

**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:**

Wednesday, July 14, 2004

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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Ext 7248  
MOBILE: 232 76 645 914



## War Crimes Court Registrar Expected

**The NEWS** (Monrovia)

NEWS

July 13, 2004

Posted to the web July 13, 2004

Monrovia

The Registrar at the Special United Nations-backed court in Sierra Leone, Robin Vincent is expected here today as guest of the Transition Legislative Assembly, United Nations Agencies, members of human rights, and civil society groups and the press.

According to a release, the visit is intended to inform officials of civil society and the media about the role of the special court and the works it performs in Sierra Leone.

Mr. Vincent and the spokesman of the Special Court, Allison Cooper, will hold a press conference on Wednesday afternoon at the UNMIL conference center, Tubman Boulevard, Congotown at 4pm.

The Sierra Leonean special court was established in Sierra Leone to prosecute individuals accused of war crimes and crimes against humanity during the decade-long civil war in that Country.

Former Liberian President Charles Taylor has already been indicted and is expected to appear before that court to answer charges levied against him. He has been accused as one of the principal men responsible for fueling the civil war by trading illicit guns for blood diamonds with the rebels of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF).

But Taylor has persistently denied the charges against him.

# Special Court Registrar goes to *Meet* Monrovia

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**David Crane**

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*See page 2*

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*New Vision*

*Wednesday July 14, 2004*

# "I was raped and then amputated"- Witness

*By Odilia French*

At the Special Court yesterday, in the statement of the second Prosecution witness in the RUF trial, read by a member of the Prosecution, states that after rebels captured her she was raped and later amputated. According to the statement, the witness said that she was living at Malama with her husband when she learnt about an

attack at Mateboi (two miles from Malama) and they decided to hide in the bush near Malama with some other people whom she did not recognize. The date of the attack she could not recall but said it was before the January 6 invasion. They were at the bush, when rebels including child soldiers as young as five; some in combat and others in civilian clothes, carrying RPGs, AK47s and

cutlasses attacked Batmis. Unfortunately they were all captured along with her husband and herself and taken to Batmis. She said that before they left

for Batmis, she was raped by one of the rebel who captured her while another watched. At Batmis she and her husband was given rice

and millet to pound while others were sent to fetch water. Some of those who went to fetch water escaped and because of that the rebels then decided to

amputate the rest of them. The rebels then told her that they would kill her husband and gave her pain that would last forever. According to her

*Contd. Page 2*

## *From Front Page*

the leader of the group whom she said was called 'Mosquito' then ordered that her husband should be killed and he was chopped-up with a cutlass in her presence. This 'Mosquito' she went on, was tall, slim and speaks Krio and Mende, adding that she

knew he was a big commander. Then both her hands were chopped off and was told to go to Kabba for new hands. One rebel then escorted her to a certain point where she continued in the bush until she met some of her relatives who took her to Makama. The

rebels she said were shooting or chopping the civilians apart including her husband's family before she left Batmis, as she has not seen them up to this time. She said that she was treated at the Makeni Government Hospital and operated on by ICRC.



*Awoko*

*Wednesday July 14, 2004*

Concord Times

Wednesday July 14, 2004

## Witness revealed to Special Court...

### *I was amputated for refusing sex with a rebel*

Second prosecution witness (TF1-196) yesterday told the Special Court how her hands were amputated by a Rebel Commando after she refused having sex with one of the rebels at Malama Village, Bombali district.

She made the revelation while testifying at the on going trial of the three RUF indictees, Morris Kallon, Issa Sesay and Augustine Gbao.

"The rebels including child soldiers between the ages of 5-10 were armed with AK 47 rifles, Rocket Propel Grenades, dressed in military and civilian clothes," She noted and added that the rebels threatened to inflict pain on her.

She recalled the name of a rebel commando called Mosquito who ordered the

amputation and killing of several civilians including her husband.

"After our capture, the rebels ordered some of us to pound three dozen of millet whilst the others were sent

to fetch water for daily use," the witness narrated.

She admitted that Lewis Taylor and Isatu Jalloh from the Special Court prosecution unit obtained statement from her.

# Special Court...

# Traumatized witness testifies

BY THEOPHILUS SGBENDA

**L**ed in evidence by Trial Attorney, Boi Tia Stevens, the second prosecution witness in the ongoing RUF trial at the Special Court for Sierra Leone, TFI-196, appeared in court yesterday to recall what she had earlier stated to the prosecution on September 15, 2003.

The appearance of the middle aged female witness was preceded by an expression of consensus between the prosecution and the defence.

Considering the fact that the witness was deemed to be badly traumatized, it was in the opinion of the defence that they had no problem in admitting the written statement of the witness in evidence even without her physical appearance in court.

The prosecution, on their own part, insisted that the witness, though traumatized, be allowed to appear in court and her written statement read in her presence, so as to ascertain whether in fact she actually made the statement.

After a careful examination of the submissions of the parties, the Trial Chamber ruled that the statement be read in her presence before admitting it (the statement) in evidence.

In the statement, which was read by Trial Attorney,

Boi-Tia Stevens, attached to the prosecution, the witness recalled that in the thick of the war she was at Malama village in the Bombali district when AFRC combatants, enroute to Freetown, attacked the village in the middle of the night.

According to the witness, her husband, herself and others took refuge in nearby bushes for fear for their lives.

## FROM PAGE 1

Before down the combatants had codoned the bushes, eventually capturing a number of civilians including her husband and herself.

The witness recalled how they were subjected to all sorts of inhumane treatment ranging from hard labour to sexual harassment.

It was at this juncture that a few captives managed to escape, the witness explained.

Noticing that some captives had escape, they became angry and started threatening those that stayed behind with death and other inhumane deeds.

Her husband, the witness recalled, was butchered while she was raped under gun point by a teenage boy in the full view of another teenager.

As if that was not enough, the witness went on, she

said she was subsequently held by another combatant, who brutally amputated her two limbs.

The witness further stated that she saw many other captives who were killed or sexually abused by the same group, backed by child soldiers and headed by commander Mosquito.

At the end of the statement reading, the witness motioned that it represented exactly what she had earlier told the prosecution.

To this note, the defence counsel raised no objections and thanked the witness for appearing in court and pointing out to her that she was not in court on their insistence.

The statement was subsequently admitted in evidence and marked as exhibit three.

The third prosecution witness, TFI-214, is expected to continue his cross examination today.

Standard Times

Wednesday July 14,

2004

# *At Special Court* **Amputee Explains Her Ordeal**

*By Joseph Turay*

An amputee witness code name TF1.196 has testified at the Special Court that after she was amputated by rebels, they told her to tell President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah to give her new hands.

The witness, who was questioned by prosecution counsel Boi-Tia Stevens, explained that she was residing in her village Malama - 2 miles from Mateboi - when the rebels attacked nearby



*Gen. Issa Sesay*

villages and she and her husband had no option but to hide in the bush together with

other civilians. While they were hiding in the bush, she said over forty

rebels attacked and abducted the civilians, including herself and husband, and they

were taken hostage to Batnes in Bombali District.

*Contd. page 2*

## **Amputee Explains Her Ordeal**

*From front page*

TF1.196 said the leader of the rebel group that abducted them identified himself as Mosquito, an AFRC rebel who ordered that they should be amputated because, some of the captives

had escaped whilst they were sent to fetch water.

The witness also explained how her husband was hacked to death in her presence before a rebel named Foyo Faya chopped off her limbs and raped her. The

other civilians were killed by the rebels, she added.

She concluded that she felt pain on her private part after she was raped and later managed to escape to Makeni where she underwent medical treatment.

*The Exclusive*

*Wednesday July 14, 2004*

# Woman Raped, Then Amputated

By Mohamed Mansaray

The second Special Court prosecution witness in the joint RUF trial, TF1-196 (name withheld) told the court yesterday that she was raped by one RUF rebel in the bush around Malama Matheboi in the Bombali district after she and her husband were abducted between 1997 and 1999.

The witness told the court that she was raped in the presence of another rebel before her two hands were amputated at a village called Batmis.

Testifying at Court Room No. 1, New England

## -COURT TOLD

in Freetown yesterday, the witness said that she felt sharp pain in her vagina after the incident but could not recall the name of the rebel who raped her. She informed the court that she spotted the man who raped her some three years ago at Grafton Police Barracks in the far east of Freetown who she said was dressed in full military combat. "He threatened to kill me with his gun if I refused to have sex with him," the witness told the court and recalled that they were

abducted by five rebels. She maintained the name of one AFRC Commander called "Mosquito" as the man who gave orders to murder her husband with a machete.

Speaking in Temne through an interpreter, the witness told the court that she, her husband and other civilians were hiding in the bushes near their village when they were abducted. She said over forty rebels most of whom were clad in military fatigues attacked their village at night. The witness told the court that the rebels

SEE BACK PAGE

she was amputated  
were armed with RPGs, AK47s, machetes and knives and were on their way to Freetown when they were conscripted. She said child soldiers between the ages of five and eight were also among the rebels.

Recounting her ordeal further at the hands of the rebels, the witness told the court that both her right and left hands were each chopped four times with a machete as punishment for some civilians who had escaped from captivity.

"They referred me to president Tejan Kabbah to give me new hands", the witness continued. She told the court that she was assisted by another rebel to escape and ended up being treated by one Mr. Dumbuya at the government hospital in Makeni and was later operated upon by the ICRC. "I ate fruits in the bush with my mouth when I escaped since my hands had been amputated. I cannot wash myself and I am looked after by my daughter," she said.

Earlier in her testimony, the witness recalled making statement to the office of the Prosecution in Freetown on September 15, 2003 and further recalled the names of Lewis Taylor, Cecilia Williams and Isattu Jalloh as the people to whom she made statement.

Salone Times

Wednesday July 14, 2004

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Terms: **wanted: vicxtims of rebel amputation demand ousted liberian leader's appearance in court** ([Edit Search](#))

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*Associated Press Worldstream July 13, 2004 Tuesday*

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**July 13, 2004 Tuesday**

**SECTION:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS

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**LENGTH:** 496 words

**HEADLINE:** **Wanted:** Victims of **rebel amputation demand ousted Liberian leader's appearance in court**

**BYLINE:** JOHN MURRAY; Associated Press Writer

**DATELINE:** ABUJA, Nigeria

**BODY:**

Displaying scarred limbs hacked by machetes, two men whose arms were mutilated by West African **rebels** allied to **ousted Liberian leader** Charles Taylor appeared in court to **demand** that Taylor be extradited before a war-crimes tribunal.

Emmanuel Egbuna and David Anyaele, businessmen from Nigeria, were captured by Revolutionary United Front **rebels** while on a trip to Sierra Leone in 1999, and maimed by machete in the **rebels'** trademark atrocity.

Anyaele, whose arms were hacked off, now wears prosthetic limbs. Egbuna's hands were nearly severed and are now almost useless, despite being later surgically reattached.

Taylor was indicted by a U.N.-backed war-crimes tribunal last year as a primary supporter of the Sierra Leone **rebels**. He has lived in exile in Nigeria since he was toppled from power in his own nation last year.

Egbuna and Anyaele, who appeared in court Tuesday, have demanded Nigerian courts review Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo's granting of asylum to Taylor.

"We were captured and tortured by the RUF people. They mutilated our bodies," said Anyaele, showing his prosthetic arms to journalists outside the court.

"If Charles Taylor is saying he is innocent, make him go to Sierra Leone and be tried by the U.N. tribunal. We are confident we will win," he added.

Taylor is accused of trafficking guns and diamonds with Sierra Leone's insurgents. **Rebels** killed, raped, kidnapped and maimed tens of thousands of civilians in a failed 1991-2002

campaign to capture control of Sierra Leone's government diamond fields.

Taylor has lived in a mansion in the southeastern jungle city of Calabar since fleeing to Nigeria on Aug. 11 as **rebels** opposed to his rule laid siege to the **Liberian** capital, Monrovia.

Obasanjo has refused extradition, but has not ruled out compelling Taylor to surrender to a future elected government in Liberia, if requested.

Judge Jonah Adah, presiding over the case in Nigeria's capital of Abuja, has ordered Taylor to appear in Nigerian court to face his accusers.

Adah ordered on Tuesday that a subpoena issued earlier for Taylor be pasted on courthouse walls in Calabar and published in Nigerian national newspapers.

Nigeria's security forces previously refused to allow judicial authorities to deliver a subpoena to the exiled **leader** at his cloistered, heavily protected residence, officials have said.

Taylor and his aides could not immediately be reached for comment.

Obasanjo has rejected U.N. **demands** to hand Taylor over for trial, insisting the decision to have him in Nigeria was the result of an international consensus aimed at bringing peace to Liberia.

Tunde Fagbohunlu, an attorney for the two maimed Nigerian men, said Taylor's presence in Nigeria contravened its membership in a U.N. convention setting up the International Criminal Court.

"We are asking the court to make a pronouncement that the asylum granted him does not conform with the laws of Nigeria," Fagbohunlu told journalists.

**LOAD-DATE:** July 14, 2004

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Alerting Humanitarians to Emergencies

## War victims challenge Charles Taylor's Nigeria asylum

13 Jul 2004 18:18:06 GMT

By Dino Mahtani

LAGOS, July 13 (Reuters) - A Nigerian court has allowed a challenge to former Liberian president Charles Taylor's asylum in Nigeria by two men tortured and mutilated by rebels in Sierra Leone in 1999, prosecution lawyers said on Tuesday.

Taylor, who is accused by a U.N.-backed court of lending financial and military support to Sierra Leone's rebels in a 10-year civil war, was granted asylum in Nigeria last year in return for giving up power.

Nigerian businessmen, David Anyaele and Emmanuel Egbuna, say they were attacked by rebels backed by Taylor in the Sierra Leonean capital Freetown. Rebel fighters hacked off Anyaele's arms and mutilated Egbuna's wrists after setting him on fire.

"The court has given us permission to serve Charles Taylor (a summons)," the plaintiffs' lead council Tunde Fagbohunlu told Reuters by phone from the Nigerian capital Abuja.

The Nigerian plaintiffs' lawyers have been trying to serve Taylor a court summons since May, but they were previously blocked by Nigerian authorities.

The Federal High Court ruled on Tuesday that Taylor could be served notice through advertisements to be taken out in the Nigerian national press later this week.

The Nigerian government has refused to hand over Taylor to the Sierra Leone court, arguing that his asylum was agreed to prevented another bloodbath in Liberia. President Olusegun Obasanjo has said he would hand Taylor back to Liberia itself, if that government requested it.

The U.N.-backed tribunal has indicted Taylor -- who began a civil war in his own country in 1989 before winning elections in 1997 -- on 17 counts of crimes against humanity and other violations of humanitarian law.


Sierra Leone's rebels became notorious for hacking off the limbs of their victims, mass rape and recruiting child soldiers in a war which killed 50,000 people.

The United States has pressured Nigeria to hand over the former warlord before the tribunal's mandate expires at the end of 2005.

The court dismissed an appeal by Taylor who said he should be entitled to immunity as he had been a serving head of state at the

time of his indictment last year.

The Nigerian plaintiffs argue that Nigeria should not have granted Taylor asylum under African Union and Geneva convention guidelines, which prohibit asylum to war criminals.

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## 2 amputated Nigerians get court's leave to serve papers on Charles Taylor

Wednesday, July 14, 2004

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ABUJA — AN Abuja court on Tuesday gave two Nigerians whose hands were hacked off by Sierra Leonean rebels the go-ahead to serve court papers on former Liberian leader Charles Taylor, through the daily press.

Emmanuel Egbuna and David Anyaele have launched a legal bid to overturn Nigeria's decision to grant the exiled warlord political asylum in defiance of calls for him to face a UN-backed war crimes tribunal in Sierra Leone.

But the pair have so far been unable to serve court papers on Taylor, who has lived under tight security in a luxury villa in the city of Calabar since fleeing his homeland in August last year. Justice Jonah Adah, sitting in the Federal High Court in Abuja, gave the plaintiffs leave to simply publish the papers in the Nigerian dailies ThisDay and The Guardian and to consider them duly served upon Taylor.

It was not immediately clear whether the amputees would use this method to launch a court summons for Taylor to attend the hearings; a civil suit launched on June 14 to demand a judicial review of his asylum deal. Adah adjourned the hearing until July 26 to allow the plaintiffs to place the newspaper ads and deposit the papers in court houses in Calabar and Abuja.

Taylor is a defendant in the case, along with Nigeria's President Olusegun Obasanjo, his attorney general and three federal agencies. Taylor was granted asylum last August by President Obasanjo in exchange for him vowing not to interfere in Liberia's peace process.

The lawyers for the two Nigerians, who formerly lived in Sierra Leone, launched the court battle to force the government to rescind the asylum deal and honour an international arrest warrant targeting Taylor. The former Liberian leader has been accused by international prosecutors at a UN-backed special tribunal in Sierra Leone of backing the rebel Revolutionary United Front (RUF) during that country's own bloody civil war.

Anyaele and Egbuna were among thousands maimed by the RUF, which

war crimes investigators maintain was supported by Taylor between 1991 and 2001 in exchange for a share in Sierra Leone's trade in so-called "blood diamonds".  
Anyaele's arms were severed above the elbow, while Egbuna's hands were partially cut off and left permanently useless.

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Terms: **cote d'ivoire; war to lucrative to contemplate peace, sys think tank** ([Edit Search](#))

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*Africa News July 13, 2004 Tuesday*

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Africa News

**July 13, 2004 Tuesday**

**LENGTH:** 778 words

**HEADLINE:** Cote d'Ivoire;  
**War Too Lucrative to Contemplate Peace, Says Think Tank**

**BYLINE:** UN Integrated Regional Information Networks

**BODY:**

With **Cote d'Ivoire's peace** process virtually paralysed and all hopes pinned on a regional summit in Ghana in two weeks time, a top international thinktank has urged other West African leaders to tackle those reaping economic rewards from the current deadlock.

The International Crisis Group (ICG) said in a report entitled "**No Peace** in Sight" ([click here for a pdf of the full report](#)), that government figures, rebels, businessmen and members of the security forces were all cashing in on the civil **war** in **Cote d'Ivoire**.

The country has been split into a government-controlled south and a rebel-held north for the last 22 months even though the fighting officially stopped in May 2003.

"The political impasse is exceptionally **lucrative** for almost everyone except ordinary citizens," the ICG said in its report, published on Monday. "Today's political actors have found that **war** serves as an excellent means of enrichment, and they may be ill-served by the restoration of **peace** and security."

"The international community, and especially the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), needs to take on the spoilers more assertively and openly," the Brussels-based group added.

**Cote d'Ivoire's** rival factions are due to meet in Accra on 29 July at a **peace** summit hosted by Ghanaian President John Kufuor, the current chairman of ECOWAS. Several other West African leaders who have played a prominent role in international efforts to restore **peace** to the country are also expected to attend.

The Ivorian **peace** process has been frozen since March when the rebels and the four main opposition parties represented in parliament walked out of a broad-based government of national reconciliation. In May President Laurent Gbagbo retaliated by firing three ministers from the opposition G7 coalition.

The ICG said ECOWAS should assume a higher public profile and speak up about the deep level of regional concern. This would prevent Ivorian President Laurent Gbagbo from saying that Africa was behind him and that only France, the former colonial power in **Cote d'Ivoire**, opposed him, it added.

France has 4,000 peacekeeping troops in **Cote d'Ivoire**, most of whom are stationed along

the frontline to keep the government and rebel forces apart.

The ICG also called on the international community to investigate "the criminal politico-economic networks that make impasses such an attractive option for the political class."

**Cote** d'Ivoire is the world's top cocoa producer, and the ICG report mentioned the crop as a source of illegal financial gain.

"The massive amounts of money skimmed from the world's biggest cocoa crop have always constituted a slush fund for the government, giving its leaders effective independence from the normal processes of raising and spending funds by state institutions," the ICG said.

It described an Enron-like structure of front companies and secret bank accounts which insulate the eventual beneficiaries from any criminal acts. It also noted the case of Guy-Andre Kieffer, a French-Canadian journalist who disappeared on 16 April this year who is widely feared to have been kidnapped and killed.

"According to diplomatic sources, Kieffer had been hired by the president's office to investigate corruption within the cocoa business and the Ivorian government. Before long he was pulled up short and told that he was pushing rather too hard, and his research should end," the report said.

The ICG also accused the rebels of monopolising the trade in cotton and weapons in northern **Cote** d'Ivoire and of levying informal taxes.

In the south, it said businessmen close to the government had their interests protected by it and the security forces were raking in profits from impromptu roadblocks.

The ICG also noted that the leaders of militia-style pro-Gbagbo youth organisations who in peacetime would probably have been unemployed, now enjoyed flash cars, bodyguards and as much as \$80,000 a month from presidential coffers.

"Much of the rhetoric of division and ethno-nationalist hatred on both sides of the conflict is highly theatrical and a cover for illicit economic gain," the ICG said.

"Until the financial motivation of maintaining the impasse is addressed, there is little hope that the situation in **Cote** d'Ivoire will change, or even that elections will take place in October 2005."

The group also urged the United Nations Mission in **Cote** d'Ivoire (ONUCI) to have all of its 6,420-person military contingent in place by the end of July. It said more patrols were needed on the western border with Liberia to stop Liberian fighters and weapons coming in to **Cote** d'Ivoire.

**LOAD-DATE:** July 13, 2004

washingtonpost.com

# Al Qaeda's Growing Sanctuary

By Douglas Farah and Richard Shultz

Wednesday, July 14, 2004; Page A19

With the end of the brutal conflicts in Liberia and Sierra Leone, West Africa is seldom in the news or on the policy agenda these days. Yet the region is quietly gaining recognition as what it has long been: a haven for al Qaeda and other terrorist groups. Weak and corrupt governments, vast, virtually stateless stretches awash in weapons, and impoverished, largely Muslim populations make the region an ideal sanctuary.

U.S. Gen. Charles Wald, deputy commander of the European Central Command, has been warning Congress and the Pentagon for months that al Qaeda-affiliated groups are active in Mauritania, Mali, Chad and Niger. The trade in diamonds used by terrorist groups, begun under the protection of former Liberian strongman Charles Taylor, continues despite international efforts to curb it. "The terrorist activity in this area is not going to go away," Wald warned recently. "This could affect your kids and your grandchildren in a huge way. If we don't do something about it, we are going to have a real problem on our hands."

Wald has had success in bolstering regional efforts to face the terrorist challenge, but the problem is real. Despite Wald's warnings and other reporting on al Qaeda's regional activities and ties to the diamond trade, the intelligence community (particularly the CIA) has dismissed the reporting as inaccurate or irrelevant.

This attitude reflects the Cold War, state-centric culture that prevails in the intelligence community. As the national debate over intelligence reform expands, one key focus must be changing that culture. This entails recognizing and confronting the national security threat posed by armed groups, operating beyond state control, that are now the de facto rulers of growing swaths of sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and Latin America.

The ties of former Liberian president Charles Taylor to al Qaeda have been corroborated by the FBI and the U.N.-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone, which is charged with investigating crimes against humanity in that nation's brutal civil war. The now-identifiable presence of al Qaeda in other countries shows that these once-marginal wars and regions matter. We ignore the warnings at our peril.

Several lessons that have a direct bearing on intelligence reform can be drawn from the activities of al Qaeda and Hezbollah in West Africa. One is that terrorist and other armed groups are sophisticated in their exploitation of "gray areas" where governments are weak, corruption is rampant and the rule of law is nonexistent. They use areas such as West Africa to finance their activities, correctly betting that Western intelligence services do not have the capacity, resources or interest to track their activities there.

Another lesson is that terrorists are adaptable and learn from each other and their own mistakes. Hezbollah has been using diamonds from West Africa to finance its activities since its inception, successfully embedding its financial structure in the diamond trade. Al Qaeda operatives plugged into the same network, bridging the divide between Shiite and Sunni Muslims.

Al Qaeda demonstrated its adaptability in the aftermath of the 1998 bombings of two U.S. embassies in East Africa. The United States froze some \$220 million in Taliban and al Qaeda gold deposited in the Federal Reserve system. To ensure that future finances could not be attacked in a similar way, the group began to systematically move its money out of banking systems and into commodities.

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A third lesson is that terrorist networks and criminal networks can take over failed states such as Liberia and Afghanistan, turning them into multifaceted international threats.

In 2000, among those operating simultaneously in Liberia under Taylor were: senior al Qaeda operatives; Hezbollah financiers; Victor Bout, an arms merchant who was supplying weapons across Africa and to both the Taliban and the Northern Alliance in Afghanistan; Leonid Minin, a Ukrainian-Israeli drug dealer and arms merchant; and Aziz Nassour, the onetime bagman for Mobutu Sese Seko in Zaire and middleman for al Qaeda and Hezbollah.

A final lesson is that the intelligence community reacts poorly to information that was not on its radar screen. For example, the assumption was that the initial diamond story made the CIA look bad, and it therefore had to be attacked and discredited.

Collecting, analyzing and acting on intelligence in lawless areas and rogue regimes are difficult, complex tasks that will take time and resources. As Wald noted, "We have to . . . have the ability to get our intelligence into that area and infiltrate there so we can get into their environment. And that is when we will stop it." A first step is recognizing the threats posed by armed groups in parts of the world we often ignore. To meet the challenge, the culture of the intelligence community must change beyond the shifting of organization boxes in the name of reform that occurs when outside criticism mounts.

*Douglas Farah, a journalist on leave from The Post, is a senior fellow at the Consortium for the Study of Intelligence, a Washington-based research center. Richard Shultz is director of security studies at the Fletcher School, Tufts University.*

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Africa News

**July 13, 2004 Tuesday**

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Region Needs UN Help to Prevent Instability, Security Council Says**

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**BODY:**

After a fact-finding trip to seven West African countries last month, **United Nations Security Council** members are recommending strengthening of institutions working for regional stability, such as the **UN Office for West Africa** (UNOWA) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

In a report on their findings, the 14 Council members on the mission - Russia did not participate - welcome the initiative of UNOWA and ECOWAS "to identify ways of preventing coups d'etat and other unconstitutional means of seizing or holding power, as well as to mitigate those abuses that are usually the root causes of attempted coups d'etat."

They also urge donors to respond generously to humanitarian appeals for the **region** and call for additional resources to UNOWA, which already has reached its full staffing level of seven professional staff members, to help with implementing coherent solutions to conflicts and other regional problems.

Recruitment of child soldiers continues, the report says, hailing the efforts of the **UN Children's Fund** (UNICEF) and partners to strengthen the Child Protection Unit of ECOWAS.

Many of the people the mission met "underlined the need to create jobs and economic opportunity in **West Africa** as an essential element of lasting peace," it says.

"Without them, countries could easily slip back into conflict, particularly after **United Nations** peacekeeping operations have left," the report says. "The mission stressed the need for countries of the **region**, working with their international partners, to do their utmost to create a more favourable investment climate."

The **Security Council** members point out that for the **region** to achieve the economic growth needed to cut prevailing youth unemployment, countries must fight corruption and promote governmental accountability to attract investment.

The mission was in the **region** from 22 to 28 June, with stops in Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Guinea-Bissau and Guinea.

Council members reviewed peacekeeping operations in Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia and Sierra Leone, but they stressed that due attention must be paid to "those countries of the **region**

that are currently stable and that show strong commitment to good governance, protection of human rights and good-neighbourly relations."

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Title : Disarmament begins in southeastern Liberia on Ivory Coast border  
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MONROVIA : UN peacekeepers have moved into volatile southeastern Liberia to begin disarming combatants who are reportedly running weapons over the border into Ivory Coast, the UN mission in the west African state said.

UNMIL had to abort its campaign in the key city of Zwedru three times before finally launching the four-phase process on Friday in the Grand Gedeh provincial capital some 40 kilometers (24 miles) from the Ivorian border.

Zwedru is a stronghold of the rebel Movement for Democracy in Liberia, a well-armed grouping backed by Ivory Coast President Laurent Gbagbo in their battle against former Liberian president Charles Taylor that raged from late 2002 until a peace pact was signed in August last year.

UN officials expect some 10,000 MODEL fighters to pass through the cantonment site -- among the more than 50,000 combatants from three warring factions in the 14 years of civil war that have battered the west African state.

Gbagbo is said to have funded MODEL, an offshoot of the main rebel Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy, in exchange for their help in quelling a rebellion in western Ivory Coast.

UNMIL has been in dogged pursuit of MODEL's arsenal of mortars, bombs, rocket-propelled grenades and anti-aircraft machine guns but few heavy armaments have been turned over to peacekeepers since April 20, when the process came to the port city of Buchanan, the MODEL headquarters.

After 10 days of lacklustre disarmament, mostly involving low-ranking porters and combatants who showed up bearing paltry offerings of weapons, the Buchanan process was suspended.

Diplomatic and UN sources in the capital Monrovia have corroborated reports by civilians and non-governmental organizations that the heavy arms have crossed back into Ivory Coast or have been stashed near the border.

Without Zwedru, the disarmament process will surely fail, International Crisis Group's west Africa director Mike McGovern told AFP recently, pointing to recent attacks against civilian populations blamed on ex-combatants in the area.

Aid workers with the international non-governmental group Save the Children charged that MODEL was also continuing its recruitment of child soldiers, to join rebels slipping over the border into Ivory Coast in anticipation of new fighting there.

Hoping to spur interest in the disarmament campaign, MODEL commander General Boi Bleaju Boi has ceremonially handed weapons over to peacekeepers. But so far, according to UNMIL spokeswoman Margaret Novicki, 558 fighters have enrolled in the program that will provide them with food rations, vocational training and a 300-dollar stipend.

At the five cantonment sites nationwide, some 53,717 combatants have relinquished their weapons since disarmament resumed April 15 after a disastrous launch in December that sent thousands of fighters into the streets of Monrovia, leaving at least 10 dead.

- AFP

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