

**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:**

Tuesday, 15 November 2005

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.  
If you are aware of omissions or have any comments or suggestions please contact  
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## Order for Taylor's arrest

Charles Taylor, former president of Liberia now in asylum in Nigeria, is no longer at ease as the UN is now tightening the noose around him.

The new controversial  
Contd Page 2



# Arrest Taylor!

president of Liberia Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, whose election has been challenged by George Weah, is expected to turn over Taylor to the Special Court in Freetown. The U.N. Security Council has passed an important resolution by unanimous vote (15-0) giving the UN peacekeeping force in Liberia the authority to apprehend and detain Charles Taylor if he returns to Liberia and to transfer him or facilitate his transfer to the Special Court for Sierra Leone. The Security Council has sent a strong signal to Ni-

gerian president Obasanjo that Taylor must face trial at the Special Court where he is indicted on war crimes and crimes against humanity. President Obasanjo had been insistent that Taylor was granted asylum in consultation with the West especially the US. Sierra Leoneans, on the other hand, have been blaming the US for dragging its feet in putting pressure on Nigeria.

There is the prevailing fear that if the Special Court for Sierra Leone fails to apprehend and try

Taylor it may lose popularity its essence negated. The recent UN resolution mandates the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) to apprehend and detain former President Charles Taylor in the event of a return to Liberia and to transfer him or facilitate his transfer to Sierra Leone for prosecution before the Special Court for Sierra Leone and to keep the Liberian Government, the Sierra Leonean Government and keep the Security Council fully informed.

## Charles Taylor To Stay in Nigeria

A resolution passed by the United Nations Security Council has commended the government of President Olusegun Obasanjo and the people of Nigeria for their contributions to restoring stability in Liberia and the ECOWAS region.

While being silent on Taylor's return to Sierra Leone from Nigeria to face the Special Court, the resolution effectively restricted Taylor's movement to that country and acknowledged the fact that Nigeria acted with broad international support when it decided to provide temporary stay for him (Taylor).



*Taylor: a bit of respite*

The Security Council then gave extra powers to the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) to apprehend and detain

Charles Taylor in the event of his return to Liberia and to transfer him to Sierra Leone for prosecution by the Special Court.

Exclusive

15 November 2005

## Arrest Taylor Anytime...

Security Council Orders UNMIL

Sirleaf, to ensure that the extradition of Mr Taylor to Sierra Leone, for him to account for his role in fueling the decade long turmoil in

the country, occupies a priority position on her governance agenda when she shall have assumed office in January.

According to our reporter who is presently covering the elections in Liberia, Washington's arm twisting of Mrs Sirleaf to ensure the

*Contd. page 2*

### "Arrest Taylor Anytime..."

*From front page*

extradition of Mr Taylor to Sierra Leone, even prior to her assumption of office, has plunged Mrs Sirleaf in dilemma. Mrs Sirleaf, our reporter stated, would have preferred bygone to remain bygone. But because she wholly depends on The United States support in rebuilding the country's battered economy and infrastructure both private and public, she is now left with no choice but to comply with the US demands.

Meanwhile, the United Nations Security Council, in Resolution ( 1638 ) passed unanimously on 11 November 2005, has granted the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) a Chapter VII, the mandate to arrest Charles Taylor, the former Liberian President, if he returns to his country.

Charles Taylor was indicted on 3 March, 2003; by the Special Court for Sierra Leone on a 17 count indictment for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed during the brutal decade-long conflict in Sierra Leone. Mr Taylor has evaded arrest and since August 2003, has been in exile in Nigeria, where he was granted asylum. The charges against him include terrorising the civilian population, unlawful killings, sexual violence, physical violence, forced conscription of child soldiers, abductions, forced labour, looting and burning and attacks on United Nations peacekeeping personnel.

Following last Friday's unanimous resolution, Desmond de Silva QC, Chief Prosecutor of the Special Court, stated:

"The United Nations Security Council resolution made two important points:

1. Taylor's stay in Nigeria is temporary and was always intended to be so;
  2. He should be in detention awaiting trial in Freetown, at the Special Court.
- "Nigeria played a leadership role in 2003 by removing Taylor from Liberia so that the war could come to an end. President Obasanjo now needs to play an even greater regional leadership role by supporting the development of the rule of law and justice in the region by transferring Taylor to the Special Court to face justice immediately."

The Security Council resolution underscores the international community's commitment to see Charles Taylor stand trial before the international criminal tribunal in Sierra Leone. This resolution follows previous European Parliament and US Congress resolutions calling for the transfer of Taylor to the Special Court. The fact that it was passed in the immediate aftermath of the successful parliamentary and presidential elections in Liberia, is also significant and highlights the importance of ensuring that the former Head of State, remains out of Liberia to allow the country to move toward stability under the leadership of a new democratically-elected president.

## UNMIL mandated to arrest Charles Taylor

*Story: Abdul Karim Koroma*  
The United Nations (UN) Security Council past Friday mandated the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) to facilitate the transfer of Charles Taylor

to the Special Court and keep the Security Council. Liberian and Sierra Leonean governments fully informed, a release from the UN states.

*Continued page 3*

### UNMIL mandated to arrest Charles Taylor

*From page 1*

The UN Security Council observed that the return of Charles Taylor to Liberia would constitute an impediment to that country's stability and a threat to its peace.

"Unanimously adopting resolution 1638 (2005) under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, the Council decided also that, as a part of its additional mandate, the former President remained under indictment by the Court," the release states and added the Council also expressed its appreciation to Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo for his country's contribution to restoring stability in Liberia and the West African sub region.

However, Brazil believed that na-

tional institutions should exercise the promotion of the rule of law while Argentina joined the consensus on the understanding that post-conflict peace building in Liberia must be conducted with respect for law and justice.

Meanwhile, Human Rights Watch in a mail to Concord Times welcomed the UN Security Council resolution, which empowers UNMIL to apprehend and detain Taylor if he returns to Liberia and hand him over to the Special Court.

Human Rights Watch indicated that the UN Security Council has sent a strong message to president Obasanjo that Taylor must face trial for crimes he committed against humanity.

**SIERRA LEONE EVENING PRESS REVIEW**  
**UNAMSIL**  
**Monday 14 November 2005**

**ECONOMY**

The Director of Legal Affairs of the National Social Insurance Trust (NASSIT) has disclosed that his institution is putting modalities in place for employers to register their employees with the scheme. Mr. Mohamed Sengu Koroma, said their legal team has enough capacity to justify and substantiate certain sections of the Act which calls for such an action when the need arose, though punishment for non-compliance would result to prosecution.

**HUMAN RIGHTS**

Authorities at the Government Secondary School for Boys Magburaka, in the north, have expelled 200 pupils for failing to meet the requirements of promotion set by the school administration for the 2004/2005 academic year. Those expelled are from the senior secondary school who could not pass the set requirements of three compulsory subjects and two optional subjects.

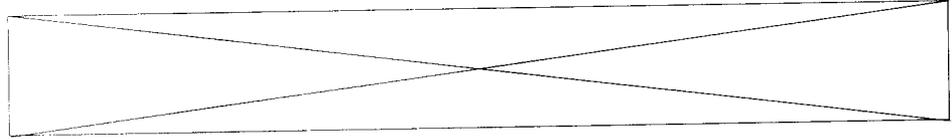
**INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT**

UNDP has provided US \$ 153,000 for waste management to the Koidu New Sembehun Town Council, Kono, in the east. The Chairman of the Council, Mrs. Mary Musa has told reporters that the UNDP has budgeted this amount for her council to help buy equipment for clearing garbage, and to help institute a sustainable waste management system.

The Government and People of China have donated assorted items to the National Electoral Commission (NEC) as support ahead of the 2007 Presidential and Parliamentary elections. The Chinese Charge d'Affaires Mr. Dia Friday presented four computers, a motorbike, and two eleven KVA generators to the Chairperson of NEC, Ms. Christiana Thorpe.

**OBITUARY**

Veteran Philanthropist, poet, and Managing Director of the premier national security agency in Sierra Leone, Major Abu Noah (Rtd) died at his Freetown residence early Saturday morning. He was the founder and proprietor of the Mount Everest Security Agency (MESA). He has already been buried.



## The President's Burden #1: Extradite Taylor, Or...

**The Analyst** (Monrovia)

NEWS

November 14, 2005

Posted to the web November 14, 2005

The Liberian presidency over the last half century conjures up images of superior presidency and all the power trappings that can be mustered by 'monarchic democracy', of socio-economic affluence amongst the ruling elites that ignored creeping mass poverty and illiteracy, of presidential yachts, and of wasteful state banquets that played the 'love of people' refrains.

It is these images, which had seeped into the psyche of most Liberian politicians, for the most part rather than strategic variation in agenda and priorities, that drew 22 Liberians into the October 11 presidential race.

But there is no doubting that these images have been swept away in recent changes in the aura of Liberia's political governance such that they are no more than mirages.

For, it seems clear that rather than basking in the luxury of power trappings, the Liberian post-war president is bound to be caught between the scissors, battling at two fronts that appear diametrically opposed in priorities.

In the domestic front, the president will be confronting mass poverty, soaring unemployment, and early restoration of basic social services: water, electricity, health and education facilities. In the international front where impunity is such a deadly menace to stability in Africa and the ECOWAS subregion, the early extradition of Charles Taylor to face his accusers in neighboring Sierra Leone seems a priority.

Interestingly, the success of the domestic program will depend on massive international support. So where is the priority, is the apparent catch-22 situation.

Will the electorates listen and bear with the presidency in getting the Taylor factor out of the way that may occupy the agenda of the Executive Mansion from the word go? The European Union, the Security Council of the United Nations, and some members of the U.S. Congress have no doubt about what constitutes the new president's priority.

The Analyst's Staff Writer has been looking through the files and at messages from Washington.

The UN Security Council, the European Union, and the Chair of the House Subcommittee on Africa, Rep. Ed Royce of California, say tackling impunity will pave the way for international cooperation with the incoming Liberian government.

Statements issued by the powerful global and regional organizations and influential member of one of the most powerful parliaments in the world are unanimous that the place the new president must begin in tackling Liberia's problems is fighting impunity by being an active part of efforts to send Charles Taylor to the tribunal in Sierra Leone as well as fighting domestic corruption.

This suggests to political commentators that unlike what most Liberian politicians had thought, there will be no early pageantry, fanfare, and picnicking as it were in the past when the Executive Mansion played the game the way it saw fit while the society rotted away in squalor and the rule of law gave in to expediency and the passion of the power that was while the international community played the toothless bulldog.

In the words of Mrs. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, it means that hard decisions befitting a one-term president will have to be made.

In a statement last week in which the European Union Observer Mission to Liberia praised the conduct of the Liberian runoff polls, Chief Observer Max van den Berg, said in order to create a democratic and secure future for Liberia, the new government, Senate and House of Representatives must end the climate of impunity by cooperating fully with the international community to ensure that former president Charles Taylor and others accused of war crimes are swiftly brought to court.

Unless that is done and done in line with the global peace agenda of the EU, Berg seemed to have said, Liberia has a narrow chance of benefiting from EU's assistance program for the reconstruction of Liberia.

He however noted that the EU would require the new leaders to also put the people of Liberia first by showing zero tolerance for corruption, ending impunity, giving priority to education and the United Nations millennium goals.

"If they do this, then these historic elections, held in an environment free from fear, could mark the starting point of a mutual contract between Liberia and the international community for the future peace and development," he said.

Extraditing Taylor seems secondary to war-weary Liberians who are keener on the early restoration of basic social services like electricity, water, and education and health facilities than on a wider question of global and regional security.

But what must be noted, observers say, is it is not only the EU that believes in the priority of the Taylor factor. In a resolution passed unanimously last Friday, the United Nations Security Council stressed the importance of the extradition of Taylor to Sierra Leone in a frontline fight against impunity.

"Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, the Security Council] decides that the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) shall include the following additional element: to apprehend and detain former President Charles Taylor in the event of his return to Liberia and to transfer him or facilitate his transfer to Sierra Leone for prosecution before the Special Court for Sierra Leone and to keep the Liberian Government, the Sierra Leonean Government, and the Council fully informed," says Security Council Resolution 1639(2005) passed last Friday during the 5304th meeting of the Security Council.

The resolution seems directed at UNMIL with no bearing on the incoming government but not if parallel messages coming from the EU and the US Congress are taken into account.

The EU expects an early request for and extradition of Taylor to Sierra Leone by the incoming government of Liberia, apparently relying on the position of the government of President Olusegun Obasanjo that Nigeria will release Taylor only to an elected government in Liberia.

Analysts say Resolution 1639(2005) may have no objective other than to prepare for Taylor's arrest and transfer in the event that the incoming government of Liberia succeeded in prevailing on Nigeria to send him to Liberia.

This seems apparent when a message from Congressman Ed Royce to presidential front-runner Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf is considered.

"I congratulate Mrs. Johnson-Sirleaf and the Liberian people on this electoral achievement. The election was historic. This exercise in democracy represents an opportunity for a new start for Liberia, and for Charles Taylor to be brought to the bar of justice," Royce said in a letter dated November 11, 2005.

Royce believes any civilian government in Monrovia is bound to face security bottlenecks and hurdles as long as Taylor remains in the custody of Nigeria while influencing political developments in Liberia.

He believes, without elaboration, that a Johnson-Sirleaf presidency is most likely to handle the Taylor factor: "Even in his Nigerian asylum, Charles Taylor is a threat to the people of Liberia. As long as he remains out of the reach of the Special Court, the future of West Africa will be in jeopardy. History would look well on Johnson-Sirleaf if she uses her new status to press President Obasanjo to immediately transfer Taylor to Sierra Leone."

He iterated Congress' willingness to work with the Liberian government to confront the Taylor factor in addition to the many challenges facing Liberia and urged her to cooperate in those regards.

"The United States and many other governments strongly support the Court and its mandate, and I urge you to do likewise. In my view, progress in Liberia, and the international community's considerable investment in your country, remains in jeopardy as long as Mr. Taylor is permitted to elude justice," Rep. Royce said.

The Congressional Africa Subcommittee chair recalled Nigeria's reluctance to extradite Taylor in spite of numerous of calls from the U.S. Congress to do so and hoped that the new Liberian government would do so.

"Nevertheless, I request that you call for the Nigerian government to deliver Mr. Taylor immediately to the Court, so that justice can be done and Liberia can enjoy better prospects for prosperity," he noted.

While calling on Madam Sirleaf to turn her "strong democratic mandate" into an instrument to fight impunity, he made it clear that the issue of Taylor would be paramount to U.S. relations with Liberia.

"Please understand that I do not make my request of you lightly. I chaired the Subcommittee on Africa for eight years, focusing much of my attention on West Africa. In my view, progress in Liberia, and the international community's considerable investment in your country, remains in jeopardy as long as Mr. Taylor is permitted to elude justice," Royce emphasized.

Just as Ms Elise Keppler, a counsel of the International Justice Program of Human Rights Watch, is elated by the position of the Security Council, calling it a message that Obasanjo must get, back home the message seems nothing less than the president's burden number one considering what prior priorities had been set.

This big international concern about Taylor, though, played neither in the security consciousness of the average Liberian nor in the agendas of public office seekers.

The fact is politicians and ordinary Liberians have not viewed the Taylor factor as crucial to the nation's stability. The need to wipe impunity and eradicate corruption showed as major campaign issues, but they were not tied to Taylor and the Sierra Leonean court, analysts observed.

How this factor will take the front seat of the priority program of the new government, they say, is a major question especially in view of seeming consensus that Liberians will not go into the business of court litigation to settle issues related to war atrocities.

In Accra in 2003, delegates opted for informal arbitration of the cruelty of the Liberian civil war under the guidance of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and international facilitators including the U.S., EU, and the UN concurred.

With this understanding which was not called in for review or questioned at any time during the life of the NTGL, Chairman Bryant joined the international community in commending Nigeria for removing Taylor to facilitate the peace process in Liberia, implicitly dismissing suggestions that Liberia must request the extradition of Taylor in the face of Nigeria's intransigence.

Perhaps following Bryant's footsteps, and taking care not to anger Taylor's followers in the country whose support was crucial in presenting one of the presidential candidates as a unifier, no presidential contender including Madam Sirleaf, pledge support to international efforts to extradite Taylor upon assuming power.

"We will study the situation. We will take a decision in line with the interest of the Liberian people when we get there," Mrs. Sirleaf is recalled as saying when she was asked by journalists to comment on Taylor's extradition to Sierra Leone.

This position, which has not changed, was repeated by other candidates for president, including George Weah of CDC.

Now that the next president is likely to happen onto a catch-22 situation where domestic expectations versus international security concerns, where the former relies heavily on the latter for form and substance, and where exclusive concern for the latter will stir up domestic tension, the question many are asking is what is the proper way forward?

Already, followers of Taylor, sensing that the extradition issue, may crop up shortly after the elections strategically positioned themselves where they hope to influence the position of the new Liberian government.

Allen, Goodridge, and former first lady, Jewel Howard-Taylor, are securely in the camp of UP. NPP's VIP Paygai moved into the camp of CDC while NPP's presidential candidate, Massaquoi, took a center position to monitor the situation, with many say, sympathy for CDC.

During the horse-trading the followed the first round election, it needs no saying that the issue of security played high. How the compromises reached and the promises made will affect the issue now coming up remains to be seen, observers say.

What remains to be seen also, analysts say, is which side the coming government will dare annoy: flout international request and press ahead with the reconciliation agenda that has no place for Taylor and his Sierra Leone court, lost international support for reconstruction.

And risk tension amongst the population, or hearken to the call of the international community, get the support EU threats to withhold in the absence of cooperation, tackle domestic problems, but risk allegations of betrayal, insincerity, and vendetta peddling and therefore been labeled as incapable of playing the crucial unifier?

Many have no doubt that the president is bound for trouble, but analysts say there is not much of a problem if the international and domestic agendas of the incoming president are counterbalanced to produce effects that address international concerns without necessarily upsetting the domestic agenda of reconciliation and the provision of basic social services.

How that will be achieved remains largely a theory that begs form, substance, and smart implementation mechanism.

This though makes the Liberian post-war presidency not the usual playground for unbridled power play but the ground where the faint-hearted and undecided dare not tread. Meanwhile, UP leads by 59.6%, while CDC follows with 40.4%

# Daily OBSERVER

Taylor Ordered Arrested

Published: **14 November, 2005**

**MONROVIA, November 14** – The United Nations Security Council has adopted resolution number 1638 (2005) calling for the apprehension and transfer of exiled former Liberian president Charles Taylor to the UN backed Special Court in Sierra Leone on charges of war crimes and crime against humanity.

The resolution which was adopted on November 11 now empowers the United Nations Mission In Liberia (UNMIL) to apprehend, detain and transfer Former President Charles Taylor to the UN Special Court in Sierra Leone once he returns to Liberia.

According to a release covering the Council's meeting, the return of Charles Taylor to Liberia would “constitute an impediment to the country's stability and a threat to its peace.”

Taylor, under heavy military pressures from rebels, accepted Nigeria's offer of asylum in August 2003, paving the way for a peace deal designed to end Liberia's bloody war.

Stressing that the former president remained under indictment by the court and affirming Liberia's political independence, the Council also expressed its appreciation to Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo for his country's contribution to restoring stability in Liberia and the West African sub-region.

The Council acknowledged that Nigeria had acted with broad international support in its decision to provide for Mr. Taylor's temporary stay in that country.

The Security Council gave additional mandate to the UNMIL to keep the governments of Liberia and Sierra Leone, as well as the Council fully informed should they have to transfer or facilitate the transfer of the former president.

Speaking after the vote to adopt the resolution, Ambassador Henrique of Brazil explained that he had joined the consensus to reflect his country's firm commitment to the settlement of all conflicts in Africa. However, the Brazillian delegation believed that the promotion of the rule of law should be exercised by national institutions with international assistance if requested. Adherence to the rule of law should be based on the strict observance of a country's domestic framework, as

well as international law.

Also speaking after the vote, Martín García Moritán of Argentina said he had joined the consensus on the understanding that post-conflict peacebuilding in Liberia must be conducted with respect for rule of law and justice. Impunity sent a bad signal for the future and undermined a genuine process of national reconciliation.

For that reason, the statement said Argentina supported the mission's mandate with full respect for Liberia's sovereignty and legal order, and in coordination with its government, to apprehend Mr. Taylor and facilitate his transfer to the Special Court.

The Special Court is an independent tribunal established jointly by the United Nations and the government of Sierra Leone in 2002 to try serious violations of international and humanitarian law, such as war crimes and crimes against humanity, committed since 1996 at the height of that country's 1991-2002 civil war.

Mr. Taylor and 11 others indicted by the court are charged with war crimes, crimes against humanity and other serious violations of international humanitarian law. All but two of the indictees, including Mr. Taylor are in the custody of the Special court in Sierra Leone.

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## Thisday Online (Nigeria)

<http://www.thisdayonline.com/nview.php?id=33332>

### **War Crimes in Africa**

By Fatima Waziri, 11.14.2005

“In the prospect of an international criminal court lies the promise of universal justice. That is the simple and soaring hope of this vision. We are close to its realisation. We will do our part to see it through till the end. We ask you to do yours in our struggle to ensure that no ruler, no state, no junta and no army anywhere can abuse human rights with impunity. Only then will the innocents of distant wars and conflicts know that they, too, have rights, and that those who violate those rights will be punished.”

- Kofi Annan, United Nations Secretary-General

In the last 50 years, there have been many instances of crimes against humanity for which no individual have been held accountable. Over the last 10 years at least eighteen countries in Africa have been consumed by war, usually internal. Africans have suffered catastrophic war crimes and horrific human rights abuses. The 1994 Rwandan genocide took nearly a million lives. Sierra Leone suffered a war whose signature atrocity was forced amputations, with many child victims. Millions have died due to the civil strife in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo over the last several years. Civil war in Sudan between North and South has taken over two million lives.

More than two million people have been forced from their homes and at least 180,000 have died in the conflict between the government and Darfur rebels. The conflict began in early 2003, after a rebel group began attacking government targets, claiming that the region was being neglected by Khartoum. Despite the body of treaties, laws and conventions aimed at protecting civilians during times of war, civilians are more and more often the targeted by both state and non-state actors. The methods they employ include mass slaughter, the use of terror, ethnic cleansing, and forced migration. Wars on the Africa continent are increasingly fought by forced recruits, often children who are ripped away from their families and turned into killers.

In armed conflicts in Mozambique, Liberia, El Salvador and other countries, there has been tremendous loss of civilian lives, including horrifying numbers of unarmed women and children. Massacres of civilians continue in Algeria and the Great Lakes region of Africa.

If a storm can be described as perfect, then the war in the Democratic Republic of Congo (formerly Zaire) in the second half of the 1990s was the “perfect war”. Precipitated by the 1994 genocide in Rwanda and the fall of the West’s client kleptocrat, President Mobutu, and his rotten state, the war in DR Congo was dubbed Africa’s First World War. It directly involved the armed forces of six neighboring states. It drew in factions and rebel groups from other African wars, the remnant armies of defunct neighboring regimes, and the usual crowd of international profiteers, would-be peacemakers and humanitarians. It was closely connected with armed conflicts in several neighboring countries, including

those in Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, Central African Republic, Congo Brazzaville, and Angola. According to one estimate published in 2003 the war may directly and indirectly have caused the deaths of over 4 million people in DR Congo since 1996. As has become increasingly common in Africa the victims were almost all civilians.

In the Horn of Africa, Somalia was still without a central government almost a decade after the fall of the last one (the Siad Barre regime which had been backed and armed alternately by both sides in the Cold War). The vacuum of state authority in Somalia left the country in a state of low level conflict and chronic economic weakness, on the one hand vulnerable to external interference and on the other a source of regional instability. To the north of Somalia, border skirmishes between Ethiopia and Eritrea developed into full scale war in 1999.

At the other end of the continent, in Angola, another war that had in an earlier phase been fomented by Cold War rivalry was still raging. Now deprived of their superpower sponsorship, but aided by international businesses which continued to buy the Angolans' oil and diamonds and sell them weapons, the leaders of both sides (MPLA government and UNITA rebels) were plundering the country to support their war efforts and to fill their foreign bank accounts. In a country fabulously rich in natural resources, including agriculture, the majority of the peasant population were living in desperate poverty, many of them living on food handouts from the international humanitarian relief system.

## Conclusion

One of the primary objectives of the United Nations is securing universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms of individuals throughout the world. In this connection, few topics are of greater importance than the fight against impunity and the struggle for peace and justice and human rights in conflict situations in today's world. The establishment of a permanent international criminal court (ICC) is seen as a decisive step forward. Even though there were various treaties in the 19th and 20th centuries on the laws of war, the 20th century was the bloodiest in history because most perpetrators of war crimes against humanity throughout history have gone unpunished.

To combat war crimes in Africa, two key and indeed related components are urgently necessary - the first is ensuring accountability for serious human rights crimes, and the second is implementing preventive strategies to detect, stop and/or mitigate situations with the potential to develop into systematic war crimes.

Impunity for atrocities committed in the past sends the message that such crimes may be tolerated in the future. Impunity or a failure of accountability also characterizes the current situation of former Liberian president Charles Taylor, on exile in Nigeria. Despite having commanded troops who perpetrated war crimes in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea and Cote d'Ivoire, and despite having been indicted by the Special Court for Sierra Leone on 17 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity, Charles Taylor is being shielded from justice by the Nigerian government. Perpetrators of war crimes should be

prosecuted not celebrated. Only then will the foundation of democracy begin to take shape.

- *Fatima Waziri is a Legal/Programme Officer with the Human Right Law Service (HURILAWS)*

DAILY PRESS BRIEFING BY THE OFFICE OF THE SPOKESMAN FOR THE SECRETARY GENERAL  
AND THE SPOKESPERSON FOR THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT

Following is a near-verbatim transcript of today's noon briefing by Marie Okabe, the Deputy Spokesman for the Secretary-General, and Pragati Pascale, the Spokesperson for the General Assembly President.

-SNIP-

\*\*Côte d'Ivoire

The Sanctions Committee today is studying a report from a panel of experts looking into the arms embargo in Côte d'Ivoire. The experts recommend, among other things, in-depth audits of the cacao, cotton and diamond industries to see if any funds are being used for arms.

\*\*Liberia

On Friday, the Security Council issued a press statement saying the completion of free and fair presidential elections will be a key step forward towards restoring the normal State functions of Liberia.

The Council members also "stressed that any concerns related to the election should be pursued and resolved exclusively through peaceful and legal means". It urged "the candidates, their parties and all their supporters to respect the final results of the election once they are officially declared".

-SNIP-

**UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 14 Nov. 2005**

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

**International Clips on Liberia**

**BBC** Last Updated: Monday, 14 November 2005, 13:47 GMT

**Weah's MPs issue boycott threat**

**The 18 MPs from Liberian football star George Weah's party have threatened to boycott parliament over claims of election fraud.**

Mr Weah claims he was cheated in last week's presidential run-off, which Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf seemingly won.

Mr Weah's CDC is the best represented party in parliament after the first polls since the end of a 14-year war.

11/14/2005 05:42:36

**New Weah rally amid mounting pressure to concede Liberia vote**

By Lauren Gelfand

MONROVIA, Nov 14 (AFP) - George Weah was Monday to rally his supporters behind claims he was cheated out of a win in Liberia's presidential vote, even as pressure mounted for him to concede and clear the way for Ellen Johnson Sirleaf to become Africa's first elected woman president.

Pick-up trucks mounted with loudspeakers toured the capital Monrovia from late Sunday, blaring music and announcements urging partisans of the Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) to attend the morning rally on the dusty pitch outside party headquarters at 1000 GMT.

THE EXPRESS ON SUNDAY November 13, 2005

**I want poll re-run, says loser Weah**

FOOTBALL star George Weah's party yesterday demanded a re-run of Liberia's presidential election, claiming the poll was unfair and fraudulent.

With 97 per cent of votes counted from last Tuesday's ballot, Harvard-educated Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf has an unassailable 59.4 per cent backing from the electorate.

But former AC Milan striker Mr Weah said: "As far as I am concerned there will be a re-run and I am going to pursue that."

11/14/2005 11:01:30

## **UN Security Council: Run-Off Concerns Must Be Addressed Through 'Peaceful, Legal Means'**

By John Walsh

Monrovia, Nov 12, 2005 (FrontPageAfrica/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) --The United Nations Security Council says any concerns related to the just ended run-off election must be pursued and resolved exclusively through peaceful and legal means.

"This will further underline the new Liberia's irreversible commitment to the rule of law," the President of the UN Security Council said Friday.

**14 November 2005**

### **Liberia's presidential wait**

**Claims of fraud may delay Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf's entrance into the history books.**

*By Lane Hartill | Correspondent of The Christian Science Monitor*

**MONROVIA, LIBERIA** -- Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf stands on the doorstep of history - as Liberia's president and Africa's first elected female head of state.

But her entrance could be at least temporarily sidetracked by allegations of fraud by her disgruntled opponent, former soccer star George Weah.

**The Star-Ledger** 14 November 2005

### **New start for Liberia**

EDITORIAL

For years, Liberia has been a model failed state. A 14-year civil war that ended in 2003 with the overthrow of President Charles Taylor, a notorious despot, left the resource-rich country one of the world's least-developed nations. The presidential runoff elections earlier this week represent the first real opportunity in many years for Liberians to turn the page.

Despite early predictions that 39-year-old former AC Milan soccer superstar George Weah would win, it looks as though Liberians have opted for brains over brawn.

## **Local Media – Newspapers**

### **Elections Commission Probes Fraud Claims This Week**

*(The Independent)*

- National Elections Commission (NEC) Chairman Frances Johnson-Morris told journalists over the weekend that the NEC would on Wednesday conduct an impartial hearing into charges by George Weah's Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) that the run-off election was rigged.

### **Former Finance Minister Maintains Lead in Runoff Poll**

*(The News, The Inquirer, The Analyst, New Democrat and National Chronicle)*

- Speaking at NEC's regular press briefing on Saturday, NEC Chairman Johnson-Morris said that of the 801,570 valid votes cast at 3,050 polling places nationwide, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf's Unity Party was leading with 478,098 votes accounting for 59.6 percent while George Weah of the CDC received 323,476 representing 40.4 percent.

## **Civil Society Organizations Praise Elections Commission**

*(National Chronicle)*

- The National Committee for Elections Monitoring--which is comprised of the West Africa Network for Peace Building, Inter-Religious Council of Liberia and Coalition for Democracy in Liberia—yesterday praised the NEC for the professional and orderly manner in which the 8 November presidential run-off election was conducted.

## **UNMIL to Withdraw Ex-President's Guards**

*(National Chronicle)*

- A source said recently that the UNMIL has reportedly resolved to withdraw its troops that were assigned to provide security for former President Moses Blah. The decision comes after allegations that Mr. Blah had been engaged in campaign activities while being accompanied by the UNMIL bodyguards.

## **Johnson-Sirleaf Promises to Reform Public Sector**

*(National Chronicle)*

- Speaking recently to CNN, UP's standard bearer Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf said that she was committed to reforming the public sector to enhance efficiency in government ministries and agencies.

## **UNMIL Ordered to Arrest Former Liberian Leader**

*(The Inquirer)*

- The UN Security Council recently issued a resolution, which mandates UNMIL to arrest former Liberian President Charles Taylor and hand him over to the Special Court for Sierra Leone if he returns to Liberia.

## **Transitional Government Concerned Over Human Rights Watch Report**

*(The Inquirer)*

- An Information Ministry press statement issued over the weekend said that the Transitional Government was baffled by a Human Rights Watch report, which alleged that the Ivorian government was recruiting Liberian children and ex-combatants.

## **Local Media – RADIO VERITAS *(News monitored yesterday at 06:45 pm)***

### **Leading African Countries Rate Run-Off Election**

- At an African Union (AU) Summit in Abuja, Nigeria, seven of Africa's most powerful leaders, including President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria, Thabo Mbeki of South Africa, and Alpha Konare of the AU, have described as "transparent" the 8 November run-off election and admonished the aggrieved party not to resort to violence.

### **Former Finance Minister Maintains Lead in Runoff Poll**

### **Civil Society Organizations praise Elections Commission**

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

### **CDC Senators-Elect Decline Seats at the Legislature**

- In a press statement Saturday, the CDC Representatives and Senators-elect said that they would not take their seats at the National Legislature until the complaint of run-off election fraud filed by their party was adequately heard.

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

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

### **Pro-Democracy Group Wants CDC to Approach Run-Off Fraud Complaint with Maturity**

- In a press statement Friday, the Patriotic Consciousness Association (PACA), a local pro-democracy organization, advised the leadership of the CDC to adopt a constructive approach to seeking redress to its complaint of fraud in the runoff saying street protests were not conducive to the peace process.

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

**Christian Media Group Detests Early Demands for Ex-President Trial**

- Reacting to the European Union's call for the incoming government to ensure that ex-president Charles Taylor faces trial in Sierra Leone, the Christian Media Centre thought it was too early for the international community to start making such demands as they might lead Liberia to another crisis.

*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).*