SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE OUTREACH AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE



PRESS CLIPPINGS

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

Wednesday, 13 May 2009

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.

Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact

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Concord Times

Wednesday, 13 May 2009

Charles Taylor has suffered another legal blow in weeks, with the Court rejecting his lawyers' bid to delay his trial from the agreed upon date of June 29 to August. His first setback was when the Court ruled that he must answer to all 11 counts because the prosecution has presented sufficient evidence to back the indictment. Morris Anyah. one of Mr. Taylor's defence counsels, in submitting his oral application last Thursday, requested the Court to reassign the hearing date of the defence case saying they needed more time.

But according to the Court's Presiding Judge, Mr. Taylor's lawyers have not introduced any new evidence that would warrant a reconsideration and hence the court's decision remained unchanged. "I would just add this. We don't make this request lightly. We

gave due consideration to the issues even before your Honours rendered your decision on Monday, the 4th. In fact, you had indeed indicated on 9 April that you would in fact proclaim and put forth a date on which the Defence case ought to start on 4 May.

"So we know your Honours gave thoughtful and careful consideration to the issue, but we come in seeking reconsideration having considered the significant effect that a start date of 29 June would have on the smooth saying according to a to appeal expires today, so Court transcript forwarded by the UN back Special Court for Sierra Leone. But the presiding Judge maintained: "The Trial Chamber has considered the arguments of the Defence in support of Chamber to reconsider its the presiding Judge said.

date for the commencement of the Defence case as 29 June. The Trial Chamber has also considered the response by the Prosecution.

"In the Trial Chamber's opinion the Defence has not presented any new facts, or any change of situation, which would justify the Trial Chamber revisiting and/or reconsidering its opinion of last Monday and we decline the Defence application.

"However, we do not wish to leave the Defence without access to a remedy. We note that the ..." Anyah was quoted as a time for applying for leave we now make an order extending that time to next Monday, which is 11 May, as the limit for the Defence to file any such application for leave. When I refer to Monday. I mean close of business its application for the Trial next Monday, 11 May," decision of last Monday in Speaking to the media,

cated that he which the defence had up to August to open its case, suggesting that June 29 was too short a date to open the

defense's case. He spoke of filing an appeal in that direction.

But the Special Court's spokesperson Peter was yet to receive a written appeal from the Defense team.

Frost Illustrated

Tuesday, 12 May 2009

Court will not free Charles Taylor

(GIN)—War crimes judges have refused a request by the defense team of former President Charles Taylor to acquit him based on insufficient evidence.

The decision by the Special Court for Sierra Leone at The Hague means that Taylor, who has pleaded not guilty, must now present his defense. The case is scheduled to resume on June 29.

Tens of thousands of people died in Sierra Leone's decade-long civil war.

"The prosecution has produced evidence capable of supporting a conviction of the accused," the presiding judge told the court as he dismissed the defense's request.

Taylor faces 11 charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity over his alleged role in the brutal civil war in neighboring Sierra Leone.

European Parliament

Saturday, 25 April 2009

 $http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress_page/015-54263-111-04-17-902-20090422IPR54262-21-04-2009-2009-false/default_nl.htm$

Backing needed for the Special Court of Sierra Leone

MEPs want to ensure that anyone convicted of human rights abuses by the Special Court of Sierra Leone actually serves their sentence. There is currently a risk that this will not happen, which would defeat the purpose of the court. Other international tribunals face similar problems, thereby jeopardising the very idea of international justice.

The Special Court of Sierra Leone (SCSL) was established by the UN in 2000, in order to bring to justice those who have committed war crimes or crimes against humanity. The mandate of the Court is due to end in 2010, but the Government of Sierra Leone has indicated that it will not be able to enforce the sentences of those convicted.

Today's EP resolution on the SCSL was adopted by 381 votes to 4, with 7 abstentions. It urges the Council and the EU Member States to find a solution together with the SCSL "in order to ensure that the persons convicted serve their sentences, without which the effort of the SCSL and the credibility of the international community, including the EU, will be severely undermined".

The SCSL has concluded an agreement with states including UK, Sweden and Austria to ensure that some of the convicted persons serve their sentences in these countries. The European Parliament believes that "more agreements are needed to ensure that all persons already convicted, and those that are standing trial and may face convictions, actually serve their sentences".

Supporting international courts

The Court has set a number of significant precedents for international courts, as it is the first to indict a sitting African head of state for war crimes and is the first to be established in the country where the alleged crimes occurred.

The EP welcomes the progress made by international courts and tribunals, but recognises that a lack of assistance will put this process at great risk. It therefore calls on Member States and other international institutions to provide the necessary financial support to the SCSL and other international courts.

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 12 May 2009

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

International Clips on Liberia

Wood eighth-graders get global perspective from Liberia's Ambassador By Melissa J. Brachfeld | Staff Writer

Business Gazette, May 12, 2009 - Students in a model United Nations class at Earle B. Wood Middle School have a better understanding of the international organization thanks to a visit from Liberia's ambassador to the United States last week.

Speaking animatedly, M. Nathaniel Barnes, who was his country's ambassador to the United Nations from May 2006 to September 2008, fielded questions from the eighth-graders and told them about the African nation.

"Liberia was the first independent country in Africa," he said. "We have a long history of firsts." The country, whose name means "land of the free," was founded by free African-Americans and freed slaves from the United States in 1820, Barnes said. It began with less than 100 residents, but now has a population of approximately 3.5 million people.

International Clips on West Africa

Sierra Leone minister claims most corrupt department

FREETOWN (Reuters), 12 May 2009 - One of **Sierra Leone's** newly appointed ministers said on Monday he was running one of the most corrupt government departments in the West African country.

Dennis Sandi was appointed minister of lands, country planning and the environment by President Ernest Bai Koroma in a cabinet reshuffle in March. The previous minister was Benjamin Davies.

Most government officials are keen to play down the extent of graft in public life, but Sandi, a former university lecturer, delivered a candid assessment.

Local Media – Newspaper

Chief Justice Threatens to Sack Corrupt Judges - Admits Bribery in Justice System (The Informer)

- [sic:] Chief Justice Johnnie N. Lewis has vowed to fire Judge caught accepting bribes. The warning comes amidst sweeping reports of bribery in the judiciary.
- "There has been increment in salary of Judges, if you are caught in accepting bribe, you will be fired" were the words of Chief Justice Johnnie N. Lewis to Judges and other judicial workers during program marking the opening of the May Term of Court in Montserrado County held at the Temple of Justice on Monday. At the same time, Judges of Criminal Court "A, B, C and D" at the Temple of Justice yesterday said there has been criticism of the Judiciary both locally and internationally for many reasons. Reading the Judges charge during the opening of the May Term of Court, Judge Yussif Kaba called on critics of the Judiciary to back their criticism with evidence. "If you find out a judge is corrupt and there is

evidence, take that judge to the Judiciary Inquiry Board, there are laws to deal with corrupt court officials" he noted. On the issue of jurors' selection, which dominated the entire opening program, Judge Kaba said reports that the court recruited jurors who were 4th grade students were not true. He clarified that the court does not recruit jurors; rather, they are recruited by the Executive Department and are selected with the approval of defense and prosecution lawyers. He said the judges see the report as a disservice to the judicial system.

Central Bank says more Money Leaving Liberia than coming in (New Democrat)

• [sic:] Central Bank of Liberia(CBL) statistics released show that millions of United States Dollars are leaving the country than are coming, in contrary to the believe that remittances from abroad form a sizable part of the nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The CBL's Financial and Economic Bulletin covering the period October to December 2008 revealed that an amount of US\$37.0 million more left the country during this period compared with inflow of remittances here. The Bank said during the three months period under review it recorded a total inflows (that is money send from abroad by relatives) of US210.7 million, while the outflows (money that left the country) during the same period totalled US\$247.7 million-suggesting that if one were to do the math, at least an amount of US\$37 million was transferred out of the country in just three months.

War Crimes Court Rejects Request by Taylor's Defence to delay trial (New Democrat)

- Mr. Charles Taylor has suffered another legal blow in weeks, with the Court rejecting his lawyers' bid to delay his trial from the agreed upon date of June 29 to August. His first setback was when the Court ruled that he must answer to all 11 counts because the prosecution has presented sufficient evidence to back the indictment. Mr. Morris Anyah, one of Mr. Taylor's defence counsels, in submitting his oral application Thursday, requested the Court to reassign the hearing date of the defence case saying they needed more time.
- But according to the Court's Presiding Judge, Mr. Taylor's lawyers have not introduced any new evidence that would warrant reconsideration and hence the court's decision remained unchanged. "I would just add this. We don't make this request lightly. We appreciate the fact you gave due consideration to the issues even before your Honours rendered your decision on Monday, the 4th. In fact, you had indeed indicated on 9 April that you would in fact proclaim and put forth a date on which the Defence case ought to start on 4 May. So we know your Honours gave thoughtful and careful consideration to the issue, but we come in seeking reconsideration having considered the significant effect that a start date of 29 June would have on the smooth ..." Mr. Anyah was quoted as saying according to a Court transcript forwarded to this paper by the UN back Special Court for Sierra Leone.
- But the presiding Judge maintained: "The Trial Chamber has considered the arguments of the Defence in support of its application for the Trial Chamber to reconsider its decision of last Monday in which it fixed a hearing date for the commencement of the Defence case as 29 June. The Trial Chamber has also considered the response by the Prosecution.

Four Alleged Rapists Arrested in Sinoe County

(The Informer)

- The Magisterial Court in Sinoe County has detained at least four persons for their alleged involvement in rape activities in the county.
- The State Prosecuting County Attorney assigned at the Sinoe County Magisterial Court, Attorney Africanus Gabriel has disclosed that five persons have been rounded up and formally charged by the court for allegedly raping teenage girls and are awaiting speedy and transparent trial.
- Attorney Gabriel revealed that out of the five, one identified as Michael Nagbe has been convicted by the court and remanded in jail for twenty consecutive years.
- The County Attorney said that the crime of statutory rape committed by defendant Nagbe along with four others carries a lifetime sentence and is not bailable as required for under Section 14.70 of the Amended Rape Law. He explained that defendant Nagbe should have

been incarcerated for lifetime, but according to the court, his punishment was reduced to 20 years based upon the discretion of the Judge.

• Attorney Africanus Gabriel also said the crimes of aggravated assaults, theft of property and rape are the most prevalent cases in Sinoe County.

<u>Local Media – Star Radio (News monitored today at 09:00 am)</u>

Executive Submits over US\$347M Draft Budget to National Legislature

- The Executive Mansion has formally submitted the 2009/2010 Draft Fiscal Budget to the National Legislature for debate and approval.
- The Minister of State for Finance, Economic and Legal Affairs at the Executive Mansion presented the Draft Budget Monday to House Speaker, Alex Tyler behind closed doors. Details of the Draft Budget are expected to be released today to the plenary of the House.
- Meanwhile, the Finance Ministry in a statement said the budget is projected at a little over US\$347 million which corresponds with the expenditure projection.

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

Judges Dismiss Corruption Allegations

- Circuit Judges at the Temple of Justice have strongly refuted allegations of corruption and unethical behaviour against them.
- In their joint charge at the opening of the May Term of court Monday, the judges described the criticisms as a disservice to the judiciary saying such condemnations are usually made without evidence to serve as proof for correction.
- The judges' statement was in reaction to an allegation attributed to Justice Minister Philip Banks in which he accused the courts of selecting unqualified jurors.
- Responding to the Joint Charge, Cllr. Banks said the statement was not only directed at the
 judiciary but the entire justice sector and called for reforms in the Justice Sector, especially
 the jury system.
- Chief Justice Johnnie Lewis and National Bar Association President, Wilkins Wright also believed there are flaws with the current jury system and stressed the need for reform.

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

Executive Mansion Disturbs Over Poverty Report

- The Executive Mansion has expressed concern over the abject poverty level of sixty-eight percent of the population.
- The final census results released last week recorded that sixty-eight percent of the population was living below one dollar a day.
- Presidential Press Secretary Cyrus Badio said the President was concerned about the situation and was already working to reduce the level.
- He named efforts to provide more employment opportunities and a decision by the cabinet to
 put a freeze on increment in their wages in the 2009/10 Budget but to increase the salaries of
 civil servants as major steps.
- Mr. Badio said though the global financial crisis is posing some difficulties but maintained that government is committed to reducing the poverty level.

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

President Sirleaf Justifies Use of "Controversial" US\$0.52 Million Seized From Nigerian Businessman

- Speaking to journalists yesterday, Presidential Press Secretary Cyrus Badio said the Executive Mansion has given its support to the usage of the hundred thousand US dollars seized five from a Nigerian National.
- According to him, President Sirleaf believes there was no wrongdoing in the usage of the funds as it was "drug money".

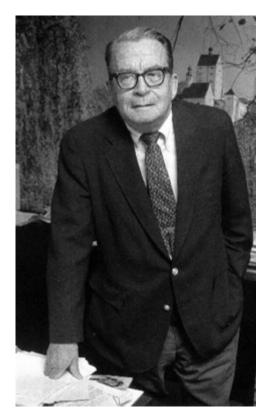
- Speaking to media managers recently the President said following series of consultations with Nigerian and U.S. officials it was advised that the "drug money" be used on security in keeping with international system.
- An earlier document from the Nigerian Justice Minister requested the Liberian government to turn over the confiscated funds.

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

The Plain Dealer Tuesday, 12 May 2009

Henry T. King Jr., Nuremberg prosecutor, Case Western Reserve University professor, dies at age 89

Posted by <u>James Ewinger</u> and <u>Grant Segall/Plain Dealer Reporters May 12, 2009 07:00AM</u>



Case Western Reserve University

Henry T. King Jr., 1919-2009

Survivors: Daughter, Suzanne Wagner of Mentor; son, Dave King of Brooklyn, N.Y., and Philmont, N.Y.; three grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren

Contributions: Henry T. King Jr. Endowment Fund, Robert H. Jackson Center, P.O. Box 896, Jamestown, NY, 14701

Memorial service: 3 p.m. Sunday, May 31, Amasa Stone Chapel, Case Western Reserve University, 10940 Euclid Ave.

Henry King spent a lifetime trying to make the words "Never Again" come true.

King, 89, who died Saturday at home, was the youngest of some 100 Nuremberg prosecutors and a pioneer in international justice and peace.

"Henry King is the George Washington of modern international law," David M. Crane, a Syracuse University professor and chief prosecutor of Sierra Leone President Charles Taylor, said Monday.

"He launched a remarkable postwar campaign to prevent war and atrocities by agitating for the creation of a world in which human rights violators would know, to a certainty, that their crimes would be investigated and prosecuted," Eli Rosenbaum, director of special investigations for the U.S. Department of Justice, said at Cleveland's Union Club last year.

King was chief counsel for the Marshall Plan, chief international counsel for TRW, professor at Case Western Reserve University and leader of many organizations, including the international law section of the American Bar Association.

King helped to authorize the International Criminal Court_in 1998 and start tribunals from Yugoslavia to Cambodia. He led a winning drive to give the court jurisdiction against unprovoked wars.

"We're all party to the same race," King once said. "We have common rights, regardless of borders and geography and culture."

He worked not just to prosecute across borders but also trade across them. He led a three-country committee whose recommendations were incorporated in the controversial North American Free Trade Agreement.

At Nuremberg, he spent hours interviewing Nazi leaders Hermann Goering and Albert Speer. He called Goering "a very charismatic man still deeply under the influence of Adolf Hitler. He had the bearing of a field marshal, and showed no remorse."

King became lifelong friends with Speer. "I thought he was very honest. He's the only one who admitted that he was responsible."

In court, King often raised his voice and pounded his fist. Outside, he spoke softly and cheerfully.

People often asked how he could deal with brutality daily.

"Scotch," he would always reply.

King was raised by an artist mother and a father who dropped out of seventh grade, graduated from Yale Law School and became mayor of Meriden, Conn. At his father's urging, King went to Yale College and Law School, finishing the latter in two years.

A heart murmur disqualified him for the military. He joined a top Manhattan law firm, handling taxes and trusts.

He was about to join a smaller firm when a friend invited him to Nuremberg to help prosecute top Nazis for the slaughter of millions of Jews, dissidents, homosexuals and others.

Other friends said King would jeopardize his career by joining an ad hoc global team under a melting pot of laws. Winston Churchill and Joseph Stalin called the prosecutions too tame. U.S. Sen. Robert Taft of Ohio called them too vengeful.

But King's wife, the former Betty May Scranton, his friend since nursery school, encouraged him to put humanity above career.

King felt about Nuremberg as about today's tribunals: It was imperfect but better than silence.

"The whole human-rights movement began at Nuremburg," he once said. "The conscience of mankind was mobilized for a better world."

King prepared most of the case against Field Marshal Erhard Milch, second in command of the German air force. Milch was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment for his role in slave labor and human experiments.

King also helped prosecute Walther Von Brauchitsch, Germany's commander in chief.

Back in the United States, he struggled to find work but eventually became a corporate counsel and a legal adviser to a trade group. Then came a turn with the U.S. Foreign Economic Aid Program, originally dubbed the Marshall Plan.

TRW brought King to Cleveland in 1961 as corporate counsel. He spent 20 years with the corporation, then retired to the prestigious Squire, Sanders & Dempsey law firm.

He recruited international law professors and students to CWRU. He arranged credit for students working at tribunals. He staged a yearly "Case Abroad at Home" week to bring foreign faculty here.

"He was the greatest light in the field of his generation," said professor Michael Scharf, whom King coaxed to CWRU in 2002.

King wrote 78 articles on international law. He attended many conferences around the world, including the one in Rome that launched the International Criminal Court. He was an honored guest at the court's debut in the Netherlands.

Among many civic roles, he led the Cleveland World Trade Association. He also helped create and lead the Canada-United States Law Institute, a partnership between CWRU and the University of Western Ontario.

On the side, he loved to dance, swim and walk. He summered in Block Island.

King sometimes seemed to have more influence with foreign governments than his own. The United States took 38 years to ratify the international treaty against genocide. It still has not ratified the International Criminal Court.

But King said, "I am a born optimist." He saw progress coming slowly but steadily.

"Ultimately," he predicted, "we'll have a better structure for peace."