

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, September 13, 2005

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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OBASANJO SHIELDS TAYLOR FROM JUSTICE

President Obasanjo's government is now persecuting members of the Coalition Against Impunity campaigning for the transfer of Charles Taylor to face justice at the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

In early August, Nigeria's State Security Service arrested several persons in connection with the distribution of Interpol red notices issued for Taylor. Members of the Coalition have also been declared wanted by Nigeria Security Services. Campaign posters of the Coalition have also been confiscated and offices of the Coalition printers have

been shut down.

"We are shocked that president Obasanjo's government is now persecuting members of the Coalition Against Impunity," said Anwarul Musa Rafsanjani, Executive Director of Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre in Nigeria. "The people of Nigeria, having lived under military dictatorship, are committed to justice and democracy in Liberia."

The actions of Obasanjo's government come as Liberia heads towards democratic elections next month. There is no guarantee that Charles Taylor will not interfere in his country's democratic pro-

cess from Nigeria, where he is currently exiled.

These actions raise questions about Obasanjo's commitment to upholding standards of the African Union of which he is the current chairman, said David Mafabi, Director of Political Affairs of the Global Pan African Movement.

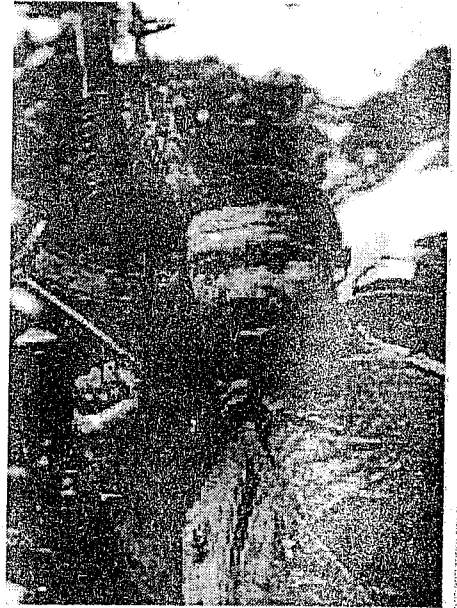
Meanwhile African and International Organizations are urging ECOWAS and President Obasanjo of Nigeria to stop protecting Charles Taylor and to hand him over to the Special Court for Sierra Leone to face justice.

"Ecowas and President Obasanjo must ensure that Charles Taylor does not

cannot and is unable to distort Liberia's electoral process and results," said Mr. Shina Loremikan of the Coalition Against Impunity in a joint press release issued early this September. Loremikan said it was bad enough that Taylor, who is wanted by Interpol for crimes against Sierra Leonean, Liberian and other West African citizens, was being sheltered from justice by President Obasanjo.

"Ecowas cannot afford further conflict," said Mrs. Zainab Bangura—founder of the Campaign for Good Governance and currently Director, National Accountability Group in Sierra Leone.

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Taylor: threat to peace in the sub-region

OBASANJO SHIELDS *Front Page*

countability Group in Sierra Leone.

"Charles Taylor is responsible for launching 15 years of conflict which has affected four countries: Sierra Leone, Guinea, Cote D'Ivoire and Liberia, claimed hundreds of thousands of lives and displaced millions," she continued. Mrs. Bangura further noted that the presidents of the sub-region have expressed concern over the capacity of Charles Taylor to destabilize their countries from Nigeria. Last July, Mano River Union presidents issued a communiqué asking president Obasanjo to review the terms of Taylor's asylum.

Director of Justice Africa, Tajudeen Abdularaheem, says justice is a necessary condition for peace. He says the best foundation for reconstruction of Liberia is for Taylor to face justice at the Special Court for Sierra Leone. "This will ensure that whatever government emerges in Liberia will not live under his violent shadow," he said.

Charles Taylor is wanted by the Special Court for Sierra Leone on 18 counts charges of various war crimes.

The upcoming elections present an ideal opportunity for Liberia to declare strongly a newly revitalized commitment to democracy.

UN Daily News

Issue
DH/4476

Monday, 12 September
2005

Sierra Leone: UN mission chief calls on security forces to respect constitution
12 September - With only a few months left on the United Nations peacekeeping mission's timetable in Sierra Leone, the mission chief has called on the nation's security forces to respect the constitution by subjecting themselves to civilian authority and to build trust between themselves and the people of the West African country emerging from 12 years of civil war.

At the end of a one-week seminar on civil-military relations, organized by the UN Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) and conducted by the California-Based Naval Postgraduate School, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ambassador Daudi Mwakawago, told the closing ceremony that security forces can only carry out their functions successfully when they have the support of the people. Community policing, therefore, is most vital in reinforcing police efforts towards maintaining safety and order, he said, warning against the excessive use of coercive power, which could lead the people to see the security forces as enemies rather than protectors.

Mr. Mwakawago exhorted seminar participants to undergo HIV/AIDS tests and take protective measures to safeguard themselves, their partners and their communities. In addition to civil war, Sierra Leone had experienced a number of coups over the past three decades. When the United Nations peacekeeping mission in Sierra Leone closes its doors next January, it will be succeeded by the UN Integrated Office in Sierra Leone (UNIOSIL), which will work closely with the Government to root out the causes of the conflict and address deficits in governance, human rights observance and the rule of law.

AngolaPress

Luanda - Tuesday, September 13, 2005 - 9:13:21 AM

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**Economic
news on
Angola**

News

UN peacekeepers to leave Sierra Leone in December

Freetown, Sierra Leone, 09/12 - The last group of United Nations peacekeepers would leave Sierra Leone in December 2005, the chief spokesman of the UN Mission in the West African country, Daniel Adekera, told journalists here on Saturday.

Three days ago, the UN Security Council unanimously approved the establishment of the United Nations Integrated Office for Sierra Leone (UNIOSL) in a resolution, saying it was crucial to prevent the country rebound from a decade-long civil war.

The United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) was established six years ago to restore peace and the rule of law in a country ravaged by cruel civil war in which rebels severed the limbs of citizens.

At one stage, UNAMSIL comprised 17,000 troops. The number has now been reduced to around 3,200 soldiers who are still in the country.

In a report earlier this year, UN secretary general Kofi Annan said that Sierra Leone had made impressive progress toward peace since the official end of war in early 2002.

He said the civil war in Sierra Leone shocked the world with its images of drugged up youngsters hacking off the arms, legs ears and lips of innocent civilians. Those behind the atrocities are currently on trial at the Special Court in Freetown.

Meanwhile, human rights activists argue that tensions still exist in the wider Sierra Leone community and that the government must help the victims.

Oluniyi Robin Coker, a New York-based Sierra Leonean who heads the Civil Coalition for Truth and Reconciliation said, "it's a good thing to have the UN integrated office, but it must look to channel its energies to implementing the truth and reconciliation recommendations."

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24h service

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The Post-Standard (Syracuse, New York)

September 11, 2005 Sunday

1980 GRAD WHO WORKED WITH U.N. TO TEACH AT SU

Syracuse University's College of Law has hired David M. Crane as a distinguished professor.

Crane, a 1980 SU law graduate, recently finished a three-year appointment with the United Nations and the Special Court for Sierra Leone. Crane served as the chief prosecutor against those responsible for war crimes and human-rights violations during the 10-year civil war in Sierra Leone during the 1990s.

Crane will teach international criminal law, international law and national security law.

**UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 12 Sept 2005**

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

International Clips on Liberia

NewAge Online
Lagos 12 September 2005

Liberian presidential candidates consult with Charles Taylor
•Former Liberian leader holds court in Calabar, still calls the shots

By JUDE OKWE, Calabar

Former Liberian President, Charles Taylor still maintains a commanding influence in Liberia's politics as some presidential candidates in next month's election have been consulting with him in Calabar, Cross River State.

Though Taylor has repeatedly denied having anything to do with the politics at home, his asylum abode in Calabar has in recent times played host to the emissaries of the presidential candidates.

The candidates, according to NewAge findings in Calabar, send trusted aides to Taylor to seek his opinion on certain issues and his imprimatur for their candidature.

International Clips on West Africa

11/09/2005 15:30:23

Ivory Coast's former president arrives home after yearlong exile in France

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP) _ Ivory Coast's ousted president, Henri Konan Bedie, arrived Sunday in this war-divided nation after a yearlong exile in France to take part in elections that observers say will be delayed.

Local Media – Newspapers**New Liberian Army to Be 2,000 Strong**

(Liberian Express)

- The NTGL has reduced the size of the proposed 4,000 strong restructured Armed Forces of Liberia to 2,000 due to the absence of needed funds, a report said.

UNMIL to Take Over Security of Special Court

(Liberian Express)

- According to a report, UNMIL will effective 15 November, deploy in Freetown 250 troops to take over the command and security responsibility of the Special Court for Sierra Leone from the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone. The Sierra Leone mission's mandate, ends at the close of this year.

Two Hundred International Poll Watchers for Liberia

(Daily Observer)

- Carter Center Country Director Ashley Barh told journalists in Monrovia recently that 200 poll watchers representing the Carter Center, National Democratic Institute, International Republican Institute, African Union and Economic Community of West African States would arrive in the country one week before the elections. Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter will lead the Carter Center and National Democratic Institute's delegation of 30 people, Ms. Barh added.

Elections Commission Trains Poll Workers

(Heritage)

- NEC Chairman Frances Johnson-Morris told a news conference in Monrovia on Friday that the training of trainers exercise for 18 Electoral Magistrates and their UNMIL counterparts for polling day had started. The trainers are tasked with the responsibility of completing the training by 7 October of 18,600 poll workers who are being recruited across the country.

Presidential Candidates Promise Cooperation Following Credible Elections

(National Chronicle)

- Appearing on a Star Radio talk show over the weekend, presidential candidates Dr. Togba Nah Tipoteh and Alhaji Kromah promised to cooperate with the winner of the October elections if the results are credible.

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.

9 September 2005

PRESS CONFERENCE BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, UN OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME

The entry into force of the Convention against Corruption was days away and could come as early as next week, Antonio Maria Costa, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), said at a Headquarters press conference today.

Responding to a question about the repatriation of assets looted by former African leaders, he said the Convention contained all the legal instruments that would force countries to repatriate such funds. Regarding the banks holding those funds, he said that at the moment only very few developed countries had ratified the Convention, and in Europe, only France had done so. However, all the others would ratify it, as would the United States which had done so as a matter of principle.

The Convention stated very clearly that banking secrecy -- the traditional impediment to repatriation of assets -- could no longer be used to protect funds illegally exported from one country and illegally detained in a third.

Mr. Costa was briefing correspondents on a UNODC assessment of crime in Africa. The investigation was aimed at helping the continent overcome a very dramatic situation regarding violence, corruption, urban crime and money laundering, as well as trafficking in human beings, narcotics and arms.

Asked how crime in sub-Saharan Africa compared with that of North Africa and what he recommended in dealing with corruption, he said the report was fundamentally about sub-Saharan Africa, which was more greatly affected by the problems of underdevelopment and poverty than the North. The statistics showed that homicide rates in sub-Saharan Africa were higher, while the rate of convictions for homicide was the lowest in the world. The incidence of rape and violence against individuals was worse in sub-Saharan Africa than in North Africa.

Regarding corruption, he said the political leadership must take the lead and demonstrate accountability. Unfortunately, some of the most tragic cases of corruption involved former dictators -- including Nigeria's Sanni Abacha, Mobutu Sese Seko in the former Zaire, and Charles Taylor of Liberia, as well as more recent cases -- who looted the public coffers. The strongest recommendation was to strengthen the judicial system, because a healthy, honest judiciary could put everything else into shape.

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