

**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, 14 November 2012

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

### Local News

NaCSA Boosts War Victims in the Eastern Region / <i>Awoko</i>	Page 3
Sierra Leone Elected Member of the UN Human Rights Council / <i>Concord Times</i>	Page 4

### International News

Taylor Fit For Trial / <i>New Democrat</i>	Pages 5-6
ICC Prosecutor Hails Shift in Fight Against Sexual Violence / <i>Voice of America</i>	Pages 7-8
10 Years on: Growing Pains at The ICC / <i>Radio Netherlands Worldwide</i>	Pages 9-10
Liberian Nobel Laureate Champions Nonviolent Action Outside Government / <i>Denver Post</i>	Pages 11-12
Wahlen in Sierra Leone - Narben des Kriegs verheilen nur langsam / <i>Tiroler Tageszeitung Online</i>	Page 13

Awoko

Wednesday, 14 November 2012

## NaCSA BOOST War Victims in the Eastern Region

By Saffa Moriba

The National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA) with funds from the United Nations Trust Fund has observed the graduation ceremony of War-Affected Women that have gone through training in various skills under the reparation programme in the Eastern region. The training targeted 28 (twenty-eight) women who were trained in tailoring, catering, soap-making, gara tying and dyeing and hair dressing in Kailahun and Kono districts. At the graduation ceremony held at youth sports club hall in Kenema city, along Mahei Vangahun road, the Provincial Secretary (east) George Banya who chaired the programme, described the ceremony as very important and will enable the beneficiaries to improve on their livelihood.

He commended NaCSA and the donor agency for empowering Women who suffered immensely during the war, adding that providing skills training is a vital area which the commission has undertaken, to transform their lives, there-by restoring their human dignity.

Giving an overview of the training, the Regional Coordinator NaCSA, Mohamed Koroma, said the training targeted 28 female victims of the war, for the second phase of the programme, out of which 14 (fourteen) trained on gara tying dying, and eight on tailoring, three on soap making, two on hair-dressing and one on catering across the region. He highlighted the significance of the training and commended the trainees for going through the six-months period.

In his contribution the Development Planning Officer Kenema City Council (KCC) Emmanuel Sartie thanked NaCSA

for their implementation in the region adding that the empowerment of the war victims is very important, as it will enhance them to develop themselves and become self reliant. Sartie highlighted the various projects which NaCSA and the council are implementing and the impact it has created to the beneficiaries.

He implored the grandaunts to make good use of the available opportunity, so that they can contribute to the development of themselves and the community.

In his statement, the Deputy Commissioner NaCSA, Charles Rogers, expressed delighted for the second batch of the graduation ceremony under the reparation program which he says was designed to respond to the needs of war- victims who suffered human right abuses during the 11-years civil conflict in Sierra Leone.

He disclosed that NaCSA is implementing the programme based on the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) reports. Commissioner Rogers maintained that the programme targeted amputees, war-wounded, traumatized children, war widows and women who were sexually violated. He noted that NaCSA registered 33,793 victims in an eight-month period and they were recommended for free health services, pension, skills training, educational facilities and micro-grant among others.

The commissioner says the grandaunts will be awarded certificates including start-up kits and two million Leones to their respective accounts. Commissioner Rogers encouraged them to use the funds and tools for their intended purposes.

# Sierra Leone elected member at the UN Human Rights Council

By: Sahr Morris Jr.

**S**ierra Leone has been elected as one of the 18 member countries of the

UN Human Rights Council HRC for a period of three years which will commence on January 1st 2013.

Sierra Leone, Ethiopia, Kenya,

Ivory Coast and Gabon are the African nations elected to the council through a secret ballot during the elections held at UN Headquarters in New York.

Argentina, Brazil, Estonia, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Kazakhstan, Montenegro, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, United Arab Emirates, United States and Venezuela completed the list of 18 members in the council.

The members of the Council will serve for a period of three years and are not eligible for immediate re-election after serving two

consecutive terms.

The HRC is an inter-governmental body within the UN system responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe and for addressing situations of human rights violations and make recommendations on them.

All of its members are elected by the world body's General Assembly and it has the ability to discuss all thematic human rights issues and situations that require its attention

Cont Page 8

# Salone elected member at UN Human Rights Council

From Page 4

throughout the year.

The entire Council's membership is based on equitable geographical distribution and seats are distributed as follows: 13 seats for

African states, 13 seats for Asian states, 8 seats for Latin American and Caribbean states, 7 seats for Western European and other states, and 6 seats for Eastern European states.

## New Democrat (Liberia)

Monday, 12 November 2012

### Taylor Fit For Trial



Closing arguments in Mr. Taylor's sentence expected next year

Lawyers representing the legal interests of ex-President Charles Taylor have disputed rumors that their client was being ill-treated at The Hague, but claimed they have identified 45 legal errors in his verdict.

“Anybody who feels Taylor is beaten or ill-treated is making a mistake, Taylor’s new lead Defense Counsel, Morris A. Anyah told journalist Thursday. He added that the spirituality of his client has kept him going.

He said oral arguments into the Appeals filed by ex-President Charles Taylor against his 50-year sentence on “aiding and abetting” Sierra Leone’s brutal civil war is expected to start in January 2013. Closing arguments and ruling will be expected around October or November the same year if the court’s schedule stands.

Mr. Anyah claims systematic errors through the judgment as grounds for appeal against his client’s verdict. He said Taylor is resolute and is determined to fight his appeal to the end.

Taylor, 65, was found guilty on 30 May 2011 of all 11 counts of aiding and abetting the deadly rebel campaign in Sierra Leone. But he has insisted on his innocence as his lawyers prepared for the hearing which has in between schedules pretrial conferences next month.

Mr. Anyah, who maintained that there were flaws in the judgment, said parts of the verdict were based on hearsay, with allegations of bribery of prosecution witnesses to testify against the convict.

He also repeated earlier defense claims that the 50-year jail sentence of his client (Taylor) was harsh, especially for the crime of aiding and abetting. He noted that the verdict is not accepted because an individual cannot be given punishment that is equal or more than the doers of the act.

Mr. Anyah stressed the significant of Taylor's appeal, saying this should be the concern of all of West Africa, and encouraged the government of Liberia to stay online with the issue of Charles Taylor.

He added that the future of Liberia is yet to come, and Taylor's issue should now be debated here so as to provide a clear understanding to the young people who will take over Liberia afterwards.

Taylor was sentenced to 50 years in jail by the UN-backed war crimes court for Sierra Leone on 30 May 2011 after being found guilty of aiding and abetting rebels in Sierra Leone during the 1991-2002 civil war. Special Court for Sierra Leone judges said the sentence reflected his status as head of state at the time and his betrayal of public trust.

**ICC Prosecutor Hails Shift in Fight Against Sexual Violence***Nancy Palus*

DAKAR — The chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court says governments and civil society are showing increased commitment to fighting sexual crimes and other violence against women. ICC Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda spoke to reporters in the Senegalese capital, Dakar, at the opening of a five-day conference on women in the legal sector.

ICC Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda, who was in Dakar for a conference of the International Federation of Women in Legal Careers - an organization aimed at protecting the rights of women worldwide - said she is hearing communities speak more and more openly about sexual violence against women, and seeing an increased commitment by governments and civil society to tackling such crimes. She said it is all part of an evolution in how the world regards sexual violence.

"I do believe that states are getting more and more committed to addressing the sexual and gender crimes that take place," Bensouda said. "This is what we need to see, to ensure that we address these crimes, because unless we do that it will always be taken for granted that they should not be addressed."

The International Criminal Court, which marks its 10-year anniversary this week, has 15 cases on its docket.

Bensouda noted to delegates at the conference in Dakar that of these 15 cases, 11 concern sexual violence charges, one sign, she said, of how far international criminal law has evolved in giving sexual crimes the attention they warrant. In the 1990s rape was classed as an instrument of genocide. And the Special Court for Sierra Leone has called forced marriage a crime against humanity.

All 15 of the cases currently on the ICC's docket concern alleged crimes in Africa. Responding to a reporter's question of whether the ICC is unfairly "targeting" Africa, Bensouda called for a shift in focus from perpetrators to victims - who are also Africans.

"ICC is working with the victims of these crimes," she said. "We are also working for the victims of these crimes. They are African victims. And they deserve justice. And they deserve a voice. ICC's intervention in Africa is largely as a result of Africa coming towards the ICC and requesting the ICC to come and address these crimes. I think that we have to readjust our thinking and start thinking of the victims of these crimes. They deserve justice. They deserve peace. They can have both."

Addressing a legal case long hanging over Senegal - that of former Chadian leader Hissène Habré, who has lived in the country for decades - Bensouda said the ICC does not have jurisdiction over the case as the alleged crimes occurred before the court existed. But, she said, the court "stands ready to share experiences" with Senegal should it embark on investigating and prosecuting the case.



## Radio Netherlands Worldwide

Wednesday, 14 November 2012

### 10 years on: growing pains at the ICC

By Lauren Comiteau (© freefoto.com)

Dignitaries, ambassadors, NGOs and even the Dutch monarch Queen Beatrix are gathering in the historic Knights Hall in The Hague today for the official ceremony marking a decade of justice at the International Criminal Court (ICC), the world's first permanent war crimes tribunal.

But with only one verdict and sentence handed down so far —14 years to former Congolese militia leader Thomas Lubanga — some in the legal community say the court is far from achieving its stated aim of being a court for everyone.



“What has been done until now is a bit of a flop,” says Judge Fausto Pocar of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY), a court under the auspices of the United Nations, also located in The Hague. “Far from being

universal, less than 50 percent of the world's people are protected, [Sudanese President] al-Bashir is still free...and only one case is finished. After 10 years, that's not very effective.”

#### Mixed results

In the decade since the court was ratified in July 2012, three trials have started, 22 arrest warrants and nine summonses to appear have been issued and eight preliminary investigations are underway — from Afghanistan and Georgia to Honduras and North Korea.

But the list of people indicted by the court and still at large includes Ugandan warlord Joseph Kony and other top commanders of his Lord's Resistance Army, Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir and the son and former intelligence chief of late Libyan dictator Moammar Gaddafi: Saif Al-Islam and Abdullah Al-Senussi respectively.

#### Patience required

"It's a fledgling organisation," Professor Michael Scharf of Case Western Reserve University School of Law in Ohio said earlier this year. "The expectations for an organisation like that historically have to be reasonable because they really don't hit their stride until the second decade or even the third decade."

On the plus side of the ICC balance sheet, former president of the Ivory Coast Laurent Gbagbo became the first head of state to appear before judges when he was extradited to the court in last November. And it took more than a decade for the ICTY to land its so-called “biggest fish”: Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and his military commander Ratko Mladic. Six of Kenya's most powerful leaders have

voluntarily appeared before the court to answer to charges of crimes against humanity (including murder, deportation and persecution) allegedly committed during the 2007-2008 post-election violence there.

### **Non-cooperation**

But one of the ICC's main problems, as Judge Pocar sees it, is its strategy of getting more countries to adopt the Rome Statute and be party to the court. Unless the UN Security Council refers a case to prosecutors, only those states who are members of the court fall under its jurisdiction.

While 121 countries have already joined, the world's major powers — including the United States, China and Russia — have yet to sign up. With those countries wielding Security Council veto power, that means situations like the current crisis in Syria are unlikely to be referred to the court, as Russia would almost certainly veto such a move.

“Just trying to increase the number of states that ratify [the statute] is a losing strategy,” says Judge Pocar, who estimates that at the going rate of just a few new ratifications a year, it would take until 2050 to have a truly universal court. “If the court applied customary law, it would make its rulings more universal because then even non-member states would have to abide.”

As the court is treaty-based, its rulings now only apply to its members.

### **Big shift**

Judge Pocar also says that the ICC doesn't need to reinvent the wheel. “In the case of Thomas Lubanga, the court could have cited decisions in the Special Court for Sierra Leone”, which had already become the first international court to convict fighters for using and conscripting child soldiers.

“We all ask why the ICC is reinventing the wheel when we did it,” says Peter Robinson, a criminal defence lawyer whose current star client is former leader of the Bosnian Serbs, Radovan Karadzic, now on trial at ICTY. “But that's the small picture. In five years, people will forget that. The big shift is that everyone is talking about ‘The Hague’ in Africa and the Middle East. Leaders are scared of the court. People are being held accountable and the ICC is a deterrent.”

### **Challenges ahead**

While the dignitaries and royals pay tribute to the ICC in grand fashion, the court's governing body, the Assembly of States Parties, is also meeting in The Hague to decide on a number of crucial issues for the court in its next decade, including its troubled 2013 budget, choosing a deputy prosecutor, procedures for shortening the much-criticised length of trials and electing the board for the Trust Fund for Victims (the first international tribunal to have one).

“Improving the Assembly, the Court and its governance, as well as discussions on core issues such as victims' participation and reparation, fair trial rights, cooperation and arrests (or lack thereof), communications and national prosecutions are of paramount importance,” said William R. Pace, convenor of the NGO Coalition for the ICC.

## Denver Post

Tuesday, 13 November 2012

### **Liberian Nobel laureate champions nonviolent action outside government**

"You are on a journey to ... provide support"

By Bruce Finley, The Denver Post

When civilians live through war-zone atrocities, they lose fear, enabling resistance as bold as facing down armed fighters, said Nobel Peace laureate Leymah Gbowee.

"There is this numbness. You are living. But your soul has left your body," Gbowee said, reflecting on her experience mobilizing Liberian mothers in fish markets and along warlords' motorcade routes.

Today, the fighters who raped and maimed villagers in Liberia and Sierra Leone still go about as if nothing happened — despite a U.N.-backed special court's conviction of former Liberian President Charles Taylor of war crimes.

And Gbowee still is uneasy.

She shared the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize with current Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf after her praying, pleading mothers helped end Liberia's 14-year civil war. She is in Denver for PeaceJam's annual Hero Awards Luncheon on Tuesday.

Sirleaf tapped Gbowee to run a government-led reconciliation effort. Gbowee started, on the condition she stay independent of the government — to be credible. She said administration officials announced wrongly that she received government funds, compromising her position, and then refused to correct the error. Last month, Gbowee quit — and spoke out about corruption in Sirleaf's administration.

As a touring laureate, she is championing nonviolent action outside government and rallying hospital supplies and scholarships for girls and boys. She arrived in Denver

"There is no rest for anyone trying to bring about social change," she said as local volunteer Mary Zinn greeted her at a hotel.

This year, Liberians celebrated when Taylor was convicted of aiding and abetting and planning war crimes and crimes against humanity in neighboring Sierra Leone. But fighters who terrorized communities melded back in. Villagers see them and "still have to endure them going about with impunity," she said.

Justice efforts usually "miss the mark" because people cannot identify with the processes, she said. "The International Criminal Court is there, but local people do not understand its functioning."

More promising, she said, may be rural courts, similar to those in Rwanda, where villagers themselves delve into disputes.

To be effective, justice must include reparations, she said. Today, victims whose hands were chopped off must beg for food.

Rather than in governments, power increasingly will be rooted in popular movements, Gbowee said — "in the slums, in communities, inner cities, people going door-to-door, mobilizing, especially women and young people."

The problem is that, once movements elect new leaders, "we relax, and we don't hold them accountable," she said in a telephone interview last week from her home in West Africa. "Checks and balances. That's where the gap is — in the United States, Liberia, Ghana.

"Look at the Arab Spring. How many young people have benefited from policies of those who came into power? And these were the young people who pushed for the change. It's still the big guys in the black suits or in military uniforms who are making the decisions."

Americans working internationally must move beyond the notion "that in Africa the women have begging bowls and sagging breasts and need saviors," Gbowee said. "Come with the mentality that you are on a journey to accompany people, to provide support. You are not coming to lead."

She grew up in Liberia's capital, Monrovia, in a community that kept village traditions, speaking the local language Kpelle. She wanted to be a doctor. When war broke out, she was 17 and fell into abusive conditions.

Medical school never happened. Healing remains her mission.

"Any life that is easy is not a life that is worth living," Gbowee said. "I may not be doing the physical kind of healing. But when I go to communities and listen to women, I am bringing a form of healing to them."

Bruce Finley: 303-954-1700, [twitter.com/finleybruce](https://twitter.com/finleybruce) or [bfmley@denverpost.com](mailto:bfmley@denverpost.com)

**Wahlen in Sierra Leone - Narben des Kriegs verheilen nur langsam**

-SNIP-

Neben den aufgrund von Putschen wechselnden Regierungen waren auch Übergriffe aus dem Nachbarland Liberia und seinem Warlord Charles Taylor für die immer größer werdende Instabilität Sierra Leones verantwortlich. Finanziert wurde der Krieg durch den illegalen Handel mit „Blutdiamanten“. 2002 gelang es einer UNO-Friedensmission, die blutigen Auseinandersetzungen zu beenden, am 18. Jänner rief der damalige Präsident Ahmad Tejan Kabbah das Ende des Bürgerkrieges aus.

TRANSLATION: Along with regime changes as a result of coups, attacks from neighbouring Liberia and its warlord Charles Taylor were also responsible for Sierra Leone's increasing instability. The war was financed through the illegal trade in "blood diamonds." In 2002 a UN peacekeeping mission was responsible for ending the bloody conflict; on 18 January, then-President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah declared the civil war at an end.

Um dessen Verbrechen aufzuarbeiten wurde der Sondergerichtshof für Sierra Leone (Special Court for Sierra Leone, SCSL) mit Sitz in der Hauptstadt Freetown gegründet. Mit Charles Taylor wurde in diesem Jahr das erste afrikanische Staatsoberhaupt, von einem internationalen Tribunal wegen Kriegsverbrechen zur Verantwortung gezogen. Das ehemalige Staatsoberhaupt Liberias wurde wegen seiner Unterstützung für die Rebellen der Revolutionären Vereinten Front (RUF) in Sierra Leone schuldig gesprochen und zu 50 Jahren Haft verurteilt. (APA)

TRANSLATION: To address those crimes the Special Court for Sierra Leone was founded, with its seat in the capital Freetown. This year Charles Taylor was the first African head of state to be made to answer for war crimes by an international tribunal. The former head of state of Liberia was convicted for his support of the rebels of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) in Sierra Leone, and sentenced to 50 years in prison.