

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



**PRESS CLIPPINGS**

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

**as at:**

**Tuesday, 16 February 2010**

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.  
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact  
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Premier News  
Tuesday, 16 February 2010

# Charles Taylor Trial

## Prosecutors Say Charles Taylor Lied In His Testimony



**C**harles Taylor told lies in his direct-examination because he was too desperate to discredit prosecution witnesses while testifying in his own defense, prosecutors told the former Liberian president today.

Mr. Taylor dismissed this assertion as "incorrect" but the former president did admit to a series of inconsistencies in his own previous testimony as the day wore on.

Prosecution counsel, Nicholas Koumjian, today highlighted parts of Mr. Taylor's testimony in direct-examination and told the former president that his accounts of the same events have been different under cross-examination.

While accusing Mr. Taylor of sending Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebel commander Sam Bockarie to render assistance to the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) rebel group in Angola, Mr. Koumjian told Mr. Taylor that he had given different accounts of his relationship with the UNITA rebel leader, the late General Jonas Savimbi.

Asked today whether he knew Gen. Savimbi, Mr. Taylor responded that "I know of him but I never met him personally." Mr. Koumjian pointed out that during his direct-examination on August 24, 2009, Mr. Taylor had told the court that he had met Gen. Savimbi in Ivory Coast through former Ivorian president Houphouët Boigny. Conceding that his two accounts were different, Mr. Taylor responded that "to be honest, I've never met Gen. Savimbi. I concede, what I said then was incorrect."

Mr. Koumjian also pointed to the 2008 testimony of a prosecution witness who, testifying in private session, told the judges that when Mr. Bockarie left Liberia for Angola in early 2001, Mr. Taylor's Chief of Protocol, Musa Sesay, accompanied Mr. Bockarie to Zambia. Mr. Bockarie was then handed over to the UNITA ambassador to Zambia, the witness said. However, in previous testimony, Mr. Taylor disputed the idea that Mr. Sesay could have accompanied Mr. Bockarie to Zambia because Mr. Taylor would have known about it if it happened which he did not. As he sought to discredit Mr. Taylor's account today, Mr. Koumjian showed Mr. Taylor a copy of a Liberian diplomatic passport which carried the photograph Mr. Sesay and had the title "Chief Of Protocol, Executive Mansion, Liberia."

"I recognize this photograph as being that of Musa Sesay," Mr. Taylor agreed with Mr. Koumjian.

Mr. Koumjian pointed out that on a page in the passport, there was an Abidjan International Airport stamp dated February 9, 2001 and which indicated in French "Sortie", meaning "Exit." Another stamp dated February 10, 2009 but which was not very legible indicated the word "Entry" with an entry permit valid up to February 13, 2001. A third stamp dated February 13, 2001 indicated that Mr. Sesay departed Lusaka International Airport on that date.

"So Mr. Taylor, this will indicate that the person using this passport departed Lusaka on the 13 February 2001," Mr. Koumjian said. The prosecutor also indicated a fourth stamp which indicated that on February 15, 2001, Mr. Sesay re-entered Abidjan International Airport.

"That is seven days, you would know if Musa Sesay is out for a week and he wouldn't go to Zambia without your order," Mr. Koumjian said. "He would go to Zambia without my order," Mr. Taylor said, adding that "for the seven days, yes, I'll say if he was away, I'll know."

Mr. Koumjian pointed out that Mr. Taylor had previously said that Mr. Sesay did not travel with Mr. Bockarie.

"We may have to determine the authenticity of this passport. We have seen many fake passports and fake stamps, so we'll have to determine the authenticity of it," Mr. Taylor responded.

"The reason you lied to these judges that you are 100 percent certain that Musa Sesay was not in Zambia and you did not know Mr. Savimbi is because you were desperate to discredit the witness who spoke about these issues," Mr. Koumjian told Mr. Taylor.

"That is incorrect," the former president responded.

Mr. Koumjian also pointed to Mr. Taylor that he lied about his knowledge of Mr. Sanjivan Ruprah, a Liberian ambassador-at-large who was also designated as the Deputy Commissioner of the Liberian Bureau of Maritime Affairs. Mr. Taylor said yesterday that he only knew of Mr. Ruprah but never knew him personally. Mr. Koumjian today read a portion of Mr. Taylor's November 2009 testimony in direct-examination when he was asked by his defense counsel who Mr. Ruprah was. Mr. Taylor responded that he did not know Mr. Ruprah.

"Don't you consider that a lie?" Mr. Koumjian asked Mr.

Taylor. "I don't consider that a lie. If my counsel had asked me to say all I knew of Mr. Ruprah, I would have told him," Mr. Taylor responded. Mr. Koumjian further pointed out that during yesterday's cross-examination, Mr. Taylor said that his National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) rebel group had received some arms and ammunition from Burkina Faso. During his September 30, 2009 testimony in direct-examination, Mr. Koumjian said that the former president had said that Burkina Faso was not involved in giving arms and ammunition to Liberia.

Also asked today whether he gave RUF commander Issa Sesay a satellite phone, Mr. Taylor said that "yes, I did give Issa Sesay a satellite phone." Mr. Koumjian again pointed that in September 2009, during his direct examination, Mr. Taylor had said that he did not give Mr. Sesay a satellite phone.

Mr. Koumjian also read a May 2000 letter which was purportedly written to Mr. Taylor by Mr. Sesay in which the RUF commander highlighted some conditions required for the RUF's cooperation in the Sierra Leone peace process. The letter, which was among Mr. Taylor's presidential papers and among the documents he admits were in his possession purports to come from Mr. Sesay but was not signed by him.

Mr. Sesay's name was also misspelled in the letter. Mr. Taylor said that he had received the original copy of the letter from Mr. Sesay. Asked why Mr. Sesay had not signed the letter, Mr. Taylor said that "this might be the original copy and I don't know why it was unsigned."

Asked by Mr. Koumjian why he would have an original copy of a letter that was not signed by the author, Mr. Taylor insisted that "I cannot say why this letter has no signature."

"Your staff wrote the letter for Issa Sesay" Mr. Koumjian put to Mr. Taylor.

"Even if my staff wrote a letter for Issa, he'll still have to sign it. I cannot account for why this letter is not signed by Issa Sesay," Mr. Taylor responded.

As Mr. Koumjian pointed out that Mr. Sesay's name was misspelled in the letter which was supposed to have come from him, Mr. Taylor responded that "You have a point but I tell you, this document was one delivered to my government by the RUF."



## Concord Times

Tuesday, 16 February 2010

### Why Should African Leaders Cooperate To Bring Sudanese President to Justice

*By Muctaru Wurie in Freetown*

Some of the headlines coming from Africa recently have been more frightening from a human rights perspective; women and children have been the most vulnerable in the lingering wars from Darfur to the war ravaged provinces of Congo. Alongside the massive recruitments of child soldiers, rape is now an accepted norm in almost all the conflicts in Africa. Girls and women of all ages have been roundly subjected to consistent abuse of their pride and decency, rape is now sadly a routine practice in these conflicts. And the saddest thing is that political and rebel leaders whose forces are clearly involved in these barbaric acts are turning a blind eye to these abuses. The level of impunity in African conflicts is one of serious concerns that should worry any human rights activist; how long can our leaders continue to encourage and commit serious abuses and yet still manage to evade international justice when it is clear to the eyes of the world that very abhorrent acts are occurring right under their noses and areas of jurisdiction or conquered territories in the case of rebels.

In 2005 when I wrote in The New Tempo newspaper 'Why must Charles Taylor face justice', I advanced several points which I believed made the former Liberian dictator and rebel leader culpable to face the Special war crimes tribunal for Sierra Leone because he clearly aided rebel forces that committed the most heinous war crimes ever committed in an African war. Today however, we have a serious situation in Darfur, Sudan in which there are visible evidences of ethnic cleansing and other serious human rights abuses.

In a not too surprising ruling, the International Criminal Court was judged to have got it wrong when it decided that Sudan's leader can't be charged with genocide in Darfur, appeals judges said last Wednesday - an unprecedented ruling that could lead to President Omar al-Bashir's indictment with humanity's worst crime.

I was very happy for this appeals ruling, because in my view it puts other leaders across Africa on notice that the court will not hesitate at charging them with genocide if they discriminate against or abuse their own people.

The standard of proof the court used last year to dismiss three

counts of genocide against al-Bashir "was higher and more demanding than what is required" in its statutes, appellate judge Erkki Kourula of Finland said last Wednesday.

Others hailed the ruling also; "Today's ruling is hugely significant, as it could lead to the inclusion of charges of genocide by ICC judges for a sitting head of state and for the first time in the history of the court," said William R. Pace of the Coalition for the ICC, a non-government group that supports the court.

The five-judge appeals chamber said the International Criminal Court wrongly concluded in March that there was insufficient evidence to charge al-Bashir with three counts of genocide for allegedly attempting to wipe out entire ethnic groups in the war-ravaged province of Darfur. Instead, the court charged him with seven counts of war crimes and crimes against



charged him with seven counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity for allegedly orchestrating a campaign of murder, torture, rape and forced expulsions in Darfur.

This is positive news for those of us who support justice for victims of wars in the African continent. Al-Bashir, the first sitting head of state indicted by the world's first permanent war crimes tribunal refuses to recognize the court's jurisdiction and has vowed never to surrender. But this is always the case for war criminals; they boast of their innocence in the face of their grave abuses and also use all their power and political propaganda to undermine the courts that attempt to try them. And this is my greatest fear. How long can we use Pan-Africanism to fool people? There is a general fear that international justice is being used to undermine the sovereignty of African countries and that argument has

been bought by the majority of African leaders many of whom fear they might be next in what they perceive as a justice system being thrust upon us by the West. But let us remember that majority of African countries signed the Rome Treaty of 1998 that set up the ICC, so why should we be harbouring such a fear in the case of Sudan when the people of Darfur continue to suffer? Are they not Africans?

Janjaweed Arab militia with the support of Sudanese troops have not only been involved in murdering civilians and preying on them in refugee camps, but human rights groups have observed the driving away of a substantial part of the Fur, Masalit and Zaghawa ethnic groups in Darfur over more than six years into the desert, where many have died of starvation. According to the United Nations, 2.7 million people have been driven

from their homes. This is clearly nothing but ethnic cleansing like we saw in the former Yugoslavia in the early 90s. Those who oppose the extradition request by the ICC for the Sudanese leader should look at these figures and the suffering of the Fur, Masalit and Zaghawa ethnic groups and bow their heads in shame.

To make matters worse the Sudanese president expelled 13 international aid agencies working in Darfur in response to the charges, further compounding the humanitarian crisis in a region where 300,000 people have died since fighting broke out in 2003 between the government and rebels.

One thing I am happy about - make no doubt about it - is that the indictment last March has already had an effect on Al-Bashir; it has further isolated his hard-line regime. Since the charges were issued, the Sudanese leader has travelled to friendly countries but called off trips to nations where he fears he could be arrested and sent to The Hague. So he is already beginning to feel like a prisoner whose free movements are strictly limited, and that is even a victory for human right in Africa. This is also a clear message to our leaders and rebels alike that gone are the days when they can carry out any massive abuse or violation on their people and get away with it in the name of war. The ongoing war crimes trial in The Hague of former Liberian leader Charles Taylor - who was also by the way indicted during his tenure of office as president of Liberia - is also a very good precedent for international justice. And Al-Bashir should learn from Taylor, because from the moment he was indicted the world became a tighter place for him.

Like Al-Bashir, Taylor was defiant from the start and used all types of labels to brand the United Nations backed Special Court for Sierra Leone as a product of the West whom he accused of trying to colonise Africa once more. However, many of us know that all Charles Taylor was trying to do was to whip up support from his fellow African leaders and ignore extradition request by the court. We have been hearing this message for a very long time and it is high time someone tell our leaders they should start thinking about how history will judge them. We cannot continue to protect those who kill and subject our own people to massive abuses of their fundamental human rights. Enough of impunity in Africa, justice is all we need now.

You can follow the writer on his personal blog @ <http://muctaruwurie.wordpress.com/>

Charlestaylortrial.org

Monday, 15 February 2010

## **As Defense Lawyers Re-Examine Charles Taylor, He Explains Covert Bank Account**

By Alpha Sesay

Former Liberian president, Charles Taylor, today described how he evaded a United Nations arms embargo by funneling millions of dollars through a secret personal bank account to buy arms and ammunition in an effort to defeat rebels threatening to oust his government.

“The largest disbursement from this account went to arms and ammunition,” Mr. Taylor said, asserting that the purchase was necessary to fight against Liberians United for Reconciliation and Development (LURD) rebels, since his country was under a United Nations arms embargo.

The bank account, opened in his name at the Liberian Bank for Development and Investment (LBDI) in 1999 and into which millions of US dollars were deposited during his time as president, was a major focus for prosecutors’ cross-examination of Mr. Taylor. Prosecutors have alleged that the money in this account was not used for official purposes but instead provided a way for Mr. Taylor to divert money away from state coffers in order to enrich himself. Mr. Taylor had dismissed the claim during his cross-examination, and today his defense team helped give him the opportunity to explain the existence of this account during his re-examination.

Mr. Taylor said that the Liberian legislature authorized him to open the secret account in his name, and that it was used both for arms supplies and for other purposes benefitting the Liberian government.

“This account is a covert account opened by the government of Liberia at this time. It had to be opened in my name,” Mr. Taylor.

“The largest disbursement from this account went to arms and ammunition. Out of this account, we paid salaries for special units, the ATU [Anti-Terrorist Unit] was paid, the SSS [Special Security Services] was paid, and various presidential projects in dealing with goodwill within that period were paid out of this account. These are the four categories that we paid out of this account,” the former president explained.

Mr. Taylor also today told the judges that his former defense minister Daniel Chea was wrong when he told media outfit, Frontline World, during a May 2005 interview that the disarmament process in Liberia in 1995 was a fiasco.

“I fully disagree with Mr. Chea to say that that was a fiasco, I totally disagree. The United Nations, ECOWAS [Economic Community of West African States], the African Union, all of the observers said that the disarmament, while it was not total, in fact no disarmament can be total, the statement used during that period, there was substantial disarmament sufficient to carry out the elections, and so for him to say that it was a fiasco is total nonsense.

Mr. Chea in the May 2005 interview said that Mr. Taylor disappointed the people of Liberia because he opened too many fronts that he could not contain. Mr. Taylor dismissed the assertion as “untrue.”

Mr. Taylor concluded his cross-examination by prosecutors on February 6, 2008. Mr. Taylor is now responding to questions from his lawyers in re-direct examination. The former Liberian president is on trial for his alleged support to Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels who waged an 11-years rebel war on the people of Sierra Leone. Mr. Taylor has denied all allegations against him, saying that his association with the RUF rebels was purely for peaceful purposes in the West African country.

Mr. Taylor’s re-examination continues tomorrow.

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

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**UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary**  
**15 February 2010**

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

**International Clips on Liberia**

**Liberian Embassy to hold Business Forum in Accra**

(Monday, 15, February, 2010 – Ghana Broadcasting Corporation, GBC NEWS) The Liberian Embassy in Accra is collaborating with the Liberian National Investment Commission, to hold a Day's Business and Trade Forum in Accra. The Forum which is to be addressed by the Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, is to sensitise Ghanaian Entrepreneurs to the several business opportunities that exist in Liberia. It is to further encourage entrepreneurs to expand and partner their Liberian counterparts in the Spirit of promoting Regional Integration. The Liberian Ambassador to Ghana, Von Ballmoos in a press statement said speakers at the forum will include Ghana's Minister of Trade and Industry, Hannah Tetteh, Liberia's Minister of commerce, Trade and Industry Miata Beysolow as well as other Ministers from Liberia. The Liberian Bar Association, Liberia Chamber of Commerce, the Ghana National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, business organizations and individuals have been invited to participate in the forum. The theme for the forum according to the Ambassador is Investment Opportunities for job creation and Economic Empowerment.

**Sharjah to build schools and health centre in Liberia**

WAM Sharjah, 15th Feb. 2010 (WAM) Emirates News Agency -- H. H. Dr Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah, has instructed Sharjah General Authority for Endowments to dispatch a team to Liberia to assess requirements of Muslims there. He also directed the Authority to take arrangements for building a model district containing two separate schools for boys and girls and a health clinic as part of his care for humanitarian integration among Muslims. The Ruler announced the donations as he received today Senator James K. Momo. The meeting reviewed bilateral relations. The Liberian official thanked Sheikh Sultan for the generous gesture and his support for Liberian Muslims. He said Sheikh Sultan sent 200 Liberian pilgrims to perform pilgrimage in the last hajj season. There are 750,000 Muslims in Liberia representing 25 % of the total population of 3 million.

**Elenilto to Spend \$2.4 Billion on Liberian Iron Mines**

By Ansu Konneh

Feb. 15 (Bloomberg) -- Elenilto, a unit of Israel's Engelinvest Group, will spend \$2.4 billion developing Liberia's Western Cluster iron ore deposit, the Ministry of Lands, Mines and Energy said. The investment will allow Elenilto to produce as much as 1.1 billion metric tons of ore, the ministry said in a statement handed to reporters today in the capital, Monrovia. Elenilto was on Jan. 28 awarded the rights to develop the Western Cluster project by President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. The project consists of three deposits and two idled mines, which were closed in 1976 and 1985 during Liberia's two civil wars, the last of which ended in 2003. As part of the agreement, Elenilto will pay Liberia a one-time fee of \$25 million and an annual tax equivalent to 21 percent of the company's profit from the deposits, according to the ministry's statement. It will also pay \$3.1 million a year towards community development, it said.

**International Clips on West Africa**



## Ivory Coast

### Police fire tear gas at protesters in Ivory Coast

ABIDJAN, Feb 15 (Reuters) - Police fired tear gas to disperse hundreds of anti-government protesters in eastern Ivory Coast on Monday, paralysing the city of Abengourou and forcing several cocoa warehouses to close in the top world supplier. The demonstrations followed President Laurent Gbagbo's dissolution of the government and electoral commission on Friday in a move that is almost certain to delay long-awaited presidential elections set for March. Gbagbo had accused the head of the electoral commission of illegally registering voters loyal to the opposition. The election, which has been repeatedly postponed since 2005, is badly needed to restore investment in one of the region's top economies, which took a nosedive after a 2002-3 war split it in two. "We have decided to protest against Gbagbo's decision to dissolve the government and the electoral commission. It is dictatorship," said Abdoulaye Ba, one of the demonstration leaders in the city of Abengourou. He said thousands of youths had gathered before riot police fired tear gas canisters to disperse the crowd. Police had tear-gassed about a hundred opposition supporters demonstrating in Abidjan on Saturday. Rising tensions in West Africa's former economic powerhouse threaten to disrupt a cocoa industry that accounts for about a third of global supply, and could prevent an election that the World Bank this month warned is necessary for debt relief. A World Bank official told Reuters the bank had not yet decided an official response to Gbagbo's action and its impact on debt cancellation under the heavily indebted poor countries scheme (HIPC), which was aiming for completion this year. The official said it might produce one in the next few days.

### The Head of UNOCI Meets Ivory Coast Prime Minister After Dissolving The Government And The CIS

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast, February 15 2010/African Press Organization (APO) / - The Special Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations for Côte d'Ivoire, YJ Choi, stressed Monday the need to preserve the gains of the process election in this "delicate and sensitive time" after a meeting with Ivorian Prime, Guillaume Soro. The meeting is part of consultations initiated by Mr Soro after the double dissolution of the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) and the Government announced Friday by the Ivorian President, Laurent Gbagbo. Addressing the press after the talks, the head of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), said he stressed the need to preserve the gains of the past, including the provisional voter list. The Special Representative also stressed during the meeting on the establishment of a final voter list, as soon as possible. To accomplish this, Mr. Choi was considered essential to find a solution to the current situation as quickly as possible in the calm. "I am confident that with political savvy and sophisticated culture of non-violence of the people and the Ivorians, we will find a quick solution in a calm," he added.

#### Local Media – Newspaper

##### **Internal Affairs Minister Resigns**

(The Inquirer, Liberia Journal, The Analyst, National Chronicle)

- Internal Affairs Minister Ambulai Johnson has resigned. Minister Johnson resigned over the weekend at the request of President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.
- The Executive Mansion gave no details why the President asked Minister Johnson to resign.
- The Executive however said the President has accepted the resignation of Mr. Johnson.
- At the same time, the President has dismissed all non-statutory members of the board of directors of the National Transit Authority with immediate effect.

##### **IMF Delegation Arrives**

(Liberian Express, The News, Daily Observer, The Inquirer, National Chronicle, The New Republic)

- A delegation from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is in the country to hold discussions on the country's progress under the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative.



- The delegation's discussion will centre on the next steps towards achieving the Completion Point by the target of mid-2010 as well as prospects for economic growth and development after total debt relief.
- While in the country the IMF team will hold series of discussions with members of government, the international community, the private sector, and the academic community among other stakeholders.
- The IMF First Deputy Managing Director, Mr. John Lipsky is heading the delegation along with former Liberian Finance Minister, Dr. Antoinette Sayeh now IMF Africa Regional Director.

### **Defunct TRC Commissioner Justifies Public Sanctions Against President Sirleaf**

(Daily Observer, National Chronicle)

- A commissioner of the defunct Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) says the Commission has no regret for recommending a 30-year public sanction for President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and others.
- Ms. Massa Washington said the TRC process, which is part of an international process called transitional justice gives the Commission the authority to recommend public sanctions and other categories for individuals who participated in the country's bloody civil war.
- Commissioner Washington said the process leading to recommending the President for a 30-year public ban was investigative and was a decision by majority members of the TRC.
- At the same time, the TRC commissioner has sharply reacted to what she called damaging comments against the works of the Commission.
- Ms. Washington made specific reference to comments by Finance Minister Augustine Ngafuan and Governance Commission Chairman Amos Sawyer.
- She said comments by Minister Ngafuan describing the recommendations of the Commission as intellectually injustice does not represent his status in society.
- According to Commissioner Washington the assertion by Dr. Sawyer that the TRC report does not address reconciliation in the country is a complete misrepresentation.

### **Angel Togba Hanged Herself, Says Former CID Boss Stephen Zargo**

(The News)

- The former head of the Crime Investigation Division (CID) at the Liberia national Police and now legal counsel at the Justice Ministry, Stephen Zargo says the death of Angel Tobga was a result of suicide by hanging and not strangulation or murder as being alleged by the state.
- Mr. Zargo testified Friday at Criminal Court 'B' as defense seventh witness in the Angel Togba murder case.

### **Bropleh Indicted For Theft**

(Liberia Express, The News, New Democrat, The Analyst)

- Government has finally indicted former Information Minister Rev. Dr. Laurence Bropleh.
- Liberia's Solicitor General, Cllr. Wilkins Wright said Dr. Bropleh was indicted along with the comptroller and chief accountant at the Ministry of Information.
- According to Cllr. Wright, Dr. Bropleh and the two have been charged with theft of property, forgery and criminal facilitation.
- The Solicitor General said the indictment followed detailed police investigation that linked the three accused men with theft of property, forgery and criminal facilitation in the tune of more than US\$200,000.
- He said the men were indicted by a special grand jury and are expected to be tried during the February term of court.

### **Keith Jubah's 'Alleged Killers' Indicted**

(Public Agenda, The News, Daily Observer, The Inquirer)

- Government has indicted at least nine men accused of killing the former Chairman of the Public Procurement and Concession Commission, Mr. Keith Jubah.

- The three-count indictment accused the men of murder, criminal facilitation and criminal conspiracy.
- The men allegedly murdered Mr. Jubah in early November 2009 near Kakata in Margibi County.
- The men in the indictment claimed they killed Mr. Jubah for lack of interest in their plight and taking decisions detrimental to their survival.
- Their case is expected to begin this term of court.

### **As Trial Resumes Today: Taylor Raises Contentious Issues**

(The Monitor)

- The trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor resumes today February 15, in The Hague following a weeklong adjournment. Today's proceeding begins with the re-examination of Mr. Taylor.
- When the court resumes this morning, lead defense counsel Courtenay Griffiths, will inform judges that certain contentious issues had been identified in Mr. Taylor's cross-examination and that the former President wished to discuss those issues with his defense team before the commencement of his re-examination.
- Presiding Chamber Judge Julia Sebutine said that it was part of Mr. Taylor's fair trial rights to consult a lawyer of his choosing and for him to be given adequate time to prepare his defense.

### **Star Radio** *(News monitored today at 09:00 am)*

#### **Internal Affairs Minister Resigns**

*(Also reported on Radio Veritas, Truth FM, Sky FM, and ELBC)*

#### **Keith Jubah's 'Alleged Killers' Indicted**

#### **In Angel Togba Murder Trial, Judge Sets Tentative Date for Final Arguments**

- Criminal Court 'B' has set March 8, 2010 as the tentative date for the final argument of the controversial Angel Togba murder trial.
- Judge Blamo Dixon made the pronouncement Friday in court.
- The pronouncement came as former CID boss Stephen Zargo was testifying as defense seventh witness.
- Zargo's testimony is in support of the defense case that little Angel Togba's death was suicidal.

#### **NEC Warns Again Over Passage Of Threshold Bill**

- The National Elections Commission (NEC) has again warned time is running out for the timely conduct of the General and Presidential Elections in 2011.
- The co-chairman of NEC, Cllr. Elizabeth Nelson said delays in the passage of the threshold bill continue to dampen the prospects of conducting the polls on schedule.
- Cllr. Nelson maintained without a threshold, the NEC cannot conduct the polls in 2011 as part of its constitutional duty.
- The NEC co-chairman said though the Commission is continuing its validation and map harmonization process, it would need the threshold to conduct delimitation of electoral constituencies.
- Meanwhile, the NEC co-chairman has clarified that the declaration of intent by individuals wanting to contest the 2011 elections constitutes no electoral breach.

#### **Pressure Warns Against 'Presidential Directive'**

- The National Human Rights Center of Liberia has called on Government Ministers not to execute the President's mandate of creating jobs for Unity Party partisans.
- The head of the center cautioned the Ministers not to join the President in her alleged violation of the constitution as they would be held personally liable.

- Mr. Alfred Quajandie said there is no legal backing for the President's directive that people who have already served for four years should give way for others.
- He said the directive even undermines the President's fight against corruption as the new employees could engage in hasty theft before the remaining two years end.

#### **CAB Wants President Sirleaf Veto Medical Act**

- The Christian Association of the Blind (CAB) has called on President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf to veto the Medical Act passed by the Legislature.
- The President of CAB, Mr. Beyan Kota expressed disappointment over the Medical Act which he said is completely discriminatory to people with disability.
- Mr. Kota said it was unthinkable for the Legislature to pass such an Act which bans people with disability to exercise their profession.
- He said technology has advanced that even an amputee can use artificial limb and go about normally.

#### **Radio Veritas** *(News monitored today at 09:45 am)*

##### **IMF Delegation Arrives**

*(Also reported on Truth FM, Sky FM, and ELBC)*

##### **Former LTA Chairman Rubbishes Media Reports Of Being On The Run**

- The former Chairman of the Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA) Chairman Albert Bropleh says contrary to media reports he is not on the run.
- The media last week quoted Solicitor General Cllr. Wilkins Wright as saying the former LTA boss had snub an indictment brought against him by the state in an economic sabotage case.
- Cllr. Wright said several attempts by court officers to serve Mr. Bropleh the indictment at his home have so far proven unsuccessful.
- But Mr. Bropleh said he is not in hiding and denied knowledge of court officers visiting his home as reported.

#### **Truth FM** *(News monitored today at 10:00am)*

##### **Defunct TRC Commissioner Justifies Public Sanctions Against President Sirleaf**

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## Daily Observer

Tuesday, 16 February 2010

### TRC in Court

By: Lennart Dodoo

MONROVIA – The Executive Director, Chairman and Commissioners of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) have all been issued a writ of summon to appear before the Civil Law Court at the Temple of Justice on Capitol Hill, Monrovia to answer to a petition filed against them.

The petition was filed by ReDen Incorporated, property manager for Continental Realty Corporation, which is under the management of Willa T. Bruce-Reeves.

According to the complaint filed against the TRC, the commission entered into a lease agreement with ReDen Incorporated to lease the Continental Realty Building located on 9th Street in Sinkor, Monrovia, for a period of six months.

The complaint indicated that the lease agreement was to last from July 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009.

The said building was and still is the office building of the TRC.

However, according to the complainant, the TRC failed to exercise the option of renewing the lease agreement as agreed to when the need arose, but instead continued to unlawfully occupy the building to the disadvantage of the management.

According to the management of the property, the unlawful occupancy of the building by the TRC is depriving them of rental income from other sources that could have leased the building.

The management disclosed that on several occasions, through verbal and written communication, they had asked the TRC to vacate the building. The TRC, the management added, has turned a deaf ear to their communication.

ReDen then sought legal recourse through its lawyer, who in a letter dated January 20, 2010, requested that the TRC pay the rent owed in the amount of US\$48,400.02 for the six months it had occupied the building. The letter also requested that the TRC vacate the building since the lease agreement had ended.

However, according to the complainant, the TRC flatly refused to comply with either of those requests.

The management further stated in their complaint that prior to the expiration of the lease agreement, they wrote the TRC informing it of some damage done to the building and requested that the TRC restore the building to the condition in which they found it when they signed the lease agreement.

The TRC refused to repair the damages up to the time the complaint was filed, the management said.

The management of Continental Realty Building then prayed the court to have the TRC ejected from the said building and further requested that the TRC pay not less than US\$75,000 in general damages to compensate the management for the 'wrongful withholding' of the property as well as minor damages done at the premises of the said building by the TRC.