

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

**PRESS CLIPPINGS**

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

Tuesday, July 13, 2004

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.  
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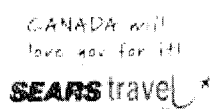


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NORTH THOMPSON

# The Times

Monday, Jul 12, 2004

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## Trial in Sierra Leone discredits the U.N.

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A "perversion of a just cause."

That's how the chief prosecutor of a UN-mandated war crimes trial now underway in Sierra Leone describes the role of Sam Hinga Norman during the recent civil war in that West African country.

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We should ask if putting Norman on trial is not itself a perversion of a just cause.

CBC news

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poll

**Do you agree with U.S. president George Bush's policy that abstinence should be the first step in the fight against AIDS?**

☐ Yes

The 11-year civil war was marked by extreme brutality, with the rebel Revolutionary United Front (RUF) routinely amputating the arms, legs and other appendages of its opponents and those perceived to be less than wholly supportive.

Chief Norman was the leader of the Kamajors, the traditional tribal militia that, after the regular army took over the government and allied itself with the rebels, drove both the army and the RUF out of much of the country's Interior.

Eventually, with help from Great Britain, Nigeria and other African states, the legitimately elected government was returned to power.

Hinga became Minister of Interior of the new regime, but was soon arrested (along with two other Kamajor leaders) and charged with crimes against humanity.

The trial of the three militia leaders began last month, before the trials of leaders of the dissident army or the RUF.

There can be no doubt that the Kamajors committed excesses in their fight. They had little or not training, and they were battling an

No

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enemy that had no mercy.

During the civil war the international community did little or nothing to help save the innocent.

For that community now to seek to judge and condemn those who resisted reeks of hypocrisy, if not worse.

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to



*at special court...*

# Witness testifies how he was marked 'AFRC/RUF'

**By Odilia French**  
In the ongoing trial involving the RUF at the Special Court, a witness whose name

was not disclosed yesterday testified how the letters AFRC/RUF was marked on his chest by the junta troops consisting of

both RUF and AFRC men. The 26-year-old witness who was born in Kono said that in February 1998 after the

military intervention he was in Yomandu when soldiers and civilians started arriving in the town from Freetown. The

witness said that he then went to Dambadu to meet his father where they were attacked. He said that after the attack, he and his family decided to go to Guinea. "On our way to Guinea, we heard firing and went to the bush to hide and the AFRC/RUF rebels captured my brother and I," he went on. The witness further went on to reveal that on that day eighteen of them were captured and

taken to a farmhouse in Wordu where they slept for two days. The other day he went on, a letter came, in which they were ordered to report at Kaima before 10 'Clock on that same day. At Kaima the witness said that one Bangalie ordered them to line up and asked those who wanted to go back to their homes to step aside. "Fifteen of them stepped aside with only my brother, an old man

*Contd. Page 2*

## Witness testifies how he was marked 'AFRC/RUF'

**From Front Page**  
and myself remained in the line," he said. According to him, Bangalie decided against killing those who wanted to go back home on the grounds that upon their release they would disclose the base to the Government troops. "Bangalie then told all of us to take off our clothes as he is going to carve AFRC on our bodies. They started carving on our chests and on my own body Bangalie himself carved AFRC/RUF on my chest using a surgical blade," he said. He went on further,

"all around people's chests were being carved either RUF or AFRC or both and I was there for two days," he added. The wounds, he said, took two months to heal. The witness continued that he was taken to work for one Capt. Barry and together with him they launched an attack in a place called Yiefin in Kabala. He said that during the attack he was not given a gun but only carried cartridges for the fighting men; adding, "the town was then captured and I saw

Capt. Barry came back with seven people and started chopping off their hands. Later we were told to carry the things they have looted." When they returned to their base, the witness said that Bangalie went to another operation and never came back. The witness said he was later taken to SK and started working for him but ended up with one Ibrahim where he stayed until the disarmament in 2002. Cross-examining the witness, Counsel for

the first accused- Wayne Jordash asked the witness whether he actually saw Capt. Barry chopping the hands of the seven people and he replied in the affirmative. Mr. Jordash

then told him that in his statement it was stated that he (the witness) never saw Capt. Barry amputating the hands of the seven people but saw him holding an axe

with human blood stains on it. The witness maintained that he told the statement takers that he saw Capt. Barry chopping off the hands of the people, stressing that the attack at Yiefin did took place.

Awoko

Tuesday July 13, 2004

# "RUF ordered mass amputation of civilians"

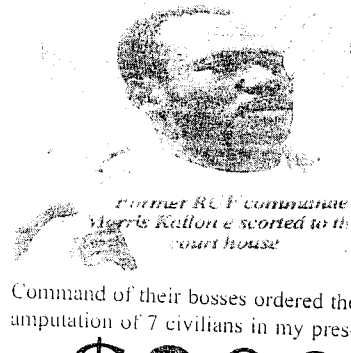
## ...Witness told Special Court

Prosecution witness (TF 1074) in the ongoing Special Court trial of the three RUF indictees yesterday revealed how RUF rebels ordered the mass amputation of innocent civilians in Yamandu Sando chiefdom, Kono district.

The 26 years old witness who is a native of Yomandu recalled how a group of RUF and AFRC rebels entered the township in February 1998

onboard a Nissan car and two Toyota vehicles from Freetown after the ECOMOG intervention. He told the Court that the attackers were dressed in military fatigues and headed by Francis alias "Kill-Man-No Blood" who ordered his men to arrest civilians.

"We were arrested and brought to a farm house near Wordu village where a RUF Captain Barrie through the



Command of their bosses ordered the amputation of 7 civilians in my pres-



Issa Sesay

ence" he said adding that his chest was marked with the inscription RUF/AFRC.

The prosecution however produced a photograph of the witness bearing the mark itself.

*Contd. page 3*

### From front page

Cross examining the witness, defence lawyer, Wayne Gordesh asked whether he remembered members of the prosecution team that went to Koidu last year to obtain statement from him. He answered in the affirmative.

"Immediately after taking my statement they took me to Freetown for medical operation on my chest" he noted.

The trial continues today.

Concord Times  
Tuesday, July 13, 2004

## **SPECIAL COURT...**

# **Witness contradicts prosecution**

The prosecution witness in the ongoing RUF trial, TF-1074, aged 26, has said in court that the prosecution did not authentically record what he factually

stated in his second statement to them.

This issue came to light when the witness, who was born in Yormandu, Kono

CONTINUED PAGE 2

Standard Times  
Tuesday July 13,  
2004

district, was under cross examination by defence counsel for Issa Sesay, Andreas O'shea.

According to the evidence in chief, the witness stated in his testimony that he personally saw one captain Barrie of the then RUF outfit, amputating seven captured civilians, during a rebel onslaught at Yenfin.

This ascertainment was however challenged by defence counsel, Andreas O'shea, who according to the statement of the witness tendered to the defence counsels by the prosecution, indicated that the witness had earlier stated that he personally knew the captain Barrie in question, but never saw him carrying out amputations.

The witness was apparently angry with that, arguing that the prosecution may not have recorded what he told them.

This appears to be a heavy blow on the prosecution, most of whose witnesses, it is alleged, are a bunch of illiterates relying heavily on hearsay.

In view of this, the defence counsels were quick to submit a motion, calling on the Trial Chamber to act pursuant to rule 90F, which states that the "Chamber shall exercise control over the mode and order of interrogation of witnesses and presentation of evidence so as to make the in-

terrogation and presentation effective for the ascertainment of the truth, and to avoid the waisting of time.

Led in evidenced by prosecution Attorney, Abdul Tejan Cole, the witness also stated among other things that he was captured in February 1998 by a group of AFRC/RUF combatants and taken to Kaima.

In all, the witness noted that eighteen of them including his younger brother, were lined up one morning and marked on the chest 'AFRC/RUF,' with the use of a surgical blade.

The witness further stated that he was abducted by the rebels and that whilst with them, he personally saw people's properties being looted and some other inhuman deeds being done to civilians.

The second witness is due to be called today.

In the meantime, it has been reported that the incarcerated former CDF leader, and former deputy defence minister, Chief Sam Hinga Norman has begun an indefinite hunger strike in protest against the inhuman treatment he is being subjected to by the court's officials.

It is also being said that he is protesting against the manner in which the trial is progressing, which in all respects seems to be giving the prosecution more freedom leeway than the defence.

# Witness Explains...

# How AFRC/RUF

# Chopped Off

# Limbs



**Issa Sesay: RUF boss**  
By Joseph Turay  
Witness TF1074 yesterday



**J.P. Koroma: fugitive indicted**  
testified at the Special Court that one Capt. Barrie chopped

off the hands of seven people in a village in Koinadugu District during the civil conflict. The witness, aged 26, testified during a cross examination by the defence. The witness, who had earlier been questioned by the prosecution, said he hailed from Yamandu town, Sandor Chiefdom, Kono District,

and that he was captured together with eighteen others by the AFRC/RUF junta, including his younger

The witness said after they were captured by the junta they were taken to Wordu in the same district until they

received reports from one of the rebel commanders that they should all assemble at  
*Contd. page 2*

## How AFRC/RUF Chopped Off Limbs

### From front page

Kayeima:

In Kayeima, the witness went on, they were lined up and addressed by commander Bangali, who later inscribed AFRC/RUF on their bare bodies with a surgical blade after he had commanded them to undress.

TF1074 further explained that after the inscription they were taken to Yormandu from where they went on an attack in a village called Yifen in Koinadugu District and captured it.

The witness said about seven persons were abducted in Yifen and that he saw Capt. Barrie with a bloodstained

axe.

But in the cross examination by defence lawyer for Issa Sesay, Wayne Jordash, the witness testified that he saw when Capt. Barrie hacked the hands of seven persons with axe.

The witness, however, denied any statement that he did not see when the act was carried out by Capt. Barrie.

*The Exclusive*

*Tuesday July 13, 2004*

# "Rebels Carved 'AFRC, RUF' On Our Bodies"

## Witness Tells Special Court

First prosecution witness testified yesterday in the joint RUF trial. He described how he and two others were "joined together and the Rebels carved 'AFRC/RUF' on their bodies, with a surgical blade".

He narrated how AFRC/RUF captured 18 persons in Kono District, marked their bodies while seven other captured persons from Koinadugu District also had their hands chopped off with an axe!

According to reports monitored on the Associated Press (AP) website, the first protected witness a 26-year old male, from Sandor Chiefdom, Eastern Kono District, with pseudonym TF/1074 Monday July 12, 2004, in the joint trial of three leading members of the former Revolutionary United Front (RUF), recalled to the Special Court Trial Chamber, that sometime in February 1998, he and his younger brother and an old man were captured at a farm house in Baiwunde village, where they were hiding by



*The RUF guys treating the trial as a joke*

rebels of the AFRC/RUF and that one of those who captured them was named Francis but whose rebel name was "kill man no blood".

Led in evidence by Sierra Leonean Prosecutor Abdul Tejan Cole, and speaking through an interpreter in Krio language, TF-1074 said that the three of them, were transferred to another farmhouse at Wordu village where they joined fifteen other captured persons. Eighteen of them were taken to Kaima town where they were asked the number of those who

wanted to return home, and those who wanted to stay with the rebels. Fifteen opted to return to their parents while three, "myself, younger brother and the old man said we would remain with them. We were joined together and the rebels started carving AFRC/RUF on our bodies, with a surgical blade" the witness testified. One Bangali carved AFRC/RUF on my chest. The witness partly undressed and showed the markings to the three Trial Chamber Judges. A photograph of his chest with the markings was also ad-

mitted in evidence as an exhibit. He said the marks took two months to heal.

They were held as captives for two days in the town by the rebels who were under the command of rebel Major Bundu Gbundema.

The prosecution witness told the Court of another incident after the markings when he was told to carry the luggage of one rebel Captain Barrie with whom he was attached. He and the other captives left for Yiffin town in the Northern Koinadugu District, carrying cartridges for the

cut off their hands and we left the town with the looted goods."

Under cross examination by one of the defence counsel for first accused Issa Sesay, British National Wayne Jordash, the witness said that in his statement to the investigator for the prosecution he did not say "I never saw Captain Barrie performing amputations, and that I saw him holding an axe with human blood on it. The man who took down my statement did not write down what I told him". The cross examination continues.

While the first and second accused Issa Sesay and Morris Kallon respectively were present in Court, the third accused Augustine Gbao was absent in court for the third consecutive day. End Clarence Roy-Macaulay

rebels which they used to launch an attack on the town and captured it. "The rebels looted the town and Captain Barrie came out with seven captured people. He told them he was going to cut off their hands so that they would go and report to the Sierra Leone Army authorities. Captain Barrie took an axe and

*Crane: No laughing matter*



Christian Monitor

Tuesday, July 13, 2004



# 'I Saw Captain Amputate 7 Civilians'

*By Mohamed Mansaray*

*The first Prosecution witness in the Joint RUF trial, TF-1074 (named with held) told the Special Court yesterday that he witnessed the amputation of seven (7) people by RUF Company Commander Captain Barrie at Yardu Village, Sandor Chiefdom in the Kono district sometime in 1998.*

The witness said that the seven people were adopted by town in the Koinadugu district. "I was standing by looted items when they were amputated", the witness told the court.

The 26-year-old witness was led in evidence by Prosecution lawyer Abdul Tejan-Cole yesterday at Court Room No. 1, New England in Freetown. However, under cross examination by Wayne Jordash, defence counsel for the first accused Issa Sesay, the witness admitted making state-

**SEE BACK PAGE**

ments twice to the Prosecution one of which was on January 20 this year, part of which reads: "I never saw him (Captain Barrie) perform amputations but I saw him with an ace with human blood". Asked whether he thought it was the investigator who did not record all what he said about the amputations, the witness said that it could be a possibility. When counsel further put it to the witness that no where in the two statements was anything mentioned about the Yifin attack, the witness insisted that the attack did take place.

Earlier in his testimony the witness told the court that he and other civilians were fleeing to Guinea following the overthrow of the AFRC/RUF junta from power by ECOMOG when they were captured by joint AFRC/RUF commanders. He mentioned the names of one commander Francis alias "Kill Man No Blood" and one commander Gbessay as those who initially abducted them. The witness who spoke in Krio through an interpreter told the court that the captives were taken to a village called Baiwa and then later to a farm house where 18 other civilians were held in captivity. The witness went on to testify that one RUF commander Major Komba Gbundema later told them to report to Kaima the chiefdom headquarter town. He named another AFRC commander one Mr. Bangalie who also informed them (captives) that he was going to carve AFRC/RUF on their bodies with what the witness described as a surgical blade which he did. "All 18 captives were marked that same day by Commander Bangalie including myself" he told the court.

The three accused Issa Sesay, Morris Kallon and Augustine Gbao are on 18-count joint trial for individual criminal responsibility for War Crimes committed against civilians by RUF rebels in Sierra Leone between 1996 and 2000.

Salone Times

Tuesday July 13, 2004

***Judges runaway from  
courtroom following...***

# PANIC AT SPECIAL COURT

By  
John  
Baimba  
Sesay

Yesterday's sittings of the Special Court had to take an abrupt adjournment, when one of the defence lawyers, Andreas O'Shea, drew the attention of the court to an unusual smell presumed to be coming from outside the court premises.

The Presiding Judge, Cameroonian-born Benjamin Itoe in panic, immediately ordered a twenty minutes adjournment and together with the other two judges, hurriedly left the courtroom, whilst the two accused in the dock; Issa Sesay and Morris Kallon, (Augustine Gbao still missing), were taken into another room for safety. All this happened midday into the testimony of the first witness in the trial.

Later, upon investigation, it was discovered that the smell was as a result of the burning of papers within the precincts of the court.

Prosecution witness TF 1074 in his testimony did not make reference to any of the accused persons. But recalled how he, his younger brother and 16 other people were marked with the inscription AFRC-RUF on their bodies which he showed to the court.

He said two days after they were abducted, their commander one Francis a.k.a *kill man no blood* claimed to have received a letter from his boss instructing him to take all the

**See page 2**

## ***From front page***

captives to Kaima. There, they were asked to choose between freedom and joining the movement. He stated that 15 decided they wanted their freedom.

He named one Bangali, whom he told the court did the inscription on his chest. The witness also recalled staying with one Capt. Barrie, a member of the AFRC junta, who together with other rebels launched an attack on Yefi in the Koinadugu district. He recalled seeing Capt. Barrie amputating the hands of 7 civilians with an axe. He was later cross-examined by the witness.

Independent Observer

Tuesday July 13, 2009

**LURD COMMANDER AT BORDER REVEALS**

# **EX RUF AND NPFL REBELS PLAN ATTACK**

*By Joseph Vandi*

*Liberians United for the Restoration of Democracy (LURD) Commander Lt. Col. George Mohamed Kamara has disclosed that about 5,000 ex-Revolutionary United Front (RUF) and ex-National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) dissidents are in training to attack Sierra Leone and Guinea.*

He claimed that the training is going on at Dalaxie Town in Ivory Coast.

The LURD commander was speaking exclusively to

SALONE TIMES at his Cape Mount County base in Liberia recently. He claimed that fifty percent of LURD fighters have now disarmed to UNMIL since the disarmament exercise started on April 6 this year at a centre in Tubmanberg.

Commander Kamara claimed that in Nimba County, remnants of RUF and NPFL fighters have regrouped in an effort to attack Guinea and Sierra Leone. Lt. Col. Kamara described this development as unfortunate, saying it is because disarming of fighters is yet to start in that area. He added that it was in that county that the late RUF Sam

Maskita Bockarie and his entourage were killed sometime ago. He went on to explain that the area is the former stronghold of ex-Liberian President Charles Taylor where the Gio and Mano tribes have lived for years.

According to the commander, the training of the said dissident forces is jointly being financed by the son of the late President of Guinea Mohamed Toure and Charles Taylor in order to once more destabilise the sub-region.

The LURD commander also said that they (LURD) have

**SEE BACK PAGE**

## **LURD Commander Reveals Invasion Plan**

decided not to disarm in Grand Cape Mount County, Lofa Crossing Point, Gbo Town or Yekepa until UNMIL properly deploys in these areas and Charles Taylor is brought before the Special Court in Sierra Leone.

*Salone Times*

*Tuesday July 13, 2004*



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Concord Times (Freetown)

July 10, 2004

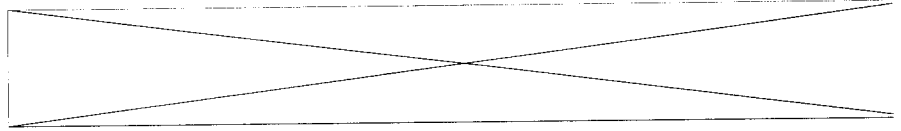
Posted to the web July 12, 2004

Abdul Karim Koroma  
Freetown

Defence lawyer in the Special Court, Charles Margai yesterday described the setting of the United Nations backed Special Court to try war crimes and crimes against humanity as, "unconstitutional."

Speaking to press men at the Law Court after a Supreme Court sitting on the motion raised by former Revolutionary United Front (RUF) indictees challenging the Court's jurisdiction to try them, the learned lawyer maintained that the Special Court was unconstitutional because, "it attempt to alter the structure of the court system in Sierra Leone." In his explanation to the journalists, Margai stressed "the supremacy claimed by the Special Court over the Supreme Court of Sierra Leone is unconstitutional and added that Section 29 of the Special Court which fails to recognize the immunity granted to His Excellency, under section 48 (4) of the 1991 Constitution is also unconstitutional.

Margai cited Section 120 of the 1991 constitution and said that no Referendum was made as required by section 108, since 120 is an entrenched clause.



## **Reporter's Diary: How to Remove Taylor Out of Nigeria**

**Vanguard** (Lagos)

OPINION

July 11, 2004

Posted to the web July 12, 2004

By Habib Yakoob

A COUPLE of weeks back, the new US Ambassador to Nigeria, Mr. John Campbell, invited some journalists in Abuja to his home for what seemed a familiarization session. After a brief introduction by the invited guests, the ambassador delivered a short speech intimating us of his mission.

He began by telling the cream of reporters in his characteristic soft voice how he wished to help the two countries (Nigeria and the US) realize a better diplomatic relationship. He also told us of how the US was interested in helping the country win its multiple war against poverty, diseases such as Polio and HIV-AIDS, corruption and other socio evils that have been giving the country such terrible nightmare.

Having spoken at length, Campbell, then decided to throw the floor open to us for questions. As I scanned through my colleagues' faces, I could see only some dull, unexciting mood plainly hanging over them. Of course, who said they were going to be easily moved by such harmless, artfully guided remark of this well trained diplomat? Who saidâ-oeâ-oe?

The journalists wanted some burning comments - and on such controversial issues that could generate some irresistible headlines. Perhaps, something like, "US to Cancel Nigeria's debt", "US scores Obasanjo low on corruption", or even something as dreadful as "We suspect Al Qaeda build up in Nigeria - US ambassador".

All these, an ambassador like Campbell, just resuming his new post was clever and wise enough to avoid. But all the same, certain issues appeared more pressing and important to us. For instance, we wanted to know the truth about the rumoured invasion of the Gulf of Guinea by the US Navy and the position of the country on the continued stay of Charles Taylor in Nigeria. While we seemed to have allowed Ambassador Campbell run away easily with a slick explanation to the question on the Gulf of Guinea, we tied him down to the issue of Taylor. You should understand that enough.

In fact, three days before the interactive or familiarization session, the Human Rights Watch, had asked the UN Security Council to use its mission to the West Africa to call on Nigeria to surrender Taylor to the war Crime Tribunal, which recently indicted him on a 17-count charge of arming and training the Revolutionary United Force (RUF) rebel during the decade old war in that country.

Charles Taylor has been living in luxury in Calabar, since August last year, when he was flown on asylum into the country from his war torn Liberia. Hitherto, passionate calls and attempts have been made by some international organizations and countries, particularly the US to bring back the former "warlord" to face his crimes at the tribunal.

So, for a man over whom so much controversy has been generated, every fresh comment about him is newsworthy, especially if it comes from a representative of the country that appears to be at the center of a manhunt for him. But you would be wrong to think that the interest in this former Liberian President's case related to merely satisfying the imperatives of news-gathering - I think there was much more to that - if you like, the interest was almost sentimental.

It is truism for instance that when you mention the name, Charles Taylor, what immediately comes to the mind of a Nigerian journalist, is simply the picture of a blood thirsty dictator that murdered or supervised the brutal murder of their "professional brothers".

I mean the murder of Chris Imodibe and Tayo Awotusin of The Guardian and Champion newspapers respectively cannot be easily forgotten by their "people" . Moreso, when the murderer now lives in their "household", guided and pampered by the "head" of the family. It is dangerous to surmise that there were categories of journalists outside this "ring" of bitter feelings for Taylor. Or that there were many Nigerians comfortable with his continued stay in this country.

Let me state that as a matter of fact, I had informed the ambassador that if Nigerians had their way, they would have preferred a situation where the former Liberia warlord would be dragged headlong out of the country to answer some questions about his atrocities, that they are not comfortable that the man who had destroyed his country and supported the killing of many of his people, subjected them to serious physical and psychological torture should now be hosted on their shore, and treated like a god. This was a way of appealing to Campbell's sense- sympathy and concern. But crafty ambassador, he insisted.

"Well, our position is clear on Taylor. He has committed a lot of human violations and should be brought to face the Special Court in Sierra Leone. We are not going to embark on any kidnapping or violence, but to be factual, we have an on going dialogue with the Nigeria government on how to turn over the former president to face this tribunal".

How the US and other interested partners would be able to convince President Olusegun Obasanjo that seems hell-bent on protecting Taylor and massaging his own international image remains very remote.

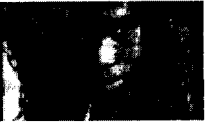
Last week, Obasanjo told a delegation of Human Rights Watch who visited him in his office that surrendering his "stranger" would be unreasonable and breaching the agreement he reached with Taylor and other African leaders- (many of who have no record of good governance anyway and who could also rely on the Nigerian government under OBJ to deliver them-when they come under fire). He said he could only agree to release him to the people of Liberia or a democratically elected government over there.

While Obasanjo who in the first instance facilitated his presence in the country was entitled to his position, we cannot but fail to remind him that Nigerians have never been and are never predisposed to "keeping" Taylor till God knows when, that except perhaps for his own selfish image make up, it does the country no general good. But since there is a limit to which we can resist the continued stay of a world class criminal as advised by Executive Director of Human Rights Watch, Ken Roth, we can only hope that the fervent prayer for the "curse of nemesis" would catch up with him over his wicked leadership. This is the same curse and prayer that have been following leaders in his shoes.

Alternatively, I wonder why the US would not help us in this prayer. After all, they appear to be the most interested party in seeing that Taylor is brought to justice. They always know how to do it, once they are interested in a thing like this.

They could for instance deploy the CIA, to come fetch the man at all cost. Don't tell me, anything about diplomatic relationship getting sour. Americans seem to have little regard for that. What we are yet to establish is to what extent they are in need of Taylor facing justice.

But if as one of my diplomat friends told me, "they are using diplomacy as a mere cover, while they are really working on the possibility of kidnap", then a number of us shall have cause to smile. Abeg Make dem carry am commot sharp sharp



## **Liberia: Former Combatants Gather in Zwedru to Hand in Their Guns**

### **UN Integrated Regional Information Networks**

NEWS

July 12, 2004

Posted to the web July 12, 2004

Zwedru

A dozen young women sat under a tarpaulin waiting for UN trucks to take them to the newly-opened disarmament camp for Liberian fighters in the eastern town of Zwedru. Some had a baby strapped to their backs. But all carried a gun or mortar bomb wrapped in cloth ready to hand in to the UN peacekeepers.

"The mission was accomplished, now we want peace," said Baby-Girl Koffa, a 23-year-old female fighter of the Movement for Democracy in Liberia (MODEL), who was one of the first to come forward to hand in her gun as the new cantonment site opened last Friday.

As she waited at the official pick-up point, Koffa told IRIN that she and the father of her two-year-old boy, had both joined MODEL to depose former president Charles Taylor.

"I moved Charles Taylor, moved him for peace in Liberia!" Koffa exclaimed proudly as she clutched a Russian-made AK-47 assault rifle between her knees. But her boyfriend, she added, had been killed in action.

Taylor was forced to resign and flee into exile in August last year as rebels fought their way into the capital Monrovia and the warring parties in Liberia signed a peace deal a week later.

However, UN peacekeepers only launched a serious campaign to disarm the estimated 40,000 to 60,000 former combatants in the country in April this year.

The drive to remove weapons from circulation and help former fighters readjust to civilian life is only now reaching the MODEL-dominated area around Zwedru, 250 km east of the capital.

Koffa, like many other MODEL fighters, said she took up arms because Liberia's 14-year civil war had prevented her from completing school and she had no other work to do.



The cantonment site at Zwedru is the fifth to be set up by the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL).

The camp opened its doors to a first group of 100 former combatants on Friday and General Daniel Opande, the Kenyan commander of UNMIL's 15,000 peacekeeping troops in Liberia, flew in on Saturday to check how things were going.

MODEL battalion commander Benjamin Y. Geelee was busy drawing up lists of fighters designated to come forward for disarmament at the local headquarters of the rebel movement - a dank, bullet-riddled building that used to be a government office.

He told IRIN that MODEL fighters were now converging on Zwedru in cars and trucks and even on foot to hand in their guns and ammunition.

"I have told them to conceal their weapons in bags so they don't cause fear. Some are walking 200km or more to get here. We are very tired of this war - 14 years! Everybody is tired," Geelee said, flanked by a group of about 20 field commanders.

The first 100 of Geelee's fighters to be registered by UN peacekeepers at Zwedru handed in 61 AK-47 automatic rifles, two rocket-propelled grenades, one light machine gun, 20 mortar bombs, two hand grenades and 1,950 rounds of small arms ammunition.

Humanitarian workers in the small town of 10,000 to 15,000 people said about 1,000 MODEL fighters had flocked into Zwedru over the past few days in anticipation of the disarmament exercise getting under way.

Gangs of young men and women jogged along through the streets to the official pick-up point in the early morning light on both Friday and Saturday, firing shots in the air and chanting.

Local businesses and traders kept their stores open, and were relieved to see the weapons being finally taken out of the rebels' hands.

"Presently we are still having some problems [with MODEL]. They like to intimidate us as they have arms still," said Youneoh Taytuh Junior, who used to work as an administrator with a logging company.

After it closed as a result of the war, Taytuh began to scrape a living by selling fuel to motorists from gallon jars on the high street. But all too often, the rebels took his fuel without paying.

"They request fuel or gas forcibly and we have to give it to them," Taytuh said, explaining that such extortion by MODEL forced him to put up the price of petrol for genuine paying customers.

But he is still optimistic about the future.

"They haven't been de-traumatised, they are still affected by the war. They need counselling. After this process there will be a positive result," Taytuh said, echoing the theme of disarmament awareness messages broadcast by the recently-revived local radio station, Smile FM.

"These arms are dangerous! Give them up to UNMIL!" booms the radio jingle, "Go to school, find a job, get married."

Inside the Zwedru disarmament camp, Khadafr Pyne and his brother Augustine traded their guns for a sleeping mat, a plastic bucket, soap and other items to help their return to civilian life.

Like so many others who joined MODEL in the region, they are disaffected young men who complain of having had little schooling and no work opportunities under Taylor's corrupt and chaotic rule. Both said told IRIN they were recruited in Zwedru about one year ago.

Rebel fighters entered the town at dawn and began shooting, but it took MODEL a week to overcome resistance by Taylor's local garrison.

Augustine said he ran into the bushes to hide, while Khadafr stayed in the family house until the fighting died down.

After MODEL had secured the town and chased away Taylor's men, the rebel movement began recruiting more combatants and drafted the two brothers into its ranks.

"I joined to free my land," said 22-year old Khadafr who now wants to drive a truck and learn mechanics. Augustine, who is slightly older and had three more years in school, said he wanted to become a computer operator.

However, aid workers say the number of budding mechanics and computer operators in Liberia far outweighs the potential demand. Many MODEL combatants who have lived by the gun for the past year will simply have to go back to their communities and farm.

Many aid workers worry that people like the Pyne brothers will not receive adequate support once they are released into civilian life after a week of registration and processing in the disarmament camp and that this will lead them back to a life of violence.

The US\$150 voucher which the demobilised combatants receive - their first instalment of a US\$300 resettlement allowance - will only give a brief and artificial boost to them and the local economy.

"What comes next? That is the big issue. What if there is no follow up?" asked Frode Kirk, an official of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). "Without proper integration activities we will have a big problem," he said.

Humanitarian workers in Zwedru said some of MODEL's fighters had already taken their guns over the border to join pro-government militia groups in Cote d'Ivoire.

Diplomats say President Laurent Gbagbo of Cote d'Ivoire was MODEL's main backer and his support enabled the rebel movement to seize control of southern and eastern Liberia after it split away from the more established Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) rebel organisation in early 2003.

"The border is not controllable. MODEL, right now, is recruiting children for them to fight in Cote d'Ivoire," said El Fateh Osman Adama, a local employee of Save the Children.

Adama said he been told this by children attending the kids' clubs that his organisation has set up in Zwedru.

"It's like paying back the debt," Adama said, referring to Cote d'Ivoire's covert support for MODEL, which is an open secret in the town.

MODEL commanders, however, like the Ivorian government, continue to deny any links between the Liberian rebel movement and the authorities in Abidjan.

They also deny the reports of MODEL child soldiers crossing the border to fight in Cote d'Ivoire, where rebel forces seized control of the north two years ago.

"It's not true," snapped General George Tarley, a senior MODEL commander, who is now an adviser to the disarmament programme, when IRIN asked him about the allegations.

The disarmament camp in Zwedru is expected to remain open for several weeks, attracting former combatants from all over southern and eastern Liberia, including some zones on the Ivorian frontier where UN peacekeepers have yet to establish a permanent presence.

Aid workers and local residents in Zwedru told IRIN they were aware of a lot of unchecked cross-border activity.

They pointed out that UNMIL border patrols were restricted to the main roads and that the crews of UN helicopters, which sweep up and down the border could not see much of what went on in the dense forest below.

Although UNMIL has succeeded in restoring order to most of Liberia, relief workers said that in Sinoe county, to the south of Zwedru, there were still intermittent reports of MODEL fighters looting and harassing civilians.

"MODEL accept it is happening, but they can't control their boys because of the food supply problem," said one UN aid worker who asked not to be named.

"Food distributions have taken place in Maryland, Grand Gedeh and Tappita (in southern Nimba County), but never to Sinoe, despite the fact that there are over 32,000 IDPs (internally displaced people) and refugees there," he noted.

"The operation is too Monrovia-focused," the UN aid worker said.

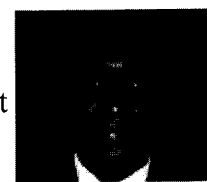
Earlier this month, there were several reports of incidents of harassment by armed men in Greenville, the headquarters town of Sinoe county, which lies on the coast. UNMIL subsequently sent a patrol from Zwedru to inspect the situation.

However, the poor state of the roads means that it takes vehicles at least eight hours to make the 116 km journey from Zwedru to Greenville and a further eight hours to return, so much of what goes on in Sinoe county is unnoticed by the authorities.

"People are too comfortable in Monrovia to move out to the regions and see what it is like for themselves," the UN official in Zwedru complained.

www.ghanaweb.com: Feature Article of Tuesday, 13 July 2004

## The Civilised World Of Justice Amua-Sekyi



In a previous article that I wrote headed PUBLIC TRIBUNALS AND THE NRC, I pointed out the way the NRC was going on about its business and specifically how they had set out to malign the Public Tribunals, in a rejoinder to my article the NRC condemned my analysis and observations, but recent events and utterances by some members of the NRC and specifically their Chairman has proved that the hen is coming home to roost.

The tribunal bashing of Justice Amua- Sekyi and his NRC reached the highest point on Friday the 9th July 2004 when 13 armed robbers and some convicted murderers appeared before the NRC. A day or two before then, he had described the tribunals as a bunch who did not know what they were about.

It is not clear whether the NRC had become the Court of Appeal for armed robbers and murderers convicted and sentenced by the tribunals, but what was clear was Justice Amua - Sekyi using this appearance as an opportunity for tribunal convicts to condemn the tribunals and its operatives to his glee.

It did not end there; he climaxed his persistent subtle and sometimes direct attacks against the tribunal system, by siding with the robbers as their human rights having been abused by the tribunals and proceeded to call members of the tribunals as uncivilised.

Reacting to a statement by one George Acheampong convicted for robbery, resisting a lawful arrest, causing harm to a policeman and unlawful possession of firearms and said to have been sentenced to 53 years imprisonment due to a consecutive tribunal order, this is what Justice Amua Sekyi said. "His sentence should have run concurrently and not consecutively. It was the tribunals that started this kind of trial, which was not done in any civilised world."

### WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

The question whether sentences of imprisonment should be ordered to run concurrently or consecutively is a matter of law and it arises in a variety of different ways.

In any case the sentencer has power by law to order any sentence of imprisonment which he may impose to run consecutively or concurrently with each other, although he may not antedate the commencement of a sentence. It is only subject to two major limiting principles in law i.e. "the one transaction rule" and "the totality principle".

Sometimes however Judges have a difficulty at where to draw the line and there are conflicting legal authorities on this. This power is in our Criminal Procedure Code Sec 301 of Act 29/60, which says sentences should be consecutive unless the court otherwise directs, if the criteria so exist.

Of course a rule of law could be misapplied or wrongly interpreted by a Judge or Tribunal Chairman, but that error by a judge does not make him a barbarian far from civilisation as propounded Justice Amua -Sekyi School of Law.

The NRC Chairman not having seen the tribunal judgement and/or proceedings, to have enabled him evaluate whether the tribunal erred in law by going consecutive instead of concurrent, proceeded to call the tribunals and its members uncivilised.

Has he Amua- Sekyi as a Judge ever committed an error of law by interpretation or has his judgment in a case ever been overruled or reversed by his peers on appeal? And has any such reversal (if any) made him less civilised?

Even listening to the convicts own account, the offences were committed separately and not in a one act, if this is the case then the Tribunal could have been right by going consecutive and therefore right in law.

Justice Amua- Sekyi's hatred for the tribunals is legendary. He came with a preconceived tendency that everything associated with tribunals was bad and conducted the proceedings of the NRC accepting and encouraging evidence

that will prove this assertion and rejecting any evidence which will disprove his preconception.

And so he set out to readily admit Kwaku Ananse and Jack tale stories made under oath about the tribunals and its officials without cross checking or verifying, in pursuance of his grand agenda.

It is only in the civilised world of Justice Amua- Sekyi:-

v That when a serious allegation has been made against someone in a written statement of say 10-15 pages an expects the person to respond to the allegation, he will only provide a page of that statement and refuse the rest to the person in the name of rule of law and civilisation.

v That when someone has appeared before the NRC and chanted for over five hours and levelled all kinds of allegations against someone, he gives the respondent 15 minutes to cross examine after which time is over, if you are lucky you get 20 minutes.

v That armed robbers (some admitting to two or three robberies) and persons convicted of deceit and dishonesty related offences, could go and narrate their stories and so called ordeals to him and without any verification and without the record of proceedings proceed to pronounce a verdict of 'Uncivilised barbarism' on the trial tribunal in abstentia and sentence them by confiscating their integrity and professional competence.

v That he has allowed in 3rd and 4th hand hearsay, some very serious allegations to be made against innocent people including tribunal judges, saying the NRC was not bound by technical rules, but when a judgment was being tendered to be used in cross examination to disprove the lies he disallows it on technical grounds that it was not certified. Thus allowing the fabricated evidence to stand uncontradicted.

v That when it suited his purpose at where he wanted to turn the pendulum, the NRC was bound or not bound by technical rules and regulated its own procedure.

v That even though the NRC is a Commission of which he only chairs he gives decisions and rulings in the full glare of the public without recourse to consulting the other members of the Commission, as if he was a Judge and the rest were Jurors.

v that Chris Asher Jnr. at the time of his first appearance before the NRC was spotted at the residence of the Executive Secretary of the NRC after 9 p.m. and we are yet to be told what such a controversial witness was doing in that house at such a time and whether the business of the NRC was conducted in the house of its members and officials. (This matter will be seriously revisited soon unless there is a valid and credible explanation)

Because his father was tried and convicted by a tribunal for forgery and deceit related offences, Amua -Sekyi bears serious prejudice against the tribunals. Even before his appointment his condemnation of the Tribunals system at the 15th Speakers Breakfast forum in 2001 was phenomenal, see Tuesday, 12 June 2001, Daily Graphic.

But on his appointment he has used this whole period of the NRC to seek revenge on the tribunals and from day to day his appetite for hatred and prejudice against the tribunals has grown, making him lose his judicial temperament and composure and has rather become abrupt, abrasive, self-conceited. His sense of justice and fairness is now firmly rooted in arbitrariness.

The British Judge, Justice Geoffrey Robertson president of the United Nations Special Court of Sierra Leone was challenged on his impartiality because before his appointment he had written a book condemning the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) accusing them of committing several atrocities during the civil war. Even though the action to remove him as a Judge of the Special Court for Sierra Leone failed, he was made to step down from all cases involving the RUF. But in our case the Judge of civilisation Amua- Sekyi, is a judge in his own cause.

As the NRC comes to a close there is no doubt that reconciliation process has failed, there are more problems to resolve now than before they started, and one of the reasons for this situation is due to the attitude of Justice Amua- Sekyi and in the not too distant future, those who have been wrongfully accused by orchestration in this very high

profile, fully multi media glare NRC, will need another appointed body to heal the wounds inflicted by Justice Amua- Sekyi and his NRC.



Views expressed by the author(s) do not necessarily reflect those of GhanaHomePage.

Source: Okine, John

## Milosevic health raises difficult questions

By Richard Greene  
BBC News Online

**The trial of Slobodan Milosevic has been delayed repeatedly by the defendant's poor health - and there are now fears that the case could collapse completely.**

On Monday the court announced it would again postpone the start of the defence phase of the trial because the former Yugoslav leader, who is defending himself, was not well enough to proceed.

Mr Milosevic, who turns 63 next month, suffers from high blood pressure, hypertension and resulting cardiovascular damage, according to medical reports.

His insistence on defending himself - before a tribunal he says he does not recognise - is believed to have exacerbated his condition.

His blood pressure reportedly drops when he is away from the courtroom, so judges order frequent rest breaks.

The court is now considering appointing a defence lawyer for Mr Milosevic, despite his strenuous objections.

If his health does not improve, the court will be caught between two unpalatable options.

It can force a defence counsel on Mr Milosevic - and watch him cry foul, or set him free on health grounds, ending without resolution what has been called the most important war crimes trial since World War II.

### Unhealthy lifestyle

When in power, Mr Milosevic enjoyed whisky, cigars and rich food.

He is not allowed alcohol while in detention in The Hague, but reports say he is still a heavy smoker.

In September 2003, the prosecution went so far as to suggest that he not be allowed to smoke on health grounds.

The British Heart Foundation says that the body starts to benefit almost immediately when a former smoker quits.

Circulation improves within weeks and the risk of heart attack falls by half within a year.

But the foundation does not recommend that anyone be forced to quit smoking, and declined to comment on the specific case of Mr Milosevic.

In any case, it is unclear whether the tribunal could force Mr Milosevic to stop smoking even if it wanted to.

"That is a complex legal question," tribunal spokesman Jim Landale told BBC News Online.

### MILOSEVIC TRIAL



Prosecution began Feb 2002 and lasted two years  
Milosevic facing more than 60 charges of war crimes  
Court heard from 295 witnesses

"We would have to look at jurisprudence around the world and whether there's precedent for that," he said.

He said the judges had not pursued the prosecution's idea to cut Mr Milosevic's cigarettes off - and the prosecution says it is not entitled to demand it.

Judith Armatta, who has been observing the trial on behalf of the non-governmental Coalition for International Justice, dismissed the idea out of hand.

"The court didn't take that seriously," she said. "The court can't make that decision."

Nor could a doctor, she added, pointing out that Mr Milosevic was not a convict and was still entitled to many rights.

### **Control**

Chris Stephen, the author of *Judgement Day: The Trial of Slobodan Milosevic*, said that the former Yugoslav leader had to take some responsibility for his own health.

"He is in a position to control his blood pressure and his stress," he said.

And he said it might not be unreasonable for the court to make him stop smoking.

"If doing a certain act does make a difference, you should stop him doing it," he said.

But he admitted that the court was walking a tightrope in deciding how to handle the combative defendant.

"He has to have a fair trial. It's not your fault if you are ill, and you should be allowed the defence of your choice."

Ultimately, Mr Milosevic should not be let off on health grounds, he argued.

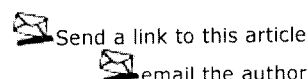
He pointed out that the former French official Maurice Papon was convicted at the age of 87 for his role in deporting Jews to their deaths during the Second World War.

Papon was sentenced to 10 years in prison but served just under three before being released on health grounds.

"A man with high blood pressure can be tried. If he were a witness you could say thank you and dismiss him, but when there is a *prima facie* case against you, you have to answer it."

Story from BBC NEWS:  
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/europe/3886829.stm>

Published: 2004/07/13 06:55:44 GMT



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## Why Hague court wants to silence Milosevic

By John Catalinotto

**THE NATO-CREATED INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE FORMER** Yugoslavia (ICTY) in The Hague took ominous new steps July 5 to restrict former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic's right to represent himself. The ICTY used Milo sevic's real health problems as an excuse to justify depriving him of his rights.

The following day the court ruled that his trial would resume on July 14, but that it would assign a cardiologist to monitor Milosevic's health in preparation for forcing him to accept assigned counsel.

Milosevic has been imprisoned for three years in The Hague in a place where the Nazis held resistance fighters. For two years he cross-examined some 300 prosecution witnesses. He was about to begin his defense case. Though he was to be restricted to 150 days in court, the former president was prepared to present a powerful case exposing U.S. and NATO crimes in his country and exonerating himself and the Yugoslav people.

Milosevic told the media and the court that he would never accept an appointed counsel and he insisted on continuing his own defense. "This illegal court is daring to judge biological and medical issues after they have proven incapable of judging legal and historical issues," he said. "This court is like the Inquisition."

Madeleine Albright, who was U.S. secretary of state during the 1999 U.S.-NATO war against Yugoslavia, was seen in The Hague at the ICTY building on July 5. Albright is known as "the mother of the ICTY." Supporters of Milosevic believe her presence is connected with the court's decision to postpone the trial and its attempt to change the rules.

Milosevic's long-time aide, Vladimir Krsljanin, said from Belgrade on July 5, "What we have seen at The Hague is the worst kind of political theater and legal outrage directed at the president.

Slobo dan Milosevic was brought to trial while he was suffering bad health conditions. Despite our pleas and complaints and the petitions of medical experts to the ICTY, it refused our demands for more time for preparation and rest for President Milosevic.

"First the court created conditions that worsened his health, and now they are using his ill health to justify stifling his presentation of his powerful defense case," said Krsljanin.

### Changing the rules

The ICTY opened the prosecution case in February 2002 after a year of preparation. The well-funded and staffed court set its own rules for the proceedings. It allowed Milosevic to represent himself, as he insisted.

At that time, the ICTY and the media presented the Milosevic case as "the trial of the century." That's when the prosecution hoped to use it as a show trial to convict the Yugoslav leader and blame him and the entire Serb people for the wars in the Balkans.

Within the first month, however, Milosevic had so ably handled his political and legal presentation, and had so effectively cross-examined hostile witnesses, that many reporters had to admit the case against the Serb leader was weak to non-existent. Publicity on the case was damaging NATO's justification for the war.

Throughout the two years of prosecution that ended last February, President Milosevic was plagued by high blood pressure and a heart ailment. Dozens of doctors pleaded for a more humane treatment of the president. The court delayed proceedings, but refused to release him from the harsh prison conditions or give him the medical care of his choice.

Though prosecutors took a year to prepare their case and two to present it, the ICTY allowed Milosevic only 90 days to prepare his defense and was to allow only 150 days for him to present it. Any time there is a delay for his health, the court refuses to allow him access to any papers or books or to interview potential witnesses at leisure. He lost 51 of the 90 days preparation when he complained of bad health.

As part of his defense case, Milosevic intended to call U.S. President Bill Clinton, British Prime Minister Tony Blair and other NATO leaders as witnesses so he could charge them for the war crimes NATO committed against Yugoslavia.

He also planned to call a number of political analysts and activists who have written, spoken and organized against U.S. and NATO intervention in the Balkans. Some of these potential witnesses participated in the Peoples Tribunal on Yugoslavia organized by the International Action Center (IAC) in 1999-2000.

Faced with the embarrassment of a powerful political exposure of NATO and U.S. leaders, the ICTY, like a schoolyard bully who keeps getting beaten at his own game, decided to change the rules and refuse to allow Milosevic to defend himself.

One potential witness was Sara Flounders, a co-director of the IAC and an editor of the IAC book, "Hidden Agenda: the U.S.-NATO Takeover of Yugoslavia." Flounders was scheduled to testify early. She met with Milosevic in The Hague on June 28.

Flounders told Workers World that "The attempt to remove President Milo sevic as his own attorney is an admission of his innocence of the war crimes charges and of U.S. and NATO guilt in planning, executing and carrying out a 10-year war that broke up a strong and successful Yugoslav Federation into a half-dozen weak colonies and neo-colonies subservient to the United States and Western Europe.

"Just as the weapons of mass destruction have never been found in Iraq," Flounders continued, "the charge of massacres, mass graves and genocide proved to be an utter fabrication in Kosovo. It is essential that President Milosevic have a full opportunity to expose NATO's war crimes, to defend Yugoslavia and to answer these charges against his government."

IAC founder and former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark made himself clear on the issue of Milosevic's right to defend himself: "President Milosevic chose to 'defend himself in person,' a fundamental human right recognized by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights."

Tiphaine Dickson, an attorney from Canada who is assisting the International Committee for the Defense of Slobodan Milosevic, said, "Within the U.S., the Supreme Court has recognized this as a right under the Sixth Amendment to the Constitution. To refuse to allow him this right would turn the already illegal ICTY hearings into a star-chamber proceeding."

**Reprinted from the July 15, 2004, issue of Workers World newspaper**

## Enough of Milosevic's antics

**David Scheffer** IHT  
Monday, July 12, 2004

### The Hague War Crimes Tribunal

**WASHINGTON** Once they have access to the news again, Saddam Hussein and his 11 co-conspirators in Baghdad will be watching how the War Crimes Tribunal at The Hague decides the fate of Slobodan Milosevic, the former Yugoslav president. The latest episode in his trial for crimes against humanity, which has already consumed two years, raises the question whether an ailing Milosevic can continue to represent himself.

Credit Milosevic with having aggressively handled his own defense throughout the trial. But his is not an unlimited right. The rules of the tribunal grant Milosevic the "minimum guarantee" of self-representation, if he chooses, but the court is empowered to assign legal assistance to him "in any case where the interests of justice so require."

When he was the presiding judge, the late Richard May deftly handled Milosevic's exercise of his right to self-representation by giving him enough leash every day to speak his mind and then jerking that leash when he overstepped his bounds. But the entire exercise was excruciating in its application.

I spoke with Judge May, who died last month, earlier this year and he conceded that the right of self-representation has, indeed must have, reasonable limits. We have seen this right abused in a U.S. federal court recently by one of the terrorist suspects, Zacarias Moussaoui, who is representing himself to the agony of everyone concerned. Another high-profile Serb indictee awaiting trial in The Hague, Vojislav Seslj, also seeks to represent himself, knowing that this way he can grandstand for his party in Belgrade.

Justice for the people and for the defendant simply is not well served when the right of self-representation is abused. Surely "the interests of justice" now require that the Hague tribunal impose courtroom lawyers on Milosevic over his objections. The team assigned by the judges long ago to watch out for Milosevic's interests can easily step into the real job.

If Milosevic cannot tolerate such common sense, then perhaps the time has come to force-feed the proceedings by video to his jail cell while competent counsel defend him.

Milosevic is charged with crimes of enormous gravity in the Balkans: genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. They scream out for accountability. The United Nations and its member states are expending large sums of money on these trials for the purpose of justice, not political diatribes and meandering defenses. The defendant has no more right to manipulate the procedure than does the prosecutor or judge.

The Hague tribunal has built-in checks and balances. They should be used. To do so would greatly enhance the quality of Milosevic's defense and ensure the integrity of the process, which may be nearing a breaking point with the international community.

In their recent "Order on Future Conduct of the Trial," the judges seem to recognize that Milosevic has walked them right to the cliff, and no one who believes in international justice wants either the judges or the defendant pushed into the depths.

I do not agree with those who believe that the Milosevic trial has been a farce or that it discredits international tribunal. A massive criminal enterprise of this character deserves a long, carefully developed trial that inevitably will experience delays. That is the nature of the beast. But the time has arrived to reassert the court's mandated authority and prevent a crippling abuse of the process by the likes of Slobodan Milosevic.

This is not a court of indefinite duration, and there are other important defendants to prosecute and still to capture and put on trial. Perhaps if the discipline of a competent

counsel is brought into the courtroom, Milosevic's Serb supporters would learn to respect the authority of the tribunal.

Milosevic has jerked the court around long enough. It is time to permanently pull in Judge May's well-worn leash. Although the Iraqi Special Tribunal for Crimes Against Humanity also entitles its defendants to represent themselves, perhaps we have learned now that the interests of justice should severely circumscribe that right for crimes that assault all of humankind.

David Scheffer, a visiting professor at Georgetown University Law Center, was U.S. ambassador at large for war crimes issues.

**IHT**

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