

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

**PRESS CLIPPINGS**

**Enclosed are clippings of local and international press on the Special Court and related issues obtained by the Press and Public Affairs Office as of:**

Wednesday, 15 March 2006

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

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The Exclusive

Wednesday March 15, 2006

# Taylor To Be Extradited

Special Court Chief Prosecutor Desmond de Silva QC has welcomed an announcement by the Government of Liberia that discusses  
*Contd. page 2*

...to go about their normal business as there is no cause for alarm.

## Taylor To Be Extradited

*From front page*

...ns have began between the Nigerian President, Olusegun Obasanjo, and Liberian President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf to end Charles Taylor temporary asylum in Nigeria. ... heartened by today's announcement which stresses that both the leaders of Nigeria and Liberia are committed to seeing a resolution of this matter which has dragged on since August 2003." said Mr de Silva, adding that "Charles Taylor has been indicted by this international criminal tribunal for his role in the civil conflict in Sierra Leone." The trial of nine indictees at the Special Court are already at an advanced stage. Mr Taylor will enjoy the same rights and safeguards provided to all other indictees under international law. The rights accorded to defendants before international criminal courts are more generous than those in many domestic jurisdictions

The Special Court is an independent tribunal established jointly by the United Nations and the Government of Sierra Leone. It is mandated to bring to justice, those who bear the greatest responsibility for atrocities committed in Sierra Leone after 30 November 1996.

To date, the Prosecutor has indicted thirteen persons on various charges of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other serious violations of international humanitarian laws committed in Sierra Leone. Two indictments were withdrawn following the deaths of the accused. Nine indictees are currently in the custody of the Court and on trial.

The Prosecutor stressed that the Court's mandate covers only persons responsible for crimes in Sierra Leone not in Liberia. He emphasised that he had no intention of issuing indictments against active Liberian politicians or any other specific groups of people.

STAFF LIST

Concord Times

Wednesday, March 15, 2006

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## Local News

# Special Court Prosecutor Welcomes Discussions to Facilitate Transfer of Charles Taylor

Story: Sahr Musa Yamba

Chief Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone Desmond de Silva QC has welcomed discussions to facilitate the transfer of Charles Taylor from Nigeria.

The Chief Prosecutor's welcome came after announcements by the Government of Liberia that discussions have began between the Nigerian President,

Olusegun Obasanjo, and Liberian President Ellen Johnson-Sirriah to end Charles Taylor's temporary asylum in Nigeria.

Desmond de Silva QC says he is "heartened" by the announcement.

He says it stresses that both the leaders of Nigeria and Liberia are committed to seeing a resolution of this matter which has dragged on since August 2003.

The Chief Prosecutor confirmed Charles Taylor has been indicted by the international criminal tribunal for his role in the civil conflict in Sierra Leone.

He recounts the trials of nine indictees at the Special Court are already at an advanced stage.

"Mr Taylor will enjoy the same rights and safeguards provided to all other indictees under international law. The rights

accorded to defendants before international criminal courts are more generous than those in many domestic jurisdictions," the Chief Prosecutor assured.

The Special Court is an independent tribunal established jointly by the United Nations and the Government of Sierra Leone.

It is mandated to bring to justice those who bear the greatest responsibility for atrocities committed in Sierra Leone after 30 November 1996.

To date, the Prosecutor has indicted thirteen persons on various charges of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other serious violations of international humanitarian law committed in Sierra Leone.

Two indictments were withdrawn following the deaths of the accused.

Some indictees are currently in the custody of the Court and on trial.

The Prosecutor stressed that the "Court's mandate covers only persons responsible for crimes in Sierra Leone" not in Liberia.

He emphasized that he had no intention of issuing indictments against active Liberian politicians or any other specific groups of people.

This was in reaction to media reports appearing in Liberia relating concerns to the effect that the Special Court would issue new indictments against Liberian citizens.

On 3 March 2003 the Special Court Prosecutor signed a 17-count indictment alleging war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other serious violations of international humanitarian law.

The indictment was confirmed by the Trial Chamber on 7 March 2003 but ordered kept under seal.

The Prosecutor unsealed the indictment on 4 June 2003, during Taylor's first trip out of Liberia since the signing of the indictment.

On 4 August 2003 Taylor went into exile in Calabar, Nigeria.

On 31 October and 1 November 2003 Taylor's lawyer, the late Terence Terry, introduced a preliminary motion before the Special Court's Appeals Chamber unsuccessfully challenging the Court's jurisdiction to try him.

The motion argued that as President of Liberia, Taylor enjoyed head of state immunity. He also argued that the Court was not an international tribunal and thus had no jurisdiction outside of Sierra Leone.

On 31 May 2004 the Appeals Chamber decided the Special Court was an international court and that a head of state does not enjoy immunity from prosecution before an international court. The motion was consequently dismissed.

On 24 February 2005 the European Parliament unanimously passed a resolution calling for Nigeria to transfer Charles Taylor to the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

On 4 May 2005 the U.S. House of Representatives passed a Resolution, 421-1, calling for Nigeria to transfer Charles Taylor to the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

On 11 May 2005 the U.S. Senate passed the 4 May House Resolution by unanimous consent, joining the call for Nigeria to transfer Charles Taylor to the Special Court for Sierra Leone. On 24 May 2005 members of the United Nations Security Council underlined the importance of ensuring that all those who have been indicted by the Court appear before it, thereby strengthening the stability of Sierra Leone and the sub-region and bringing an end to impunity.

On 30 June 2005 a coalition of up to 300 African and international civil society groups sent

a declaration to the African Union (AU) demanding that Nigeria surrender Charles Taylor to the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

Press conferences were held in 11 countries throughout Africa announcing the declaration.

On 11 November 2005 the UN Security Council passed

resolution 1628 which gave the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) the powers to detain Charles Taylor should he ever be returned to Liberia, and to transfer him to the Special Court. This resolution clearly displays the views of the UN Security Council's that Taylor should be brought to justice at the Special Court.

# From Calaba to Lagos airport...

# Obasanjo writes Charles Taylor



President Obasanjo

...My government will extradite you to Liberia in three weeks time

The "Punch" and "This Day" newspapers of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, two outstanding and widely circulated newspapers have made the news about ex-president Charles Taylor of pending extradition to Liberia public.

The publications were made in the papers Monday 15th edition 2006. Prior to the publications that sent a shock waves through Charles Taylor and some of his friends, it would be recalled that president Olusegun Obasanjo categorically made it clear that when the time is ripe and a fully constituted government is formed in Liberia, he would have to hand

over the former war-lord to the government and people of Liberia on request.

This promise is gradually coming to reality, though with diplomatic and political pressure mounted on the Nigerian government to comply with the norms of the civilized world.

Taylor, Standard Times sources in Nigeria explained, travelled from his Asylum Centre in Calaba to the Mohammed Mutala Airport in Lagos under escort where he met with the Nigerian president and a notification letter handed over to him which contains recent developments that bother on his extradition arrangement to Liberia in

the next three weeks.

"Taylor found himself in a state of dilemma when President Obasanjo broke the news to him followed by the letter," the source remarked.

On Sunday, March 12, 2006 the Nigeria newspapers (Punch & This Day) stated that the president of South Africa, Thabo Mbeki flew to Nigeria where he held talks with President Obasanjo.

The discussion, the paper went on, was centered on Charles Taylor and his possible appearance before the tribunal in Sierra Leone. Prior to the visit of Thabo Mbeki, Liberian president, Her Excellency

*CONTINUED PAGE 11*

Standard Times  
Wednesday March  
15, 2006

## Obasanjo writes Charles Taylor

*FROM PAGE 1*

Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf travelled to Nigeria in the last seven days and held talks with her colleague.

It now appears that ex-president Taylor of Liberia

of the role he played during the eleven-year war in Sierra Leone.

His days are counted as he sleeps.

Our sources say Mrs. Taylor, who is now a sena-

ernment confirmed to the newspapers that her husband had acknowledged receipt of the letter and has already prepared his mind.





AWOKO

WEDNESDAY MARCH 15, 2006

## Charles Taylor's asylum discussed

**S**pecial Court Chief Prosecutor Desmond de Silva QC has welcomed announcement by the Government of Liberia that discussions have began between the Nigerian President, Olusegun Obasanjo, and Liberian President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf to end, Charles Taylor's temporary asylum in Nigeria.

"I am heartened by today's announcement which stresses that both the leaders of Nigeria and Liberia are committed to seeing a resolution of this matter which has dragged on since August 2003", said Mr de Silva

"This International Criminal Tribunal has indicted Charles Taylor for his role in the civil conflict in Sierra Leone", Mr

de Silva said.

The trials of nine indictees at the Special Court are already at an advanced stage.

Mr Taylor will enjoy the same rights and safeguards provided to all other indictees under international law. The rights accorded to defendants before international criminal courts are more generous than those in many domestic jurisdictions.

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From Awareness Times Newspaper in Freetown

## **LOCAL NEWS**

### **UNMIL to conduct military exercise in Sierra Leone**

By Awareness Times

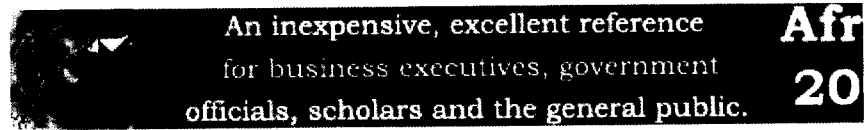
Mar 14, 2006, 18:26

The United Nations Mission in Liberia, which is having the mandate of security oversight over the Special Court in Sierra Leone, will this week conduct military exercises in Freetown, as part of its continuing contingency planning in the country.

A Public Notice from the Special Court of Sierra Leone codenames the exercise "Exercise Blue Outing II" and will involve UN helicopters landing at the Special Court site at New England in Freetown, and the movement of military vehicles in and around the city. The notice states that the exercise will be conducted in cooperation with the United Nations Integrated office in Sierra Leone (UNIOSL), the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF) and the Sierra Leone Police (SLP), who will assist with the movement of the UNMIL road convoys within the Western Area.

The General public is advised to go about their normal business as there is no cause for alarm.

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## Taylor's Extradition Key to Peace

**The Analyst** (Monrovia)

NEWS

March 14, 2006

Posted to the web March 14, 2006

A local child rights advocacy organization, (FOCUS) says the extradition of exiled former Liberian President Charles Taylor to Sierra Leone, is key to achieving justice and political stability in West Africa.

Reacting to reports that the Liberian government has formally requested for the turn over of Taylor to the United Nations backed Special Court in Freetown, FOCUS stressed that Taylor, who has been indicted on 17 counts for war crimes and crimes against humanity, should appear before the court to answer to charges levied against him.

Commenting on apprehensions expressed in certain quarters about the ramification of Taylor's turn over to Sierra Leone, FOCUS asserted that Taylor is not more important than Liberia and as such he must go court to prove his ignorance.

A FOCUS release said the organization believes that if Liberia must adequately engage the international community to bring forth post war reconstruction and reconciliation, it must do so without the stigma of Taylor hanging over it.

The release intimated that Taylor's trial at the international war crimes court in Sierra Leone will serve as a deterrent to individuals and institutions who may be tempted to engage in similar acts.

The release further said the regime of Mr. Charles Taylor was marred by the wanton recruitment and conscription of children into the fighting forces of various militia groups, and it is therefore prudent for him to be tried for allegedly committing crimes against them.

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## U.S.: Support Liberian President in Seeking Taylor's Surrender

14 Mar 2006 18:19:52 GMT

Source: Human Rights Watch

(Washington, D.C., March 15, 2006) – When Liberia's newly elected president visits Washington today, the U.S. government should give her strong support in seeking Charles Taylor's surrender to face trial at the Sierra Leone war crimes court, Human Rights Watch said today. The Bush administration should commit to assist in maintaining stability and democracy in Liberia and toward strengthening U.N. peacekeeping forces there as necessary. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, who was inaugurated as Liberia's president on January 16, is expected to brief a joint session of Congress and meet with U.S. President George W. Bush.

"The Bush administration has played a positive role in pressing for Taylor to face trial at the Sierra Leone war crimes court," said Richard Dicker, director of the International Justice Program at Human Rights Watch. "Now the administration needs to see this through by giving Liberia's new president strong backing to request Taylor's surrender. She should not be expected to shoulder this burden alone."

Over the past two weeks, Sirleaf-Johnson and Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo discussed former Liberian President Charles Taylor, according to news reports. In 2003 Taylor left Liberia for Nigeria. In taking Taylor in as a temporary measure, Nigeria acted with the support of the United States, the African Union and other actors in the international community in efforts to secure a peaceful transition in Liberia.

For his role in Sierra Leone's armed conflict, Taylor has been accused of 17 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity by the Special Court for Sierra Leone. The crimes include killings, mutilations, rape and other forms of sexual violence, sexual slavery, the recruitment and use of child soldiers, abduction, and the use of forced labor by armed groups. The Special Court was set up in 2002 to try those most responsible for war crimes committed during Sierra Leone's armed conflict.

Nigerian President Obasanjo has thus far been reluctant to surrender Charles Taylor to the Special Court, however. He has indicated though, that he would consider surrendering Charles Taylor upon request from a duly-elected Liberian government.

"More than any other individual, Taylor is associated with atrocities and murder in West Africa," said Dicker. "Nigeria

should promptly surrender him to face trial at the Sierra Leone Special Court and immediately comply with any request from Liberia's president for his surrender."

Time is of the essence for Taylor to face trial, Human Rights Watch said. The Special Court is already advanced in its operations, faces major funding difficulties, and will confront increasing international pressure to complete operations.

The U.S. government also needs to send a strong message in support of accountability for serious crimes committed in Liberia, Human Rights Watch said. Liberia's recently inaugurated Truth and Reconciliation Commission provides an important forum for establishing a record of abuses. However, prosecutions for serious crimes will also be essential. Given the devastation of the Liberian justice system, international support is likely to be necessary to rebuild the national courts, including ensuring justice for serious crimes.

"This is a crucial moment for Washington to help West Africa break a devastating cycle of impunity," Dicker said.

**HRW news**

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## Liberian President to Address US Congress

By Dan Robinson  
 Capitol Hill  
 14 March 2006

*Robinson report (Real Audio) - Download 531k* ↻

*Listen to Robinson report (Real Audio)* ↻

*Wednesday the Liberian president will address what is called a joint meeting of Congress, an honor given to foreign leaders, the most recent being Italy's prime minister.*

President Johnson-Sirleaf is expected to receive a warm reception from lawmakers gathered in the House of Representatives chamber.

But her address takes place amid an undercurrent of unease among supporters in Congress of Liberia's political and economic recovery efforts.

Just last week, the House Appropriations Committee approved \$50 million in economic and humanitarian aid as part of a multibillion dollar supplemental bill funding U.S. military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.



**Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf**

Congressman Jesse Jackson Jr. says while the United States has helped Liberia in its peaceful transition from former President Charles Taylor, to President Johnson-Sirleaf, more needs to be done:

"Over the last 2.5 years we have provided resources to Liberia culminating in the successful, transparent and peaceful election of the first female head of state on the African continent and now more than ever we need to ensure that this investment is not squandered," he said.

In the regular 2006 U.S. fiscal year budget, \$128 million was designated for Liberia, a point driven home by Congressman Jim Kolbe who heads the House Foreign Operations Subcommittee.

However, the funding has been held up and Kolbe says congressional appropriators have been waiting for U.S. government agencies to come back with specific plans on how the money will be spent in Liberia, which he agrees is at a crucial point.

"It is fragile, it is extraordinarily fragile," he said. "We have made a tiny baby step forward with the election of the new president there. And we should do everything we can to assist that process."

Lawmakers will be pressing for more money for Liberia as part of the 2007 budget process which will be unfolding in coming months.

South Carolina Congressman Jim Clyburn is among House lawmakers concerned about the fragility of the situation in Liberia, and of President Johnson-Sirleaf's administration.

He says the Liberian leader needs to be able to return home with some tangible results in the form of aid commitments:

"I believe it is important for us to show some support for this great woman, who was educated in this country, and who I believe will be an outstanding symbol for freedom and justice," said Clyburn. "We need to support her."

"The first female in Africa, in the history of the [Liberian] nation," said Congresswoman Carolyn Kilpatrick. "The continent of Africa is two-and-a-half times the size of the U.S. [and] not without its problems. But [this will be] an opportunity to build real communities and countries with resources that can partner with the United States of America."

President Johnson-Sirleaf's visit to Washington follows the visit to Liberia in January of a U.S. delegation led by Laura Bush, and including Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, to attend the Liberian leader's inauguration.

Congresswoman Nita Lowey says she expects the Liberian president to give President Bush, whom she meets next week, and other government officials specifics about plans for reconstruction in the wake of Liberia's long and bloody civil conflict:

"It is my understanding that President Johnson-Sirleaf does have a plan, in addition to the \$128 million," she said. "There are infrastructure projects. It is critical that we respond positively, in my judgment, to her request."

"Liberia is at a crucial turning point," said Congressman Jesse Jackson Jr. "The next few months will be critical in determining whether peace and democracy prevail, or whether political instability, the threat of violence, rampant corruption, and criminality burgeon anew."

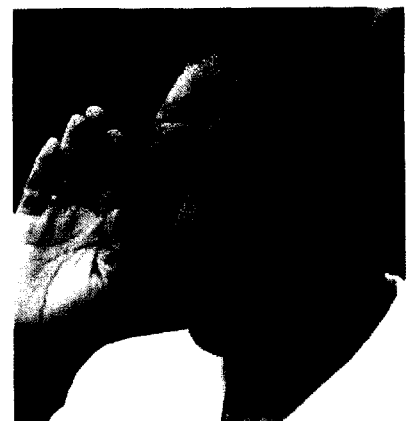
Among pledges she has made since taking office in Liberia, President Johnson-Sirleaf says she wants to bring back electricity to the capital, Monrovia, by this July's 159th anniversary of Liberia's independence.

U.S. lawmakers say this and other reconstruction hopes may be dashed without a commitment of substantial new U.S. aid.

Members of Congress, meanwhile, are also concerned about threats posed by former president Charles Taylor who remains in exile in Nigeria.

There have been conflicting reports this week about whether Liberia has submitted a request to Nigeria to extradite Taylor to face war crimes charges before the U.N.-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone.

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**Charles Taylor**  
(2003 file photo)



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## **Defendant's chair empty as UN closes Milosevic trial**

14 Mar 2006 12:14:46 GMT

Source: Reuters

(Recasts with colour, quotes, background)

By Alexandra Hudson

THE HAGUE, March 14 (Reuters) - The defendant's chair stood empty at Slobodan Milosevic's marathon war crimes trial on Tuesday as the court sat for the last time.

Stony-faced judges formally closed the trial and expressed regret they would not come to a verdict because of Milosevic's death in prison on Saturday, which has dealt a major blow to the U.N. court.

The seat at the back of the court usually reserved for Milosevic, always in the company of a guard, was vacant.

"His death terminates these proceedings," Presiding Judge Patrick Robinson told Courtroom One of the Hague tribunal, which had witnessed four years of jousting between Milosevic, judges and prosecutors since his trial started on Feb. 12, 2002.

"We express our regret at his passing. We also regret that his untimely death has deprived not only him, but indeed all interested parties, of a judgement upon the allegations in the indictment," the Jamaican judge said.

Judge Robinson took over as presiding judge in 2004 from Britain's Richard May, who stepped down due to ill health and died just months later after two years sparring with Milosevic.

"We express our thanks to all those who participated in these long and difficult proceedings," Robinson said.

Lawyers including chief U.N. war crimes prosecutor Carla del Ponte listened intently to Robinson's brief statement.

### **TIME WASTING**

Milosevic had been due to wrap up his defence in the next few weeks and a verdict on charges of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity had been expected within months. He would have faced a life sentence if convicted.

He had spent the last few months lobbying the court for a release to be treated for his heart condition and high blood pressure in Moscow, where his wife, son and brother live.

A preliminary autopsy report showed Milosevic had died of a heart attack. But a Dutch expert said blood tests taken before he died suggested the 64-year-old had knowingly taken medicines to worsen his health and improve his case for going to Russia.

Judge Robinson, who had repeatedly accused Milosevic of wasting time, cut him off last month and ordered him to continue examining a witness when he complained that the court's refusal to allow him to go to Russia was unjust.


Milosevic had wanted to call 200 witnesses in his defence including former U.S. President Bill Clinton and British Prime Minister Tony Blair, who he accused of war crimes during NATO's 11-week bombing campaign to stop a Serb clampdown in Kosovo.

Denouncing the court as victor's justice and refusing to enter a plea, Milosevic had been expected to demand more time as he had only called a fraction of the witnesses on his list.

Edgar Chen, from the Washington-based Coalition for International Justice which monitors the trial, said the court had done its utmost to ensure proceedings were fair.

"It was a dance between Milosevic and the judges," he said.

"Even though we won't have a legal judgement against him, he has been brought to justice. He was indicted, he was removed from power... He died in a jail cell."

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## Milosevic body to head to Serbia

**The body of former Yugoslav president Slobodan Milosevic will be flown from the Netherlands to the Serbian capital, Belgrade, in the next few hours.**

Mr Milosevic's son Marko is with the body, which lay overnight in the morgue at Schiphol airport, Amsterdam.

The transfer ends days of wrangling over Mr Milosevic's resting place.

On Wednesday a Russian doctor reviewing the results of an autopsy conducted on Mr Milosevic agreed with Dutch doctors that he died of a heart attack.

**This [burial in Serbia] would be only natural for a man who had led the country for such a long period**

Milorad Vucelic  
Serbian Socialist party vice-president

Mr Milosevic's family has accused the UN war crimes tribunal at The Hague of causing the former president's death by refusing to allow him to travel to Russia for medical treatment.

The news that Mr Milosevic's body would be returned to Serbia was announced on state television in Belgrade on Tuesday night by Milorad Vucelic, a long-standing friend of the former president and now vice-president of his party.

Earlier, Mr Vucelic told the BBC that his party insisted on a funeral in Mr Milosevic's homeland.

"That would be only natural for a man who had led the country for such a long period," he said.

The former president led Serbia through the Balkan wars of the 1990s.

### Burial plot battle

However, there are fears the event could trigger an outpouring of nationalist emotion.

The far-right opposition Radical Party has threatened to bring 100,000 sympathisers to Belgrade airport to welcome the arrival of Mr Milosevic's body.

Since the death of Mr Milosevic at the age of 64, negotiations have been under way between party officials and Belgrade City Council.

The first plot proposed by the council was inappropriate, according to party officials.

They have demanded an area suitable for a large funeral and accessible to well-wishers to the grave in the future. The date of the funeral has not been set.

Marko Milosevic had been pushing for a burial in Serbia and had accused the authorities of trying to prevent it.

Marko, who believes his father was murdered, had earlier said he might consider a funeral in Moscow if his mother's safety could not be guaranteed in Serbia.

Mr Milosevic's widow, Mira Markovic, has been living in self-imposed exile in Russia, fearing arrest on fraud charges if she returns to Serbia.

### **Assassination questions**

But Tuesday's decision by a Belgrade court to suspend an arrest warrant against her means she could now potentially attend a funeral in the Serbian capital.

The court has, however, said that she must surrender her passport on arrival and appear before a judge in connection with the fraud charges on 23 March.

Lawyers have posted a bond worth \$18,000 (£10,000) to guarantee her appearance in court to face relatively minor corruption charges.

Police also want to question her about the assassination in 2000 of former Serbian president Ivan Stambolic - a political rival of her late husband.

Full results from an autopsy conducted on Mr Milosevic by Dutch authorities on Sunday are still awaited, but a toxicologist who found traces of drugs in Mr Milosevic's blood two weeks before his death said they may have neutralised treatment for his heart conditions.

The findings have not been confirmed, but have raised questions over what caused Mr Milosevic's heart attack.

The international war crimes tribunal insists Mr Milosevic received competent medical supervision.

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**UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 14 March 2006**

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

**International Clips on Liberia****Liberia denies formal extradition request for Taylor**

MONROVIA, March 13, 2006 (AFP) - The Liberian government Monday denied it has sent a formal extradition request for former strongman Charles Taylor to Nigeria, but said there have been recent talks on the matter between President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and Nigerian leader Olusegun Obasanjo. "The Liberian government confirms the existence of summary notes recording the conclusions from discussions held between President Sirleaf and President Obasanjo... during the Liberian leader's recent visit to Abuja," said Information Minister Johnny McClain in a statement.

03/14/2006 06:46:01

**UNMIL vows to deal decisively with troublemakers in Liberia**

Monrovia\_ (dpa) \_ The United Nations peacekeeping force in **Liberia** (UNMIL) has vowed to deal decisively with anyone who threatens the peace and security of the country, reports said Tuesday. "So let me take this occasion to again make it clear that UNMIL will intervene robustly to deal with any attempt from any quarter that threatens the security of the state," press reports quoted UNMIL head Alan Doss as saying.

**VOA****Liberian President Comes to Washington Looking for Help**

By James Butty

Washington, 14 March 2006

*President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia, Africa's first elected woman president, arrives in the United States Tuesday for an official visit. While here, she will meet with President Bush and address a joint session of the U.S. Congress as well as the U.N. Security Council. Sirleaf is looking for money to begin the task of reconstructing her war-torn country.*

**Liberia: Civilians Want Ex-Fighters Out of Rubber Plantation**

Klay, Mar 13, 2006 (UN Integrated Regional Information Networks/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) --Citizens around **Liberia's** second largest rubber plantation are calling on the new government in the interest of safety to evacuate once and for all the hundreds of ex-combatants squatting at the site since 2003. Residents near the Guthrie Plantation northwest of the capital Monrovia say they no longer feel secure in the area where they say the ex-rebels rule - illegally tapping rubber and damaging the environment, extorting money from merchants and transporters, and robbing citizens at will.

## **International Clips on West Africa**

### **Ivory Coast rebel leader rejoins government, holds rare meeting with president**

By SERME LASSINA

Source: AP WorldStream English (all)

Date: March 14, 2006

**ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast**—The leader of Ivory Coast rebels returned to the government-held south for the first time in a year and a half, holding a rare meeting with President Laurent Gbagbo Tuesday. Rebel leader Guillaume Soro flew from the rebel-held stronghold of Bouake to the southern, government-held commercial capital **Abidjan** and held two hours of talks with Gbagbo that he described afterward as "fruitful."

## **Local Media – Newspapers**

### **Nigeria and South Africa Discuss Taylor's Fate**

*(New Democrat, Heritage, New Vision and The Informer)*

- A Nigerian newspaper, *Thisday*, reported yesterday that South African President Thabo Mbeki had travelled to Abuja, Nigeria, on Sunday to hold talks with President Obasanjo on the future of former Liberian leader Charles Taylor. Presidential Spokeswoman Oluremi Oyo confirmed that the two leaders had discussed the issue at length.

### **Lawmaker Supports Taylor's Prosecution**

*(The Forum)*

- Nimba County Senior Senator Prince Y. Johnson said in Monrovia yesterday that he supported calls by the international community to extradite Taylor to face trial for war crimes in Freetown, Sierra Leone. He argued that as a founding member of the United Nations, Liberia and its citizens must support UN efforts at promoting justice and the rule of law, such as the establishment of the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

### **Pro-Democracy Groups Calls for Taylor's Extradition**

*(Daily Observer and Heritage)*

- Several pro-democracy organizations in Liberia, including the Center for Peace Education and Democracy, Campaign for the Promotion of Democracy and the child rights advocacy group FOCUS said yesterday that they welcome the move by President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf to ensure the prosecution of her predecessor Taylor for war crimes. The groups said that this would eradicate the culture of impunity and restore the rule of law in the sub-region.

### **UN Envoy Says UNMIL Will Respond Robustly to Threats against Peace**

*(The News and New Democrat)*

- Speaking yesterday at a medal award ceremony of the UNMIL Swedish contingent, Special Representative of the Secretary-General Alan Doss said that UNMIL was prepared to deal robustly with any attempt from any quarter that threatens the security of the state. The warning comes amid growing tension in Monrovia in the wake of reported attempts to transfer former leader Taylor to the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

### **Chief Justice Deplores Corruption in Judiciary**

*(Daily Observer, The News, The Inquirer, The Analyst, The Informer and Liberian Diaspora)*

- Speaking yesterday during the official seating of the Supreme Court Bench, Chief Justice Johnny Lewis said his stewardship would not tolerate acts of inefficiency and corruption in the judiciary.

### **Local Media – Radio Veritas** *(News monitored yesterday at 18:45 pm)*

#### **President Confirms Requesting for Former President’s Handover**

- Speaking to journalists Monday, Information Minister Johnny McClain said that President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf had prepared and signed a summary note from talks with Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo on the fate of former President Charles Taylor.

*(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)*

#### **Presidents Obasanjo and Mbeki Confer on Taylor’s Fate**

*(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)*

#### **UNMIL to Respond Harshly to Security Threats**

*(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)*

#### **Chief Justice to Clampdown on Corrupt Judges**

*(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)*

### **ELBS RADIO** *(News monitored yesterday at 19:00 pm)*

#### **Police Recover Solicitor-General’s Computer from Thieves**

- Acting Liberian National Police (LNP) Inspector-General Alfred Karley said that police yesterday recovered a laptop computer allegedly stolen from a parked jeep belonging to Solicitor General Tiawan Gongloe. Mr. Karley said that the LNP ‘CRASH’ Unit had retrieved the computer from suspect Josiah Johnson who is being held in police custody.

### **STAR RADIO** *(News culled from website today at 09:00 am)*

#### **Immigration Detail Monitors Cross Border Movements**

- In an interview with STAR Radio, Ganta Deputy Immigration Commander Betty Benson said that the detail was closely monitoring users of the Liberia-Guinea border by frequenting the main bridge linking the two countries to a chain 12 hours daily.

*Complete versions of the UNMIL International Press Clips, UNMIL Daily Liberian Radio Summary and UNMIL Liberian Newspapers Summary are posted each day on the UNMIL Bulletin Board. If you are unable to access the UNMIL Bulletin Board or would like further information on the content of the summaries, please contact Mr. Jeddi Armah at [armahj@un.org](mailto:armahj@un.org).*