

**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:

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Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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Man 'killed for resembling Samuel K. Doe'

By Joseph Cheeseman and Mariama Khai Fornah

The 50th prosecution witness in the ongoing trial of the former Liberian president Charles Taylor has told the Special Court for Sierra Leone that rebels killed his brother because they said he had great resemblance to the former Liberian president Samuel Kayan Doe (K-Doe).

The witness, Patrick Sheriff told the Judges that the rebels killed his brother and chopped off his fingers. He said the worst atrocities he saw in the Sierra Leone civil war were committed by a rebel commander named Peleto who earned another nickname Friday because he went on a killing spree on every Friday. He said that Peleto went to place called Manor Corner on one Friday and moved from house to house killing civilians indiscriminately.

Sheriff gave an account of how Peleto met a man known only as Mr. Kai reading a bible. He allegedly ordered him to drop it and stand up. "As the man stood up, he shot him with a pistol...A minute after killing him, he moved again and met a Limba man eating rice, and he shot him..."

During cross-examination, defence lawyer, Terry Muniyard pressed him on his earlier statement that the rebels he saw were Liberian English-Speaking men dressed in a uniform with the inscription "RUF". Sheriff insisted that the rebels who attacked Waterloo and Lumpa outside Freetown were "purely Liberian rebels." He said he was given 150 lashes and that after ECOMOG had driven the rebels from Lumpa he and other civilians constituted a committee that buried 60 civilians allegedly killed by the rebels. At this point, Justice Julia Sebutinde asked the witness about the composition of the sixty people killed and he replied

that they were all men and boys. "There...were no women because mostly they used women for their own selfish needs." Sheriff said.

Defence lawyer Muniyard asked the witness whether the

events of the war had affected his memory and that he could not remember most of the events. But Sheriff told the court that he could vividly remember every thing that happened to him during the war.

73-year-old amputee narrates ordeal

By Mariama Khai Fornah and Joseph Cheeseman

When former president Charles Taylor returned to court after observing a Jewish holiday he was met in court by a 73-year-old man who had his right arm amputated below the elbow and the bones in his left hand broken. Not knowing Osman Jalloh was an amputee, the judge asked him to hold the Koran as the oath was being administered.

Jalloh said he came into contact with a group of men in January 1999 at Calaba Town in the outskirts of Freetown singing, "We want peace" and threatening that anyone who failed to join them would be flogged. He gave testimony of how eight people were amputated at Calaba Town because of what he quoted the rebels as saying was a revenge for the bombing of their positions by the West African intervention force, ECOMOG.

Recounting how his friend Otick was killed, Jalloh said he was asked to place his hand on a pounding block. When he pleaded with the rebel, he was ordered for a second time to place his hands for amputation warning him not to plead with him. But he pleaded again. "So the man chopped him on his head with a cutlass then blood started oozing from his head, and all over his body was blood.... Otick [started] rolling on the ground...and

after three days Otick died."

The 73-year-old man told the court that after Otick it was his turn. He narrated to the court how the rebels amputated him and gave him a message to ECOMOG and the Sierra Leonean government. "He struck me once, and he told me to put the right hand again, and he chopped it, and it [was dangling]. He chopped the left hand again with both dangling as gave me a message" for the pro-government forces.

Asked what the message was, Jalloh said it was a message for the then-president Tejan Kabbah and ECOMOG not to ever come to rebel territory. The witness wept in court while a court assistant removed the sleeves of his gown from what remained of his amputated hands. His right hand was cut below the elbow and the left hand broken but not severed from the body.

Under direct examination Jalloh told prosecution lawyer Catherine Howard that the first rebels he saw had come from Liberia because Charles Taylor had threatened in a radio interview that Sierra Leone would taste the bitterness of war. He ended his testimony weeping for his condition. He lamented that he can no longer eat or relieve himself without being aided by someone else.

Courtesy: BBC World Service Trust

Darfur militia leader in custody

A SUDANESE militia leader wanted by the International Criminal Court (ICC) for alleged war crimes in Darfur is in custody, a minister has confirmed.

The ICC issued an arrest warrant for Ali Mohamed Ali Abdel-Rahman - known as Ali Kushayb - in February last year. Sudanese Justice Minister Abdel Basit Sabderat said an investigation into alleged crimes committed by Ali Kushayb was now drawing to an end.

The ICC chief prosecutor also accuses Sudan's president of crimes in Darfur. The government is lobbying hard for the UN Security Council to delay an ICC investigation into whether President Omar al-Bashir should be charged with war crimes. The BBC's Amber Henshaw in the capital, Khartoum, says Sudan has refused to co-operate with the ICC case and is insisting on conducting its own investigations into crimes in Darfur. An arrest warrant for government minister Ahmed Haroun was issued at the same time as that for Ali Kushayb - the minister has not been arrested.

A new chief prosecutor was appointed in August to investigate crimes committed in the Darfur region during the five-year conflict. Legal experts say that Sudanese criminal law does not include charges of genocide, war crimes or crimes against humanity although the military law was revised last year.

The government has always denied reports that it had backed the Janjaweed militias accused of widespread atrocities against civilians in Darfur. More than two million people have been forced from their homes and an estimated 300,000 have died since black African groups took up arms in 2003, complaining of discrimination by the Arab-dominated government in Khartoum.

Concord Times (Freetown)

Monday, 13 October 2008

Fear of Insecurity in Country, Liberia Border

By Mohamed Vandi

Residents of Gendema village in the border town between Sierra Leone and Liberia have expressed fear of insecurity at the boundary of the two sister countries.

Moinima Mansary, a resident of the village told Concord Times that the massive movement of Sierra Leoneans youth into Liberia on a delay basis was a concern.

She said the recent frequent crossing of young people has brought renewed fears in the township.

"The youth have not given us any good reason as to why they were going to Liberia. We want to know the reason why they were going to another country. Before the war Sierra Leonean youth were crossing over to Liberia in droves," she recalled adding that, "we have started seeing them going back."

Mansary claimed that customs officers were collecting Le 75, 000 from people crossing the boarder over to Liberia.

Assistant inspector general of police south David Sesay also confirmed that he has been informed about the movement of young Sierra Leoneans into Liberia.

Sesay said they have discussed the matter with the people of Gendema during a border and provincial meeting held at the village.

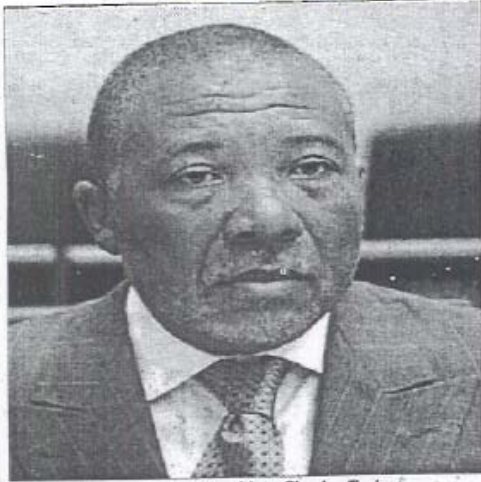
"We discussed the movement of youth into Liberia. Some of the youth said they were going to Liberia to seek jobs," he said.

Sesay disclosed that there are 47 crossing points between Sierra Leone and Liberian border.

"Since I took over I made sure that there are various check points in all the major areas of police coverage. The police have the manpower and the human resource to combat crime in the district. My plan is to wipe out armed robbery in the district," he said.

Light At The End Of The Tunnel

- Taylor's Lawyer



Former President Charles Taylor

The prosecution in the case against the former Liberian president, Charles Taylor are gradually reaching the end of their submission. They say they believe they have produced "compelling evidence" against Mr.

Taylor. Joseph Cheeseman caught up with Courtney Griffiths, the Lead Lawyer for Mr. Taylor and first asked him how he felt the trial was going.

GRIFFITHS: Happily we're close to the end of the prosecution case. We can see

the light at the end of the tunnel.

CHEESEMAN: When are you hopeful of coming out with your side of the case?

GRIFFITHS: Well it looks now as if the defence case won't commence until some time next year. Because after

the close of the prosecution case we will need some time to put our witnesses in place, organize our witness order, organize the logistics of transporting witnesses from West Africa to The Hague. All of that is going to take a little time. So we will need a couple of months

Contd on page 10

Cellcom Scores High Mark

-Opens Store In Redlight For Subscribers, Others

Cellcom, a renowned GSM provider in Liberia continues to demonstrate genuine commitment for its many customers, truly practicalizing "For Cellcom, you are always No.1" catchphrase.

The latest demonstration of

commitment is shrouded in the opening of first-class store in the highly populated community of Redlight, and is in recognition of the existence of a possibility to expand its operations across the capital to cater to the growing demands of its many subscribers.

A colorful opening



Light At The End Of The Tunnel

at least after the end of the prosecution case to organize the defence case.

CHEESEMAN: Mr. Taylor continues to come to court restrained by a leather belt attached to handcuffs and what have you. Why do you think Mr. Taylor continues to yield to such measures?

GRIFFITHS: Because he's anxious not to derail the trial. He's anxious that the trial proceeds smoothly because he's confident that he's able to prove his innocence. And therefore he doesn't want to do anything which might jeopardize the smooth running of these proceedings.

CHEESEMAN: Charles Taylor and his son Chuckie Taylor Jr, are on trial for two landmark cases. The former president as the first African head of state to be put on trial for war crimes and crimes against humanity and, his son as the first American to be put on trial for allegedly committing torture in Africa. What do you think? Is it a coincidence, a misfortune, or is it fate that has driven the two Taylors to this level?

GRIFFITHS: Well one has to bear in mind that the same

country which has been the major force behind the setting-up of the Special Court for Sierra Leone and the demonisation of former President Taylor is the same country in which former President Taylor's son is being tried.

CHEESEMAN: Which country is that?

GRIFFITHS: The United States of America. And consequently it probably doesn't take a conspiracy theorist to work out that there may well be good reason why Chuckie Taylor's trial just happens to take place at the same time as Charles Taylor's trial. Because by so doing you create this international image of this family of ogres, father and son, both involved in criminal activities so both of them must be guilty- you know, there must be something genetic about the Taylor family which drives them to crime, hence father and son being tried at the same time.

CHEESEMAN: Back home in Liberia Mr. Taylor was known to be a deacon in the Baptist Church. The other day he said he is a member of the Jewish faith,

and he stayed away from court. People say he's trying to buy time. What do you think?

GRIFFITHS: Well I can't understand how him declaring himself to be a follower of the Jewish faith suggests that he's buying time. As far as I'm concerned his religious beliefs are a private matter for him and his lawyer. I am not his father confessor, and consequently what religion he chooses to pursue is entirely a matter for him and it's a subject upon which I don't think I'm qualified to offer any opinion.

CHEESEMAN: Finally, is there anything you wish to say, share with the people of Liberia that I didn't ask you?

GRIFFITHS: I would like to invite the Liberian people to follow this trial closely. It is of major interest to you, because Charles Taylor is your former President and what is being done to him is an attempt to criminalize not only him but the whole revolution which he set in train in Liberia to overthrow that despot, President Doe. So consequently it behoves the Liberian people to ensure that they truly act as his jury, and by following the trial they can come to their own verdict whether he be guilty or not.

Courtesy: BBC World Service Trust

[Part of this story was omitted when scanning in Liberia]

TAYLOR IN THE SPOTLIGHT

for Sierra Leone (SC/SL) have indicated.

The sidetracks, according to the interviews, regard defense lawyers' dreaded prosecution confidence in Taylor's conviction, Taylor's indigent status, the guarded difficulty in obtaining witnesses for Taylor, the Special Court's liquidity status, and Taylor's supposed hidden wealth.

Prosecutor's confidence, Taylor's indigent status

Chief Prosecutor of the Special Court, Stephen Rapp, indicated recently that the war crimes tribunal has overwhelming evidence to convict Charles Taylor as charged.

The statement may not be new, since it is the basis for the transfer of Taylor's trial from Sierra Leone to The Hague, but Taylor's lead lawyer, Courney Griffiths, says the prosecution has been overstating its position without anything to show for it.

He said he was surprised that with all the claims about evidence to prosecute his client, the prosecution's so-called evidence has so far been so tenuous and in many cases contradictory, to be taken seriously.

According to him, the former Liberian leader would have long since been convicted and placed behind bars permanently had the prosecution have evidence of the strength it says it has.

Taylor is facing an 11-count indictment for supporting, underwriting, and directing the murderous misadventure of Foday Sankoh's rebel Revolutionary United Front (RUF) in Sierra Leone.

There is no shortage of approval in the ECOWAS subregion regarding Taylor's role in the

RUF misadventure, but observers say the problem that seems to face the UN-backed Special Sierra Leonean tribunal is to prove legally that the warlord-cum-civil leader was capable of what he has been charged of doing.

Search for stashed funds

While the question of concrete evidence stands out as a sidetrack to Taylor's speedy trial, the prosecution and the defense seems yet to agree on the financial status of Mr. Taylor. The prosecution believes that having stashed billions of stolen money in foreign banks over a 13-year period, Taylor was potent enough to underwrite his trial.

But Griffiths called the assumption ridiculous and noted that it was these kinds of assumption that were keeping his client in trial confinement with no end in sight. "The Prosecution has been making noises about former President Taylor having millions of dollars stashed away around the world. It's curious given the kind of power that investigators now have to trace resources... they haven't been able to locate any of these funds. And that's probably because there are no funds to be located," the lead defense counsel said in support of his recent announcement that Taylor is indigent.

He said while it was arguable that because Taylor was president of

Liberia for six years and presided over Liberia's export trade during that period he should have money, the fact remains that such money simply does not exist.

"If he does have money, why has it not been traced given the efforts that the Prosecution tell us they've been consistently making over the years to trace it?" he wondered.

He said even if counter-arguments that Taylor did not stash the money in his own name were considered, that should not be a problem for the prosecution.

"The powers that the Prosecution have enable them to trace funds irrespective of the name under which those funds have been banked or hidden. And so again I have to ask why is it that they still haven't found anything?" Cllr. Griffiths said.

He said even arguments that because Taylor was always well-attired he can not be indigent hold no water because Taylor has every right to dress presidential and by doing that so show his respect of the court by insuring that he's properly dressed when he attends court.

But the Chief Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, Stephen Rapp, told Journalist Joseph Cheeseman that the court was not about to be deceived by Taylor's so-called indigence.

"There are a variety of investigative efforts that are

being undertaken by both the United Nations and also by national assistance, and the tracing exercises are continuing. But the important thing for us at this time is through the United Nations process, and through individual countries' law enforcement, that the accounts that we've identified, many of which were closed, many of which saw money flowing out from other accounts, that those accounts are investigated and that the resources are located and frozen," he said.

He said the process appeared slow because care was been taken to trace every cent. He then noted that so far, the UN has frozen about 6 million to date. "We'd like to freeze many times that amount. We'd like to freeze tens of millions if possible and to make that available to victims," Prosecutor Rapp said.

Witnesses

On the witness question, Griffiths said the defense has identified several Liberians who were willing to appear to testify in behalf of the former president but that western propaganda has made association with Taylor risky.

"We are getting witnesses. And those witnesses are willing to attend court. But at the same time they express fears to us that through associating themselves with President Taylor they may get stigmatized in West Africa because of the aura of wickedness which the media has built up around the former President. Because the last thing we want is for, once we've declared to the Prosecution who our witnesses are, for any individual to approach them and seek to dissuade them from coming to The Hague to give evidence on behalf of former President Taylor," he said.

The reported

stigmatization of witnesses may work against the chances of Taylor's successful defense, but Prosecutor Rapp -told Cheeseman that it was not unique to Taylor's witnesses alone. "Witnesses tell us

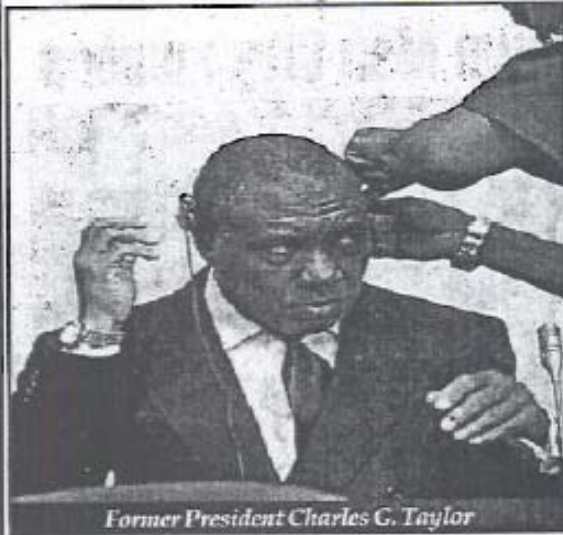
afterwards that sometimes members of their family are harassed, that siblings or others are told your brother went up there and testified, he's betrayed our former President, and people sometimes get angry. There's one case of an assault on a witness' daughter. So those kinds of things can happen. Keep in mind that in the case of all of the witnesses Taylor knows who those witnesses are. He's entitled to disclosure of their identity for 42 days beforehand," he said.

He said there was no question that the Special Court needed more money to support its increasing budget, but he noted that for now there was enough money to prosecute Taylor.

The Monitor
Monday, 13 October 2008

Taylor anxious...

Trial resumes today



Former President Charles G. Taylor

The Lead Lawyer for former President Charles Taylor indicted for war crimes in Sierra Leone said Taylor is anxious not to derail his trial ongoing in The Hague. Commenting on Taylor's willingness to undergo the Court restrained by a leather belt attached to handcuffs and other harsh prison measures, Lawyer Courtenay Griffiths said Taylor is anxious that the trial proceeds smoothly because he's confident that he's able to prove his innocence.

And therefore he

doesn't want to do anything which might jeopardize the smooth running of these proceedings.

Speaking to the BBC World Service Trust reporter in The Hague, Mr. Griffiths accused the United States of America of trying both Taylor and his son, Chuckie, as an attempt to "create this international image of this family of ogres, father and son, both involved in criminal activities so both of them must be guilty- you know, there must be something genetic about

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Taylor anxious

the Taylor family which drives them to crime, hence father and son being tried at the same time.

"And consequently it probably doesn't take a conspiracy theorist to work out that there may well be good reason why Chuckie Taylor's trial just happens to take place at the same time as Charles Taylor's trial", he told the BBC World Service Trust reporter.

On the ongoing proceeding, the Lead Defence Lawyer said they won't commence their side of the trial until some time next year because after the close of the prosecution case the defence will need some time to put its witnesses in place, organize our witness order, organize the logistics of transporting witnesses from West Africa to The Hague.

All of that is going to take a little time. So we will need a couple of months at least after the end of the prosecution case to organize the defence case, Mr. Griffiths said.

Meanwhile, the Court reconvenes today

Monday October 13, at 9.30 a.m. after the observance of a mid-session break.

Daily Observer
Monday, 13 October 2008

Bush Wants Warlords Arrested

FOCUS Catalogues Abuses of Liberian Children

By Alfred Juteh Chea

With the latest call by United States President George W. Bush for the arrest and prosecution of leaders of armed groups and military forces outside the US who have recruited child soldiers, a child rights advocacy group

has highlighted pervasive and all-encompassing abuses of children in Liberia.

The advocacy group, Forerunner of Children Universal Rights for Survival (FOCUS), has also called on President Bush and others to ensure that those responsible for the abuses committed against children in the Liberian armed

conflict account for their deeds on the altar of justice.

The new law, Child Soldiers Accountability Act, signed by President Bush on October 3, 2008, makes it a Federal Crime to recruit knowingly or to use soldiers under the age of 15. The Act permits the US to prosecute any individual on American soil for the offense,

even if the children were recruited or served as soldiers outside the US.

FOCUS Executive Director Anthony Bosakai told the *Daily Observer* over the weekend in Monrovia that his entity was in support of the Act against the recruitment and use of children

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'Defiant' Senators Risk ACC Inquest
As Bogus USS\$178,046.40 Lahai Lansanah Budget Surfaces

suspended Pro-Tempore to enable them to withdraw the USS\$178,046.40 from Mr. Nyanah's budget.

Bush

in armed conflict not only in the US but also around the world.

"We consider the signing of the Act as a relief to the world's children, especially for those in conflict zones and countries including Liberia, where they were forcibly recruited by all warring factions and used as child soldiers," Bosakai added.

He recalled that during a nationwide investigation and hearings conducted by Liberia's Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), hundreds of children explained how they were indiscriminately subjected to unimaginable acts of cruelty and barbarism including sex slavery and drug addiction.

The FOCUS CEO accentuated that several children nationwide had testified to how they were also made by the now disbanded armed warring factions and other non-state actors to tote arms and ammunition, shoot and kill innocent and helpless civilians, and how their fellow child soldiers were dispatched to frontlines on the orders of factional commanders, resulting in their maiming, disappearances and gruesome death.

Such acts against the children, FOCUS maintains, are a gross violation of UN Convention on the Rights of Child and other international protocols protecting the rights of children.

He contended that hundreds of former child soldiers and war-affected Liberian children were currently out of school owing to wanton killing of their parents and other relatives during the country's 14-year armed conflict.

"Let President Bush and others take note of the plight of children who were both participants and victims of war masterminded by warlords in Liberia," FOCUS stressed.

The organization maintains that all those who deliberately chose to abuse the rights of the children in the country should not go with impunity.

The Act signed by the US President imposes penalties of up to 20 years or up to life in prison if the actions of the military forces or armed groups resulted in child's death.

It also allows the US to deport or deny entry to individuals who have knowingly recruited children as soldiers.

"The US is saying to the world that using child soldiers is a serious crime and that it will take action," Human Rights Watch's Children's rights advocate, Jo Becker, said recently.

"Military commanders who use children can no longer come to the United States without the risk of ending up in jail," he pointed out.

The legislation was introduced by Senator Durbin Richard of Illinois and adopted unanimously by both the US House of Representatives and the US Senate in September 2008.

In a statement issued on October 3, 2008, Senator Durbin said, "The United States must not be a safe haven for those who exploit children as soldiers period. The use of children as combatants is one of the most despicable human rights violations in the world today and affects the lives of hundreds of thousands of boys

Liberian Express
Monday, 13 October 2008

TAYLOR'S TRIAL TO DELAY

War crimes trial involving the former Liberian leader Charles Taylor is expected to be delayed for several months after the prosecuting team shall have ended testimony and the production of evidence January 2009.

Taylor's defense lawyer Courtney Griffiths said at the close of the prosecution case, they will need some time to locate and organize their witnesses as well as organize logistics to transport witnesses from West Africa to The Hague.

PUL Sets Up Elections Commission



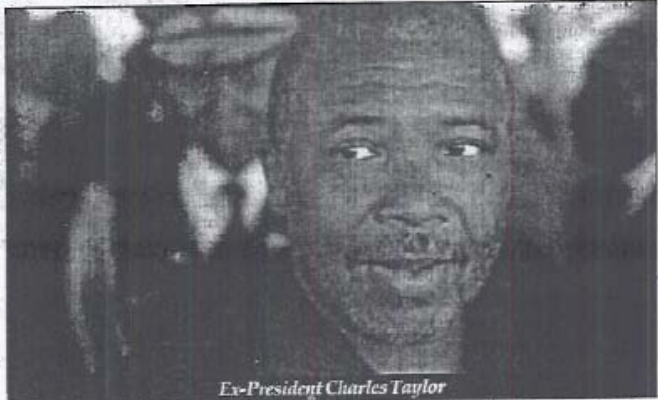
PUL ECOM Chairman Kiazolu

The Press Union of Liberia (PUL) has constituted a five-member commission to organize and conduct the Union's election slated for November 8.

The Commission is chaired by Mr. James G. Kiazolu, past President of the Press Union of Liberia and currently Publisher of the Liberian Express Newspaper.

Other members of the Commission are Attorney D. Onesimus Banwon, Co-Chairman; Ms. Tete Kanneh, Secretary; Ms. Esther

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Ex-President Charles Taylor

"All of that is going to take a little time. So we will need a couple of months at least after the end of the prosecution case to organize the defense case," Griffiths told the BBC.

Regarding question why Taylor continues to attend court restrained by a leather belt attached to hand-

cuffs, Griffiths said because Taylor is anxious not to derail the trial.

"He's anxious that the trial proceeds smoothly because he's confident that he's able to prove his innocence. And therefore he doesn't want to do anything which might jeopardize the smooth running of

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TAYLOR'S TRIAL

these proceedings," the lawyer said.

The former Liberian leader is facing war crimes charges and other crimes against humanity as one of those bearing the greatest responsibility in the decade long brutal civil war in Sierra Leone.

War crimes prosecutors believe they have produced "compelling evidence" against Taylor.

Responding to reporters' inquiry whether it is a coincidence, a misfortune, or is it fate that has driven Taylor and son Chuckie Taylor to be tried at the same time, Griffiths said,

"One has to bear in mind that the same country which has been the major force behind the setting-up of the Special Court for Sierra Leone and the demonization of Taylor is the same country in which Taylor's son is being tried."

"The United States of America. And consequently it probably doesn't take a conspiracy theorist to work out that there may well be good reason why Chuckie Taylor's trial just happens to take place at the same time as Charles Taylor's trial.

Because by so doing you create this international image of this family of ogres, father and son, both involved in criminal activities so both of them must be guilty- you know, there must be something genetic about the Taylor family which drives them to crime, hence father and son being tried at the same time," Griffiths said.

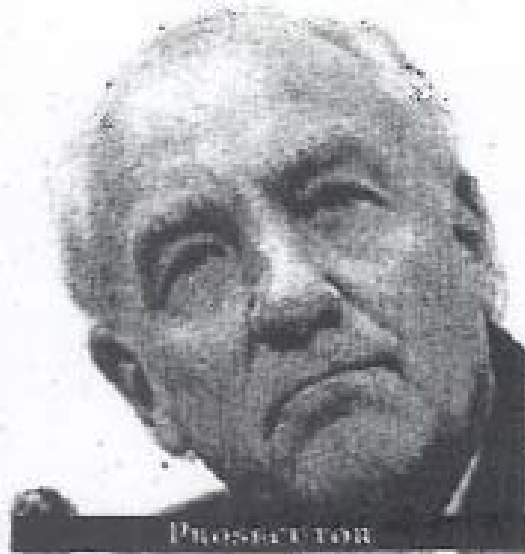
Chuckie, an American is the first to be put on trial for allegedly committing torture in Africa.

Griffith wants the Liberian people to follow Taylor's trial closely.

"It is of major interest to you, because Charles Taylor is your former President and what is being done to him is an attempt to criminalize not only him but the whole revolution which he set in train in Liberia to overthrow that despot, President Doe. So consequently it behoves the Liberian people to ensure that they truly act as his jury, and by following the trial they can come to their own verdict whether he be guilty or not," the lawyer said.

New Democrat
Monday, 13 October 2008

Rapp Applauds Chuckie's Trial *As Defeat To Impunity*



The American lawyer heading the prosecution against former President Charles Taylor, Mr. Stephen Rapp, has applauded the ongoing trial of his son, Chuckie Taylor, describing as a defeat for impunity.

Mr. Rapp welcomed the trial of as another step toward ending impunity for war criminals. Chuckie, also known as Charles McArthur Emmanuel is the first person to be tried under a 1994 U.S law that makes it a crime for an American to commit torture overseas.

Reports: The trials (of Mr. Taylor and his son) ,are revealing the savagery of the conflicts in Liberia and Sierra Leone.

United Nations  Nations Unies
 United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries
13 October 2008

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

Newspaper Summary

Ex-Combatants Demand Graduation from Skills training program in Northern Liberia

(The Inquirer)

- Tension has erupted at the Liberia Opportunity Industrialization Centre (LOIC) and the Young Men Christian Association (YMCA) skills training centre in Nimba County over the graduation of some ex-combatants. Accordingly, the ex-combatants have accused the LOIC and the YMCA Programme Coordinator, Julius Sele for deserting the program that was designed to provide skills training to ex-combatants. The spokesperson of the ex-combatants, Elizabeth Charlie threatened they would resort to a peaceful demonstration if their graduation is delayed further.

TRC Releases Findings of National Conflict Mapping Survey

(The Analyst Public Agenda, New Vision, The Monitor)

- A Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) has released findings from a National Conflict Mapping Survey conducted by the commission. The TRC recently completed the survey which is intended to identify threats to peace in Liberia. According to the Commission, the survey focused on looming issues that have the potential to endanger the Country's long term stability.
- The survey was conducted in seventy-five percent of the administrative districts of the fifteen political sub-divisions of Liberia and was followed by consultations with government officials, civil society organizations, political leaders and the traditional Council.
- The TRC said the report will be presented by the European Commission for comments, endorsement and the appropriate action.

Regional Examination Body Adopts New Measures

(The Inquirer)

- The West African Examinations Council in Liberia says it has designed new measures to prevent the recurrence of collusion during the 2007/2008 national exams administered in May this year. The Head of the National Offices of the Council, Professor Thomas Gaie said those candidates that are expected to sit the 2008/2009 examinations would sit the exams on their campuses. According to him, other schools that do not have a decent examination hall would be made to sit their test at a venue to be made available by WAEC.

Chief Prosecutor Speaks to Compelling Evidence against War Crimes Suspect, Taylor

(The Analyst, Liberian Express, The Monitor, and New Democrat)

- Mr. Stephen Rapp, the Chief Prosecutor of the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone prosecuting ex-Liberian President Charles Taylor says they have compelling evidence against Mr. Taylor and the strength of the evidence has exceeded his expectations. But Taylor's lead defense lawyer, according to The Analyst, Liberian Express, The Monitor, and New Democrat believes his client will prove his innocence.
- The prosecution's case against war crimes suspect and former Liberian President Charles Taylor is due be completed by January next year. Taylor, whose trial started in June 2007, is the first former African head of state to stand trial in front of any court on war crimes charges. He has pleaded not guilty to charges involving murder, rape, conscripting child

soldiers and sexual slavery during the intertwined wars in Liberia and Sierra Leone, in which thousands of people were killed.

President Bush Wants Warlords Arrested as Child Rights Group Catalogues Abuses against Liberian Kids

(Daily Observer)

- [Sic:] With the latest call by United States President George W. Bush for the arrest and prosecution of leaders of armed groups and military forces outside the US who have recruited child soldiers, a child rights advocacy group has highlighted pervasive and all-encompassing abuses of children in Liberia. The advocacy group, Forerunner of Children Universal Rights for Survival (FOCIUS), has also called on President Bush and others to ensure that those responsible for the abuses committed against children in the Liberian armed conflict account for their deeds on the altar of justice.

Radio Summary

Star Radio (*News culled today from website at 9:00 am*)

Agriculture Minister Announces Major Project

- Agriculture Minister Dr. Chris Toe has announced the construction of the National Extension Coordination Centre in Central Liberia which is to serve as a link between farmers and the ministry.
- The Minister said the centre when completed would coordinate the distribution of seeds and other varieties to farmers in the country and would also help the Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI) in its testing through the extension program.
- Meanwhile, the Agriculture boss has announced the purchase of twelve four-wheel double cabin Nissan pick-ups for county agriculture coordinators.
- He disclosed that the vehicles were purchased from the ministry's 2007/2008 Budget.

(Also reported on Star Radio, Truth F.M. and ELBC)

World Bank, Partners Launch Adolescent Girls Initiative

- The World Bank, partner governments and the private sector have launched the adolescent Girls Initiative which is intended to promote economic empowerment for adolescent girls in poor and post conflict Countries for a three year period.
- Liberia will be the first Country to benefit from the initiative, followed by Afghanistan, Nepal, Rwanda, and South Sudan.
- Speaking at the well attended launch in Washington DC, World Bank's president Robert Zoellick said investing in young girls would serve as the best catalyst to overcome poverty.
- In a televised speech, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf said young women have the potential to ensure economic growth when given the chance.
- Partners including Denmark, Norway, the Clinton Foundation, and Nike Foundation have pledged about twenty million dollars to fund the initiative.

Angel Tokpa's Murder Trial "Lingers" Amidst Threat from Suspects' Family

- The Government says the outcome of foreign investigation on the sample of the body parts of little Angel Tokpa shows her guardian, Hans William committed the murder.
- In an interview, Justice Minister, Philip Banks said government has what he called a high quality of evidence to prosecute Mr. Williams and his fiancé Mardea Paykue.
- Minister Banks maintained that the government would not bow to any form of pressure from the Hans Williams' family to release him warning that any demonstration by the Williams' family must be preceded by a permit from the Justice Ministry.
- He was reacting to threats by the Williams' family that they would take to the streets if their brother was not immediately released from detention.

(Also reported on Star Radio, Truth F.M. and ELBC)

ADF Gives Grants to Two Groups

- The United States African Development Foundation has presented grants to two local organizations in the country.

- The Kpatawee Community Development Association in Bong County and SHOCAS, a women group, are the two beneficiaries of the grants.
- The grants which total one hundred seventy-seven thousand US Dollars are intended to increase the income of marginalized entrepreneurs.

TRC Releases Results of National Conflict Mapping Survey

(Also reported on Star Radio, Truth F.M. and ELBC)

The Analyst online (Liberia)

Monday, 13 October 2008

Former Warlord Demands War Crimes Tribunal

...Boi Bleeju Boi At TRC

The first former Liberian warlord to recommend the establishment of a war crimes tribunal told commissioners of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) their work would be a waste if crimes against humanity committed during the civil conflict are not prosecuted.

Then self style General Boi Bleeju Boi, vice chair and spokesman of the defunct Movement for Democracy in Liberia (MODEL) contended that there can be no peace in Liberia without prosecutions of those who committed heinous crimes against civilians.

“The voices of those innocent persons killed during the civil war are crying out loud for justice. We must establish a war crimes tribunal here in Liberia. We need justice in this country,” the former warlord said Monday while answering commissioners’ questions.

Mr. Boi was testifying at the TRC ongoing Thematic and Institutional Inquiry Public Hearing on the Contemporary History of the Conflict at the Centennial Memorial Pavilion in Monrovia.

He said without the establishment of a war crimes court in Liberia, the peace and security of the country will not be preserved. Mr. Boi demanded that those who committed crimes against humanity during the country’s civil conflict must one day have their day in court.

“There can be no genuine peace and security in Liberia without justice. Our people were killed during this conflict and they are continuously crying for justice. That’s why I continue to advocate for the creation of a war crimes court here. There can be no genuine peace without justice.”

He said that there can be no reconciliation in Liberia without justice for those who committed heinous crimes against humanity.

Mr. Boi said that opportunity afforded key military actors through the TRC process was being abused due to their boastfulness and arrogance before the commission and hence the only remedy now was prosecution.

Under the theme: “Understanding the Conflict Through its Principal Events and Actors,” the ongoing hearings are addressing the root causes of the conflict, including its military and political dimensions.

The hearings are focused on events between 1979 and 2003 and the national and external actors that helped to shape those events.

The TRC was agreed upon in the August 2003 peace agreement and created by the TRC Act of 2005. The TRC was established to “promote national peace, security, unity and reconciliation,” and at the same time make it possible to hold perpetrators accountable for gross human rights violations and violations of international humanitarian law that occurred in Liberia between January 1979 and October 2003.

BBC Online

Tuesday, 14 October 2008

Dutch hear Rwandan genocide case

A Rwandan Hutu, Joseph Mpambara, has pleaded not guilty before a Dutch court to charges of rape and murder during the Rwandan genocide 14 years ago.

Prosecutors say he took part in the massacre of Tutsis at a church complex and the hacking to death of seven people dragged out of an ambulance.

He was living in the Netherlands when he was arrested in 2006.

He is being tried under a Dutch law that allows the prosecution of war crimes committed overseas.

Some 800,000 minority Tutsis and moderate Hutus were slaughtered by Hutu militias in just 100 days in 1994.

Mr Mpambara, 40, is accused of being a member of the Interahamwe militia.

His case came to the attention of Dutch authorities after his 1998 application for asylum was turned down.

The UN-backed International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) was set up in 1997 to try the most high-profile genocide cases.

Prosecution spokesman Wim de Bruin said the ICTR, under pressure to finish its cases by the end of the year, had asked the Netherlands to take on this case, Reuters news agency reports.