Nations shall agree the designation of an Independent Counsellor to be available to all staff to bring their concerns confidentially.
2. The Independent Counsellor shall be an individual who is acceptable to both the RGC and the United Nations chosen in consultation with the group of friends of the ECCC. He or she shall be appointed neither on a Cambodian contract nor United Nations’ contract, but in accordance with the mandate and the terms of reference set out in paragraph 3 below with details on funds to be used to be worked out by mutual agreement between the UN and the RGC.
3. Mandate and terms of reference of the Independent Counsellor:
  - (a) The Independent Counsellor shall:
    - (i) be a person of high integrity and good reputation;
    - (ii) be neither an employee of the ECCC, nor the United Nations, nor a political appointee in the RGC;
    - (iii) take into account the context in which the ECCC operates, and its specificities, while respecting international standards;
    - (iv) have relevant professional qualifications and experience;
    - (v) ideally be fluent in two of the official languages of the ECCC;
    - (vi) be a good communicator, including having the ability to communicate effectively with high level government and diplomatic officials;

(vii) have cross-cultural awareness;

(viii) be able to relate to all personnel, from the lowest to the highest ranking, including administrative, technical and judicial personnel.

(b) The Independent Counsellor, in exercising his or her function, shall:

(i) carry out his or her responsibilities impartially and independently;

(ii) provide counseling to staff confidentially raised with him or her;

(iii) carry out his or her responsibilities strictly confidentially, except:

(I) to keep the Joint Sessions informed about his or her activities, whilst respecting the confidentiality of staff who have approached him or her;

(II) to inform the Deputy Prime Minister of RGC and the Assistant Secretary-General for Legal Affairs of the United Nations at Headquarters in the event of any concerns which he or she deems appropriate to raise at that level.

(iv) If the Independent Counsellor raises an issue referred to in sub-paragraph (iii)(II) above, the Deputy Prime Minister and the Assistant Secretary-General for Legal Affairs shall seek to resolve the matter promptly through consultations.

4. The RGC and the United Nations will share on an equal basis the costs of the function of the Independent Counsellor.

5. The initial appointee for the position of Independent Counsellor is referenced in Annex. If at any time the initially appointed Independent Counsellor is unable to continue to carry out the functions of the office, he or she shall be replaced by another person who fulfills the criteria elaborated in paragraph 3 above and who shall be mutually agreed by both parties and chosen in consultation with the group of Friends of the ECCC.

6. This Agreement and Annex are made in two original copies, and will come into effect on the date on which both signatures are affixed.



## BBC Online

Wednesday, 12 August 2009

### Genocide suspect found in Congo

A man accused of planning the massacre of Rwandans during the 1994 genocide has been arrested in the Democratic Republic of Congo, officials say.

A government statement named the suspect as Gregoire Ndahimana, who is wanted by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR).

He was detained by Congolese soldiers in the eastern province of North Kivu.

They were taking part in UN-backed operations against ethnic Hutu rebels, many of whom fled to DR Congo in 1994.

Some 800,000 ethnic Tutsis and moderate Hutus were slaughtered in 100-day genocide.

#### Bulldozed church

"He was discovered by our units operating in North Kivu... He was hiding among the FDLR [Hutu rebels]," Congolese Information Minister Lambert Mende was quoted as saying by Reuters news agency.

According to his ICTR indictment, Mr Ndahimana is responsible for the deaths of at least 2,000 Tutsis, most of whom were killed when a church in which they had sought refuge was bulldozed.

The ICTR, which is based in Arusha, Tanzania, has completed 45 cases.

It was initially due to complete its prosecutions by the end of 2008, but the UN Security Council has given the court until the end of 2010 to finish the trials.



**Some 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus were killed in 1994**

ToTheCentre.com

Sunday, 9 August 2009

### **U.S. Should Reconsider Its Attitude toward ICC**

On Thursday, while on a tour of Africa, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said that it was a “great regret” that the United States was not a member of the International Criminal Court, Breitbart.com reported.

This is basically the most support that has been shown by the U.S. for the court since the Clinton administration, before the court was even formally set up in 2002. Under Bush, the U.S. was almost suspicious of the international tribunal, which is a permanent body that prosecutes individuals for war crimes and has global jurisdiction.

Our supposed interest in the International Criminal Court seems to correlate with our general interest in the world outside of ourselves. With the Bush administration, we were focused inward. Instead of engaging in dialogues with other countries, we would call them evil. In fact, according to The Guardian, one of Bush’s main motivations in refusing U.S. membership on the court was his fear that U.S. officials could be subjected to war crime prosecution. Yet we generally professed to support the court’s goals. Hypocritical much?

Now we are in the era of Obama, who has repeatedly emphasized a more diplomatic approach and a greater use of “soft power.” He has also set the goal to close Guantanamo Bay in the near future and is tampering down our operations in Iraq. While we were still engaged in these two areas, Obama’s foreign policy advisers had said it would be difficult to reconcile that with membership on the court.

So now that our policies are changing, why don’t we join? As abstainers, we are currently in the company of the more defiant states of the world: Russia, China, and Israel, states that we often complain about for their lack of cooperation with us (Israel not so much, although the recent Netanyahu administration does have its fingers in its ears over the settlements issue).

Joining the court would signal to the world that, with the Bush days behind us, we truly are ready to enter a new era of cooperation and mutual respect. Instead of acting with the disregard that characterized America’s early 2000s, we should be embracing the opportunity to both lead and participate in the global community through diplomatic means.