

**SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
PRESS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE**



The dam at the Bumbuna Hydroelectric Project

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:

Tuesday, 15 April 2008

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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Local News

“I Was Not Second in Command in Kono” / *Awoko*

Page 3

International News

(Untitled) / *BBC World Service Trust*

Pages 4-5

Death Threats Hunt Moses Blah / *National Chronicle*

Pages 6-7

External “White” Crime Busters Begin Analyzing Documents / *New Democrat*

Pages 8-9

UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries / *UNMIL*

Pages 10-12

Awoko

Tuesday, 15 April 2008

“I Was Not Second in Command in Kono”

By *Betty Milton*

Continuing his evidence yesterday at the Special Court, the second accused who is also the witness in the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), Morris Kallon, denied allegations made by certain prosecution witnesses that he was the second-in-command in Kono in 1998 -1999.

The indictee said he had never been second in command to Superman, noting that the witness who gave that

testimony had cooked up some grudge against him [Morris Kallon] because he was punished twice for going against jungle rules.

Denying the evidence of another prosecution witness that two soldiers were shot at by Morris Kallon because they failed to obtain information.

To this evidence, Morris Kallon told the court that he indeed shot

at two SLAs because he met them burning civilians' houses in Koidu town and that the men did not die but sustained injuries.

He added that Superman then sent a message to Mosquito that, “I had sabotaged them for failing to allow soldiers to burn the houses. And so I was summoned by Mosquito in Beude. I spent a night there and then he asked me to return the next day which I did. On our return, there

were serious bombings by ECOMOG and so we had to retreat for Superman ground around the Guinea border.”

Another prosecution witness, TF1-334, told the court that the relationship between the RUF and SLAs was because of Morris Kallon, since he shot at two SLAs but the witness denied it and told the court that the SLAs usually referred to them as ‘bush commanders’ and

that the SLAs were professionals and RUF were not trained fighters.

Morris Kallon revealed to the court that in 1998 after Foday Sankoh had ordered Dennis Mingo to be disarmed, he was

appointed as Battle Field Commander because field commanders were men with arms and so he was appointed by Sankoh to take over that position.

Trial continues today.

BBC World Service Trust

Monday, 14 April 2008

Charles Taylor's war crimes trial enters a new week, Monday in The Hague.

The Prosecution witness TF1-516 testified to Taylor's control of the Revolutionary United Front rebels by using RUF to fight insurgents against his government.

Adolphus Williams reports from the Hague

WILLIAMS: TF1-516 said Taylor instructed RUF forces to attack the position of the Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) rebels in Voinjama, after they invaded Liberia in 1999. The witness told the Court, RUF former Frontline Commander, Sam Bockarie led one batch of the RUF forces in countering Sekou Konneh's LURD.

TF1-516: I saw Sam Bockarie in Kolahun, was in the year 2000 and that was in the rainy season.

COUNSEL: So that would be some time between April and September 2000, right?

TF1-516: Yes.

COUNSEL: What was the purpose of this mission? Who were the warring factions of this mission?

TF1-516: It was the Liberian government and at that time it was the insurgents that were fighting against the Liberian government.

COUNSEL: To which insurgents are you referring?

TF1-516: The insurgents were later identified as L-U-R-D.

COUNSEL: LURD?

TF1-516: Yes.

WILLIAMS: TF1-516 said former Special Security Service Director, Benjamin Yeaten, on a number of occasions, used Taylor's ATU helicopter to travel to the battle front in Lofa.

But Defence lawyer Morris Anyah said Bockarie never participated in any operations after 1999 when he crossed over to Liberia.

ANYAH: I am putting it to you that you are lying when you say Sam Bockarie fought with the RUF after he left Sierra Leone in December 1999.

WILLIAMS: Prosecution lawyer Mohamed Bangura objected to Anyah's line of questioning.

BANGURA: Your Honours, I believe counsel is misstating the evidence there. The witness has not said Sam Bockarie fought with the RUF. The witness has said something to the effect that Sam Bockarie addressed RUF fighters and advised them when he came to Kolahun and the second time that the witness saw Sam Bockarie he was part of another force that came to Voinjama.

PRESIDING JUDGE JUSTICE DOHERTY: Mr Anyah, you've heard Mr Bangura.

ANYAH: Well I can ask the witness, but as far as I...

JUSTICE DOHERTY: The record shows that the witness said that Sam Bockarie was with the other forces.

WILLIAMS: During all these exchanges, Taylor sat quietly. Dressed in a blue suit, white shirt with a gold tie, much with an eagle eye, stared through his glasses which hung over his nose in the direction of the protection witness. As he was scribbling on pieces of paper, his broad gold fashion wedding ring glittered on his finger. He passed the pieces of paper over to his British-trained Ghanaian lawyer, Morris Anyah who was leading the cross examination of RUF radio operator, witness TF1-516.

According to a press conference in Liberia the former Liberian president Moses Blah is expected to testify against Taylor this week. No comment yet from the Prosecution.

Mr Blah became vice president following the death of vice president Enoch Dogolea and Blah was also an ambassador to Libya and then President of Liberia when Taylor went into exile in Nigeria.

For the BBC World Service Trust, Search for Common Ground, this Adolphus Williams from the Hague.

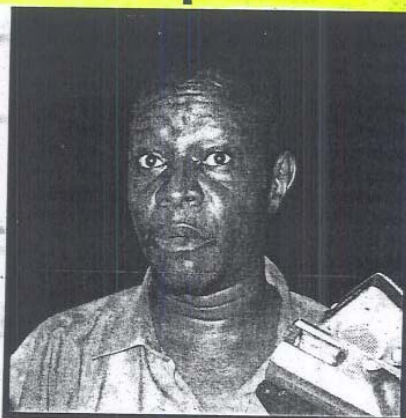
National Chronicle (Liberia)
 Tuesday, 15 April 2008

DEATH THREATS HUNT MOSES BLAH

-Family Members Express Concern



Former Pres. Moses Blah



Mr. Sando Johnson

As the Special Court for Sierra Leone issues a subpoena for the former Moses Z. Blah, some individuals who claim to be sympathizers of former President Charles Taylor, has been issuing threats on the lives of Hon. Blah and family by distributing leaflets and also via cell phone communications.

According to a press release issued by the Blah's family, which is in the possession of this paper, informed those that are involved in threatening their lives and destabilization of the entire Liberian populace, that no amount of threats or sinister motives will prevent their father, brother and son,

from going to The Hague.

The release also asserted that statements emanating from former Representative Sando Johnson recently aired on varied media outlets, whom they termed as being very frustrated and lacking any sense of direction, by claiming to be a member of former president Taylor's family, but that the said Taylor's family has been unwilling to accept him a member.

Thus the Blah's family says they want this so-called relative of Taylor, to know that former President Blah hails from a very large family, of which he is very proud and he has no intention of wanting to be a surrogate member of Taylor's family.

Cont'd on Page 6

As Police Make Several Arrests

DEATH

They further that this frustrated gentleman (Sando Johnson) who is claiming to be a member of the Taylor's family, intends to create a state of confusion between both families.

Therefore, the family of former President Blah, said they wish to call on the Taylor's family, to put a stop to Sando Johnson, whom has lost his sense of direction even amongst his colleagues.

Because they stated that such derogatory statements by Sando Johnson have the propensity to stir up things in their peaceful co-existence.

It can be recalled that a week ago, the former president Blah in a press conference disclosed that the Special Court in Sierra Leone has issued him a subpoena for him to serve as one of the witnesses in the case of Taylor in the Hague.

During the conference he noted, that he was not afraid to go to the Hague, to testify against Taylor, but was only seeking advice from his family and most of all his medical doctor.

Also at the press conference, he made it clear also that he has no information as to who killed the former RUF commander Sam Bockarie or organized the Revolutionary United Front (RUF).

New Democrat (Liberia)
Tuesday, 15 April 2008

After Sweeping Several Banks External "White" Crime Busters Begin Analyzing Documents

Cyril Allen Cries "Colonialism"

Officials at the Ministry of Justice have begun analysing documents they collected from various banks last week relative to information that will help them identify the financial assets of former government officials on the UN Asset Freeze list. But highly placed sources say

some of the accounts may have been closed.

Former National Investment Commission Chairman in the Charles Taylor regime, Mr. Cyril Allen, named on the asset freeze list, reacting to the government's move to identify their financial assets on a local station, said they should have asked him for his bank account and he would have given it to them.

He accused the UN Mission here of imperialistic and colonial ploy, saying "they want to rule Liberia through the back door, while at the same time blaming the government for conniving with them."

His statement comes as foreign fraud investigators are in the country to trace assets belonging to several former government officials, and possible money laundering nets operating in the country.

Several banks were swept last week Wednesday, with only the Liberia Bank for Development and Investment (LBDI) requiring the station-

ing of UNMIL and National police officers to prevent documents from being smuggled out after bankers allegedly created roadblocks for the search, according to Justice Ministry

officials and other sources.

Top-level sources told this paper that high-level politicians sought to stop the operation as lawyers representing different

Page 8



External "White" Crime Busters

interest threw themselves into action to kill the search, government sources said.

The operations are commanded by "tough" members of the UN Panel of Experts team, along with Justice Ministry officials, and their mandate includes locating assets belonging to former President Charles Taylor and some of his key associates, the source said, adding that they are armed with a long list of names with the country's UN Ambassador, Nathaniel Barnes, amongst them.

Apart from the assets search, the team, headed by an American, is looking at the roles of institutions such as banks in money laundering, considered a high crime in international financial circles.

Justice Ministry sources said the search to identify the financial assets of individuals on the assets freeze list is part of a renewed attempt by government to enforce the UN Assets freeze order which was introduced barely four years ago on June 15, 2004.

The search, which follows an obtainment of a search warrant from a local Magisterial Court, includes liquidated banks, amongst them TRADEVCO. Sources say the Central Bank has been contacted to provide

information relating to the financial assets of the asset freeze victims.

"All the banks, were served simultaneously," a highly placed Justice Ministry source told this paper.

"All the privately own commercial banks complied. We had one lawyer, two officers of the Liberian National Police and one UN Police at each of the banks. It was only the LBDI, which has government share not complying. They were giving excuses," the source added.

According to the source, LBDI Vice President for Administration, Charles Allen, informed the team that he did not have the Access Code to the accounts, hence is inability to help the team. He informed the team that Mrs. Reeves, the Bank's General Manager, who had the access code, was at a workshop.

However, both Mr. Allen and Mrs. Reeves were arrested around 5:30 P.M, for hindering the implementation of the warrant which is a serious crime under the Panel Law (12.4 of the Panel Law) but not charge for. "They were not charge because they gave reasonable excuses and were released.

"That night, the police and UNMIL were ordered to protect the bank (LBDI) to ensure that nobody went

in or came out with documents," the source said.

Efforts to freeze the assets of former government officials and close associates of Mr. Taylor began under the Charles Gyude Bryant interim regime when the government then filed a petition before the Supreme Court, followed by letters from then Justice Minister Kabineh Ja'neh to the banks requesting information of the financial assets of the asset freeze victims.

But the Supreme Court at the time gave judgement to the effect that the government had the liberty to freeze the assets of these individuals but should do so through the due process of law.

In 2007, then Justice Minister Frances Johnson-Morris submitted a bill before the National Legislature, a move to legalize the assets freeze process. But that bill was killed by members of the National Legislature some of whom are on the asset freeze list.

Last week, search to identify the financial assets of these individual at the local banks, is so far the third attempt.-Othello B. Garblah with additional files

United Nations  **Nations Unies**

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

**UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries
14 April 2008**

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

Newspaper Summary

Several Wounded in Motor Accident – 12 Vehicles Damaged

(The Heritage)

[sic:] Several persons last Saturday reportedly got injured on Benson Street, down town Monrovia after the driver of a moving water truck belonging to the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) descending from the Benson Street Hill, lost control of the steering. The sliding truck, which was said to have been driven by a male employee of UNMIL also damaged 12 vehicles parked on the sidewalks. One of the damaged vehicles is said to belong to Monrovia City Mayor, Ophelia Hoff Saytumah.

TRC Suspends Commissioner Pearl Brown-Bull for “Conflict of Interest”

(National Chronicle, The Inquirer, Heritage, Public Agenda, Daily Observer, The Parrot)

- The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Liberia (TRC) has suspended Commissioner Pearl Brown-Bull for conflict of interest. In a letter, TRC Chairman Jerome Verdier asked Commissioner Bull to disengage from all work, activities, representations and functions of the TRC until a subsequent decision is taken by the Commission. Commissioner Brown-Bull presently serves on both the TRC and Public Procurement and Concession Commission (PPCC). “As it is, you are holder of two appointments in government without exemption, in clear violations of the TRC Act and TRC Rules and Procedures.
- Meanwhile, the suspended Commissioner has vowed not to turn over the commission’s properties in her possession denying that she works for the PPCC.

Family of ‘Murdered’ Teenager against Third Autopsy

(The Inquirer)

- The parents of the late Meideh ‘Angel’ Togba have said that if the government of Liberia does not clarify why the medical examiner, Anthony Quayee did not give Angel’s missing parts to the Cuban pathologist, Hernandez, they would resist anyone from exhuming her remains for the third autopsy.
- The parents revealed that after Dr. Quayee had conducted the first autopsy, a rift erupted between the Stryker Funeral Parlor and the medical examiner as to what happened to the body’s missing uterus and thorax, a situation the government said they would conduct an investigation into.
- In an exclusive interview, the mother of Little Angel, Mrs. Susan Togba said that the family is looking up to the government to come out with findings into the missing parts and that anyone who tries to exhume the body would undoubtedly meet stiff resistance.

West African Journalists Adopt Agreement

(Daily Observer, The Analyst, The Inquirer, The News)

- West African Journalists have ended a two-day workshop in the Guinean capital, Conakry on the adoption of a Collective Bargaining Agreement for all journalists in the sub-region.

- Under the auspices of WAJA, with support from ECOWAS and International organizations, the standard framework seeks to put in place a minimal working condition for the practice of the profession.
- WAJA is urging that journalists be given minimal salaries equivalent at least to the amount paid public servants for jobs of a similar level based on the economy of each country. Only Senegal and the Ivory Coast have so far signed the agreement. PUL Secretary-General, Peter Quaqua who attended the workshop says the tripartite collective agreement between the state, employers and media professionals, will serve as a catalyst in improving the conditions of journalists and enhance their professional output.
- Mr. Quaqua says for too long, some media managers in Liberia have treated their employees with content when it comes to pay. But said the framework is an opportunity to check the arbitrary actions of employers who layoff journalists without benefits, and in some cases, pay appalling salaries for their labor.
- Participants from fifteen of the sixteen West African Countries also discussed the need to regulate entry into the profession by agreeing on a minimal qualification to practice as a journalist.
- At the end of the workshop, two separate resolutions were issued calling on the government of Niger to release from detention, journalists Moussa Kaka who has been in jail for seven months. Moussa is the Correspondent for Radio France International in Niger. The other resolution condemned the disappearance of journalist Chief Ebrima Manneh. Manneh was apparently picked up for passing on information to a foreign journalist. The Gambia authorities have denied holding the journalists and refused to respond to the court summons on the matter.

(The Monitor, The Analyst, The Informer ,The Inquirer, Liberian Express, The News, Daily Observer)

Senegalese Mega Star, Akon Arrives in Liberia Today

- Senegalese-born American musical star Aliaune Thiam, popularly known as Akon, is due in the country today, Barkue Tubman has confirmed. Cellcom Liberia announced that a fourteen-man crew of the Senegalese star is expected to land at the Roberts International Airport and would be received by the management of Cellcom GSM, a team of Liberian journalists and other personalities.
- According to Cellcom, upon arrival, Akon and his crew would be taken to a local hotel where they will be hosted until their departure from Liberia. Meanwhile, the Inquirer, Analyst and the News newspapers says all is now set for two explosive musical extravaganzas on tomorrow April 15, 2008, at the nation's two main soccer stadiums. The other show at the Antoinette Tubman Stadium (ATS), will be the musical show organized by the Crusaders for Peace in collaboration with some local Liberian artists. The show at the ATS, according to the organizers, will be free of charge and is expected to commence by 3:00p.m.

Radio Summary

Local Media – Radio Veritas (News monitored today at 9:45 am)

President Sirleaf Addresses the Nation on Key Domestic Issues

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf today addressed the nation on key domestic issues of national concern.
- The address carried live on major radio station in the country focused on matters regarding commodity prices, security, corruption, and the Liberian refugee situation as well as sub-regional affairs.

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

Suspended TRC Commissioner Refuses to Turn over Commission's Properties

Police Challenges Community to Assist in Fighting Crimes

- Speaking during the first Liberia National Police (LNP) advanced community policing graduation, Police Inspector General Beatrice Muna Sieh challenged community members to assist the police fight crimes.
- Col. Sieh said development and job opportunities would be elusive if the crime rate in the country is not curbed.

Star Radio *(News culled from website today at 09:00 am)*

US\$21,000 Armed Robbery at Guthrie

- Correspondents say armed robbers have hijacked an Estate Superintendent of the Guthrie Rubber Plantation in Grand Cape Mount County, Mr. Thomas Bonner, and made away US\$21,000.
- The reports say the incident occurred as Mr. Bonner was on his way to pay employees salary.

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