

**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, 16 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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## Special Court welcomes UNMIL powers to arrest Charles Taylor

Chief Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, Desmond de Silva QC in a statement Monday welcomed the United Nations Security Council Resolution (1638), passed unanimously on 11

November 2005, which grants the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) a Chapter VII mandate to arrest Charles Taylor, the former Liberian President, if he

*Continued page 3*

## Special Court welcomes UNMIL powers to arrest Charles Taylor

*From page 1*

returns to his country.

The UN backed Special Court notes that the Special Court for Sierra Leone indicted Charles Taylor on 3 March 2003 on a 17-count indictment for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed during the brutal decade-long conflict in Sierra Leone. The Court however expresses regret that Taylor has evaded arrest and since August 2003 has been in exile in Nigeria, where he was granted asylum.

"The charges against him include terrorizing 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," the statement states.

Following last Friday's unanimous resolution, Desmond de Silva QC 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 Chief Prosecutor warned.

The statement continues 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 U.S. Congress resolutions calling for the transfer of Taylor to the 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," the statement concludes.

Peep!

16 November 2005

## **ex-CDF fighters reject Solomon Berewa...**

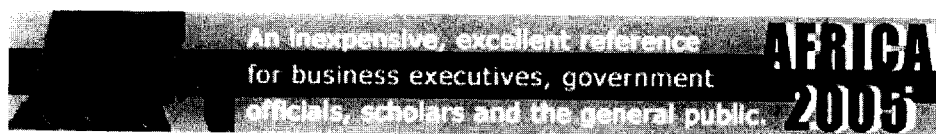
Former members of the *Civil Defence Forces* have turned down vice-president Solomon Berewa's overture for them to publicly endorse him for the presidency.

The CDF members, mainly from Bo, were invited to meet Mr Berewa at his Spur Road Lodge last week where he made a passionate appeal for their support.

According to a reliable source, financial inducements were also offered the ex-kamajor leaders.

However the CDF men said they would have to conduct "group consultations" before they decided on their political allegiance. However this was just a ruse; "Money can't buy us... what about our jailed leader Chief Hinga Norman?" one of the kamajors told a *Peep!* correspondent.

It will be recalled that Chief Norman recently called on all former CDF personnel to have "nothing to do" with the Kabbah/Berewa camp.



## War Crimes Court Welcomes Arrest of Former Liberian Leader

**The Independent** (Freetown)

NEWS

November 15, 2005

Posted to the web November 15, 2005

By Alpha Jalloh

The Special Court for war crimes in the West African state of Sierra Leone has welcomed the UN's resolution (1638) unanimously passed on November 11, 2005 that granted a Chapter VII mandate to the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) to arrest Charles Taylor former Liberian leader, if he returns to the country.

Taylor is presently in exile in Calabar, north of Nigeria. He stepped down from presidency after numerous pressure from the international community and amidst the escalation of a war waged by Liberia United for Reconstruction and Democracy (LURD) rebels.

But despite numerous pressures for his arrest, his host, President Olusegun Obasanjo, has always insisted that Taylor was hosted in Nigeria in consultation with the international community especially the US.

Taylor has been accused of supporting the Revolutionary United Front rebel movement led by (late) Foday Saybana Sankoh, that waged an almost eleven years war against successive governments and committed horrendous acts that included gang- raping, hacking of limbs and hands.

The Special Court for war crimes indicted Taylor on March 3, 2003. Other leading figures of various warring factions are on trial in the court. Foday Sankoh the leader of the RUF is dead, and Sam Bockarie his Battlefield Commander was killed in Liberia while Taylor was in power. Colonel Johnny Paul Koroma of the Armed Forces Ruling Council that toppled President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah in 1997, is now a "fugitive". There are conflicting reports about him. One states that he is dead, but former Chief Prosecutor of the Special Court, American David Crane had always insisted that Johnny Paul Koroma was "considered to be alive".

The Special Court says, "The Security Council Resolution underscores the international community's commitment to see Charles Taylor stand trial before the international criminal tribunal in Sierra Leone".

The Resolution follows previous European Parliament and US Congress resolutions calling for transfer of Taylor to the 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 move towards stability under the leadership of the new democratically elected president", The Special Court says in an official statement in the capital Freetown on November 14.

The new controversial 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

unanimously 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 Nigerian president Obasanjo that Taylor must face trial at the Special Court where he is indicted on war crimes and crimes against humanity. There is the fear that if the Special Court for Sierra Leone fails to apprehend and try Taylor it may lose popularity its essence negated

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From Awareness Times Newspaper in Freetown

## NEWS

### **UNMIL to arrest Sierra Leone Special Court Indictée Charles Taylor**

By Sayoh Kamara

Nov 14, 2005, 17:06

The United Nations Security Council on Friday, 11th November 2005 passed an important resolution giving the UN peacekeeping force in Liberia, the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), authority to apprehend and detain the former Liberian President Charles Ghankay Taylor if he returns to Liberia. It was also given the mandate by the same resolution to transfer or facilitate his transfer to the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

According to Elise Keppler, Counsel for the International Justice Programme, Human Rights Watch, it is a welcome idea as this has been of concern to the organization and several others around the world including Sierra Leoneans. Keppler maintains that it will be good for the international justice system as Taylor's role in the perpetuation of the war against defenseless Sierra Leoneans was very key.



**Charles Taylor: Coming soon**

Commenting further on the resolution Keppler said, "With Friday's resolution authorizing the UN Peace Keeping Force in Liberia to arrest Charles Taylor and transfer him to the Special Court for Sierra Leone if he returns to Liberia, the circle is tightening. The Security Council has sent a strong signal to the Nigerian President, Olusegun Obasanjo that Taylor must face trial at the Special Court where he is indicted for war crimes and crimes against humanity. We expect President Obasanjo to get the message," she noted. When contacted on the issue, the Deputy Chief of Information and Public Affairs at the Special Court for Sierra Leone Peter Andersen made the following comments:

"It is a welcome idea. Our position has always been the same that Charles Taylor must face the Special Court. There are sufficient international treaties which qualify his return to the court for trial. We want him returned by who so ever is protecting him to come and answer to the numerous war crime charges and crimes against humanity levied against him," he said. It could be recalled that for a long time now the UN Security Council had been deliberating on this proposal which last Friday culminated in this resolution. The issue of Taylor's return to Liberia after the country's first democratic elections in several years had been hotly debated and it gained centre-stage during the election campaigns. His return to Liberia is considered as a threat to the security of not only Liberia, but the entire Mano River Union.

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# OPINION

*By Lauren Gelfand*

## "Liberia not ready for return of Taylor:" - Johnson Sirleaf

Liberia's likely president-elect, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, says the country was not ready for the return of her exiled predecessor Charles Taylor, who is wanted by the United Nations backed Special Court to face trial on war crimes charges in neighboring Sierra Leone. A new resolution passed unanimously Friday by the UN Security Council mandates the 15,000-strong UN peacekeeping force here to arrest Taylor should he return to Liberian soil from Nigeria, where he has lived since quitting the presidency in August 2003 under an international deal to end the second of Liberia's civil wars since 1989. "I cannot say I was surprised at that resolution," said Sirleaf, who was a major supporter of Taylor's 1989 rebellion against military dictator Samuel Doe, only to become one of his fiercest opponents less than a decade later. "I think it helps us secure our own future, as I do not think Liberia is ready for the return of Taylor," the Harvard-educated banker told AFP in an interview on Saturday, hours before she all but cemented her win in last Tuesday's re-run presidential elections, with nearly 60 percent of the vote and most ballots counted. "I know a solution will be found (to the Taylor issue), and that resolution

will be part of the answer," she said.

Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo has refused to consider Taylor's extradition to anyone but an elected Liberian government, despite mounting international pressure for the former warlord to be handed to the Freetown court backed by an Interpol warrant for his arrest on charges that he armed and trained rebels in exchange for so-called "blood diamonds".

Obasanjo has softened his position somewhat, describing Taylor's luxurious exile in the southern seaside town of Calabar as only "temporary" and on "humanitarian grounds". Meanwhile, a European Union electoral observer mission recommended that donors weigh their financial commitments to Liberia against the west African nation's cooperation with global efforts to bring Taylor to justice. "To create a democratic and secure future for Liberia, the new government must end the climate of impunity by co-operating fully with the international community to ensure that Taylor and others accused of war crimes are swiftly brought to court," chief EU observer Max van den Berg said on Friday. Sirleaf said she would work closely with her west African counter-

parts on resolving the Taylor issue, noting that. "They had a very important role to play in arranging (his) exile therefore, we cannot take any position that does not take into account their views but I am sure that they, too, are very keen on us finding a solution to that problem that will enable Liberia to go forward and get beyond this Taylor factor," she said. "But let's say that the Liberian nation and Liberian people are more important than any one person." Human Rights Watch said the Taylor issue is but one of the human rights challenges facing a country ruined by years of ethnic and regional conflict, in which women were commodified, children exploited as killing machines and corruption and lawlessness reigned.

"Mrs. Johnson-Sirleaf needs to act proactively to ensure that the rule of law takes root in Liberia; indeed she needs to pay more attention to critical human rights issues — justice, accountability, rebuilding the historically parasitic and abusive security forces — than she did on the campaign trail," HRW west Africa researcher Corinne Dufka told AFP on Sunday. "She needs to tell President Obasanjo that surrendering Taylor to the Sierra Leone court is important for Liberia."



# Security Council Resolution includes Taylor's apprehension by UNMIL

SECURITY COUNCIL, determining that the return of former President Charles Taylor to Liberia would constitute an impediment to that country's stability and a threat to its peace, has decided to include in the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) the former leader's apprehension, detention and transfer to the Special Court for Sierra Leone, in the event of his return to Liberia.

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, UNMIL should, in transferring or facilitating the former President's transfer to the Special Court, keep the Governments of Liberia and Sierra Leone, as well as the Council, fully informed.

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, acknowledging also that Nigeria had acted with broad international support in its decision to provide for Mr. Taylor's temporary stay there.

Henrique R. Valie (Brazil), speaking after the vote, explained that he had joined the consensus to reflect his country's firm commitment to the settlement of all conflicts in Africa. However, the Brazilian 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 (Argentina) said he had joined the consensus on the understanding that post-conflict peace building in Liberia must be conducted with respect for law and justice. Impunity sent a bad signal for the future and undermined a genuine process of national reconciliation. For that reason, 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 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 Freetown.

meeting began at 1:11 p.m. and adjourned at 1:16 p.m. Full text of resolution 1638 (2005) reads, as follows:

*The Security Council, recalling its previous resolutions and the statements of its President concerning Liberia, Sierra Leone, and West Africa, its commitment to the sovereignty, political independence and territorial integrity of Liberia, its appreciation to Nigeria and its President, Olusegun Obasanjo, for their contributions to restoring stability in Liberia and the West African subregion, and acknowledging that Nigeria acted with broad international support when it decided to provide for the temporary stay of former President Charles Taylor in Nigeria, that former President Taylor remains under indictment by the Special Court for Sierra Leone*

and determining that his return to Liberia would constitute an impediment to stability and a threat to the peace of Liberia and to international peace and security in the region, under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. *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 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 the Council fully informed;

2. *"Decides to remain actively seized of the matter."*

## SECURITY COUNCIL PRESS

### STATEMENT ON LIBERIA

The following is a Security Council press statement on Liberia, delivered by the President of the Council, Andrey I. Denisov (Russian Federation):

Members of the Security Council were briefed by Assistant Secretary-General Hédi Annabi of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations on the second round of presidential elections in Liberia, which were held on 8 November 2005.

Members of the Security Council welcomed the peaceful and orderly conduct of the elections and commended

all Liberians attending the polls. The members of the Security Council underlined that the completion of free and fair presidential elections will be a key step forward towards restoring the normal State functions of Liberia and will pave the way for the return of Liberian refugees to their homeland. The members congratulated the Liberian people for demonstrating their strong commitment to peace and democracy. The members of the Security Council also congratulated the two presidential candidates for the way in which they conducted their campaigns in a serious, mature, and peaceful manner.

Members of the Security Council reiterated their appreciation for the dedicated and able efforts of the National Elections Commission and for the support provided by the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) and other multilateral and bilateral partners in the preparation and holding of the elections.

Members of the Security Council stressed that any concerns related to the election should be pursued and resolved exclusively through peaceful and legal means, which will further underline the new Liberia's irreversible commitment to the rule of law. The members urged the candidates, their parties and all their supporters to respect the final results of the election once they are officially declared.

# **Liberian writes new president to handover Taylor**

Dear President-Elect Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf:

I am writing to congratulate you on your historic election victory - and respectfully request that you immediately call upon the Nigerian government to transfer former Liberian President Charles Taylor to the custody of the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

Without doubt, your election promises a new beginning for Liberia. Your fellow citizens have enthusiastically demonstrated their faith in the democratic process, turning out in large numbers to vote, marking the freest and fairest election in Liberia's history. The United States strongly supports this democratic achievement and has an abiding interest in Liberia's well-being. Many in the Congress look forward to working with you as you confront Liberia's many challenges.

I would be considerably more optimistic about Liberia's future, however, if Mr Taylor faced the 17-count of war crimes and crimes against humanity for which he has been indicted by the Special Court for Sierra Leone. The United States and many other governments strongly support the Court and its mandate, and I urge you to do likewise.

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. Of equal importance, justice must be pursued for the Sierra Leonean people.

I firmly believe that as long as Mr. Taylor continues to enjoy safe harbour—while remaining active in Liberian politics from a distance—the livelihoods and democratic rights of millions of West Africans, and the post-war re-construction of Liberia and Sierra Leone, will remain at risk. Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo has resisted numerous calls, including by the United States Congress, to transfer Mr. Taylor to the custody of the Court.

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.

Madame President-elect, it is the hope of many that you use your strong democratic mandate to

## **Liberian writes president-elect**

*From Page 4*

affirm that the use of violence to achieve political ends is no longer acceptable in West Africa - and usher in a new era for the rule of law in the region. Mr. Taylor must be held accountable for his past actions, and achieving this end will require your decisive and immediate action.

Again, please accept my congratulations on your election. I thank you for considering my views.

Sincerely,

EDWARD R. ROYCE

## La Voz Online

<http://www.lavozdeanza.com/vnews/display.v/ART/2005/11/14/437a5ab57bf16>

### **Exclusive La Voz interview with Colin Powell**

By Melissa Lewis

November 14, 2005

-SNIP-

**Q:** *Do you know whether or not America plans to extradite Charles Taylor for his war crimes, or if they plan to take a more passive role concerning this?*

**A:** "What we did two years ago was, in order to stop a bloodbath in the streets of Monrovia, and in order to do it quickly, we worked with the African Union, and came up with a deal to get Charles Taylor out of power and out of the country. As part of that deal, Nigeria agreed to accept him, but he wouldn't leave if he felt he was immediately going to go to Nigeria and then be put before an international tribunal. So it's one of those situations in diplomacy and politics where you make compromises, and the compromise that I supported at the time was that he may not go to a court right away, but I'm more interested in stopping the killing in Monrovia, and the destruction of the countryside. So I pushed that deal to get him out of the country and into exile in Nigeria where he is not causing any trouble even though he is not entirely innocent of things. And I think that turned out to be a correct decision. We now have a president freely elected of Liberia, the first woman president of an African country [Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf]. And so, in retrospect, I think it was a good decision. Charles Taylor is still subject to international court, and I hope that with a new government in Liberia, they may be able to work out an arrangement with Nigeria where Charles Taylor is returned to stand before the court of justice."

**Q:** *What do you think of her opponent [George Weah]?*

**A:** "Well, he is protesting. But he is a great soccer star, and I'm glad to see that he was willing to put himself up for public service for his country."

*"She said that she would grant him a position, too, though."*

"Well, he's still protesting, notwithstanding being offered the position of fitness and youth."



## Arrest Taylor Security Council Mandates UNMIL

**The NEWS** (Monrovia)

NEWS

November 14, 2005

Posted to the web November 14, 2005

Monrovia

It appears that the happy days of exiled former President Charles Taylor is gradually coming to an end as efforts to have the war crimes indictee apprehended intensify

The United Nations Security Council last Friday in its resolution 1638 mandated the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) to arrest and detain Mr. Taylor if he returns to Liberia.

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

The arrest, detention and subsequent transfer of Taylor to the Special Court for Sierra Leone is an additional mandate for UNMIL.

"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, UNMIL should, in transferring or facilitating the former president's transfer to the Special Court, keep the Government of Liberia and Sierra Leone, as well as the Council, fully informed," the Security Council said.

The Council expressed its appreciation to Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo for his country's contribution to restoring stability in Liberia and West African Sub region.

The UN body acknowledged that Nigeria had acted with broad international support in its decision to provide for Mr. Taylor temporary stay in Calaba.

Taylor is on asylum in Nigeria after he was forced to resign as a result of rebel incursion and an agreement reached by international partners to restore peace to Liberia.

Since he took residence in Calaba, there have been international pressures on the Nigerian Government to turn Taylor over to the Special Court in Sierra Leone.

However, President Obasanjo said he would not yield to such pressure, but would only give Taylor out if an elected Liberian Government requests for him.

Taylor stands accused of 17- count of war crimes, crimes against humanity and other serious violations of international humanitarian law.



# Sunday TRIBUNE



## News

updated: 13 Nov 2005

### Liberia election - Weah cries foul, urges polls re-run - As Taylor faces UN arrest

Liberian presidential candidate George Weah has called for a re-run of Tuesday's election, saying it was marred by vote-rigging. With almost all the votes counted, his opponent, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, has an insurmountable lead. The former football star has urged supporters to remain calm - although on Friday hundreds staged angry protests in the capital, Monrovia.

The UN Security Council urged Liberians to settle the dispute peacefully. If Mrs Johnson-Sirleaf's victory is confirmed, she would be the first woman to be elected president anywhere in Africa. The Weah camp has made allegations of ballot tampering, intimidation and harassment during the vote. An investigation is under way. International observers say the election was broadly free and fair. The West African regional group Ecowas has urged the losers to accept the result with dignity and grace. However, Mr Weah re-iterated his claims of fraud.

"As far as I am concerned there will be a re-run and I am going to pursue that," he told the BBC. But the candidate said he was telling his supporters to be calm, "because we need to be peaceful". Despite his appeals, at least one person was injured when UN forces fired tear gas to disperse protesters near the US embassy. They acted after some of Mr Weah's supporters broke through a line of Liberian riot police trying to hold them back from the embassy, Reuters news agency reports. The Weah camp is supported by most of the 100,000 ex-combatants from Liberia's 14-year civil war.

Mr Weah has said Ms Johnson-Sirleaf should not claim victory while his complaint to the Supreme Court is being investigated. On Friday, Weah campaign officials filed a petition with the Supreme Court to halt vote counting. But the court rejected the appeal and referred them to the National Elections Commission. Ms Johnson-Sirleaf rejected claims of vote-rigging as absurd. She told the BBC she hoped Mr Weah would join her new government after "getting over his disappointment". Meanwhile, the UN Security Council has voted unanimously for UN peacekeepers in Liberia to detain ex-President Charles Taylor if he returns to the country. Mr Taylor, currently in exile in Nigeria, was indicted by a UN-backed court in neighbouring Sierra Leone for crimes against humanity there.

US-based group Human Rights Watch says the resolution is a big step forward. Charles Taylor has scarcely figured in the recent elections but his future remains a highly contentious issue. The resolution stresses the fact Mr Taylor remains indicted on 17 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity by the UN-backed court in Sierra Leone. Nigeria has refused to hand him to the court, saying it would contravene the terms of the deal under which Mr Taylor agreed to step down. Under the resolution, UN peacekeepers in Liberia are mandated to detain Mr Taylor if he returns to Liberia and to transfer him to Sierra Leone for prosecution.

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Russia's ambassador to the UN, Andrei Denisov, said council diplomats stressed the need to reverse the culture of impunity. Analysts say it is hoped the resolution would deter Mr Taylor from returning to Liberia, which could be very destabilising. Elise Keppler of Human Rights Watch said the resolution sent a strong signal to Nigeria's President, Olusegun Obasanjo, that he should surrender Mr Taylor to the court. However, as the court is facing funding problems, she warned that time was of the essence.

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## Taylor Ordered Arrested

**Liberian Observer** (Monrovia)

NEWS

November 14, 2005

Posted to the web November 14, 2005

Monrovia

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, Martin Garcia Moritan 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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*However good life is to me, I never forget where I came from. I started out so low go up - Sean Connery in Hello magazine*

October  
30, 2005

**SIERRA HERALD**

**Justice for crimes against humanity must have limitations...Simon Wiesenthal**

HOME

## **PRESS RELEASE FROM THE SPECIAL COURT IN SIERRA LEONE ON THE LATEST SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**Freetown, 14 November 2005**

**Prosecutor Welcomes UN Security Council Resolution Granting the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) Chapter VII Powers to Arrest Charles Taylor**

The Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone welcomed the United Nations Security Council Resolution (1638), passed unanimously on 11 November 2005, which grants the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) a Chapter VII 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. However, he 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

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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 U.S. Congress resolutions calling for the transfer of Taylor to the 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.**

**And we dare add:**

**Is somebody in Nigeria listening? Not only President Olusegun Obasanjo, but one General Abubakarr who in his heart of hearts, it seems would want to let Charles Taylor off the hook.**

**We are waiting.**

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**UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 15 Nov. 2005**

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

**International Clips on Liberia****Sirleaf wins majority in Liberia presidential race**

By Lauren Gelfand

MONROVIA, Nov 15 (AFP) - Ellen Johnson Sirleaf on Tuesday won a 59.4-percent majority in Liberia's elections and was poised to become Africa's first elected woman president, as a probe continued into claims of vote fraud from her rival, footballer George Weah. The National Elections Commission said votes from all 3,070 polling places around the densely forested west African nation had been tallied by Tuesday, ahead of final results to be certified before November 23.

**Liberia's 'Iron Lady' to get new room with a view**

By Lauren Gelfand

Nov 15 (AFP) - Her garden once ablaze with tropical flowers now hosts two drab olive tents and a handful of gun-toting Nigerians. Where she walked freely among Liberians eager to reach out and touch their "Iron Lady", she now is kept at a safe distance behind hulking security guards. After exile and jail time, years in government and decades in opposition, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf is poised to make history as the first woman to be elected president in Africa, joining an elite club of heads of state to break through the glass ceiling of top-level government.

**BBC, 15 November 2005**

**Warning over Liberia poll results**

The party of Liberian football star George Weah has warned the elections commission not to announce official results from last week's run-off.

With almost all of the votes counted, Mr Weah's rival, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, has an insurmountable lead but Mr Weah claims the vote was rigged.

An official of Mr Weah's CDC party said if the results are announced on Tuesday, there will be "resistance".

**Liberia election commission to probe Weah complaint**

MONROVIA, Nov 15 (Reuters) - Liberia's elections commission said on Tuesday it would have to investigate soccer star George Weah's allegations of fraud before it could announce the final results of a presidential run-off he appeared to have lost.

## **Local Media – Newspapers**

### **Council of Churches Certifies Election Result**

*(The Analyst)*

- The Liberia Council of Churches (LCC) told a press conference in Monrovia yesterday that the 8 November run-off election was free, fair and transparent and the result credible despite minor irregularities.

### **CDC Threatens to Unleash Violence**

*(Daily Observer, The News and The Inquirer)*

- Any further release by the National Elections Commission (NEC) of results from the 8 November run-off election will lead to nothing short of violence and chaos, CDC Assistant Secretary-General Acarus Gray, reading a press statement, said during a demonstration in Monrovia yesterday. The demonstration was running for the third day.

### **Peace Mediator Pleads With CDC Supporters to Allow Peace to Prevail**

*(The Analyst)*

- The ECOWAS Chief Mediator in the Liberian peace process, Rtd.-Gen. Abdulsalami Abubakar, yesterday urged CDC partisans to exercise restraint as ECOWAS probes their complaint of fraud in the runoff. He appealed to the CDC supporters to accept the outcome of the probe and ensure that the peace process remains unhindered.

### **Elections to Revive Liberia Says Foreign Diplomat**

*(Daily Observer)*

- Speaking to journalists in Monrovia over the weekend, Sierra Leone's ambassador to Liberia, Patrick Foya, said that the impressive manner in which Liberians conducted themselves during the elections won the admiration of the international community and opened the opportunity for assistance.

### **Pro-Democracy Group Says Elections Result Reflects Will of the People**

*(The News and The Analyst)*

- The Liberia Democracy Watch (LDW) said in a press release yesterday that the results of the legislative and presidential elections reflect the true will of the people of Liberia. The LDW rated the elections as credible.

### **Weah Supporter Certifies Run-off Result**

*(The Liberian Diaspora and The Forum)*

- A supporter of CDC standard bearer George Weah and Nimba County senior Senator-elect Prince Johnson said yesterday that contrary to the CDC claims of fraud, the run-off election was credible. He urged Mr. Weah to accept the election result and work with the winner for Liberia's upliftment.

### **Former Information Minister Rejects European Union's Position on Charles Taylor**

*(The Liberian Diaspora)*

- Appearing on a Radio Veritas talk show yesterday, former Information Minister Reginald Goodridge said that the European Union's benchmark for the elected government regarding the issue of former President Charles Taylor were untimely and could prove counter-productive to stability in Liberia.

## **Six Hundred Children Out of School in Lofa County**

*(The News)*

- Six hundred Children in Beyan Town, Lofa County, have for the past two years not attended school as a result of the looting of the only school building in the area during factional fighting, chief of Beyan Town, Oyango Beyan told reporters over the weekend.

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

### **Council of Churches Certifies Election Result**

*(also reported on Star Radio)*

### **Peace Mediator Pleads With CDC Supporters to Allow Peace to Prevail**

*(also reported on Star Radio)*

### **Liberians Divided Over EU's Position on Taylor**

- Liberians who called into a Radio Veritas talk show yesterday gave mixed reactions to the latest move by the international community to speed up the surrender of former President Charles Taylor to the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

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

### **CDC Supporters Continue Demonstrations in Monrovia**

- For the third day running yesterday, supporters of the Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) continued their street demonstrations in demand of a re-run of the 8 November run-off election, which they termed as fraudulent. The protestors presented copies of the CDC's position statement to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and U.S. and Ghanaian embassies.

### **Lawmaker Urges Unity after Runoff**

- Bong County Assemblyman Joseph Cornomia has called on the winners of the just-ended elections to prioritize unity among Liberians by creating an atmosphere of reconciliation in the supreme interest of the Liberian people.

### **Elected Government Asked to Investigate Past Rights Abuses**

- At a recent consultative conference on human rights in Paris, France, the Paris-based Federation of Human Rights Defenders called on the incoming Liberian Government to investigate human rights abuses of the past. The federation added that it is opposed to the culture of impunity.

### **Lawmaker Calls for Review of Major Concession Contract**

- A member of the National Transitional Legislative Assembly and Margibi County Senator-elect Clarice Jah has called for the review of the government of Liberia and the Firestone Rubber Company concession agreement on grounds that the company was not living up to the terms of the contract.

### **Gbarpolu County Elections Magistrate Suspended**

- The National Elections Commission recently suspended Gbarpolu County Election Magistrate Bornor Varmah and his deputy Jacob Komah. The two men are under investigation for alleged fraud in the 11 October senatorial election.

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).

## Senegal holds former Chad leader

**Senegal has arrested Hissene Habre, the former president of Chad wanted by a Belgian court for crimes committed during his rule, lawyers say.**

Mr Habre has lived in exile in Senegal since being ousted by rebels in 1990.

Human rights groups accuse Mr Habre's regime of some 40,000 executions and the torture of 200,000 people.

A Chadian commission has accused him of crimes against humanity. Mr Habre has been indicted under Belgian laws that allow it to prosecute all such crimes.

### Torture

"Senegal has received an international arrest warrant for the extradition of Hissene Habre and now Hissene Habre is before a judge and the court will decide the status of his case," Justice Minister Cheikh Tidiane Sy told Reuters news agency.

Mr Sy said the court would decide whether Mr Habre, 63, would be granted bail while the extradition request was being considered.

**Fear is finally changing sides**  
Boucounta Diallo, lawyer

Mr Habre's lawyers have not yet commented but previously said he had not ordered police to torture and kill political prisoners.

United States-based pressure group Human Rights Watch has led attempts to arrest Mr Habre calling him "Africa's Pinochet".

Efforts to prosecute Mr Habre in 2001 in Senegal failed after the country's highest court ruled he could not be tried there, as his alleged crimes were committed outside the country.

Before news of the arrest, one of Mr Habre's lawyers, El Hadji Diouf, said Senegalese judges would throw out the extradition request, for the same reasons given in 2001.

"Senegal is a sovereign country and no judge here will comply with orders from Belgium," he told the BBC.

However, this time Mr Habre's alleged victims filed complaints under Belgium's "universal jurisdiction" law, which allow Belgian judges to prosecute human rights offences anywhere.

Two years ago, Belgium's highest court rejected attempts to use the law against Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and former US President George Bush, over Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982 and the first Gulf War in 1991, respectively.

### Dictators

The BBC's World Affairs correspondent Mark Doyle says Mr Habre came to power in 1982 with covert support from the US which saw him as a bulwark against Muammar Gaddafi in neighbouring Libya.

Eight years later, he was deposed by Chad's current leader, President Idriss Deby.

Human rights activists say Mr Habre could become the first ex-president to be extradited to face human rights charges in another country.

"Fear is finally changing sides," Boucounta Diallo a lawyer for the alleged victims of torture told Senegalese radio station Walf-Fadjri.

"From now on, dictators will watch themselves."

Story from BBC NEWS:  
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/africa/4438674.stm>

Published: 2005/11/15 12:53:16 GMT

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## Chad arrest comes after 15 years

By Mark Doyle  
BBC World Affairs correspondent

**The pressure group Human Rights Watch (HRW) has welcomed the arrest of Hissene Habre, former president of Chad and the man it calls the "African Pinochet".**

Mr Habre took power in 1982 after a long military campaign and was in turn overthrown in a coup d'état in 1990 by the current president of Chad, Idriss Deby.

He then went into exile in Dakar, the Senegalese capital.

Since then, HRW has been instrumental in helping Chadian victims of the former dictator shape a series of detailed allegations against his regime.

Mr Habre has now been arrested in Senegal on an international warrant issued by Belgium for crimes allegedly committed during his time in power.

HRW investigator Reed Brody has personally been pursuing Mr Habre for more than six years.

Standing outside the state prosecutor's office in Senegal, Mr Brody told the BBC by mobile phone: "This could be the first step in extraditing Habre to Belgium."

### Political pressure

In Chad, a truth commission set up after Mr Habre's overthrow accused his regime of political murder and systematic torture.

And in Mr Habre's country of exile, Senegal, a court heard the details of 97 political killings, 100 "disappearances" and widespread torture, all aimed at Mr Habre's political or ethnic opponents.

But political pressure foiled the cases in Chad and Senegal.

In Chad, the problem appeared to be that many members of Idriss Deby's team were also prominent under Mr Habre.

In Senegal, legal moves to prosecute Mr Habre for war crimes reached an advanced stage.

However, the investigating judge, Demba Kandji, was then removed from the case by a panel chaired by Senegal's President Abdoulaye Wade.

Subsequently, more alleged victims of the former Chadian leader, this time in Belgium, brought a new case.

A Belgian judge, Daniel Fransen, investigated their claims - and an international arrest warrant and an extradition request from the Belgian government followed.

If Mr Habre's arrest and questioning are the first steps in his extradition to Belgium, the former Chadian leader would be in the highly unusual situation of being a former head of state facing his alleged victims in the courts of another country.



**Colonial target**

Hissene Habre is widely believed to have come to power in Chad with covert support from the CIA.

Some reports say the US agency gave him \$10m (£5.8m) for his campaign to take power.

The US saw him as a bulwark against Colonel Muammar Gaddafi in neighbouring Libya.

Chad has always had strategic significance; its proximity to Libya is just one important factor.

This piece of the Sahara Desert has also been important historically because it was territory sought by British and French colonialists as a crossroads linking other conquests.

In the days before fast planes and satellite communications, it was seen as hugely important in Paris and London to have linked colonies.

In the end the French got Chad, which linked up other French territories to the west and the south.

The British got neighbouring Sudan.

But Sudan only linked to British-controlled Kenya and other states to the east and not, as London would have also wished, to Nigeria to the west: French-controlled Chad got in the way of that.

Nostalgic old-colonial feelings had only just began to wane in Europe when, a decade ago, Chad discovered large quantities of oil - boosting the significance of the place once again.

Story from BBC NEWS:  
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/africa/4439772.stm>

Published: 2005/11/15 17:55:11 GMT

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## Chad's former dictator arrested in Senegal on charges of mass murder

- Judge to rule on Belgian extradition request
- Seizure of exiled Habré hailed as turning point

Jeevan Vasagar in Nairobi and Luc Torres  
Wednesday November 16, 2005

Guardian

After more than a decade of living in comfortable exile, a deposed Chadian dictator nicknamed "Africa's Pinochet" was arrested by police in Senegal yesterday.

Hissène Habré, 63, who is accused of mass murder and the torture of political opponents, faces extradition to Belgium and a trial for crimes against humanity. He was ousted by the current Chadian president, Idriss Déby, in 1990. Two years later, a Chadian government inquiry accused Mr Habré of 40,000 political killings and 200,000 cases of torture.

"This news fills me with joy and satisfaction," said Clement Abaifouta, who spent four years in one of the dictator's jails. Mr Abaifouta claims that during his imprisonment he was forced to bury the corpses of hundreds of inmates killed by beatings, electric shocks and disease caused by inhumane conditions.

The former president, who lived in a walled seaside villa in the Senegalese capital, Dakar, will be held in custody while a local judge decides whether to grant Belgium's extradition request. Belgium has issued an international arrest warrant holding him responsible for atrocities committed by his political police while he was in power from 1982 to 1990.

Mr Habré's lawyers have said their client had no knowledge that his police tortured and killed political prisoners.

The warrant was issued under Belgium's universal jurisdiction law, which allows its judges to prosecute human rights violations no matter where they were committed. In 2000, a court in Senegal charged the former president with torture and crimes against humanity but later ruled that he could not be tried there. Mr Habré's lawyer said at the time that the ruling meant that his client could not be extradited.

Human rights groups hailed yesterday's arrest as a turning point for Africa. "Fear is finally changing sides," said Boucounta Diallo, a lawyer representing alleged torture victims. "From now on, dictators will watch themselves."

Aside from Rwanda where a global outcry has forced prosecutions, there is a poor track record of African dictators facing justice for their crimes. Idi Amin enjoyed a comfortable exile in Saudi Arabia, while the Ethiopian dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam found refuge in an exclusive suburb of Zimbabwe's capital, Harare.

"I think it's important to break the cycle of impunity," said Reed Brody, a lawyer with Human Rights Watch. "Leaders have brutalised their countries, pillaged their treasuries and then just go abroad to live with their bank accounts."

Mr Brody, who has investigated the case for six years, said he found abandoned police files in Chad that detailed the deaths in detention of 1,208 people under Mr Habré's rule. He said the former president enjoyed a luxurious life in exile. "It's important to note that before he left Chad he allegedly took many millions of dollars. He emptied out the treasury."

Chad, a former French colony, has recently begun exporting oil but it remains one of the world's poorest countries.

One difficulty in pursuing ex-dictators is the clash between the desire for justice and realpolitik. In many cases, as with former Liberian warlord Charles Taylor, only the assurance that they will be granted a safe haven enables brutal leaders to be removed without more bloodshed.

## **Fate of Africa's despots**

**Charles Taylor** Ruled Liberia 1989-2003. Has been in Nigeria since and faces arrest if he returns

**Mengistu Haile Mariam** President of Ethiopia, 1974-91. In Zimbabwe

**Idi Amin** Uganda's president 1971-79. Died in exile in Saudi Arabia in 2003

**Jean-Bedel Bokassa** President of Central African Republic, 1966-79. Exiled in Ivory Coast and France. Died in 1996

**Joseph Desire Mobuto Sese Seko** President of Zaire 1965-97. Died in exile in Morocco in 1997

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