

**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 at:**

Thursday, 14 February 2008

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.  
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact  
Martin Royston-Wright  
Ext 7217

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## BBC World Service Trust

Wednesday, 13 February 2008

By Abdul Rashid at The Hague

COURT MANAGER: The Special Court for Sierra Leone is sitting in an open session in the case of The Prosecutor vs. Charles Ghankay Taylor, Justice Teresa Doherty presiding.

RASHID: The manager of the Special Court for Sierra Leone declaring open the February 13 session of the trial of the former Liberian President, Charles Taylor. The session started with the Defence team continuing its cross-examination of the Prosecution eleventh witness, Suwandi Camara. Suwandi started off by telling the Special Court that in 1994 small airplanes flew arms and ammunition from Gbanga to Sierra Leone. Suwandi said he personally escorted a vehicle with arms and ammunition to one of the airplanes that travelled to Sierra Leone. But the Defence team challenged the truthfulness of the witness's testimony by reading a previous interview the witness had with investigators of the Prosecution. The investigator's statement, recorded from the witness, stated that he believed the planes travelled to Sierra Leone at the time.

CAMARA: I remember having escorted once arms and ammunition

COUNSEL: Are you saying to the Court that you told the investigators that on one occasion you personally escorted these arms to the aircraft waiting at the airstrip in Gbanga?

CAMARA: Yes, I told them.

COUNSEL: It's not written there, Mr. Camara, so if you told them then that's another failing on their part, isn't it?

CAMARA: I don't know.

COUNSEL: That's your best answer, is it?

CAMARA: Yes, that's my answer.

RASHID: The Defence team also termed as "nonsense" Suwandi's testimony that he overheard secret communication transmitted from the radio room near Taylor's bedroom and kitchen, then in Gbanga, to the RUF in Sierra Leone. Defence lawyer Terry Munyard it's not possible for Suwandi, who was there preparing tea for Taylor in the kitchen, to have monitored communication in the radio room.

CAMARA: So I was just in front of the communication room when I was making tea. I was just sitting in front of the communication room, against the communication room.

COUNSEL: Listening to top secret radio communications being broadcast out of the room for the benefit of anybody who happened to be passing by – is that what you're telling us?

CAMARA: I don't know why you think that is so extraordinary.

COUNSEL: Mr. Camara, you told us the other day that you were able to listen to secret communications, so I'm simply suggesting to you that that is nonsense that someone in your position, especially when they

were carrying out the role of making a cup of tea, would not possibly be allowed to listen to such communications. That's the simple point. Am I right or am I wrong?

CAMARA: You're wrong.

RASHID: Suwandi, on direct examination, told the Court that in 1991 he travelled with Charles Taylor in a plane loaded with arms and ammunition from Burkina Faso to land in Cote d'Ivoire. But the Defence cross-examined the witness said Suwandi did not travel with Taylor on any airplane.

COUNSEL: I'm putting to you for the last time, Charles Taylor's case is that you are lying, and whether or not you flew down in a plane with a load of arms from Burkina Faso I can't say, but Charles Taylor was certainly not on any plane with you. That's the truth, isn't it?

CAMARA: Charles Taylor can say that today. In this position now he can say that. I've told you what I know.

COUNSEL: How come you forgot to mention this dramatic incident in the first, second, third and fourth occasion when you were interviewed?

CAMARA: It is in my interview in my statement that I left Burkina Faso with Charles Taylor to go to Liberia.

RASHID: The Defence has completed its cross-examination of the eleventh Prosecution witness, Suwandi Camara. Charles Taylor is not on trial for what he did in Liberia during his days as rebel leader and as president. He is on trial for allegedly aiding and abetting the atrocities committed in Sierra Leone by the RUF from 30th November 1996 to 18th January 2002. He is facing eleven counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Abdul Rashid for Search for Common Ground and BBC World Service Trust at The Hague.

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By Joseph Cheeseman at The Hague

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CHEESEMAN: The manager of the Special Court for Sierra Leone declaring open the February 13th session of the trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor. The February 13th session started with the Defence team continuing its cross-examination of the Prosecution eleventh witness, Suwandi Camara. Suwandi started off by telling the Special Court that in 1994 small planes flew arms and ammunition from Gbanga in Bong County to Sierra Leone. Suwandi said he personally escorted a vehicle with arms and ammunition to one of the airplanes that travelled to Sierra Leone. But the Defence team challenged the truthfulness of the witness's testimony by reading a previous interview the witness had with investigators of the Prosecution. The investigator's statement, recorded from the witness, stated that he believed the planes travelled to Sierra Leone.

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CHEESEMAN: The Defence team also termed as "nonsense" Suwandi's testimony that he overheard secret communications transmitted from the radio room near Taylor's bedroom and kitchen Gbanga, Bong County to the RUF in Sierra Leone. Defence lawyer Terry Munyard it's not possible for Suwandi, who was there preparing tea for Taylor in the kitchen, to have monitored communication in the radio room.

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CAMARA: It is in my interview in my statement that I left Burkina Faso with Charles Taylor to go to Liberia.

CHEESEMAN: Charles Taylor is not on trial for what he did in Liberia during his days as rebel leader and as president. He is on trial for allegedly aiding and abetting the atrocities allegedly committed in Sierra Leone by the RUF from 30th November 1996 to 18th January 2002. He is facing eleven count charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity. Meanwhile, both Defence and Prosecution have ended their cross and re-direct examinations of the eleventh witness, Suwandi Camara. The twelfth witness is expected to take the stand on Thursday.

New Democrat (Liberia)  
 Wednesday, 13 February 2008

# Gambian-NPFL Mercenary Tells Court Of Proxy Rebels & Weapons

**A** Gambian mercenary who served in the National Patriotic Front of Liberia throughout the 1980s has testified that one of the armed factions in the Liberian civil war, the National Patriotic Front, was Charles Taylor's creation from the onset of the war. The Accused actively recruited for and armed the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), Sierra Leone's erstwhile rebels, and said he was trained in Libya and Burkina Faso. He said he was a trusted member of the Accused and therefore held key positions. The Accused version of his testimony courtesy blog "The Trial of Charles Taylor" follows.

Liberian rebels in action during the war



## Proxy Rebels & Weapons

**Page 1** Prosecutor Alain Werner continued his examination of linkages between Suwandi Camara today. Camara was dressed in brown pants, dark purple jacket, blue shirt and no tie. He testified again in English. Again there were some problems with the interpretation, and from time to time the Court and the Defense asked the Witness to clarify his testimony.

Suwandi Camara testified to the following: Cobra Base

In 1992 on two occasions female General 5 came to Cobra Base where Camara was assigned to collect recruits. The first time General 245 collected 2 companies to go to the RUF soldiers. The second time she collected one company, also to go to Sierra Leone to help RUF soldiers.

Camara was permanently stationed in the Cobra Base, but occasionally he was sent on a Temporary Duty in the Year.

In early 1992 Camara was sent to Lofa County by order of General Mustapha Jallow to be Jallow's assistant for three months. His assignment was to check the road leading from Gbarnga to Sierra Leone. RUF soldiers brought supplies (arms and ammunition) from Gbarnga to Sierra Leone. During this time Sam Bockarie and his soldiers visited this temporary base. When RUF soldiers would pass with supplies, his base would be alerted by radio message from Gbarnga. Camara witnessed personally at least three of these transports, one transport in a double decker pick up truck was accompanied by Fofa/Sankoh. The route of these transports was through Gbarnga, Zorzor, Yella, Voinjama and on to Sierra Leone.

After three months Camara returned to Cobra base where he stayed until the end of 1993. By this time Maurice Kallon had taken command of the RUF from Pa Gear, who had died on a road. Under Kallon's command 30 civilians came with the RUF, leaving their homes and villages in Lofa County. They had no choice: staying meant falling into the hands of ULIMO-K, who would have killed the civilians, accusing them of conspiring with the RUF. 2,000 of these 5,000 civilians, men and women between the ages of 15 and 30, were recruited as members of the RUF.

Defense Force

From the end of 1993 until 1994, Jallow was replaced by Taylor to go to Lofa County for the National LDF (Lofa Defense Force). ULIMO-K or Alhaji Kromah had been attacking and occupying Lofa County since 1992. Taylor was peace talks with Kromah, so he could not attack ULIMO-K. However, he wanted Lofa County back under his command and re-created the LDF, with which his name did not be associated. Taylor assigned Yakou Walo to be the political leader and spokesman of the LDF. Jallow was the military leader responsible for cooperation and put NPFL soldiers in the LDF. Kallon put "vanguards" of the LDF (RUF soldiers from Sierra Leone) were in NPFL territory.

One day on the BBC radio program Focus on Africa the ULIMO-K spokesman announced that Jallow had been ambushed and killed by ULIMO-K. This was not true. Since Walo was Gambian, this was a Gambian version. Camara met with Jackson, a Gambian aide-de-camp of Taylor. Taylor was informed that Jallow was not dead and Taylor this message transmitted by radio to all RUF and NPFL bases, and afterwards the soldiers gathered in Gbarnga as reinforcements to Jallow. These soldiers did not come by highway, since this road was controlled by ULIMO-K. They used jungle paths from the east in Lofa County to the river St. Paul and to the river into the forest in Bong County roads to Gbarnga.

The LDF began attacks in Lofa County. At this time Camara received his third military assignment from the SSS. Jallow ordered him and needed him again. This assignment took about 7-8 months. At the beginning of the assignment Camara's rank was

lieutenant colonel, and after four months he was promoted to colonel.

• Due to the presence of ULIMO-K in large parts of Lofa County, the supplies for the LDF could only be transported on bush roads. During his 7-8 months assignment he was with Jallow and the LDF kept being pushed out of Lofa County more into Bong County.

Taylor's Involvement in the LDF

• Camara mentioned twice that the LDF was formed by Charles Taylor himself. The LDF consisted of both NPFL and RUF fighters. Taylor appointed Walo as the political leader of the LDF and Jallow as its military commander. Walo gave an interview to the BBC radio in 1993 while he was in Guinea, in which he presented himself as the LDF leader and said the Lofa people wanted freedom. He renounced

NPFL junior commander called Tamba, also known as Jungle. A conflict developed between Jallow and Jungle. Jungle feared that Jallow, who was more senior in rank, would take over his command. Jallow was summoned to Gbarnga and was escorted there by RUF soldiers. Jungle and his troops stayed behind and fought ULIMO-K, but were eventually pushed out. Camara heard from Jungle's ex-soldiers, who had left them to join Jallow in Gbarnga, that Jungle left for Sierra Leone and joined the RUF to fight with them. Jungle did not dare to go to Gbarnga, since he feared Charles Taylor would have him killed for opposing Jallow. Eventually, the LDF retreated from Lofa County to Gbarnga together with 5,000 civilians "G2-soldiers" (NPFL soldiers responsible for screening the civilians) se-

• Camara was summoned with the other Gambians by Charles Taylor to come to Gbarnga. They were appointed in security functions and were responsible for guarding the Executive Mansion. He served under Jallow who was appointed Security Commander of the Mansion Ground and spent 3-4 months at the Executive Mansion, during which period he overheard several instances of communications between high ranking NPFL officers (including Gen. Jackson and Gen. Yetim) at the RUF. Camara worked close to the communications room and related that there was regular contact with the RUF for updates. He explained that the NPFL considered the RUF to be "NPFL youngsters", younger brothers.

Sabotage Operations

• Camara testified about troops moving Voinjama under command of Gen. Mon Ar At Belle Yella and Zorzor, they sabotaged ULIMO-K routes by placing landmines on the road. Camara described the access between Gbarnga and Belle Yella consisted of car road and footpaths through the forest.

Strike Force Marine

• Upon being asked about the whereabouts of Morris Kallon in 1995, Camara testified that Kallon was at Cobra base and remained there with 3-4 of his bodyguards and Mustapha Jallow. The rest of the RUF soldiers who were at Cobra base, were ordered to join the Strike Force Marine (SFM). The SFM was a special unit under NPFL command. Charles Taylor deployed this unit for special operations: Nixon Gaye, the first SFM Chief of Staff, was killed on orders of Taylor on accusations by Yetim of "conspiring with the enemy". He was replaced by (the Liberian, not the Gambian) Jack the Rebel in early 1993. The SFM was known for its violence and cruelty, including acts of cannibalism. Camara testified that "the majority of them had eaten human flesh". The SFM's motto, which could also be found on t-shirts worn by its members, was "maximum death and destruction, in a minimum time". Camara learned this by conferring with SFM members whom he had met at Cobra base training camp. SFM members were sent there to receive advanced communications training. Camara testified that they would "take people to the bush and they would never come back". They would kill indiscriminately men, women, children. Wherever they went their aim was to bring "maximum death and destruction".

Treatment of Civilians

• Camara spoke with civilians: men, women and children. Some were maltreated. Women and girls claimed to have been raped by RUF and/or NPFL soldiers, but were not able to give him names. This happened in Sierra Leone, but Camara heard their stories in Liberia when the civilians came to seek refuge in Liberia. Camara has seen people with amputated limbs who claimed RUF soldiers had committed the amputations.

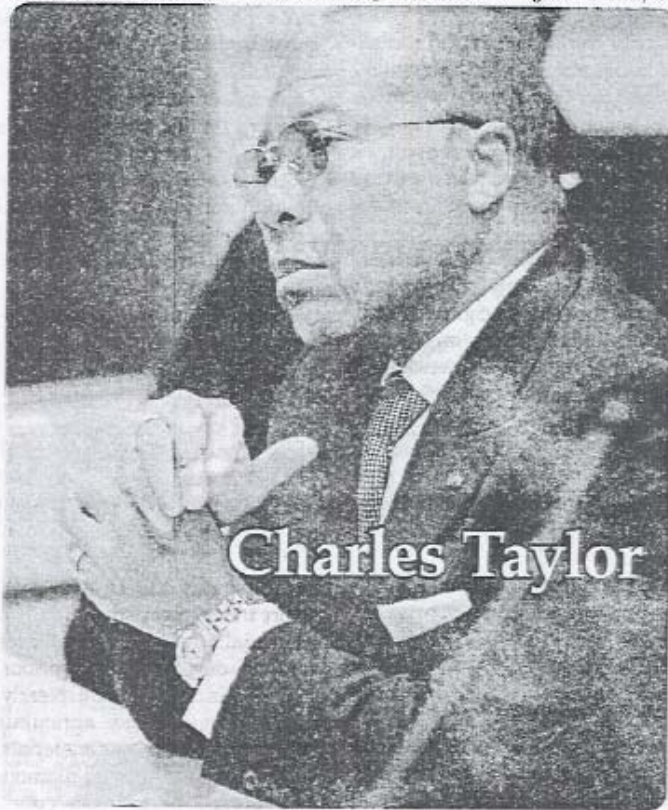
Return to Gambia

• At the end of 1995 the Gambian government negotiated for the return of Camara and other Gambians. In March 1996 Charles Taylor and others were in Monrovia to form an interim government. When Taylor went to Monrovia Camara and others went to Dr. Manneh in Ivory Coast and later to Senegal. The negotiations failed and the Gambians were arrested. He was released in December 2000 and returned to Gambia. At the end of 2002 he returned to Liberia where he met with Jallow who told him that the Gambian officers still had their ranks but no responsibilities.

At this moment, towards the end of his examination Camara casually mentioned that Jallow (LDF Commander and EMG Executive Mansion Grounds Security Commander) is his nephew.

Diamonds

• Jallow told Camara that Ibrahim Bah was involved with Taylor in business involving diamonds. One time Bah brought diamonds to Taylor for which Taylor was to deliver goods. Taylor did not do this and sought Page 9



the NPFL. Taylor denied any involvement with the LDF.

• Camara, however, explained that this was just a cover-up for the international community, enabling Taylor to secretly have an armed force at his disposal, while officially respecting the cease-fire which had at the time had been agreed between the warring factions in Liberia. Publicly, Taylor ordered the LDF soldiers to surrender the frontline and hand themselves over to him. Secretly, he ordered them to retreat.

Arms and Ammunition Supplies from Gbarnga

• The LDF in Lofa County and the RUF in Sierra Leone received arms and ammunition supplies from the armory of the Executive Mansion at Gbarnga. Camara named Moses as the man in charge of the armory at Gbarnga and specified the weapons being used by the LDF. He named the following: AK47's, RPG's (Rocket Propelled Grenades), GMG's and LAR's (Light Arm Rifles). At the end of 1992 the supply route to the LDF was cut off by ULIMO-K.

LDF retreats from Lofa County

• After months of fighting, ULIMO-K pushed the LDF out of Lofa County. While retreating with the LDF, Camara and his commander Mustapha Jallow reached the territory of a

lected 2,000 healthy youths from among these civilians, which were brought by EMG (Executive Mansion Ground) soldiers to the Cobra II base, a second training camp, at Gania for infantry training. They were there for approximately three weeks, until ULIMO-K reached Gbarnga.

Battle for Gbarnga

• Around September/October 1994, ULIMO-K had taken control of Gbarnga. They maintained control for 2-3 months. After the retreat from Lofa County, Camara stayed at Cobra base in Batala. At this time, Charles Taylor was in Ghana at a meeting with the leaders of the warring factions. An NPFL operation to recapture control of Gbarnga, known as Operation Envelope, succeeded in December 1994. Upon his return to Gbarnga, Charles Taylor had ordered the capturing and killing of six people who had high-ranking positions in his staff and who Taylor suspected of conspiring with ULIMO-K. Camara remembered the names of three of the six people that were killed: Cassius Jacob (Executive Mansion Chief of Staff), Michael Seboe (Task Force Commander) and Junio Gai (Delta Force Commander). Also, Camara stated that "conspiring with the enemy" was a standard explanation given for executions. Camara Guards Executive Mansion



## Proxy Rebels & Weapons

### Page 9 Cross-Examination Begins

Defense Counsel Terry Muryard began the cross-examination of Camara and initially challenged his testimony by saying that most of his evidence is what others told him rather than things he saw or heard himself. Camara answered that 75% of his evidence is what he saw or heard himself.

Muryard's questions elicited that:

- Camara was born in 1964 and about 24 years old when he left Gambia to look for work in Libya. His goal was to live financially independent of his family.

- Investigators for the Prosecution came to Gambia to find him, and he did not seek them. He did not know how they had heard of him. He agreed to having received reimbursement for his travel costs, but said that he was never promised nor actually received benefits for testifying in this Court. The interviews were conducted in English by means of questions and answers. After every interview the investigators read him his written statement before signing it. Camara did not know if the interviews were taped.

- In Libya Camara's father in law, who was also working there, introduced him to Alhagi Saikou Jaitih who in turn introduced him to Koukol Samba Sanyang, a.k.a. Dr. Manneh. He later joined SOFA when he was in Tripoli. Camara's goal was later to overthrow the government of Gambia and it was not his intention at that moment to fight in Liberia. After joining SOFA he was able to go to Mataba, which is for world revolutionaries only and not for regular workers, as Muryard put it. Camara joined SOFA in July/August 1989, which was 6 months earlier than Camara said in an earlier statement to the Prosecution. Camara confirmed that he was not present in the attempted coup d'etat of Dr. Manneh in 1981.

At this point, the Court adjourns at 4.30 p.m until tomorrow 9.30 a.m.

Werner referred Camara to his prior statements of that morning and last Friday concerning the 5,000 civilians having been taken from Lofa County to Gbarnga in Bong County, the SBCUs and the Strike Force Marine Division.

Camara further testified about his return to Gambia in December 2000 and his return to Liberia in September/October 2002. At that time, Camara spoke with Mustapha Jallow in Monrovia who informed him that the Gambians still had their military ranks, but were not given any responsibilities. During this session Camara related to the Court for the first time that Jallow, Commander of the LDF and EMG Security Commander, was his nephew. Camara testified to the strong ties between Mustapha Jallow and Ibrahim Bah and how Bah and Taylor were involved in diamond transactions.

At 3.30 p.m. Werner concludes his examination of the Witness and Defense Counsel Terry Muryard begins his cross-examination of Camara. Muryard questioned Camara on whether his testimony was not for the larger part hearsay instead of things he had witnessed himself, to which Camara answered that 80% of his testimony related to events that he had witnessed or heard himself. Muryard further questioned him about the time of his actual presence in Liberia, about his interviews with the Prosecution's investigators, his history in Gambia, his reasons for leaving Gambia and why and how he became a member of SOFA.

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After months of fighting, Ulimo-K pushed back the LDF to Gbarnga. Eventually, the LDF retreated from Lofa County to Gbarnga together with 5,000 civilians. NPFL soldiers selected 2,000 healthy youths from among these civilians and brought them to the Cobra II base at Ganta

*To be continued*

New Democrat (Liberia)  
Wednesday, 13 February 2008


# 20 Yrs Demanded For Gus

Following the granting of his appeal after an eight year jail sentence, one of the most influential and colorful foreign businessmen in Liberia during the crisis, **Gus van Kouwenhoven**, could be headed for jail, with state prosecutors demanding 20 years and a fine of €450 000, more than



GUS VAN KOUWENHOVEN

half a million dollars. It was reported last week that former President Charles Taylor, himself on trial for war crimes, would be witness for Gus. But it is not known if Mr Taylor, a confidante of the Dutchman who began making fortunes here during the era of Samuel K. Doe, took the stand for man who, according to one of the documents presented in court, said all he did in Liberia was in his (Taylor's) interest.

Gus commanded  Page 10

## 20 Yrs Demanded For Gus

fortunes here, including the shady ownership of Hotel Africa and the Oriental Timber Company, listed as a channel for weapons imports.

Reports say the Dutch public prosecutor on Monday demanded a 20-year prison term for **Gus van Kouwenhoven**, a former arms dealer suspected of illegal weapons activities in Liberia.

Speaking before the court in The Hague, the

public prosecutor said Kouwenhoven committed several war crimes and also violated arm trade prohibitions.

In addition to the jail term, the prosecutor demanded that Kouwenhoven pay a €450 000 fine.

Mr. Kouwenhoven is suspected of providing weapons between 2000 and 2003 to former Liberian president Charles Taylor during the Liberian civil war.

The Monitor (Liberia)  
Thursday, 14 February 2008

# Taylor will be set free

*Legal scholar draws parallel on S/L case*

### Taylor will be set free

Hints are emerging from the ongoing trial in The Hague of former Liberian president Charles Ghankay Taylor that he has chances of gaining an acquittal. This is based significantly on the verdict that emerged from the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

According to a legal expert who observed the 'AFRC Trial' (Prosecutor v. Brima, Kamara and Kanu), Trial Chamber II ruled that the joint criminal enterprise (known to insiders as JCE) alleged by the Prosecutor was not one involving a crime within the jurisdiction of the Court, and dismissed any charges that depended upon such a theory.

In the analysis, Prof. William Schabas [National University of Ireland, Galway] said similar allegations underpin the indictment of Charles Taylor and therefore Taylor's chances of being a free man once more has increased. See analysis below:

The indictment in Brima, Kamara and Kanu had alleged that they 'shared a common plan, purpose or design (joint criminal enterprise) which was to take any actions necessary to gain and exercise political power and control over the territory of Sierra Leone, in particular the diamond mining areas. The natural resources of Sierra Leone, in particular the diamonds, were to be provided to persons outside Sierra Leone in return for assistance in carrying out the joint criminal enterprise.' The indictment also said that the joint criminal enterprise involved gaining and exercising control over the population of Sierra Leone in order to prevent or minimize resistance to their geographic control, and to use members of the population to provide support to the members of the joint criminal enterprise.'

According to the Trial Chamber, the 'common purpose' pleaded in the indictment is not a crime within the Special Court's jurisdiction. The Trial

Chamber referred to an earlier ruling of the Appeals Chamber, which held that 'there is no rule against rebellion in international law'. (The Prosecutor can't say he wasn't warned. The same criticism of his approach to JCE appeared in my book, *The UN International Criminal Tribunals*, published more than a year ago by Cambridge University Press.)

The joint criminal enterprise theory of liability is not set out explicitly in the Statute of the Special Court. Its existence is the result of a rather liberal interpretation of the text. The theory originates in a judgment of the Appeals Chamber of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. It is not without controversy, especially because the so-called third category of joint criminal enterprise, or JCE 3, allows the conviction of an individual for crimes committed by those who shared the common illegal purpose, even crimes that the individual did not intend.

Some critics have said that JCE means 'just convict everyone'. Recent judgments of the ICTY Appeals Chamber reveal a lingering unease with the theory, at least among some of the judges.

JCE has certainly proven to be a very potent tool of the prosecution at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, and promised to do the same at the Special Court for Sierra Leone. But at the Yugoslavia Tribunal, prosecutors took care to allege a common purpose or joint criminal enterprise to commit ethnic cleansing, which is a form of crime against humanity and clearly a crime within the jurisdiction of the institution. Not so for the Special Court, whose prosecution team rather inexpertly alleged a joint criminal enterprise to commit something which is not a crime. In the AFRC case, this was not fatal to the prosecution case, because it was not difficult to prove that the accused had actually committed or ordered the commission of atrocities in the capital Freetown, and in the Bombali region. They were field commanders who personally engaged in violent acts. But much of the prosecution case was rejected because with respect to atrocities committed elsewhere in the country, the charges relied upon the theory of joint criminal enterprise. Unlike the AFRC accused, Taylor never actually set foot in Sierra Leone during the conflict and did not appear to have troops there directly under his command when the worst atrocities were committed. His involvement was much less direct than that of the AFRC leaders. Thus the joint criminal enter-

prise theory is quite central to the prosecution theory in the case against Taylor. Its rejection in this

first judgment potentially has devastating consequences for the prosecution.

## **UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries 13 February 2008**

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

### **Newspaper Summary**

#### **Final Autopsy Says Teenager Was Sexually Abused and Murdered**

##### ***...Government Orders Guardians Arrested***

(The News, The Informer, Heritage, Public Agenda, Daily Observer, The New Liberia, National Chronicle, The Analyst, New Democrat)

- The Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Justice yesterday released the much awaited autopsy report concerning the death of little Angel Meideh Togba, who was reportedly found dead sometime ago at the residence of her guardians. Justice Minister Cllr. Philip Banks, who read the findings of the autopsy report at a news conference Tuesday, said they have unearthed that the deceased was strangled to death.
- Minister Banks said the report also uncovered that the attempted hanging of little Angel was made subsequent to her strangulation. According to Justice Minister Banks, the case is not a simple one as some may believe but that the government was not just merely seeking to receive an autopsy report and act upon it, because doing such would not been an exhaustive and comprehensive investigation.
- He said in spite of the fact that many persons have advocated on having the report released, the government was determined to make sure that the findings were put out to form part of a comprehensive investigation; rather than dealing with the matter in what he called, "piece meal."
- Minister Banks said the government wanted to release the report and at the same time have its team submit the findings and the conclusion it has reached in respect to the murder of the deceased. "This conclusion shows the impossibility of Ms. Togba hanging herself," Minister Banks added.
- He said the deceased guardians were under arrest and will face investigation. Last November, the remains of little Angie was discovered in the house of her guardians who alleged that the deceased hung herself in their bathroom. When autopsy was first conducted into the incident, the Ministry of Justice through the office of Solicitor General, Cllr. Tiawon Gongloe said there was no foul play into the girl's death but the report was vehemently condemned by several child rights advocate and human rights groups, thus prompting a second autopsy report into the matter. The government brought in foreign pathologist and investigators, which detected foul play in the girl's death.

#### **EU Approves US\$7 Million for Rural Electrification**

(The Inquirer)

- The European Commission approved a €4.8million contribution (approximately USD 7 million) to a program linking three counties to the West African Power Pool (WAPP).
- As a result of the 30 month cross-border programme, 131,000 people mainly in rural communities of Maryland, Nimba and Grand Gedeh will be connected to the electricity grid and supplied with power, a European Commission release has disclosed.
- EC said the destruction and vandalization of power infrastructure during the war, no public supply of electricity has been available to Liberia.

### **Radio Summary**

**Local Media – Star Radio** (News culled today from website 10:00am)

### **Four Lawmakers to Face Probe today for alleged Bribe Taking**

- Investigation into the long-standing bribery allegation involving some members of the House of Representatives resumed today with four lawmakers - Representatives Samuel Bondo, Saar Gbollie, Kettehkumuehn Murray and Rufus Gbeor - supposedly linked to the scandal due to appear before the House Judiciary Committee to answer to questions.
- The House of Representatives' Judiciary Committee last week began the investigation into bribery allegations against the lawmakers, with the principal accuser, Representative Edwin Snowe, submitting as evidence a document and two compact discs which he claimed have the voices of the four lawmakers admitting to taking bribes to remove him as speaker.

*(Also reported on ELBC, Sky FM, Truth FM, Radio Veritas)*

### **Cause of Death Established for Teenager**

- The Liberian Government on Tuesday announced that thirteen year old Angel Togba was strangled to death. Justice Minister Philip Banks said investigation further shows that prior to the murder of little Angel Togba, she was sexually abused.
- On the issue of the girl's missing parts, Minister Banks said the funeral home had earlier denied knowledge but later indicated it relocated the parts.
- The Attorney General told a news conference that the Justice Ministry is investigating how the funeral home found little Angle's missing parts and where.
- Cllr. Banks said government would indict Mr. and Mrs. Hans Williams and others who are involved directly and in-directly.
- Meanwhile, the parents of little Angel Togba have called on Solicitor General, Tiawan Gongloe to recuse himself from the case involving the Hans Williams' family.
- The parents said they no longer have confidence in Counselor Gongloe to represent the state in the case.
- Mr. Williams reported in November last year that little Angel committed suicide by hanging herself in the bathroom. A first autopsy report released by Solicitor General Gongloe said there was no foul play, something which prompted serious public outcry. The public argued African minors are not suicidal.
- The protest compelled government to hire the services of a Cuban Pathology and two Ghanaian detectives to administer a new investigation.

*(Also reported on Radio Veritas, Truth FM , ELBC, Sky FM)*

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