

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:

Thursday, October 14, 2004

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.
If you are aware of omissions or have any comments or suggestions please contact
Ibrahim Tommy
Ext 7248
MOBILE: 232 76 645 914

EXCLUSIVE

Vol. 2 No. 2155

Thursday October 14, 2004

Le500

Taylor Sold Blood Diamonds To Al-Qaeda

By J.B. Roy Kalue

Categorical evidence has emerged from the pen of former Washington Post cor-

respondent, Douglas Farrah, that former Liberian warlord turned president, Charles Taylor, had trade links with

the Al-Qaeda organisation. In a recently published book on how terrorist organisations are financed,

Mr. Farrah claims that at the end of 2000, Al-Qaeda financial operatives met with Charles Taylor and offered

him US\$100,000 as a bribe to enable the terrorist organisation buy and control

his diamond trade for a number of years. Douglas Farrah says he got

Contd. page 2

Taylor Sold Blood Diamonds To Al-Qaeda

From front page

his information from CIA, British Intelligence files and his own investigative ground work in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Dubai, Pakistan and diamond centres in Europe.

This revelation in the unfolding drama of what prompted and fuelled Charles Taylor and Foday Sankoh's destabilisation of the Mano River Union (MRU) basin gives credence to a front-page story by this

press that Charles Taylor and the late General Sam 'Maskita' Bockarie planned the invasion of Kono which the RUF held for most part of the ten years long civil war. Mr. Douglas's expose also buttresses the disclosures of the Liberian General who trained mercenaries in Liberia to invade Sierra Leone in 1991 made at the ongoing Special Court trials in Freetown which had

slapped a 17 count indictment on the erstwhile president who is now enjoying asylum status in Nigeria's Calabar State. Special Court Prosecutor, David Crane, is convinced he has enough evidence to warrant the transfer of Charles Taylor to Sierra Leone to face justice.

Nigeria so far has been mute on the question of handing over the former warlord, even though Nigeria is one of principal financial backers of the Special Court.

The Exclusive
14 OCT 2004

Special Court Witness A War Criminal -Defence Counsel Fires

By Joseph Turay

The prosecution witness against the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) and former Brigadier General of the Armed Forces of Liberia, John S. Tarnue, who was also Commanding General of Charles Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL), has been accused by the defence counsel Kenn John Cammegh for the third accused of committing atrocities and war crimes against

the people of Sierra Leone. The defence counsel suggested that the former General did not come to testify at

the Special Court with clean hands but with bloodstained hands as a result of the lives of hundreds of Sierra

Leoneans he destroyed during the ten-year war in the country.

The defence counsel also sug-

gested that the witness should be considered a war crimes suspect in that he trained ninety-six Sierra Leoneans in

the conflicts in Liberia and Sierra Leone and also accompanied a flight to Sierra

Contd. page 2

Special Court Witness A War Criminal

From front page

Leone that was full of arms and ammunition meant to fuel the war.

The Defence Counsel further suggested that by training 292 civilians who were mainly young boys and girls to cause carnage in Sierra Leone, the former General should consider himself a war crime suspect who had no respect for the rule of law.

The former General however vehemently denied all the accusations levelled against him by the defence counsel.

The witness accused the defence counsel of "defending people who had waged senseless war against Sierra Leoneans."

He witness also claimed that

since the defence counsel started cross-examining him on Tuesday, he has been very aggressive with his choice of words, which he said was tantamount to an insult.

The former General therefore said he would not tolerate any rubbish or nonsense from the defence counsel, adding that he deserved respect as a witness.

In response, the learned defence counsel told the witness that had it not been for the Americans who paid him over US\$90,000 (ninety thousand US dollars) to come and testify at the Special Court, the former General

would have been dead by now.

The altercation between the defence counsel and the witness lasted for over two minutes before the unprecedented intervention of the presiding judge, Benjamin Jote, who told them that "this is not a market place but a court of law."

He admonished the defence counsel and the witness to choose their words and stop the verbal attack on each other. But despite the presiding judge's intervention, the witness continued to insult the defence counsel.

The session came to an abrupt end after the defence counsel accused the former General of being a war criminal who was involved in the Sierra Leone conflict.

Awoko

Motto: Service To The People

Vol 7 No 193

October 14, 2004

Established: 1998

INDEPENDENT

Price : Le 500

I am not afraid of anything even death-*Liberian General*

By Brima Samura

Ex-Liberian General, John S. Tanue has said that he is ready for any eventuality that will emerge after giving testimony to the Special Court. He said this when the Defence Counsel for

Augustine Gbao of the Revolutionary United Front - John Cammeh, suggested to him that he would have been dead by now had it not been for his American friends whom he said have provided him with the

sum of \$90,000 to take care of his family and continue to pay him. "I am not afraid of anything, even death. I am a soldier and I am prepared for any eventuality," he answered. When asked if he did any interview with Allan

White who is the Chief Investigator at the Special

Court and a polygraph test while in Washington

between the year 2000 and
Contd. Page 2

Thursday October 14, 2004

AWOKO NEWSPAPER

Page 2

I am not afraid of anything even death

From Front Page

2000 and September 2002 after his arrest, he responded in the negative. He also denied having any covert relationship as an intelligence agent for any official in the Security Services of the United States of America and also denied ever giving an interview to the FBI in Washington. He went on to say that he is not aware as to whether the FBI and CIA were more interested in the sale of diamonds than the RUF in Sierra Leone. When reminded

by Defence Counsel John Cammeh about a statement he earlier made in the Court about his willingness to die for Liberia but fled when the going gets tough, leaving even his wife and children at the mercy of Charles Taylor, he said, "I was not ready to die a useless death. I was thrice arbitrarily arrested and detained unjustly. It was prudent for me to leave as a precautionary measure". He further stated that Taylor had tribalised the Army and marginalized

many Liberians whose lives were also in danger hence he had to flee the country. When Defence Counsel Cammeh put it to him that the training of under aged boys for war and the forceful conscription and training of defenceless Sierra Leonean civilians to fight in the war makes him a criminal, he said, "I disagree in totality." Mr. Tanue further stated that his purpose of coming to testify at the Special Court and including his provision of information about what he knows of

Augustine Gbao is to reveal the truth and that he otherwise would not have been here. Counsel Cammeh ended his cross examination by suggesting to General Tanue that he did not come to the Court to testify with clean hands but with hands smeared with

the blood of hundreds of innocent Sierra Leoneans who died as a result of their schemes. The ex-Liberian General emphatically denied the allegation. Presiding Benjamin Etoe thanked General John Tanue for his coming to testify at the

Special Court; informing him that he is free to go, while wishing him a safe journey. He then stated that he would be called upon at anytime if necessity demands. Mr. Tanue in response told the Judge that he would always be willing to come whenever needed.

For a Few Dollars More

How al Qaeda moved into the diamond trade



How Taylor helped terrorist group

BY BRYAN BENDER

A senior Al Qaeda operative captured in Pakistan recently met with former Liberian president Charles Taylor in the years before and after Sept. 11, 2001 and received refuge from the former US ally while planning further terrorist operations, according to US intelligence officials and United Nations investigators.

The officials and investigators also painted a picture of Liberia under Taylor as a haven for Qaeda, and raised new questions about why the United States waited so long to support Taylor's ouster and continues to refrain from using its influence to bring him before UN war crimes tribunal.

The Defense Department approved a special forces raid to capture Al Qaeda leaders under Taylor's pro-

tection in 2001, but called it off and never reactivated the plan, US officials said in

recent interviews, on condition of anonymity.

CONTINUED PAGE 9

ECOWAS flexes muscle at trade partners

BY ABDUL KUYITELI

Though the establishment of the Economic Community for West African States was geared towards strengthening economic and trade ties for the wel-

fare of members states, the organization, since its inception in 1975, had to contend with deteriorating external trade terms in its multilateral trade negotiations with partners.

CONTINUED PAGE 9



How Taylor helped terrorist group

From page 1

Meanwhile, senior leaders of Al Qaeda continued to receive Taylor's protection.

On July 25, Ahmed Khalfan Ghailani was arrested in eastern Pakistan along with more than a dozen other Qaeda operatives and is being held in connection with the 1998 bombings of two US embassies in Africa.

But for at least three years beginning in the late 1990s, he lived in an army camp and hotels run by Taylor's government in Liberia.

In addition, Taylor's forces harbored other suspected al Qaeda leaders, including MIT-educated biologist Aafia Siddiqui, US officials and UN investigators said.

Al Qaeda allegedly paid Taylor for protection and then joined him in the African diamond trade, raising millions of dollars for terrorist activities, according to UN war crimes documents.

Taylor, who was deposed last year, is living in exile in Nigeria under a deal broken by the United States. The US government has been

under increasing pressure to help persuade Nigeria to turn Taylor over to the UN tribunal in Sierra Leone, which has indicted him for atrocities in various West African nations.

But the United States, which officials have said used.

Taylor as a CIA informant and backed his Revolutionary United Front in the mid-1990s, has so far refused.

"It is clear that al Qaeda has been in West Africa since September 1998 and maintained a continuous presence in the area through 2002," according to a new confidential report by the UN Special Court for Sierra Leone.

The report was written by UN investigators preparing the case against Taylor.

The Bush administration froze Taylor's assets July 23. President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria has called it a matter of national "honor" not to go back on its exile agreement with Taylor.

Standard Times
14 October 2004

STANDARD TIMES

Thursday October 14, 2004

Le500

FBI in Special Court deal

BY THEOPHILUS GBENDA

What was previously kept secret from the rest of the public finally came to light at the all-mighty Special Court for Sierra Leone, fol-

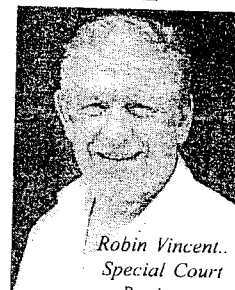
lowing days of hostile cross examination of Liberian born, General John S. Tamue by defence counsels.

According to the witness, he had cause to flee to

Ghana for medical treatment and to seek political asylum, after being arbitrarily arrested, detained under house arrest, and tortured by Charles Taylor.

Lodged in one of the hotels in Ghana, the witness said he was actually in financial stress when four FIB officials, accompanied by the chief of investigations of

the Special Court, Dr. Alan Wyhte, met him and sought to get information about blood diamonds and Taylor's involvement with the RUF.



Robin Vincent.
Special Court
Registrar

The interview with the FBI, according to the witness, took place in late December 2002, and that he was subjected to an exclusive pornographic test as part of the interview session.

After the interview, the witness made it clear in his testimony that he informed his quests of his unwillingness to disclose anything further until he was relocated to a country out of Africa for his safety.

CONTINUED PAGE 9

Special Court deal

From page 1

This was how, according to the witness, he had to be relocated to Washington DC, from where an exclusive interview was conducted with him by Dr. Alan Whyte.

Statements obtained from him in December 2002 by the FIB and in April 2003 by Dr. Alan Whyte all formed part of the records of the Special

Court for Sierra Leone, the witness attested.

Meanwhile, days of hectic examination in chief, cross examination and re-examination of the Liberian General, who happens to be the first witness ever to testify in public view, has finally ended and he is expected to travel back to his new found home later today.

'SPECIAL COURT WITNESS IS A WAR CRIMINAL'

By Mohamed Mansaray

Defence counsel for Augustine Gbao third RUF accused, John Cammegh says prosecution witness, General John Tarnue is a war criminal because of the role he played during the war in Sierra Leone.

SEE BACK PAGE

Liberian General Under Fire In Court

Mr. Cammegh made this accusation whilst he was cross-examining the witness at Court Room No. 1, New England in Freetown yesterday.

Giving reasons, counsel claimed that it was General Tarnue who was responsible for strategic planning of military operations in the AFL and a training commander in the NPFL.

He also claimed that it was the witness who trained the 292 men and foreign mercenaries in Liberia to attack Sierra Leone in 1991. "By participating in the delivery of weapons to the RUF rebels during the war means you had full knowledge of what was going on in Sierra Leone", counsel further said.

Counsel went on to claim that General Tarnue repeatedly accompanied flights with diamonds from RUF-controlled territories to Mr. Taylor's White Flower residence in Liberia, thereby fuelling the war in Sierra Leone.

"In view of the above, you are therefore a war criminal and a career opportunist who testified because of the luxury you enjoy from the office of the Special Court Prosecution", counsel submitted.

This submission however, absolutely drove the witness to anger and he became aggressive in court to the extent that proceedings had to be adjourned briefly to allow him (witness) cool down his temper.

"The defence is threatening me but I am a soldier and I am prepared for any eventuality and that is why I testified openly" General Tarnue replied.

He described himself as a professional asset to his country and accused Mr. Cammegh of wanting to destroy his credibility because according to the General, counsel should be defending and not accusing.

"Why are you here defending people who brought senseless war on the people of Sierra Leone?", the witness asked the lawyer in an aggressive tone.

The witness further said: "You and I who is talking nonsense? You talk to me acrimoniously and I am not a war criminal."

The trading of words by the witness and counsel was so intense that the Presiding Judge, Benjamin Itoe had to intervene and cautioned the two parties thus: "This is not a marketplace, we are in a court room."

General Tarnue was the former Commanding General of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) and later became the Training Commander in the NPFL. He testified that he was tortured by Mr. Taylor's forces in 2002 and he fled to Ghana for medical treatment and to seek asylum.

The witness testified in English and was led in evidence earlier by a prosecution lawyer Christopher Santora.

Sittings resume today.

Salome Times
14 October 2004



Building a Future for Liberia's Children

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2004 ★ WASHINGTON, DC



About Libya Paying Sierra Leone!

Concord Times (Freetown)

OPINION

October 13, 2004

Posted to the web October 13, 2004

By Chernoh Alpha M. Bah
Freetown

Bishop Joseph Christian Humper's TRC Report has singled out Libya of having to pay reparation to Sierra Leone for training top rebel commanders who played key roles in Sierra Leone's brutal civil conflict.

That is an incredible pronouncement from Bishop Humper and the TRC. But what is interesting the TRC says since Liberia is still emerging from its own crisis after 14 years of civil war and because the country is very poor, its own reparation should be symbolic. That is to say, Liberia only needs to erect a monument or organize a ceremony in atonement of its role in destabilizing Sierra Leone during the last decade. That is also fine judging from the fact Sierra Leone and Liberia belong to a single enclave and cannot afford to shatter relationships over issues like these.

But what is of concern to most of us is whether the TRC has been fair in its findings and recommendations?

And why has the TRC exonerated Liberia and held Libya accountable for the mess perpetrated on us by our own brethren?

It is irrefutable that Libya's Colonel Mohamar Gadhafi may have played a viable auxiliary role to most rebel groupings in Africa with the POLISARIO front being no exception. It is also undeniable that most of Africa's warlords - from Savimbi to Taylor and Foday Sankoh - relied on Colonel Gadhafi to provide them with arms and training to prosecute their guerrilla wars. And it is also true that most African states including Guinea, Sierra Leone and few others often receive aid and assistance from Colonel Gadhafi, a man formerly maligned by the west as a terrorist.

Consequently, Colonel Mohamar Gadhafi has served both as a father and an icon of guidance for most of Africa's heads of states and their armed opponents. In fact, at some

point, he even became a key mediator (a father of peace) in some of these conflicts. So he is one of Africa's most renowned and longest serving heads of state.

But looking at Libya and its role, overt and covert, in Sierra Leone's conflict would surely make one wonder how and why did Bishop Humper and other TRC officials come to the conclusion that only Libya should pay reparation to the country. Why not Liberia, Ivory Coast and Burkina Faso? They all played "active participatory roles" in the destabilization of our country and the smuggling of our diamonds. But I doubt whether Bishop Humper and the TRC bothered themselves in thoroughly investigating the role played by these countries in their findings.

Now we agree that Libya should pay us for participating in a mayhem perpetrated on us by our own brethren, but is Gadhafi's involvement of such a magnitude outwitting that of Monrovia and others? This is the same question those at the Special Court need to answer when determining those bearing "the greatest responsibility" in the country's civil conflict.

This is nothing like a defense for Moammar Gadhafi or Libya. The whole issue is about the fairness and impartiality that should characterize transitional justice mechanisms. TRC's report and recommendations would definitely have to be an authoritative document to be relied upon when the history of what actually happened in the country during the last decade has to be recorded by Historians in future. We cannot afford to rely on an impartial and unfair report, one that is biased and selective.

Bishop Humper and those who undertook that exercise have bugged big time in exonerating those who directly participated in our country's demise. Now if we may go back to the records in order to truly see who and who are responsible for the carnage of the last decade, I think even the United States is culpable and must be the first to pay huge reparations not only to Sierra Leone but entire sub region. And I believe if the Special Court is fair in determining or tracking those who bear the "greatest responsibility" in our conflict, the United States is no exception. Why?

Taylor was serving a jail term in Massachusetts for swindling monies from the government of late Samuel Doe. He escaped "miraculously" from US prisons and became a tyrant in the sub-region and eventually a thorn in the flesh of the International Community. Can somebody imagine how ordinary Taylor at the time could have escaped from a fortified US prison to become a warlord in West Africa? Today, the same US is actively campaigning for Taylor's extradition to face trial in Sierra Leone. Is that not selective justice?

This is what we had wanted Humper and the TRC to avoid by making their decision objective and free from bias.

Why do we have to single out Libya alone in identifying those who facilitated the destruction of our country? Or is it because the whole world is shouting claiming reparation from Libya, so we too have joined the trail?

Fairly, Libya might be one among many countries that engineered our destruction and we should not be afraid in identifying them and demand justice from them. This is why I had suggested that the whole of West Africa should storm American Embassies to protest the role of the US in destabilizing the region. Why did the United States release Taylor from prison in the first place?

And secondly, let the United States tell us the circumstances surrounding Taylor's escape. Taylor, a former CIA Informant, would not have been a tyrant in West Africa had the US not released him from jail.

So Humper and the TRC would have been fair if they had traced the genesis of West Africa's crisis. Libya of course may have the money to pay whatever we may demand as reparation but what are the implications and possible ramifications? This should be what we take into consideration before attempting to demand reparation from Libya. But if at all, Libya should pay why exonerate the United States, Burkina Fasso, Ivory Coast and Liberia? Why should Liberia only erect a monument or hold a national ceremony to appease us?

Liberia's role in Sierra Leone's conflict is far more involving than that of Libya. And the United States participation in destabilizing West Africa is the "greatest responsibility" the Special Court needs to address. And we cannot afford to jubilantly call for a reparation emanating out of a questionable decision made by a Commission that has failed to take into consideration the implications and ramifications accompanying the very decision. This is not about Libya paying reparation to Sierra Leone alone, but a propos concerning the partiality and inequity of transitional justice mechanisms.

Source: [News & Business > News > News, Most Recent 90 Days \(English, Full Text\)](#) 

Terms: **sierra leone; special court stops rufp chairman**, ([Edit Search](#))

 Select for FOCUS™ or Delivery



Concord Times (Sierra Leone) - AAGM October 13, 2004

Copyright 2004 Financial Times Information

All rights reserved

Global News Wire - Asia Africa Intelligence Wire

Copyright 20042004 Accra Mail

Concord Times (**Sierra Leone**) - AAGM

October 13, 2004

LENGTH: 222 words

HEADLINE: SPECIAL COURT STOPS RUFP CHAIRMAN

BYLINE: Abdul Karim Koroma

BODY:

Samuel Gbassay Kanu, Revolutionary United Front Party (**RUF**) Western Area **Chairman** said he was shocked recently when officials of the **Special Court** prevented him from paying a visit to **RUF** indictee, Issa Sesay.

Kanu asserted that he was at the Court together with the wife of Issa Sesay to visit the war crimes indictee.

"The wife of Issa was allowed in while I was told to come in two weeks time," Kanu noted and explained that he made the attempt to visit their Interim Leader just to keep in touch with him.

According to him, when he reported after the two weeks, the officials of the Court reportedly told the **RUF chairman** that the government advised them not to allow Kanu to visit Sesay.

"I did not feel pleased because I was prevented to see him" Kanu said and continued, "I called Issa and explained to him all that happened." **Special Court** Spokesman Allison Cooper said Monday Kanu was not denied access to see Sasay, but he was going through the security process that every body undergoes.

Cooper admitted that security checks usually take a week, but however refused to explain whether it was government that had advised the Court not to allow Kanu to visit Sesay.

"Are you looking for a story or are you speaking for Kanu," she asked.

Distributed by AllAfrica Global Media. ([allafrica.com](#))

JOURNAL-CODE: COTI

LOAD-DATE: October 14, 2004

Source: [News & Business > News > News, Most Recent 90 Days \(English, Full Text\)](#) 

Terms: **sierra leone; special court stops rufp chairman**, ([Edit Search](#))

Mandatory Terms: **date from 10/08/2004**

View: Full

Date/Time: Thursday, October 14, 2004 - 6:29 AM EDT

LIBERIA: Rebels are slow to disarm in southeast, UN says

14 Oct 2004 09:29:53 GMT

Source: IRIN

MONROVIA, 13 October (IRIN) - Rebel fighters are proving slow to come forward for disarmament in the far southeast of Liberia because they hope to get more money by handing their weapons in over the border in nearby Cote d'Ivoire, Major General Joseph Owonibi, the deputy commander of UN peacekeeping forces in Liberia, said on Wednesday.

Owonibi told reporters that the number of fighters of the Movement for Democracy for Liberia (MODEL) surrendering their guns to the UN disarmament centre in the port town of Harper was lower than expected.

Many were hanging back because they hoped to get US\$900 for handing in their arms in Cote d'Ivoire, where a disarmament campaign is due to start shortly, rather than the \$300 they would receive in Liberia, the Nigerian general said.

He also complained that MODEL commanders in the Harper region were being uncooperative.

Owonibi did not say how many former combatants had reported for disarmament in Harper, since a UN disarmament camp opened there on 29 September. The United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) said at the time that it expected about 1,000 fighters to hand in their guns there before the disarmament programme in Liberia finishes on 31 October.

"A lot of them are eyeing the DDR (disarmament, demobilisation and rehabilitation) in Cote d'Ivoire. That is the truth, because we have our information," Owonibi said.

"We are actually not getting the cooperation from the local commanders," he added.

Owinibi said another reason that relatively few MODEL fighters were coming forward in Harper might be that many of those based in the surrounding district had chosen to disarm already at Zwedru, 170 km to the north, earlier on in the disarmament process.

Abou Moussa, the acting head of UNMIL, urged all those MODEL fighters remaining in the bush 15 months after the signing of a peace agreement to end 14 years of civil war, to come forward quickly.

He warned that they would not gain any benefits if they waited until the seven-month disarmament exercise came to an end on 31 October. Moussa also noted that they stood little chance of getting

money for their guns in Cote d'Ivoire, since the names of all those due to take part in the disarmament programme there had already been registered.

He said UNMIL was offering them in Liberia a lot more than a straight resettlement grant of US\$300.

"What we are offering as disarmament benefits in Liberia are more than the \$900 that is being offered in Cote D'Ivoire, considering the educational, medical and other assistance given to each disarmed fighter here in Liberia," Moussa said.

The acting head of UNMIL confirmed that an official programme to resettle some 300,000 internally displaced people in Liberia would start on 1 November, the day after the disarmament campaign ended.

"We hope to resettle about 100,000 IDPs back to their places of origin by the end of the year and we do know that a lot of them have been going back on their own," he said.

Earlier this week, the UN refugee agency UNHCR declared two more counties of Liberia safe for refugees and IDPs to return to. Six of the country's 15 counties have now been cleared for resettlement.

Liberia's National Security Assessment Committee for Resettlement announced on Friday that Bong and Rivercess counties had met the minimum requirements for the safe return of refugees and IDPs.

Bong in central Liberia and Rivercess in the southeast join four other counties in western Liberia - Bomi, Gbarpolu, Grand Cape Mount and Margibi - which had already been given the green light.

Grand Bassa County, which lies between Monrovia and Rivercess, is yet to be declared safe, but an official of the government-run Liberian Refugees, Repatriation and Resettlement Commission told IRIN on Wednesday that an official assessment of the situation there would be completed soon.

Grand Bassa includes the port of Buchanan, Liberia's second largest city.

The UNHCR began a programme to repatriate more than 300,000 Liberian refugees from other West African countries on 1 October. About 50,000 had already returned spontaneously since the civil war ended in August 2003.

IRIN news

[Printable view](#) | [Email this article](#) | [Send comments](#)

© 1998-2001 Reuters Limited. All rights reserved. Republication or redistribution of Reuters content, including by framing or similar means, is expressly prohibited without the prior written consent of Reuters. Reuters shall not be liable for any errors or delays in the content, or for any actions taken in reliance thereon.

UNMIL Public Information Office
Early Press Clips 14 Oct 2004

10/13/2004 20:32:33

Liberia's interim leader says committed to elections in 2005

By JONATHAN PAYE-LAYLEH

MONROVIA, **Liberia** (AP) _ The leader of **Liberia's** interim government said he was committed to holding elections a year from now, and praised his countrymen for achieving relative peace after more than decade of war.

``We have achieved a lot, we have come far from where we were one year ago," Gyude Bryant told The Associated Press on Wednesday in an interview on the eve of his first anniversary in power.

Formerly a little-known politician and private businessman, Bryant was sworn in for a two-year term as chairman of the transitional government on Oct. 14 last year, two months after a peace deal brought an end to rebel war that forced former President Charles Taylor into exile in Nigeria.

Elections are scheduled for Oct. 14, 2005. **Liberia** has been plagued by fighting since 1989, when Taylor launched an insurgency that spawned rival militia factions.

Conflict eased in 1996 after a series of peace deals that eventually saw Taylor elected president in 1997. Another group of rebels soon took up arms against him, however.

Nearly one-third of **Liberia's** people are believed to have fled their homes during fighting since 1989, with hundreds of thousands spreading out across West Africa.

The United Nations recently launched a massive voluntary repatriation program to return an estimated 340,000 Liberian refugees. About 50,000 have already returned on their own.

``We are trying to get our people back home for the election," Bryant said at the Executive Mansion in Monrovia. ``We are getting there."

The United Nations has played a vital role in stabilizing the country, deploying 15,000 troops here to support the government and disarm militiamen and rebels.

``We see goodwill on the part of the international community and with things going the way they are, we see no reason why there can't be elections," Bryant said.

UNMIL Daily Newspaper Summary
Wednesday, 13 Oct 2004

Sierra Leone's Truth Commission Demands Reparation from Liberia

(Heritage)

- Sierra Leone's Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) has requested the governments of Liberia, Libya and Burkina Faso to pay reparations for the massive destruction of lives and property by the RUF.
- The TRC said that the RUF were trained and sponsored by the Libyan leader, Muammar el-Qaddafi, former Liberian President Charles Taylor and the President of Burkina Faso, Blaise Compaoré.

UNMIL Daily Newspaper Summary
Wednesday, 13 Oct 2004

Liberian Army General Denies Links with Sierra Leonean Rebels

(Heritage and National Chronicle)

- The Commanding General of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL), Brig.-Gen Francis Dolo, has described allegations made by the former Commanding General of the AFL, Gen. John Tarnue, as false, misleading, baseless and intended to tarnish his image.
- General Tarnue recently told the Special Court in Sierra Leone that Gen. Dolo and Gen. Samuel Varney participated in the training of combatants of the Sierra Leonean rebel group, the Revolutionary United Front (RUF).

*TEXT ON



ENGLISH - WORLDWIDE

VOICE of AMERICA

ENGLISH HOME

SPECIAL ENGLISH

ENGLISH TO AFRICA

UN War Crimes Court Unseals Indictment Against Bosnian Croat Suspect

VOA News

13 Oct 2004, 17:56 UTC



The U.N. War Crimes Court in The Hague has unsealed an almost nine year-old indictment against a member of a Bosnian Croat special unit accused of committing crimes during the Bosnian conflict

The Hague court has not said why it unsealed the indictment against fugitive Miroslav Bralo Wednesday, the suspect's 37th birthday.

The French news agency, AFP, reports the court kept the indictment secret until now to avoid hampering Mr. Bralo's capture.

The indictment, signed in November 1995, lists 21 counts of rape, torture, murder and illegal detention of civilians.

The document says Mr. Bralo committed the crimes, all against Bosnian Muslims, while he was part of a Bosnian Croat special unit called "The Jokers."

Some information for this report provided by AFP.



Email this article to a friend.



Printer Friendly Version

Do television cameras interfere with justice?

By Robert Brand

I wasn't present in Mr Justice Hilary Squires' court when lawyers argued the pros and cons of allowing television coverage of the Schabir Shaik trial, so I don't know if anyone mentioned OJ Simpson. But I would be surprised if nobody did.

Throughout the US, trials are televised every day with a minimum of fuss - and a minimum of viewers, otherwise the networks would broadcast them all day.

Yet the one that sticks in the mind as an example of the baleful influence of television coverage on the judicial process is the case of Simpson, the football player acquitted of murdering his wife. The verdict was televised live and watched by a staggering 150-million viewers making it, at the time, the second-biggest television news story in history after the first Gulf War.

The presence of television cameras in the Simpson courtroom, the conventional wisdom goes, caused proceedings to degenerate into a farce, perverted the administration of justice, and destroyed public confidence in the legal system.

That view ignores the fact that television formed a relatively small part of the media covering the trial and that the most serious offences against justice were committed by journalists (and lawyers) operating outside, not inside, the courtroom. The Simpson trial degenerated into a "media circus" despite, not because of, television coverage.

Simpson, however, may have been in Mr Justice Hilary Squires' mind when he rejected e.tv's application to broadcast the Shaik trial on the grounds that television cameras would be "conspicuously intrusive" and distracting for witnesses and other participants.

The ruling highlighted an inherent conflict of interests between the judicial system and the media.

The primary concern of the judge is the administration of justice; the media's focus is to display the social interest and exploit the entertainment value involved in the dispute. From the judge's point of view, only one question is pertinent: would the presence of cameras detract from the administration of justice? If so, he has no option but to disallow them. If not, there is no reason to bar them.

In the wake of Judge Squires' ruling, one legal commentator spoke of the "dearth of information" about the effect of cameras in courtrooms. In fact, there is an abundance of research on the topic, mostly supportive.

One of the main arguments against allowing cameras in courts is that they may distract or intimidate participants in a trial, including witnesses and lawyers.

But the experience in the 48 US states that allow television coverage of courts suggests otherwise. Not one of those states, it bears mentioning, has re-instituted a ban on cameras after first allowing them.

The Federal Judicial Centre, the US equivalent of our Law Commission, conducted a three-year pilot project on cameras in courts and concluded in 1994 that broadcasts had little effect on the administration of justice, provided some common-sense guidelines were followed on, for instance, camera placement and the conduct of journalists. The majority of judges were initially neutral about television coverage, but became favourable after the experience of the pilot programme. Judges and attorneys reported that cameras had no or little effect on witnesses.

Studies by several state governments, the New York State Defenders Association and the UK's Southampton Institute produced similar results.

The Southampton Institute surveyed judges and lawyers at the International Criminal Tribunal in The Hague, finding that televising war crimes trials helped ensure fair and balanced coverage and contributed to a better understanding of proceedings.

Judge Squires left the door slightly ajar by saying he may allow broad-casts of parts of the Shaik trial, such as legal arguments and the judgment. (Though those would make less than riveting television and are probably the parts that e.tv would least want to broadcast.)

As such, the trial may yet make South African legal history. But that won't stop e.tv, or another broadcaster, from launching an expensive application to broadcast the next high-profile trial.

Our Supreme Court recognised as early as 1915 in the case of *Transvaal Chronicle v Roberts* that the media coverage of trials is an indispensable part of the justice process because it makes court proceedings accessible to the public. The constitution affirms that principle in its freedom of expression and open courts provisions. There is no need to argue that television reporters should be allowed to cover trials; the question is whether they should be allowed to use the tool of their trade, the television camera, as print reporters use their notebooks and radio journalists their tape recorders.

That is a policy issue that should be regulated by the rules of court.

Perhaps it is time for the Judicial Service Commission to set in motion a pilot programme, using guidelines that have become standardised in other jurisdictions, to evaluate whether our courts could bear television coverage without turning into circuses.

- Robert Brand has been appointed as Pearson Chair of Economic Journalism at Rhodes University from November. He writes in his personal capacity.

The Star Published on the web by Star on October 14, 2004.

© Star 2004. All rights reserved.

LEARN
latest news
countries
topics
events

JOIN
monthly giving
membership
donate
shop

ACT
action center
campaigns
networks
act locally

español
youth

search



News

Press Release

Embargoed For Release: Contact: Michelle Linder, (212) 633-4268
October 13, 2004, at 1:00 PM EST Or Eric Olson, (202) 544-0200 x251 **Sexual Violence Against Women in Colombia Widespread and Underreported, Amnesty International Charges**

Armed Actors Turn Bodies of Women and Girls into Battleground

(Bogotá) – As the United States Congress considers increasing the number of troops and contractors training Colombia's army, rape and sexual violence against women by guerrillas, paramilitaries and government forces continue to be significantly underreported and widespread, Amnesty International (AI) charged today in Bogotá as it released a new report, *Colombia: Scarred Bodies, Hidden Crimes: Sexual Violence Against Women in the Armed Conflict*.

The report is part of the second phase of the organization's international Stop Violence against Women Campaign, during which AI's worldwide membership will focus on highlighting human rights violations committed against thousands of women and girls on a daily basis in the context of conflict and post-conflict situations.

"The security forces, army-backed paramilitaries and the guerrillas in Colombia have turned the bodies of thousands of women and girls into a battleground," said Susan Lee, Director of Amnesty International's Americas Program. "With this report we hope to give a voice to the thousands of women survivors whose experiences of sexual violence remain hidden behind a wall of silence fuelled by discrimination and impunity."

The stigma of sexual violence has prevented many women from speaking out. Official figures do not reflect the scale of the problem of sexual violence as cases are rarely recorded in official statistics. Despite the evidence left on victims' bodies, sexual violence is rarely documented in autopsies, according to AI's report.

Afro-descendent, indigenous and peasant women, shantytown dwellers and the internally displaced are at particular risk of rape and other sexual crimes such as genital mutilation. According to statistics from the Ministry of Social Protection, thirty six percent of internally displaced women have been forced to have sexual relations with men they did not know.

"Women and girls are raped, sexually abused and even killed because they behave in ways deemed as unacceptable to the combatants, or because women may have challenged the authority of armed groups, or simply because women are viewed as

NEWS Home
News
Reports
En Español

RSS News Feed
RSS Reports Feed

Africa

Afghanistan

LATEST NEWS

Sexual Violence Against Women in Colombia Widespread and Underreported, Amnesty International Charges
Oct 13, 2004

Colombia: Violence Against Women -- Scarred Bodies, Hidden Crimes
Oct 13, 2004

Colombia: Scarred bodies, hidden crimes: Sexual violence against women in the armed conflict - Facts and figures
Oct 13, 2004

China: Move to reduce executions?
Oct 13, 2004

More News »

LATEST REPORTS

Colombia: "Scarred bodies, hidden crimes": Sexual Violence against women in the armed conflict
Oct 12, 2004

Casualties of war: women's bodies, women's lives: Stop crimes against women in armed conflict
Oct 12, 2004

AI Bulletin Vol. 7, No. 20, 8 October 2004
Oct 7, 2004

China: Protester against forced abortion sent to prison camp
Oct 7, 2004

More Reports »

a useful target on which to inflict humiliation on the enemy," said Lee.

The report, based on firsthand accounts by survivors, includes the testimony of many women who have suffered at the hands of armed factions:

" After being stopped at a police checkpoint in the state of Sucre on October 23, 2003, Yorman Rodríguez, the wife of a trade union leader, was sexually assaulted by officers. She was then subjected to further physical and psychological abuse to pressure her to "cooperate with the police."

" Rina Bolaño, a bacteriologist working with indigenous peoples in northern Colombia, was kidnapped by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). She was allegedly repeatedly raped by the local FARC commander, "Beltrán," while being held captive.

As part of "social cleansing" operations, lesbians and gay men, those suspected of carrying HIV/AIDS, and women who work as prostitutes have been persecuted, "disappeared" and killed:

" In Medellín, a 14-year-old girl was undressed in the street and a sign was attached to her reading "I'm a lesbian." According to residents from the area, three armed men believed to be paramilitaries raped her. A few days later she was found dead with her breasts cut off.

Guerrilla groups have also forced their female combatants to have abortions and use contraception.

The Colombian government has a responsibility to prevent and punish violence against women. Despite repeated recommendations by the United Nations and other international bodies, there is little evidence to suggest that the government has taken sufficient measures to end such abuses and bring perpetrators to justice, whoever they may be.

"The US government should be particularly wary of plans to increase the US troop and contractor presence in Colombia given the widespread abuse of women by armed factions in Colombia's conflict," concluded Eric Olson, Advocacy Director for the Americas at Amnesty International USA. "Instead, the US should use its influence to insist that both the Colombian government and all armed groups take immediate steps to halt abuse of women, and include education on gender-based violence as part of its training programs for the Colombian armed forces."

###

For a full copy of the report *Colombia: Scarred Bodies, Hidden Crimes, Sexual Violence Against Women in the Armed Conflict*, please contact Michelle Linder: mlinder@aiusa.org

[Home](#) | [About](#) | [Mission](#) | [Contact](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Newsletters](#) | [RSS](#) | [AI Worldwide](#)

Source: [News & Business](#) > [News](#) > [News, Most Recent 90 Days \(English, Full Text\)](#) 

Terms: **forces for africa: europe has a vital military role to play in crises** ([Edit Search](#))

☛ Select for FOCUS™ or Delivery



Financial Times (London, England) October 13, 2004 Wednesday

Copyright 2004 The Financial Times Limited
Financial Times (London, England)

October 13, 2004 Wednesday
USA Edition 2

SECTION: LEADER; Pg. 14

LENGTH: 439 words

HEADLINE: Forces for **Africa: Europe** has a **vital military role to play in crises**

BODY:

Tony Blair's proposal for a 15,000-strong European Union intervention **force** injects a much-needed dose of realism into a lot of fuzzy thinking about peace enforcement in **Africa**. His Commission for **Africa**, a brainstorming panel due to produce a set of new ideas for the continent next year, could not ignore security. Without it, all the other aims of sustainable development and poverty reduction fall apart. While the African Union is engaged in trying to mobilise its own **forces** for peacekeeping, security requirements raise tough questions that **Africa** on its own is in no position to resolve.

The AU plans to take over at least part of the peacekeeping task in **Africa**, and is trying to establish its credentials with the observer mission and protection **force** it has sent to Sudan's Darfur region. By 2010, it aims to have five fully operational regional brigades ready to deploy for peace operations. But these are ambitious plans. The problem is not so much lack of money - both the US and the EU are ready to provide funding and back-up - but lack of **military** capability for prompt and effective intervention.

In principle, the planned AU **forces** will have a rapid intervention element. Following United Nations doctrine, this would be ready to deploy in 30 days for a traditional operation - that is, policing an agreed ceasefire - or 90 days for more complex emergencies. In the case of Rwanda's genocide 10 years ago, that would have been too late.

Carrying out a coercive operation cleanly, with minimal civilian casualties, requires a cohesive, highly trained **force** with clear superiority over any potential opposition. The capacity to deploy such a **force** at long distance lies with very few countries. In practice, for African conflicts, because of their **military** clout and diplomatic influence, it boils down essentially to the US, France or Britain.

Outside intervention has not always succeeded. The US is still haunted by its Somalia fiasco in 1993. But British action was decisive in Sierra Leone in 2000, French troops helped forestall a bloodbath in Ivory Coast after the uprising there in 2002 and the dispatch of a US naval task **force** played a crucial **role** last year in Liberia's political transition.

The most important precedent for Mr Blair's plan was the mainly French EU **force** sent to Bunia in eastern Congo between June and September last year in the interim before the arrival of UN peacekeepers. It was the EU's first such mission outside **Europe**. That experience can now be built on. Mr Blair's proposal should not be dismissed lightly as neo-colonialism. On the contrary, both **Africa and Europe** should support it.