

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



Aerial view of a village in Northern Sierra Leone.

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

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

Former Special Court Lawyer Eyes APC Secretariat / *Standard Times* Page 3

International News

Charles Taylor's Former Investigator Sentenced to Two and Half Years.../ *Charlestaylortrial.org* Page 4

ICC Case Against Gbagbo Moves Forward / *UPI* Page 5

STL Reinterviewing Witnesses in Hariri Case / *The Daily Star* Pages 6-7

Kenya's 'Mr. Nice Guy' Vows to Lead Country in Face of Atrocities... / *London Daily Telegraph* Pages 8-10

Former Special Court Lawyer eyes APC Secretariat

Popular legal luminary, Lansana Dumbuya has expressed interest in becoming the next Secretary General of the ruling All Peoples Congress (APC) party.

The young lawyer holds a Masters Degree in Law from the University of Pretoria, South Africa and a Bachelor of Laws with Honours (L.L.B. Hons) from Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone.

He is presently working as Associate Appeals Counsel for the Appeals and Legal Advisory Division of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, in Arusha Tanzania, a position he has held since January 1.

Before assuming that position, Lawyer Dumbuya worked as Case Manager from the same institution for two years (2008-2010).

It could be recalled that Lawyer Dumbuya served as a co-counsel for the accused Morris Kallon at the UN backed Special Court for Sierra Leone from 2007-2008. While discharging his duties, he represented the accused and prepared all aspects of his defense.

Before then, the illustrious lawyer worked as Associate Legal Officer/Duty Counsel at the Defense Office of the Special Court from December 2005 -July 2007.

During the early stages of his career, lawyer Dumbuya worked as a legal practitioner with the Lawyers Center for Legal Assistance (LAWCLA) a Pro Bono Human Rights legal aid law firm that provides legal representation, advice and services to Sierra Leoneans, before becoming a Legal Officer/Legal Counsel.

Lawyer Lansana is not a new wine in an old bottle having supported the APC since childhood days; he however became a full fledged member of the party in 1988 and was recruited by Kweku Wood during the said period to be a member of the APC Youth League Drama Group.

During the trying times of the APC in 1996 he



Lansana Dumbuya

was one of those who fought and supported the ideals of the party, ensuring its recognition all over the country.

Since then, Lawyer Dumbuya has remained committed to the dreams and aspirations of the SUN in the Central One community and also very much vibrant settling party squabbles. As a legal man he defended the party in 2002 and supported it morally and financially.

It could be recalled that lawyer Lansana Dumbuya sponsored the party's Youth League office at Pademba Road in 2004 and representing the party in legal matters in court from 2003 to 2005.

CharlesTaylorTrial.org (The Hague)

Monday, 11 February 2013

Charles Taylor's Former Investigator Sentenced to Two and Half Years in Jail

A judge of the Special Court for Sierra Leone has sentenced Prince Taylor, an investigator for former Liberian President Charles Taylor, to two and the half years in jail after convicting him on five counts of contempt of court.

Prince Taylor was convicted by Justice Teresa Doherty on January 25, 2013, and his sentence was announced on February 8.

Prince Taylor was charged and convicted for interfering with witnesses who testified against Charles Taylor by attempting to induce them to recant their testimony against the former Liberian President. Prince Taylor, according to the court, attempted to do this through Eric Koi Senessie, a former member of Sierra Leone's Revolutionary United Front (RUF), the rebel group which Charles Taylor himself was convicted for providing support to.

On April 26, 2012, Special Court judges found Charles Taylor guilty of aiding and abetting the commission of serious crimes by RUF rebels in Sierra Leone and helping to plan some of the rebel attacks in various locations throughout the country, including the capital Freetown. He was subsequently sentenced to a jail term of 50 years. The former Liberian president has since appealed his conviction and sentence. An appeals judgment is expected before the end of 2013.

In a press release issued by the Special Court, the court noted that its rules provide for Prince Taylor to be sentenced to a maximum term of seven years or a fine of two million Leones (Sierra Leonean currency) or both sentence and fine. The judge, however, considered several mitigating factors including "Prince Taylor's previous good record, his service to justice during his seven years as a Special Court investigator, and his father's plea on his behalf at Thursday's sentencing hearing."

Prince Taylor previously served as an investigator in the case against leaders of the Civil Defense Forces at the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

UPI

Tuesday, 12 February 2013

ICC case against Gbagbo moves forward

THE HAGUE, Netherlands, Feb. 12 (UPI) -- A confirmation of charges hearing for former Ivorian President Laurent Gbagbo at the ICC brings victims one step closer to justice, said Human Rights Watch.

The International Criminal Court scheduled the hearing next Tuesday for Gbagbo, who was arrested in Abidjan in 2011.

"The confirmation of charges hearing is held to determine whether there is sufficient evidence to establish substantial grounds to believe that the person committed each of the crimes charged," the court said.

Human Rights Watch said the hearing is significant as Gbagbo is the first former head of state to stand before the court.

"It also reinforces the message that those who commit atrocity crimes from a position of apparent strength can be held to account, regardless of their official position," the rights group said in a statement.

The court says Gbagbo may bear criminal responsibility for four counts of crimes against humanity for actions during violence that rocked the West African country following contested presidential elections in 2010.

Those elections were meant to unite a country divided by war. Human rights organizations said both parties to the conflict may have committed crimes against humanity.

A defense team for Gbagbo argued the ICC doesn't have jurisdiction in the case because Ivory Coast isn't a party to the Rome Statute that created the court. The ICC, however, ruled in December there was no "temporal limitation" to a declaration backed by Gbagbo's government accepting limited ICC jurisdiction in 2003.

The Daily Star

Tuesday, 13 February 2013

STL Reinterviewing witnesses in Hariri case

The Special Tribunal for Lebanon's investigative team is reinterviewing several Lebanese individuals to evaluate the events following the Feb. 14 assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, judicial sources told The Daily Star.



An exterior view of the building that will house the Special Tribunal for Lebanon, in Leidschendam, Netherlands, Tuesday Feb. 24, 2009. (AP Photo/ Bas Czerwinski)

Beginning early last December, several unidentified individuals have been contacted by the office of State Prosecutor Hatem Madi and informed them that an STL team would be visiting.

Individuals slated to be interviewed are notified by phone, and once a venue and a time for the meeting is settled, a security team inspects the grounds beforehand, the sources said.

According to the sources, the new security measures adopted by the investigative team are deemed necessary because the STL no longer has a fixed headquarters to conduct interviews in Lebanon, since they left their offices in the Monteverde Hotel, located in the Metn district.

The Office of the Prosecutor (OTP) is the liaison between the STL and the Lebanese, according to an agreement signed by the government and the tribunal forbidding them to contact people directly.

Interviewers from the STL consist of three or four people of different nationalities and their respective interpreters.

The investigators are reiterating questions from an earlier investigation in 2005. These include details about phone calls they received after the explosion, the conversations they had with the callers and other questions about the identity of people whose numbers were in their possession. By the end of the interview, individuals are asked to sign a statement confirming their account of events.

The sources confided that people interviewed expressed astonishment by the accuracy of the investigation but were also surprised that the investigation is being rehashed eight years after the crime, which is set for trial soon.

When asked why these elements of the investigation are being repeated, STL spokesperson Marten Youssef said "it is part of its [the STL's] mandate to interview witnesses; during the past period, it has

been the focus of the OTP preparing for the trial in its case against the individuals accused of responsibility for the Feb. 14 attack.”

In an earlier interview with The Daily Star, Justice Minister Shakib Qortbawi said that “Lebanon is still cooperating with the tribunal and that General Prosecutor Hatem Madi is meeting all the STL’s legal requests for Cabinet.”

STL Registrar Herman von Habel had informed Lebanese political figures he met in the last week that the tribunal departments were working as if the initial start date for the trial, set for March 25, is the final one.

He said for this reason preparations are under way on security, logistical and administrative levels, noting that this did not imply that the date would not be subject to change.

Von Habel also discussed with Prime Minister Najib Mikati the STL’s 2013 budget and the importance of “Lebanon’s commitment to paying its share of financing the STL, which is 49 percent of the total budget estimated at \$70 million.”

Qortbawi also told The Daily Star that Mikati had not discussed the issue of financing the tribunal, adding that he did not know what the prime minister would choose to do in this regard.

The London Daily Telegraph

Tuesday, 12 February 2013

Kenya's 'Mr. Nice Guy' vows to lead country in face of atrocities trial

NAIROBI — His friends say he is the nice guy of Kenya's dirty political world: mild-mannered scion of its greatest family, a pro-business reformer whose gentlemanly demeanour marks him out among his rivals.

Yet Uhuru Kenyatta, 51, is accused of taking part in the country's most terrible crimes since independence in 1963.

Just weeks away from the first round of voting in a general election, he is neck and neck with his main opponent in a contest that many expect will make him president.

Yet if the vote goes to a second round, as expected, and Kenyatta is sworn in on April 10, his first task will be to defend himself at The Hague the next day, the first day of his trial for alleged crimes against humanity.

When violence erupted after the previous presidential election in 2007, he is accused of being among the politicians who whipped up the mobs that murdered 1,300 Kenyans and burnt homes across the country, forcing half a million to flee and destroying the nation's reputation as an African bastion of stability.

He is now bracketed with Africa's warlords and bloody dictators, and if he is elected president, Kenya could lurch overnight from being one of the most successful nations in Africa to a diplomatic outcast, shunned by the West. Foreign diplomats underlined that point last week by warning that they would shun Kenyatta if he is the victor.

But Kenyatta, who insists he is innocent of all charges, says he is not in the least bit worried about any of this.

"This is not putting off the voters at all," he said. "They are looking at our agenda, at the issues. That is how they will make their decision."

He spoke exclusively to The London Daily Telegraph last week on the sidelines of a boisterous rally in the city of Eldoret, scene of some of the worst atrocities in 2007. Mobs hacked or stabbed their ethnic enemies to death, or trapped them in churches and burnt them alive.

For a few terrifying days it looked as if Kenya, which has shopping malls, computer entrepreneurs, and a growing middle class, could turn into a new Rwanda.

Human Rights Watch has warned that the risk of more violence was "perilously high" and quoted a Kenyan who said: "The communities are preparing — they are arming themselves. All over, they are saying, 'This time we won't be unprepared.'?"

Foreign governments are so worried about Kenyatta's campaign success that in the past week the British, French and Americans all took the unusual step of going public with their fears to Kenyans.

The British High Commissioner to Kenya, Christian Turner, had the greatest impact, going live on the popular Citizen Television station to say that Britain would not talk to any of the four Kenyans indicted by the International Criminal Court (ICC) "unless it was essential" — he clearly meant Kenyatta and his running mate, William Ruto, who is also indicted.

Although Turner used diplomatic language, what he was really saying was that Kenya, one of Britain's closest allies and biggest aid recipients, would become a pariah state under a President Kenyatta, in the same league as Sudan or Zimbabwe.

Kenyatta grinned hugely at the mention of Turner's television appearance. His campaign team believes that, far from being put off by the ICC charges, Kenyan voters are turning to him because of what they see as meddling by the former colonial power.

"In actual fact, the negative impact is on the British. Kenyans are showing they are not keen on foreigners telling them what to do," he said. "If anything, his remarks helped us out."

He also hinted that if elected, he would change Kenya's orientation away from Britain, which is still a major trading partner.

"Many countries are willing to deal with Kenya. We have a good relationship with China, it is growing year by year. And when one door closes another opens," he said.

He brushed aside the threat of sanctions, although his rivals are starting to bring this up in the campaign and point out that Kenyatta's election could quickly bring grievous harm to Kenya's economy.

Whatever his problems, Kenyatta was in many ways born to be president.

His first name, Uhuru, means "freedom" in Swahili, and his surname carries great weight in Kenya. He is the son of Jomo Kenyatta, the founding father of the nation who was jailed by the British for seven years during the struggle against colonial rule, before becoming president and ruling a one-party state.

Kenyatta junior has served as finance minister, and now hopes to follow in his father's footsteps and return to the presidential palace, where he was born. After school in Kenya, he attended Amherst College in the United States, studying business and political science. He has a wife and three children.

To a man with such a burden of history and expectation on his shoulders, the ICC indictment was personally wounding.

"It is especially bad when you know you are innocent, and charged with such horrible crimes," he said. "It has had a terrible impact on my career and my family. It has been a burden. When the truth does come out, the world will be shocked."

He would not discuss the details of the ICC's case against him, but his team insists the evidence is flimsy and say it rests on one witness who has frequently changed his story.

His supporters argue that his prosecution is politically motivated by his enemies at home and abroad. Some say that Britain, the third biggest financial contributor to the ICC, much prefers his election rival, Raila Odinga, a Western favourite who has been groomed for power for years.

Kenyatta kept a diplomatic silence when asked about this, but looked as if he was bursting to speak — and promised to do so when his legal problems are solved.

The latest polls show him with 43-per-cent voter support, just behind Odinga at 45 per cent, but it is Kenyatta's campaign which has a sense of momentum and his supporters seem very confident of victory.

Kenyatta's main policy objective is to introduce far-reaching land reform, giving thousands of small Kenyan farmers and slum-dwellers the right to own property, with the effect of enabling them to get credit, start businesses and lift themselves out of poverty. He also promises to get tough on corruption.

Odinga has promised to introduce universal health care and free education to university level if he is re-elected. His economic growth plans, he has said, will create a million jobs.

The violence which has left such a poisonous legacy in Kenya broke out with the first results from the extraordinarily close presidential election in December 2007.

Things quickly got out of hand after Odinga, then the challenger, claimed that he was the true winner and said his victory had been stolen by the incumbent president Mwai Kibaki, whom Kenyatta supported.

Kibaki, who has served two terms as president and is not running again, declared himself the victor hours after the polls closed, while the result was still in dispute.

As Kibaki was sworn in as president, mobs of furious Odinga supporters, mostly from the Luo tribe, started attacking their Kikuyu neighbours, who voted for Kibaki and Kenyatta. They were stirred up by demagogues, inflammatory text messages and radio phone-in hosts who whipped up tribal hatreds.

As the dust slowly settled, Kofi Annan, the former head of the United Nations, came in to broker a coalition government which included all three men: Kibaki, Odinga and Kenyatta. The ICC was called in by Kenya's parliament as a relatively neutral way to seek justice.

The accusation against Kenyatta is that he met criminals from a notorious gang called the Munggiki in Nairobi and urged them to carry out revenge attacks against Odinga's supporters.

It is a familiar story in African politics — the big man giving the green light to the thugs in his own community to go out and teach his enemies a lesson. Many Kenyans doubt it, and believe he may have done no more than organize some tough characters to help protect his own community.

The charges certainly don't seem to have stifled campaign enthusiasm. But there can be no doubt that the ICC indictment hurts his campaign.

"Our voters are juvenile. They do not understand anything beyond voting for the representative of their tribe and they don't realize how much trouble this could cause Kenya," said John Origi, a civil servant from Nairobi.

Apart from anything else, Kenyatta could soon have the problem of trying to run Kenya from a Dutch courtroom where he must defend himself for the course of a three-year trial, although his lawyers say they hope to get the case dropped.

If he loses the election, at least he knows what will happen next.

As one wag wrote in a letter to a Nairobi newspaper last week: "President Odinga will put him in a military helicopter and fly him straight to the court in Holland."

Read more:

<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/news/Kenya+Nice+vows+lead+country+face+atrocities+trial/7953631/story.html#ixzz2KmHPHDin>