

SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
PRESS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

PRESS CLIPPINGS

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

Monday, 13 March 2006

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.
If you are aware of omissions or have any comments or suggestions please contact
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Concord Times

13 March 2006

Nigeria may extradite

Charles Taylor

Nigeria's Minister of Information and National Orientation, Frank Nweke (jnr) last week announced that Presidents Olusegun Obasanjo and Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf have opened talks on the possible extradition of former Liberian President Charles Taylor to Liberia, reports This Day newspaper of Nigeria. Taylor has been indicted by the Special Court to answer charges of war crimes allegedly committed during

his regime. Nweke who, however, refused to take questions on the issue, said "the government of Liberia and government of Nigeria are working jointly to arrive at a decision on the Charles Taylor issue. The two presidents have been discussing. Discussions are on going. As events unfold, you will be properly briefed". The United States has been in the

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Nigeria may extradite Charles Taylor

From page 1

forefront of the move to have the former Liberian leader repatriated to answer war crime charges, but the Federal Government has insisted it would only do so upon return of democracy to Liberia and also at the request of that country's government. President Obasanjo two weeks ago met with Taylor at

the Presidential Lounge of Lagos airport also met last week with the new Liberian President who was in Nigeria to attend the memorial lecture held in honour of the late Major General Shehu Musa Yar'Adua. Taylor who is being accused of backing the notorious RUF rebels in the civil war in Sierra Leone in the 1990s civil war

stepped down as rebels threatened to seize the capital of Liberia, Monrovia, just as his leaving Liberia was the fallout of a deal struck by African countries led by Nigeria. Two Nigerians David Anyegbule and Emmanuel Egbuna who lost their arm during the war in Liberia have instituted the case against the Federal government.

Independent
13 March 2006

Obasanjo plays cat and mouse game over Taylor

Nigeria President Olusegun Obasanjo has met privately with the former Liberian President Charles Taylor, but there has been no indication of his willingness to hand him over to the war crimes court in Sierra Leone.

Despite international pressure for President Obasanjo to hand over Taylor who is accused of backing the Revolutionary United Front rebel movement that fought an almost eleven years war that resulted into the most barbaric acts in contemporary history, President Obasanjo has not been cooperative on the issue.

Reports say his meeting with Taylor at Lagos airport last Sunday lasted about 30 minutes but there have been no official reports on what transpired.

President Obasanjo is due to meet Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, the new Liberian president soon. Taylor is reported to be well treated in Nigeria. He was reported to have arrived in Lagos in a plane belonging to Obasanjo's fleet and they met in the presidential lounge before Taylor returned to Calabar.



All eyes are now on the new Liberian President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf who is presumed to take the lead in having Taylor extradited to Sierra Leone. More than

300 Liberian and international rights bodies have written to her, calling for Taylor to be tried in Sierra Leone. Mr Taylor, has been in Nigeria since leaving

Cocorioko website

13 March 2006

<http://www.cocorioko.com/newslive>

SPECIAL COURT SOON TO BECOME TOAST OF WAR VICTIMS

The Special Court of Sierra Leone will soon be the toast of victims of the Liberia and Sierra Leone wars when it lands its biggest catch in its quest to bring justice to West Africa . Charles McArthur Gbankay Taylor, the Liberian rebel leader who initiated the wars that turned the two West African nations into a blazing inferno of hell , is on his way to face trial at the court.

Though the Liberian authorities continue to double-speak and dispute each other, your very reliable COCORIOKO online newspaper can now build on the exclusive story it brought you almost two weeks ago in which it announced that Taylor's doom had been sealed and Nigeria's President Olusegun Obasanjo was on the verge of handing him over to Liberia .

When we published that scoop, there were eyebrows in some circles which thought that COCORIOKO had pre-empted Obasanjo or Liberia's President , Mrs. Ellen Johnson -Sirleaf .But the next day, a Nigerian newspaper THE TIDE reported a sensational scoop that President Obasanjo had held a private meeting with Charles Taylor at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport in Lagos . The paper speculated that the two men may have discussed Taylor's fate at the meeting which saw heavy security on both the Obasanjo and Taylor camps. Soon, it became known that infact COCORIOKO had recorded one of its usual dramatic scoops as other Nigerian newspapers began reporting what we had announced two days earlier--That there had been a heightened flurry of activities between Nigeria and Liberia aimed at sealing Taylor's future for once.

The U.S authorities providing COCORIOKO up-to-date information on moves to have Taylor transferred to Sierra Leone were right on target once again. Infact, it was disclosed to COCORIOKO also that notwithstanding all the contradictory reports in the Nigerian and Liberian newspapers, Presidents Sirleaf and Obasanjo did discuss Taylor's fate during their celebrated meeting in Abuja two weeks ago.

COCORIOKO can also now authoritatively inform readers that contrary to the misleading statement by the Liberian Information Minister, Mr. Johnny McClain , Mrs. Johnson Sirleaf did make a preliminary request to President Obasanjo to hand Taylor over to Liberia .The only drawback are fears that trouble might erupt in Monrovia when Taylor is roped in, in view of the fact that the former rebel leader still has operatives in key positions in the country. It is these fears that have precipitated precautionary moves by President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf to consult with and involve African leaders who took part in the negotiations that saw Obasanjo grant Taylor asylum in Calaber three years ago. The leaders in question are Thabo Mbeki of South Africa and John Kuffor of Ghana . It is expected that these leaders , along with Sierra Leone's President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, will work out modalities for Taylor's swift transfer from Liberia to Sierra Leone and to stand by to help with security matters, if needs be.

Some top officials who talk with COCORIOKO have been praising Mrs. Johnson-Sirleaf profusely for her courage and commitment to the cause of international justice. Her action in cooperating to bring Taylor to justice will win her more high marks and it will provide her inroads to get the international support she needs to rebuild Liberia.

One Liberian official who wants to remain anonymous told this newspaper that the government in Liberia was doing the right thing in playing down the efforts to hand Taylor in to avoid inflaming old grudges and passions. He said that the government was in a precarious position and it had to avoid any mistake in this Taylor issue that would propel Liberia back to war.

Thisday (Nigeria)

13 March 2006

Obasanjo, Mbeki in Crucial Talks Over Taylor

South African President Thabo Mbeki yesterday flew to Abuja for consultations with President Olusegun Obasanjo on the planned extradition of the former Liberian president, Mr. Charles Taylor.

Although the trip was said to be private, it was learnt that the two leaders used the opportunity to extensively discuss the request by the Liberian government for the repatriation of the former leader.

It would be recalled that Presidents Obasanjo and Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf of Liberia had penultimate weekend in Abuja began negotiations for the return of Taylor to his country. It is not however, clear whether the Liberian government will hand over Mr. Taylor to the International War Crimes Tribunal in Sierra Leone, which had issued a warrant of arrest of the former Liberian leader to answer charges of crime against humanity preferred against him. The Federal Government has been under intense pressure to surrender to him for trial over offences such as sexual slavery, use of child soldiers and murder.

The discussions between Mbeki and Obasanjo, which took place at Aguda House in the Presidential Villa, Abuja, lasted several hours.

Senior Special Assistant to the President on Media, Mrs. Oluremi Oyo confirmed that President Obasanjo and Mbeki held a meeting where bilateral issues, including the Taylor's matter were discussed extensively.

The Analyst (Monrovia)

10 March 2006

Taylor's Armor Cracking!

When the former president of Liberia, Charles Taylor, left Liberia under the escort and guardianship of presidents Olusengun Obasanjo of Nigeria and Thabo Mbeki of South Africa on August 11, 2003, many breathed sighs of relief, hailing the act as "God-endorsed." But unfortunately not many agreed that that act of goodwill should become a shield from justice for Charles Taylor.

Nigeria thought so and had been clutching one argument or the other. First it was a contention about a so-called agreement with international partners; then it was delivery only upon request by an elected government in Liberia. Now, it is the clout of a Nigerian refugee law. But President Sirleaf, pressed by powerful friends of Liberia, reportedly met one of the conditions and analysts believe Taylor's armor is cracking, provided though some tough decisions are made in mid-April in Abuja by the Federal Court of Nigeria and at the AU summit in The Gambia in July. The Analyst's Staff Writer has been monitoring media reports from Nigeria and France.

President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf has reportedly requested the repatriation of Charles Taylor from Nigeria to face his nemesis in Nigeria, the Nigeria media has reported Wednesday.

She however noted that Taylor's fate would be decided on two conditions.

"It will require consultations with the leadership in our region in view of a brokered agreement that led to Taylor stepping down; and secondly the timeliness of whatever we do must take our own stability into account," President Sirleaf told journalists in Paris.

The Daily Independent and This Day newspapers of Nigeria reported earlier that President Olusegun Obasanjo has begun talks with the Liberian Government on the extradition of former Liberian President, Charles Taylor, back to his country to face war crime charges.

This, an exclusive Daily Independent newspaper said Tuesday, followed a formal request for his extradition made at the weekend by Liberian President, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf.

President Sirleaf who is currently in the French capital, Paris told journalists at a new conference shortly following a meeting with President Chirac and after delivering a speech at a political science institute that "Justice will have to extend to former president Charles Taylor." Media reports said President Obasanjo traveled to Calabar last week where he held closed-door talks with Taylor, apparently to brief him on the latest development and to prepare his mind to end his exile in Nigeria.

Information and National Orientation Minister, Frank Nweke, confirmed the ongoing talks between the Nigeria and Liberian authorities to reporters in Abuja when he said both Obasanjo and Johnson-Sirleaf have been working jointly to arrive at a decision on the Charles Taylor issue.

"The government of Liberia and government of Nigeria are working jointly to arrive at a decision on the Charles Taylor issue. The two presidents have been discussing. Discussions are on-going. As events unfold, you will be properly briefed," Nweke told journalists who were pressing for more details.

Until President Sirleaf met Mr. Abasanjo at the Presidential Lounge of the Lagos airport last week after attending a memorial lecture held in honor of the late Major General Shehu Musa Yar'Adua, she has been evasive about persistent warnings from Washington that the Bush Administration's continued goodwill toward Monrovia hinges on Taylor's extradition.

President Sirleaf told human rights and pro-democracy groups anxious about Taylor's extradition and about her government's response to Nigeria's contention that what was uppermost on her agenda was the reconstructing of Liberia and not Taylor.

The United States government has been in the forefront of the move to have the former Liberian leader repatriated to answer war crime charges, but the Federal Government has insisted it would only do so upon return of democracy to Liberia and also at the request of that country's government.

Now that President Sirleaf has reportedly made the request, observers say Taylor's armor has begun cracking and that it would be only a matter of time before he is whisked off to Sierra Leone to face his accusers that have lined up 17 points of wrongdoing against him.

But it seems anyone who thinks that all is going to be as easier done as said would come to a rude awakening when the Federal High Court in Abuja, on April 13, 2006, decides whether or not to suspend further proceedings in a case filed by two Nigerians challenging the asylum granted Taylor, analysts say.

In the same breath that the Nigerian authorities were holding talks with President Sirleaf about the possibility of handing Taylor over, their legal counsels were arguing that under Nigerian law, amputee victims of Taylor's brutal civil war, David Anyegbule and Emmanuel Egbuna, have no right to challenge Taylor's asylum.

The government on Wednesday said Taylor is shielded from court proceedings in accordance with Section 10 of the National Commission for Refugees Act, 1990.

It took this position even as Justice Stephen Jonah Adah of a Federal High Court in Abuja will on April 13 decide whether or not to suspend proceedings in a case filed by two the Nigerian amputees challenging the asylum granted Taylor.

The government is asking the court to halt the hearing pending the determination of the appeal challenging the ruling that the court has jurisdiction to entertain the matter.

David Anyegbule and Emmanuel Egbuna, who both lost their arms in the war in Liberia during the reign of Taylor, instituted the case against the Federal Government.

At the resumed hearing on Wednesday, government counsel, Oluwole Aina, in addition to his earlier submission, told Adah that the Section 10 of the National Commission for Refugees Act has removed the locus standi (legal right) of the plaintiffs to challenge Taylor's asylum, This Day and the Daily Independent reported.

But counsel to the plaintiffs, Mutiu Ganiyu, asked the court to disregard the argument of Aina.

He said Anyegbule and Egbuna have the fundamental right to approach the court to challenge the decision of the government granting the asylum.

Aina asked Adah to stay proceedings pending the determination of the appeal challenging the judge's ruling that the Federal High Court has the jurisdiction to entertain the case.

The judge fixed ruling on stay of proceeding for April 13 when Section 10 of the National Commission for Refugees Act cited by Aina would be considered.

In the mean time, the usual light presence of security operatives and policemen around Taylor has been replaced with scores of heavily armed mobile policemen and other security agents.

They keep vigil outside the gates of his residence close to the headquarters of the NNS Victory in Calabar.

AFP, quoting sources close to Taylor, said that Liberian authorities had begun a process to extradite him to face charges before a UN-backed special court in neighboring Sierra Leone.

One of the sources, Sando Johnson, a Liberian former lawmaker and close ally of Taylor, said Sirleaf had made the request to Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo last week.

Information gathered by AFP in Monrovia revealed that former chairman of the transitional government Gyude Bryant on Wednesday called Taylor's estranged wife Jewel Howard Taylor, now a senator in the current parliament, to inform her about the decision Sirleaf envisaged in Nigeria.

"Gyude Bryant called the senator and told her that he has just received a call from President Obasanjo who told him that Ellen Sirleaf has officially asked for the extradition of Charles Taylor," a source close to the senator told AFP.

"Obasanjo said he will present the letter of request to other African leaders soon," said the source.

The African Union is due to meet at summit level in July in Banjul, Gambia.

"Sirleaf promised the NPP that she will not send Charles Taylor to the court in Sierra Leone if the NPP party votes for her. Now she has to go by what she said," Johnson said on a private Liberian radio station.

Agence France-Presse

10 March 2006

Taylor to be handed over to Liberia within three weeks: ex-wife

Liberia's former warlord Charles Taylor, exiled in Nigeria, could be extradited to Liberia within three weeks, his ex-wife said Friday.

"I have just been contacted by my (ex) husband and he has confirmed that he has a copy of the letter, given to him this morning by the Nigerian president Olusegun Obasanjo," Jewel Howard Taylor told AFP.

No independent confirmation or comment on the claim could immediately be obtained in Nigeria, where President Obasanjo was engaged Friday on a mission in a state outside the federal capital territory.

"My (ex) husband says that in less than three weeks, he may be turned over to the Liberian government," according to Howard Taylor, a senator in Liberia's new parliament.

Liberia's President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf on Thursday said her predecessor would be brought to justice after negotiations with Nigeria, where he has been granted asylum.

"Justice will have to extend to former president Charles Taylor," Sirleaf said in Paris, two months after taking office from an interim post-Taylor administration.

Sources close to Taylor this week told AFP that Liberian authorities had begun a process to extradite him to face charges before a UN-backed special court in neighbouring Sierra Leone.

One of the sources, Sando Johnson, a Liberian former lawmaker and close ally of Taylor, said Sirleaf had made the request to Nigerian President Obasanjo last week.

Taylor faces charges of supporting the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) brutal rebels who waged a gruesome in neighbouring Sierra Leone in the 1990s.

He has been living in Nigeria since August 2003 at Obasanjo's invitation as part of a UN-backed political process which brought to an end Liberia's 14-year civil war and organised the election which ushered Sirleaf into power.

A Liberian government official who asked not to be named said if Taylor was turned over Liberia would not keep him inside the country for more than one hour before onpassing him to the Freetown-based UN-backed Special Court.

"I cannot tell you if President Sirleaf has asked for his extradition or not, but one thing I can assure you is that if Taylor is turned over to the government he will go to Sierra Leone the same day."

"We cannot keep Taylor here for more than an hour if he has to be turned over," said the official.

On return from a weekend trip to Nigeria, Sirleaf, who has previously said Taylor's issue was not her priority despite international pressure for him to face justice, promised that the fate of the warlord-turned president would soon be known.

Liberian Times

10 March 2006

http://www.theliberiantimes.com/article_2006_03_10_2609.html

Liberia: Taylor's Court Trial Embarrasses President Sirleaf

Mar 10, 2006

by Michael Kpayili / Staff Writer

Supporters of former president Charles Taylor are re-grouping and taken a defensive posture to a credible information reaching them from the standard newspaper in Nigeria that pres. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has finally given the go ahead to the Nigerian Government to turn over the exile former President Charles Taylor to Liberia. The leader of the group Mr. Sando Johnson, a confidant of Charles Taylor made the revelation. Mr. Johnson who seems very disturbed and vocal in his utterances said Pres. Sirleaf has played a game of deceit with them and allowing Charles Taylor to come to Liberia will automatically destabilize and destroy the virgin, fragile, and a newborn democracy Liberians are enjoying.

Mr. Johnson who served for over eight(8) years as Representative in the house of parliament commencing from the regime of Charles Taylor also informed the public that President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf promised the followings of Charles Taylor against witch-hunt during the pre-election campaign and that motivated the leadership of NPP like Jewel Taylor, Cyril Allen, Lewis Brown, Reginald Goodridge to mobilize vote for pres. Sirleaf in the round off election which eventually went in favor of Ellen Sirleaf. Hon. Johnson who appeared as guest on a local talk show DC-Talk on DC-101.1fm said there is a fear within the international community that if Charles Taylor is taken to Hague, he (Taylor) will expose the dubious deeds of some bigger hands in the international community. Mr. Johnson who failed to tell the public on how the destabilization will be, but members of former president Charles Taylor elite death squad are seen mobilizing under the guise of requesting for their pay from the Defense ministry.

Meanwhile, the minister of information Hon. Jonathan McClain has refuted claim made by Hon. Johnson and said pres. Sirleaf in no time obligated the Liberian Government to the Nigerian Government on the turning over of Charles Taylor to Liberia. Although pres. Ellen Sirleaf admitted holding discussion with the Nigerian president and the issue of Charles Taylor was raised but was concluded on forwarding the issue surrounding Taylor to the African Union (AU) body for final decision.

The European Union and other great nations have set the turning over of Charles Taylor to the United Nations backed world crime court in Sierra Leone as pre-condition to supporting Ellen led Government.

Charles Taylor was taken out of Liberia under a special arrangement in order to have peace in Liberia and West Africa at large. A former frontline General for Taylor and now Senator of Nimba County Hon. Adolphus Dolo, has taken an exception over the unilateral decision taken by pres. Sirleaf in Nigeria. He said, the issue of Charles Taylor should involve the National Legislature and not a single individual.

The News (Monrovia)

10 March 2006

Taylor Heads for Freetown as Ellen Submits Extradition Request

"Justice will have to extend to former president Charles Taylor," said Sirleaf in Paris, two months after taking office from an interim post-Taylor administration.

According to the French Press Agency, Sirleaf made the statement at a news conference in Paris, France Thursday following a speech given at a political science institute.

Sirleaf said Taylor's fate would be decided on two conditions. "it will require consultations with the leadership in our region" in view of a brokered agreement that led to Taylor stepping down; and secondly, "the timeliness of whatever we do must take our own stability into account."

AFP, quoting sources close to Taylor said that Liberian authorities had begun a process to extradite him to face charges before a UN-backed special court in neighboring Sierra Leone.

One of the sources, Sando Johnson, a Liberian former lawmaker and close ally of Taylor, said Sirleaf had made the request to Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo last week.

Taylor faces charges of supporting the brutal rebels of Liberia's Revolutionary United Front (RUF) in the 1990s. He has been living in Nigeria since August 2003 at Obasanjo's invitation as part of a UN-backed political process which brought to an end Liberia's 14-year civil war and organized the election which ushered Sirleaf into power.

Information gathered by AFP in Monrovia revealed that former chairman of the transitional government Gyude Bryant on Wednesday called Taylor's estranged wife Jewel Howard Taylor, now a senator in the current parliament, to inform her about the decision Sirleaf envisaged in Nigeria.

"Gyude Bryant called the senator and told her that he has just received a call from President Obasanjo who told him that Ellen Sirleaf has officially asked for the extradition of Charles Taylor," a source close to the senator told AFP.

"Obasanjo said he will present the letter of request to other African leaders soon," said the source. The African Union is due to meet at summit level in July in Banjul, Gambia.

"Sirleaf promised the NPP that she will not send Charles Taylor to the court in Sierra Leone if the NPP party had voted her. Now she has to go by what she said," Johnson said on a private Liberian radio station.

Obasanjo's government has always maintained it would only hand over its guest to Liberia following a formal request from a democratically elected Liberian government.

Sirleaf and Obasanjo met in Abuja last weekend and both are said to have discussed the fate of Taylor.

"The government of Liberia and the government of Nigeria are working jointly to arrive at a decision on the Charles Taylor issue," Information Minister Frank Nweke said, refusing to elaborate further.

The former Liberian president and warlord has lived in exile in southeastern Nigeria since August 2003, when he left office and fled his besieged capital, despite demands that he answers war crimes charges in Sierra Leone.

Taylor who is being accused of backing the notorious RUF rebels in the civil war in Sierra Leone in the 1990s stepped down as rebels threatened to seize the capital of Liberia, Monrovia, just as his leaving Liberia was the fall-out of a deal struck by African countries led by Nigeria.

The Nigerian newspaper, This Day reported Wednesday that the former Liberian leader remains shielded from court proceedings in accordance with the provisions of section 10 of the National Commission for Refugees Act, 1990.

International Justice Tribune

13 March 2006

Debate over Taylor's fate

13 March 2006

While visiting Paris on 8 and 9 March, Liberia's newly-elected President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf told the press that the issue of Charles Taylor, the former Liberian president indicted by the Special Court for Sierra Leone, "was discussed with [Nigerian] President Obasanjo... I have been asked by him to allow him time to consult with the chairman of the ECOWAS (Economic Community Of West African States) and the African Union".

Taylor is even less of a priority given that "clearly [he] still has sympathizers in [Liberia]. Clearly he still has certain business interests in the country, and all of this could lead to actions that have the potential for destabilization." She went on to say, "Don't forget that when the arrangement was made putting Mr. Taylor in exile, it was done by the West African leadership and the agreement of the major partners, including the U.S. and the UN." Taylor's fate, just like that of Hissène Habré, could be announced in the Gambia in July during the next African Union summit.

Voice of America

10 March 2006

Conflicting Reports Emerge About Charles Taylor's Possible Extradition From Nigeria

By James Butty

Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf said in Paris Wednesday that former Liberian president Charles Taylor would be brought to justice, but only after consultations with other West African leaders. Taylor has been living in exile in Nigeria since 2003. There's new disagreement over whether Mrs. Sirleaf asked Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo during her visit to Nigeria last week to extradite Taylor.

President Obasanjo's spokeswoman Remi Oyo told VOA earlier this week that Taylor was never discussed. However, Chief Cyril Allen, chairman emeritus of former President Taylor's political party, tells English to Africa reporter James Butty President Sirleaf did make a request to President Obasanjo.

"The issue in Monrovia today and on a lot of talk shows on the radio and in the newspapers," says Allen, "is that there was a letter presented to President Obasanjo by President Sirleaf on her way out."

Allen says President Obasanjo has repeatedly said that he would only turn President Taylor over to a duly elected Liberian government upon a formal request. But he says President Sirleaf made her request unilaterally.

"What is important to me right now is that a formal request from the government of Liberia for President Taylor to be turned over to the government must be made by the collective effort of the three branches of government. The Speaker is not aware; the President Pro Temp is not aware. I have spoken to all these authorities in the country today," he says.

President Sirleaf returned home Friday from her visits to Belgium and France.

United Nations



Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 11 March 2006

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

International Clips on Liberia

Wife of exiled ex-Liberia leader says husband received extradition request

By JONATHAN PAYE-LAYLEH

Source: AP WorldStream English (all)

Date: March 10, 2006

MONROVIA, Liberia_The wife of Liberia's exiled former president, Charles Taylor, said her husband received a copy of a letter Friday purportedly from Liberia's new leader asking Nigeria to extradite Taylor to face trial at a war crimes tribunal.

Jewel Taylor told The Associated Press that Taylor contacted her by telephone from exile in Nigeria to say officials there handed him a letter Friday bearing the signature of **Liberia's** President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, asking Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo to grant the transfer to the Sierra Leone-based court.

LIBERIA: Liberian authorities asked yesterday Nigeria to extradite former warlord Charles Taylor before he is handed over to the UN-backed Special Court in Sierra Leone. (*Star, South Africa, 10 March 2006*)

Taylor to be handed over to Liberia within three weeks: ex-wife

MONROVIA, March 10, 2006 (AFP) - Liberia's former warlord Charles Taylor, exiled in Nigeria, could be extradited to Liberia within three weeks, his ex-wife said Friday.

Ukraine National Radio 10-03-2006 20:24

300 Ukrainian peacekeepers on UN's Mission to Liberia decorated with UN's medals For Service to Peace

The ceremony to present the medals to Ukrainian helimen was attended by Alan Doss, the UN Secretary General's special representative to Liberia, Ukraine's charge d'affaires a.i. to the Republic of Guinea Oleksandr Shulha, UN Mission staffers.

Speaking at a follow-up rally, Oleksandr Shulha thanked the peacekeepers for their meritorious service, which he stated as adding to Ukraine's international profile. Acting on behalf of the Defense Minister of Ukraine, the diplomat meted out Defense Ministry honorary diplomas and presents to the Ukrainian military personnel. The 56th Detached Helicopter Squadron has been on UN's Mission to Liberia since January 11, 2004. The Squadron's personnel are engaged in airlifting cargos, UN Mission personnel, medevac missions, observation flights.

Local Media – Radio Veritas *(News monitored yesterday at 18:45 pm)*

Former Presidential Aspirant Threatens to Sue Newspaper

- Addressing a news conference in Monrovia yesterday, Progressive Democratic Party standard bearer Sekou Damate Conneh said that he would sue *The Analyst* newspaper if it fails to retract its report that he had frowned at human rights groups who reject the Senate confirmation of former Justice Minister Kabineh Ja'neh as Associate Justice.

(Also reported on ELBS Radio)

Senate Urges Maritime Bureau to Seek Jobs for Liberian Seafarers

- During a meeting with Bureau of Maritime Affairs Commissioner John Morlu yesterday, Senate Maritime Committee Chairperson Joyce Musu Freeman called on the Commission to ensure that Liberian seafarers were employed on ships that fly the Liberian Flag to enable them contribute to the reconstruction of Liberia.

(Also reported on ELBS Radio)

ELBS RADIO *(News monitored yesterday at 19:00 pm)*

UNMIL Ready Arrest Former President Taylor if He Returns

- UNMIL Military Spokesman Anders Johansson told ELBS Radio yesterday that UNMIL was ready to arrest former President Charles Taylor if he returns to Liberia and transfer him to face war crimes charges in Sierra Leone.

Chinese Military Leaders Visit Liberia Soon Says Chinese Envoy

- Chinese Ambassador Lin Songtian yesterday paid a courtesy call on Defense Minister Brownie Samukai to inform him that a delegation of Chinese military personnel headed by Maj.-Gen. Xing Bundong will this month visit Liberia to hold talks on strengthening ties between the armies of the two countries.

Government Says There Are No Cases of Bird Flu in Liberia

- Addressing a workshop on Sensitization and Information Sharing on Bird Flu, organised by the National Task Force on the Control and Prevention of Bird Flu in Liberia yesterday, Vice President Joseph Boakai said that no case of Bird Flu had been reported in the country. He assured that the government would respond immediately and appropriately if the disease surfaces.

Complete versions of the UNMIL International Press Clips, UNMIL Daily Liberian Radio Summary and UNMIL Liberian Newspapers Summary are posted each day on the UNMIL Bulletin Board. If you are unable to access the UNMIL Bulletin Board or would like further information on the content of the summaries, please contact Mr. Jeddi Armah at armahj@un.org.

Z-Net Africa

http://www.zmag.org/content/print_article.cfm?itemID=9888§ionID=2

Sierra Leone Trial of a 'War Hero'

by Lansana Gberie; March 10, 2006

The UN-Sierra Leone Special Court began work nearly four years ago, and it has already spent more than \$80 million dollars. This is mostly as salary for its mainly expatriate staff, amounting to \$16 million a year – more than that for the entire Sierra Leonean civil service. In its first fully operational year, the Court had a budget of \$34 million, in its second \$29.9 million, and \$25.5 million for its third year. Set up in 2002 as a result of agreement between the Sierra Leone government and the UN, the Court is mandated to prosecute those who “bear the greatest responsibility” for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other serious violations of international law which took place in Sierra Leone at the height of the war years, 1996 to 2002. Its supporters claimed that by doing so the court will leave a ‘legacy’ of fundamental respect for the rule of law, and ensure ‘closure’ (notice the vogue word) after years of destructive warfare. Four years into its ponderous work, however, the Court has clearly satisfied nobody’s sense of justice, reconciled no one to the brutal past, and left everyone plainly angry or bemused.

This writer visited the Court several times in January and February. Hinga Norman, a former Sierra Leone government minister and the leader of the pro-government Civil Defence Force (CDF), was testifying as the first accused. Norman was dramatically arrested in his office in 2003, handcuffed and at first flown to a remote corner of the country, where he was detained in a former holding facility for enslaved Africans being shipped to the Americas. He had no contact with his family and lawyers, and it was only after protest from them that Norman was later brought back to Freetown to be detained with the others. Norman is generally regarded as hero for his role in resisting the rebels of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) and rogue government soldiers, whose campaigns led to the near-total destruction of Sierra Leone.

A company of troops from Mongolia guards the Court’s heavily fortified compound, and the Court’s main building, finished about two years ago at the cost of some \$3.5 million dollars, is hidden from public view by high, barbed-wired walls. Inside the Court’s compound are mainly prefabricated little buildings, helping to make the Court’s main building – with its moderately baroque looks, oval-shaped inside, and an almost post-modern ambience – magnificent and imposing. A glass wall, probably bullet-proof, separates the audience from the room where the robed judges writing furiously in big books, and the lawyers (both prosecutors and defence, also in their colourful robes), and accused and witnesses, sit. Armed soldiers stand in strategic locations around the court. Visiting the Court for the first time, the British scholar Tim Kelsal, who has insightfully written about the so-called transitional justice system in Sierra Leone, thought that it “reminded of the 18th century spectacle of robed English judges accompanied by military squads.”

So far thirteen persons have been indicted by the Court, but two – the RUF leader Foday Sankoh and his former commander Sam Bockarie – are dead; another, a military leader named Johnny Paul Koroma, has simply disappeared; and a fourth, former Liberian President Charles Taylor, is in protected exile in Nigeria. Nine persons, three of them CDF leaders, three RUF officials, and three members of Koroma’s military junta, are in the detention of Court. All are charged with –

with only slight variation in emphasis – murder, rape, sexual enslavement, looting and arson, acts of terror and extermination, and attacks on UN soldiers.

Norman began testifying in January. He walked with a slight limp (the result of infections he had contracted while in detention, he told this writer) but otherwise looked healthy and even robust. He recounted the setting up of the CDF in Guinea in 1997 by the exiled President Tejan Kabbah (after his overthrow by Koroma). The CDF was formed as a coalition of various civil militia groups which had emerged during the war as a result of the corruption and ineffectiveness of the national army. They fought to protect their villages and homes from the ravages of the RUF and rogue government soldiers. Norman acted as the kind of spiritual leader of the largely inchoate group. As a result of his background as a British-trained soldier (he served in the Congo as a UN peacekeeper in the early 1960s), he was chosen to coordinate the operations of the CDF with the West African intervention force Ecomog during their assault against Johnny Paul Koroma's junta, in 1997-1998. The role exposed him to great danger, but he was ultimately successful: the Armed Forces Ruling Council (AFRC) junta, which had overthrown Kabbah in 1997, was unseated in February 1998, and Kabbah was reinstated. Later, following the resurgence of rebel activities, Norman once again coordinated CDF activities with those of Ecomog and the British forces to beat back the rebels, and played a significant role in the subsequent disarmament process. This testimony was subsequently supported by those of Peter Penfold (a former British High Commissioner in Sierra Leone), Albert Joe Demby (a former Vice President of Sierra Leone) and General David Richards (a British army officer who also worked with Norman during the period), but the main witness, President Kabbah, was unavailable.

The prosecution, led by British lawyer Desmond del Silva, readily conceded Norman's courage and role in bringing back democracy to Sierra Leone. But the issue, they insisted, is that in the process he committed "crimes against humanity." The prosecutors charge Norman, and the two other CDF officials, Alieu Kondewa and Moinina Fofana, of using "cultish rituals" to conscript civilians into the CDF, and of scheming to "take a traditional belief system and [manipulating] it (sic) to their own ends." The charges, also including cannibalism, states that Norman hatched "a common plan" to use "illegal and forbidden means, to defeat the RUF and AFRC forces." Norman, the prosecution claim, was central in the "joint criminal enterprise" (the Court's perversely reductive definition of the war).

In a fascinating paper on the Special Court, Tim Kelsal has drawn attention to the Court's frantic attempts to produce "historical truths that are narrowly confined to forensic 'facts'." In this way, 'facts' are cast "in a particular light, de-politicizing certain modes of action by calling them criminal, motivated, where motivations are spoken of, by pure greed, and providing a point of leverage for penal apparatus." In this way, leaders of groups which had engaged in warfare are separated "from the rest of the population, and in the view of international jurists, sends a powerful message about impunity to other aspiring leaders." The Court, Kelsal writes, is part of the mechanism for "global governance" which the West wants to impose worldwide. In its proceedings, the Court attempts "a form of political manipulation, in which the criminal nature of erstwhile political acts is drip-fed into the minds of the general population," leaving people hostage to the Court's owned skewed narrative of what has happened in their own country.

The charges against Norman were first read out by the former Chief Prosecutor David Crane, previously an American army lawyer (and now a professor of law at Syracuse University), in 2004. Crane, who I met, was an energetic and passionate man; but this passion sometimes allowed him prodigies of convolution and rhetorical excess. In charging three former RUF members, Crane declared that their motive in waging war in Sierra Leone was "power, riches, and control in furtherance of a joint criminal enterprise that extended from West Africa north into the

Mediterranean Region, Europe, and the Middle East.” Crane staunchly rejected any “injection of politics” into the trials (meaning mentioning the political context in which groups acted), and in an interview with Kelsal, he provided a distinction between ‘politics’ and ‘crime’ in terms which he doubtless considered profound, not to say literate, but which only exposed the confusion surrounding the whole Special Court enterprise: “Sometimes they [politics and crime] merge... And there are political crimes, such as corruption is a political crime...but these are international crimes and crimes against humanity...there’s a real issue of injecting politics into a court of law. That’s why you have balances of power, not balance of power...the law...is blind, equal, and I’m talking in the pure sense now.”

This fetish of the law as blind and equal is all very well, but in the case of the Special Court, the trial of Norman has now stalled principally because the main witness, the President of Sierra Leone, has still not consented to appear for testimony, and the Court has not issued any statement about that yet.

Norman and the eight other accused persons have been in the Court’s detention since 2003, and the trials are unlikely to be concluded soon. Still, just after he left the Court to take up his appointment at Syracuse University, Crane wrote an email to his friends and supporters thanking them – using a phrase that evoked the many tropes of barbarism and darkness which suffused his indictment of the CDF leaders – for helping him bring “the rule of law to West Africa.”

CNN

10 March 2006

Milosevic Found Dead in Cell

(CNN) -- Former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic has been found dead in his cell in The Hague, Netherlands where he was being tried on war crimes charges, according to the United Nations war crimes tribunal. He was 64.

An official in the chief prosecutor's office said Milosevic was found at about 10 a.m. Saturday and that he apparently had been dead for several hours. An autopsy will be performed, the official said.

Milosevic rose to the top of Yugoslav politics in the power vacuum left by the 1980 death of post-World War Two Yugoslav dictator Marshal Tito.

Elected Serbian president in 1990, he ruled with an iron grip until his overthrow in 2000. He was transferred to the Hague in 2001 and went on trial the following year. (Profile)

Referring to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, Milosevic's widow, Mirjana, told CNN: "The tribunal has killed my husband."

Reacting to the death, French Foreign Minister Philippe Douste-Blazy said the many victims of the bloody Balkan wars should not be forgotten. (Watch the bloody story of the Balkans wars)

"With the death of Milosevic, one of the main actors if not the main actor in the Balkan wars of the late 20th century has left the scene.

"I would like to spare a thought for all those who suffered so much from ethnic cleansing, tens of thousands of men, women and children, which Milosevic conceived and planned."

The tribunal did not say how Milosevic had died but Douste-Blazy told reporters he died of natural causes.

"Milosevic was found lifeless on his bed in his cell at the United Nations detention unit," the U.N. tribunal said in a statement.

"The guard immediately alerted the detention unit officer in command and the medical officer. The latter confirmed that Slobodan Milosevic was dead."

The tribunal said Dutch police and coroners were called in and started an inquiry.

The former Serbian president had been on trial on 66 charges of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes during the bloody disintegration of Yugoslavia in the 1990s.

Milosevic had suffered a heart condition and high blood pressure that had repeatedly interrupted his trial in the Hague.

The tribunal had recently rejected Milosevic's request to travel to Russia for specialist medical treatment, CNN's Christiane Amanpour reported. Milosevic had said he would appeal against the decision, saying his health was worsening.

CNN's Brent Sadler, who reported on the bloody Balkans wars of the 1990s, said there would now likely be an adverse backlash in Serbia as it grapples with huge international pressure to hand over alleged war criminals Ratko Mladic and Radovan Karadzic. (Full story)

"Much of Milosevic's trial was transmitted on Serbian and international television and people there haven't been allowed to forget their former president.

"Politicians and the people were already split over war crime suspects and it is going to make the issue of the handover of Mladic and Karadzic even more divisive," Sadler said.

Milosevic's death comes a day before the third anniversary of the assassination of Serbian Prime Minister Zoran Djindjic.

It also comes amid diplomatic efforts this year to determine the future of Kosovo, the disputed region of Serbia dominated by Albanians.

The United Nations has administered Kosovo since the North Atlantic Treaty Organization drove out Yugoslav troops in 1999 amid grave human rights abuses in the fighting between Serbs and Albanians.

Ethnic Albanians in Kosovo outnumber other ethnic groups, mainly Serbs, by about 9 to 1.

Ethnic strife

Milosevic's war crimes trial at the Hague had just entered its fifth year when he died.

The long legal proceeding was in its defense phase when it began, a marathon proceeding covering 66 counts involving war crimes from the Balkan conflict in the 1990s.

The counts included his role in the fighting in the disputed Serbian province of Kosovo and the civil warfare in Bosnia and Croatia after the breakup of Yugoslavia.

That country, a non-Warsaw Pact communist nation composed of six separate republics, raged with ethnic strife as it broke apart during the fall of communism.

One of many Balkan war crimes suspects who have been brought to The Hague, Milosevic was the best-known symbol and the most politically powerful, and authorities had been attempting to prove that he backed or even authorized violence by Serb forces.

He faced charges of crimes against humanity, violations of the laws and customs of war, and genocide, an explosive charge emanating from the Bosnian conflict, in which tens of thousands of Bosnian Muslims were killed or chased from their homes by Bosnian Serb forces.

In Srebrenica, about 8,000 males were killed, while Sarajevo was terrorized by a Bosnian-Serb-led siege. (Full story)

He pleaded not guilty to all counts and faced life in prison.

Milosevic had repeatedly said he was not responsible for ordering killings and rapes and was defending the Serbian people against terror.

Associated Press

13 March 2006

Tests Show Milosevic Died of Heart Attack

Preliminary Autopsy Shows War-Crimes Defendant Milosevic Died of Heart Attack, Tribunal Says

By ANTHONY DEUTSCH

The Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands - A heart attack killed Slobodan Milosevic in his jail cell, the U.N. war crimes tribunal said, citing preliminary findings from Dutch pathologists who conducted a nearly eight-hour autopsy Sunday on the former Yugoslav leader.

The tribunal said pathologists had determined that "Milosevic's cause of death was a 'myocardial infarction'" a medical term for heart attack.

Found dead in his cell Saturday morning, the 64-year-old Milosevic had suffered from heart ailments and high blood pressure, and his bad health caused numerous breaks in his four-year, \$200 million trial before the tribunal.

Some wondered if suicide might have been an out for the man accused of causing wars that killed 250,000 people during the breakup of Yugoslavia in the 1990s. And a legal adviser said Milosevic feared he was being poisoned.

A tribunal spokeswoman said it was too early to determine if poison could have caused the heart attack, saying a final autopsy report would be released in coming days.

Earlier, the chief U.N. prosecutor, Carla Del Ponte, had said claims that Milosevic committed suicide or was poisoned were "just rumors."

"You have the choice between normal, natural death and suicide," she told reporters at the tribunal, where Milosevic had been standing trial for more than four years on 66 counts of war crimes and genocide in Croatia, Bosnia and Kosovo during Yugoslavia's violent breakup in the 1990s.

Milosevic's body was to be delivered to his family by Monday, according to the tribunal. But there was disagreement among relatives about whether he should be buried in his homeland of Serbia or in Russia, where his wife and son live in exile.

In Serbia, Milosevic loyalists burned candles in memory of their fallen hero at branches of his Socialist Party. Elderly women sobbed and kissed his photographs adorned with black cloth, while nationalists signed condolence books declaring him a defender of "Serb honor."

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice would have none of that, calling Milosevic "one of the most malign forces in Europe in quite a long time."

"Some feel that they wish there had been the opportunity to bring him to justice and to have the final verdict of history be in the courts, but I think the final verdict of history about Milosevic is pretty clear," Rice said after visiting Chile.

A pathologist sent by Serbia observed the autopsy at the Netherlands Forensic Institute, an agency of the Dutch Justice Ministry.

Tribunal spokeswoman Alexandra Milenov said the autopsy revealed Milosevic had been suffering from two heart conditions. Asked if poisoning could have caused the heart attack, Milenov said it was too early to draw conclusions.

She said the inquiry into Milosevic's death was continuing, with a final report expected to be released within days.

"I think we should also wait for that until we come to any final conclusions," she said.

Outside the tribunal's offices, Milosevic's legal adviser showed reporters a letter that he said the former leader wrote the day before his death claiming traces of a powerful drug used to treat leprosy or tuberculosis had been found in his bloodstream.

Zdenko Tomanovic said Milosevic was seriously concerned. "They would like to poison me," he quoted Milosevic as telling him.

A Dutch state broadcaster, NOS, said later that an adviser to the tribunal confirmed such a drug was found in a blood sample taken in recent months from Milosevic. The report said the adviser, who was not identified, said the drug could have had a "neutralizing effect" on Milosevic's other medications.

Doctors found traces of the drug when they were trying to determine why Milosevic's medication for high blood pressure was not working, the NOS report said.

Milosevic had appealed unsuccessfully to the war crimes tribunal last December to be allowed to go to a heart clinic in Moscow for treatment. He repeated the request as late as last month.

Milosevic's older brother, Borislav, suggested to Serbia's Beta news agency that he should be buried "in his own country, as he's a son of Serbia."

But the late leader's wife, Mirjana Markovic, and their son, Marko, could be arrested if they returned to Serbia for a funeral. They want Milosevic buried in Moscow, where they live, Beta said.

Milosevic's daughter, Marija, disagreed with both sites. She said the burial should be in Montenegro, at the family grave in the town of Lijeva Rijeka. "He's not a Russian to be buried in Moscow," she told Beta, adding that she would not attend a Moscow funeral.

Milosevic, the first sitting head of state to be indicated for war crimes, was arrested early in 2001 after being forced from power when Serbs grew tired of the hardships brought by the Balkans conflicts.

His death means there will be no judicial verdict on his alleged crimes.

"It is a great pity for justice that the trial will not be completed and no verdict will be rendered," Del Ponte said. His death "deprives victims of the justice they need and deserve."

In Serbia's U.N.-administered Kosovo province, Ferdone Qerkezi, 52, wept with rage, cursing Milosevic for eluding justice by dying. Her husband and four sons died in a 1999 crackdown by Serb forces.

"He should have been dragged through streets of towns and thrown into a bottomless pit so no one could ever find him," she said. "For what he has done to us, there is no punishment on earth that befits him."

While some Serbs spent Sunday mourning Milosevic, others marked the third anniversary of the slaying of a key Milosevic foe: the charismatic Zoran Djindjic, who headed the pro-democracy movement that toppled Milosevic and engineered his handover to the U.N. court for trial.

Hundreds gathered in the northern Serbian city of Novi Sad handing out recordings of Djindjic's speeches and urging passers-by to "remember the best Serbia ever had."

Milosevic was the sixth war crimes suspect from the Balkans to die at The Hague. A week earlier, convicted Croatian Serb leader Milan Babic killed himself in the same prison. He had been a star prosecution witness against Milosevic.

Milosevic's trial was the longest and most expensive of the cases before the tribunal, which has spent about \$1 billion in total, experts say.

Associated Press writers Bruce Mutsvairo in The Hague; Katarina Kratovac and Dusan Stojanovic in Belgrade, Serbia-Montenegro; and Fisnik Abrashi in Djakovica, Serbia-Montenegro, contributed to this report.

Jurist News and Research

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<http://jurist.law.pitt.edu/forumy/2006/03/milosevic-trial-legacy-if-not-outcome.php>

The Milosevic Trial Legacy: If Not Outcome, Hope

JURIST Guest Columnist Michael Kelly of Creighton University School of Law says that what is most important about the trial of Slobodan Milosevic in the wake of his sudden death in jail is not its lack of outcome, but rather the hope its example holds for future justice against other dictators...

The sudden death of Slobodan Milosevic is regrettable in the sense that the judicial process he faced for the crimes he committed cannot be completed. The fact that he faced such a process at all is, however, of surpassing importance.

Milosevic was charged with war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide, carried out while his regime was in power during the catastrophic break-up of Yugoslavia in the 1990's. The butchery that ensued engulfed Bosnia, Croatia, and Serbia (including tiny Kosovo). Milosevic hovered above all this, directing the bloodshed and eventually incurring the wrath of NATO, which deployed against Serb forces on its first combat mission since creation of the organization in 1949.

In a preview of his natural ability to throw his opponents off, in 1999 Milosevic actually sued the NATO countries in their individual capacities at the International Court of Justice for illegal use of force against his Serbia and Montenegro, including (ironically) a charge for genocide. Requesting the Court to issue an injunction to stop NATO's bombing of Serbia, Milosevic pleaded

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is exposed to acts of use of force by which the Kingdom of Belgium has violated its international obligations not to resort to threat or use of force against another State, not to intervene in the internal affairs of another State and not to violate the sovereignty of another State, to protect civilians and civilian objects in time of war, to protect the environment, as well as those relating to free navigation on international rivers, to the fundamental rights and liberties of the individual, to the ban on the use of prohibited weapons and on deliberate infliction on ethnic groups conditions of life calculated to bring about physical destruction of the group. Both military and civilian targets came under attack in the air strikes launched against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.... [O]ver 10 000 attacks were made against the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. In air strikes were used: 806 warplanes (of which over 530 combat planes) and 206 helicopters stationed in 30 air-bases (situated in 5 states) and aboard 6 warships in the Adriatic Sea. More than 2,500 cruise missiles were launched and over 7,000 tons of explosives were dropped. About 1000 civilians, including 19 children, were killed and more than 4,500 sustained serious injuries...

The Court declined such an injunction, and the suits eventually sputtered out last year. By that time, Milosevic was on trial himself at The Hague before the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia.

No other head of state had been tried for such crimes in modern history. The Kaiser escaped trial after the First World War by seeking refuge in the Netherlands. Hitler killed himself at the

conclusion of the Second World War, leaving only his Number 2 (Hermann Goering) and his henchmen to face justice - which Goering cheated by committing suicide prior to hanging. Italy's Benito Mussolini was mobbed and shot. Japan's Hedeki Tojo faced trial and was put to death (after an unsuccessful suicide attempt), but he was the head of government - the Emperor, as head of state, continued on his throne. The next head of government to face justice was Jean Kambanda of Rwanda in 1998, and the next attempt at bringing a head of state to justice was the unsuccessful extradition request lodged by Spain with Britain to try Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet in 1999.

Consequently, the fact alone of Milosevic's trial is vastly more important than the ultimate outcome of that trial - acquittal, guilt, or, in this case, premature death. That a head of state was forced to face justice for his actions is the precedent that the world needs to take away from all this. One may quibble with the conduct of the trial, its undue length, its manic focus on due process, its treatment of witnesses, its leeway offered the defense, or even its delayed broadcast back to Serbia and over the Internet - all of which have been roundly criticized by many quarters. But, again, it is the FACT of the trial at all which hearkens a true breach in the wall of sovereign immunity that previously shielded despots around the world, encouraging them to act with impunity against their own people and those in neighboring states.

Because of Milosevic's trial, uncompleted as it now is, that sense of impunity should waver in the minds of those who contemplate genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. Milosevic's trial laid the legal groundwork for the new Special Court for Sierra Leone to indict Charles Taylor of Liberia, and issue its decision in the Taylor case explaining his complete loss of immunity from prosecution. The activation of international criminal justice is becoming the rule rather than the exception, with another new court in Cambodia under development, and the permanent International Criminal Court now investigating crimes in multiple African countries, including the still unfolding genocide in Sudan.

Thus, while Milosevic's legacy in the Balkans is a bloody one, and his legacy at the Tribunal itself is one of subterfuge, recrimination, delay, and obstreperousness (providing other courts with lessons from which to learn), his legacy to the future of international criminal law via his trial at The Hague is uncharacteristically one of hope. Hope that brutal dictators receive the message loud and clear that they eventually will be brought to justice for their atrocities if the international community can get its hands on them. And if they receive that message, and it stays their hand from even one genocide or war crime, sparing innocent people, then progress has been made. The years of legal back-and-forth, reams of paperwork, millions of dollars, piles of evidence, and endless amounts of frustration at the trial of Slobodan Milosevic was worth it. That he is now dead is of much less importance.

Michael J. Kelly is Associate Professor of Law at Creighton University School of Law in Omaha, Nebraska. He is author of The Tricky Nature of Proving Genocide Against Saddam Hussein Before the Iraqi Special Tribunal 38 Cornell International Law Journal 983 (2005), and the book Nowhere to Hide: Defeat of the Sovereign Immunity Defense for Crimes of Genocide & the Trials of Slobodan Milosevic and Saddam Hussein (Peter Lang Publishers 2005) with a foreword by Desmond Tutu.