

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



Ben Malor, Chief Executive Producer of United Nations Radio in New York, conducted interviews with the Registrar (above) and other Special Court officials on Monday.

**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 at:**

Tuesday, 18 July 2006

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

Tuesday, 18 July 2006

# Witness explains his ordeal

By Betty Milton

**I**n the ongoing trial of the three Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) members at the Special Court, the witness for the Defense team DWK 090 told of how his hands and legs were chopped in his village: Gbendembu, Ngowahun in the Bombali District on 8 May 1998.

The witness, who was being led in evidence by Andrew Daniels, said the Wednesday before the incident, he was planning to see a medical doctor at the Makeni Government Hospital. So early in the morning he left his house to board a vehicle to take him to Makeni.

He stated that on his

way, he met four men who were in civilian clothes and were holding cutlasses and a gun.

One of the men, the witness said, asked him whether he was a soldier but said he denied and one of them ordered his colleagues to chop his hand. He added that as he was trying to move, his left forearm and left foot were chopped.

Narrating further, the 58-year-old man who testifying in Krio said as he was lying helplessly, the men removed Le 100,000 from his pockets and left him in pain

DWK 090 stated that his elder brother found him lying in the bush and then took him to the Makeni Government Hospital where he stayed for eight months after which he returned to his village.

The witness said during the ninth month some rebels went to his village for the second time

and that under their Operation 'Jah-Jah' demanded food from civilians.

During this operation, the witness narrated, the rebels raped women and girls; one of the girls who were raped was bought out naked and her legs opened wide apart for the people to see. The rebels reportedly took away some food stuff from civilians saying that if they (civilians) were not pleased with the Operation they should report to their boss who was one Major Adama.

The witness said they formed a team and went to Major Adama and reported the matter, but the witness denied knowing the three accused persons: Alex Tamba Brima, Brima Bazzy Kamara and Santigie Borbor Kanu.

Concord Times  
Tuesday, 18 July 2006

# Taylor's lawyer's contract extended

*Story: Ibrahim Seibure*



Special Court Deputy Chief of Press and Public Affairs Peter Anderson Monday disclosed that former Liberian President, Charles Taylor's lawyer; Karim Khan's contract has been extended for another three months.

Andersen says Taylor speaks freely with his family and counsel while at The

Hague

The Special Court officer revealed that Special Court Officials are currently in The Hague and will be holding a Status Conference Friday, 21 July in Courtroom 1 at the International Criminal Court in The Hague. He says the conference will take place before Justice Richard Lussick,

who is Presiding Judge of the Special Court's Trial Chamber II.

He however noted that the court does not have the jurisdiction to grant visas to the family of Charles Taylor to pay him visits as earlier requested by his lawyer.

Exclusive

Tuesday, 18 July 2006

# Special Court Sit In The Hague, Friday

From front page

The Special Court will convene a Status Conference on Friday, 21 July 2006 in the case of The Prosecutor vs. Charles Ghangay Taylor.

The hearing will take

place at 11:30 a.m. at the International Criminal Court in The Hague, The Netherlands, in Courtroom 1 before the Presiding Judge of the Special Court's Trial Chamber II, Justice Richard Lussick.

Agence France Presse

Monday, 17 July 2006

### **First Hearing of Charles Taylor**

The Special Court for Sierra Leone will on Friday hold its first hearing in the case against Charles Taylor since the former Liberian president was moved to The Hague for security reasons, a court spokesperson said on Monday.

"This is a hearing to determine how preparations for the trial are going," court spokesperson Peter Andersen told Agence France-Presse.

It is not clear what exactly is on the agenda for the hearing which Charles Taylor could attend.

Judge Richard Lussick of the United Nations-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone -- which normally sits in Freetown -- will fly to The Hague to preside over the hearing.

The trial has been moved to the International Criminal Court at The Hague to avoid any outbursts of violence in Sierra Leone or Liberia.

Taylor is seen as the single most powerful figure behind a series of civil wars in Liberia and neighbouring Sierra Leone between 1989 and 2003 which left about 400 000 people dead.

He faces a total of 11 charges of crimes against humanity, war crimes and violations of international human rights and is specifically accused of aiding rebel groups which murdered, enslaved and mutilated civilians during a civil war in Sierra Leone, Liberia's neighbour.

## Al-Hayat

Tuesday, 18 July 2006

### **WESTMINSTER NOTES (Charles Taylor)**

Sir Cyril Townsend

To most people's surprise, Britain's new and very dull Foreign Secretary, Margaret Beckett, announced on 15th June that the United Kingdom had agreed to imprison Charles Taylor, Liberia's former President, if he were to be found guilty by the International Criminal Court (ICC) at The Hague.

Before explaining the international aspects of this case, British newspapers could not resist pointing out that Britain's prisons are already seriously overcrowded, and that recently the Home Office released a number of foreign prisoners without making any effort to send them back to the countries they had come from.

Some years ago I was shown around the top security block in Belmarsh Prison, in South East London. This is where Charles Taylor would be imprisoned. The block was constructed with senior IRA prisoners and international drug dealers in mind, and it certainly looked to be extremely secure. The cells were small with a tiny window overlooking the roof tops. I should hate to have to spend a single day in one of them.

There is a considerable story behind Charles Taylor's case, and for years it was assumed he would never be brought before a court - like so many other African warlords. In 2003 he was indicted by the Special Court for Sierra Leone, which was created by the United Nations for war crimes and other serious breaches of international law, carried out during the 11-year civil war in Sierra Leone. It will be remembered this war was exceptionally brutal and the rebels resorted to cutting off the limbs of men, women and children as a method of intimidating the population.

Charles Taylor was removed from power in August 2003. He was given refuge in Nigeria by President Olusegun Obasanjo where he lived in considerable comfort. But in March of this year President Obasanjo agreed to extradite him to Liberia. The global community had been scandalised by Charles Taylor's favourable treatment, and the Nigerian President came under considerable diplomatic pressure.

Charles Taylor had advanced warning that he was going to be kicked out and he attempted to escape over the Nigerian border. It was thought he was trying to get to Libya. He was caught and flown to Sierra Leone.

On his arrival in Freetown he found that nine commanders of rebel and pro-Government militias had already appeared before the Special Court. The Court began to feel it had too much on its plate. Charles Taylor still has his admirers in West Africa, especially in Liberia. Might his presence lead to instability in this war-weary region? Sensibly the Court contacted the Dutch Government to request that the trial of Charles Taylor should be moved to The Hague, and the Dutch Government agreed. However, The Hague is a far more expensive venue. Who is going to pay the difference? It is not yet clear. Will Charles Taylor's victims and the relations still be able to attend the trial?

The Dutch Government, fully aware of the responsibilities that flow from having the ICC and the international tribunal for former Yugoslavia on its soil, but sensing some obvious problems, agreed only on two conditions being met. The Security Council should formally authorise the

transfer of Charles Taylor, and after the trial, whether guilty and sentenced or not, another country would take him in.

At first no country was prepared to step into the breach. Finally the United Kingdom, possibly after some strong lobbying by the United Nations, announced it would give him a prison cell if convicted. Should he not be convicted by the Court it would be a matter for the Dutch Government and the United Nations to find him a new home.

I strongly back this move by the Foreign Office in London, which could cost its budget some £75,00 a year if Charles Taylor is put in prison in Britain. Britain had responsibilities for Sierra Leone from 1808, when a settlement for liberated and escaped slaves on the Freetown peninsula was declared a Crown colony, to 1961 when Sierra Leone became a fully independent state within the Commonwealth.

Britain is rightly proud of the part it played in helping to bring the civil war in Sierra Leone to an end, and the courage and professionalism of its servicemen in that country.

I am conscious of the reservations there are in the Arab world over the role of the ICC. In some quarters it is seen as American or western imposed international justice that is alien to Muslim traditions. But in Rome in 1998 the United States and Israel opposed the Court; 120 other nations backed it. I would claim it is in the interests of the people in every country that those accused of despicable and horrifying war crimes should be brought to justice without delay - and I include Charles Taylor now safely in The Hague.



United Nations



Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

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## **UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 17 July 2006**

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

### **International Clips on Liberia**

#### **Liberian refugees contemplate future: President Johnson-Sirleaf has asked those who left to return, help restore country**

By Karina Gonzalez

Source: Chattanooga Times (Free Press, TN) (KRT) Date: July 17, 2006

Jul. 17--Chattanooga resident Dagbir Seke fled war-torn Liberia in the 1980s but said he plans to return someday to his country of origin now that the rebuilding process has begun. "Everyone is hopeful that things will get better," said Mr. Seke, who arrived in the United States less than a year ago from Sierra Leone, where he took refuge after the civil war broke out. "We have been through years and years of turmoil." After more than two decades of political instability, Liberia's recently elected President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf is working to restore the country. She is calling for Liberians in other parts of the world to return and take part in that process.

### **International Clips on West Africa**

07/17/2006 07:54:36

#### **Ivory Coast president accuses UN mission of siding with rebels**

Abidjan\_(dpa) \_ The president of war-divided Ivory Coast has issued a warning to the United Nations, accusing the country's peacekeeping mission of lacking impartiality.

Speaking Saturday at a rally of his supporters in the administrative capital, Yamoussoukro, President Laurent Gbagbo said the UN only operated in Ivory Coast with the consent of the government. "They must understand that they are here, because we want them to be," he said in a speech broadcast on local radio. "This is an important point. No country has ever been wiped off the world map, because it refused to receive United Nations forces."

### **Local Media – Newspapers**

#### **Bill Clinton Visits Liberia Today**

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

- Former U.S. President Bill Clinton will today pay a one-day working visit to Liberia in the last stop of his Foundation's HIV/AIDS African tour. According to the U.S. Embassy in Monrovia, President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf will host Mr. Clinton at the

Executive Mansion to sign an agreement, partnering her administration and the Clinton Foundation for a fight against the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Liberia.

### **Civic Group Releases Dossier on Perpetrators of War Crimes in Liberia**

*(The Analyst and Heritage)*

- A war crimes advocacy group, Forum for the Establishment of a war crimes court in Liberia, has released a dossier which accuses individuals, institutions and governments of bearing significant responsibility for Liberia's civil war. The dossier named Guinean defense authorities including former Chief of Staff General Mamadou Bailo Diallo and the then Defense Minister of Burkina Faso, Albert Millogo, among others.

### **Plain Truth' Accuses Guinea of Seizing Liberian Territory**

*(Plain Truth)*

- [sic:] A detailed investigation conducted by this paper and supported by incontrovertible evidence, has shown that the sisterly State of Guinea has embarked upon a territorial ambition by deliberately and willfully annexing a substantial portion of land deep inside the territory of Liberia in total disregard to the country's territorial integrity and sovereignty.

### **Bill Gates Promises to Support Free Primary Education in Liberia**

*(Heritage)*

- The Microsoft Computer giant and American billionaire, Bill Gates, has expressed willingness to support Liberia's initiative of a free primary education in the country.
- Vice President Joseph Boakai quoted Mr. Gates as also agreeing to help improve Liberia's communication sector to an appreciable status. Mr. Gates made the commitment when he met with Vice President Boakai at the end of a Microsoft Conference held in South African last week.

### **Liberian Government Launches Job Creation Initiative**

*(The Analyst, New Democrat and Heritage)*

- The Liberian Government on Saturday launched a four million United States dollars emergency job creation initiative that would provide jobs for 50,000 Liberians for a period of two years.

### **Liberians Disappointed Over Security Situation**

*(The Analyst)*

- [sic:] Liberians living in Monrovia and other parts of the country have expressed serious disappointment in UNMIL and national security for their failure to combat criminal activities in the country which are causing fear among the people, especially the rural population who are most vulnerable.

### **Christians Protest Ritualistic Killings in Ganta**

*(The Inquirer)*

- More than 5,000 Christians under the banner of the Ganta Christian Community (GCC) on Sunday staged a street protest against the growing wave of ritualistic killings in Ganta, Nimba County.

### **Patrice Juah Crowned Miss Liberia**

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

- Patrice Juah of Bong County on Saturday captured the prestigious Miss Liberia Beauty Crown at the Unity Conference Center in Virginia, outside Monrovia.

### **UN Reduces Military Component in Liberia**

*(Liberian Express and New Democrat)*

- The United Nations Security Council has announced a decision to decrease the military deployment of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL); at the same time increasing the mission's police presence in the country.

### **Anti-Labour Law to be Repealed by Legislature**

*(Liberian Express and New Democrat)*

- Two bills which will give Liberian workers the right to legally strike and stop employers from arbitrarily dismissing workers without written warning are before the House of Representatives to be repealed. The two Acts, PRC Decree #12, which banned workers from striking during the reign of the People's Redemption Council Government in the 1980s and 1508 Sub-section (3) of the Labour Practice Law of Liberia were read on the floor of the House.

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

#### **Bill Clinton arrives in Monrovia Today**

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

#### **Bill Gates Pledges Support to Free Primary Education in Liberia**

*(Also reported on ELBS Radio)*

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

#### **Speaker Wants Timely Passage of Forestry Concession Law**

- Following a meeting with the visiting U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Linda Thomas Greenfield, House Speaker Edwin Snowe called on the Executive to timely submit the new Forestry Concession Bill to the House for review and passage to meet the 90-day deadline set by the UN Security Council for the lifting of sanctions on Liberia's timber industry.

#### **New flight launched in Monrovia**

- Air Senegal International a 114-seater Boeing 737 aircraft, which predominantly flies the West African routes, at RIA yesterday, inaugurated a flight to Liberia. A senior official of Air Senegal, Ibra Wane, said that the airline would connect Liberia with the United States and Europe via Dakar.

*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).*