

SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE OUTREACH AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE



Visiting ICTR Prosecutor Justice Hassan Jallow delivered a public lecture yesterday on “International Criminal Justice: Reflections on Past and Future” at the Special court.

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:

Friday, 19 February 2010

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
Martin Royston-Wright
Ext 7217

Local News

Charles Taylor Did Not Work for the CIA.../ <i>Premier News</i>	Pages 3-4
Taylor Disproves Kabbah's Claims / <i>Concord Times</i>	Pages 5-6
Charles Taylor Dismisses ECOMOG Commander's Allegations as "Nonsense" / <i>The Spectator</i>	Pages 7-8
Charles Taylor Denies Double Dealings / <i>African Champion</i>	Page 9

International News

As Charles Taylor Concludes Several Months Of Testimony.../ <i>Charlestaylortrial.org</i>	Page10
UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary / <i>UNMIL</i>	Pages 11-15
ICC Prosecutor Arrives in Guinea for Massacre Probe / <i>Agence France Presse</i>	Pages 16-17
Goldhagen's Worse than War - is Genocide a Political Act? / <i>Radio Netherlands Worldwide</i>	Page 18
EKU, Berea College Host Black History Month Celebrations / <i>Richmond Register</i>	Pages 19-21

Charles-taylor-did-not-work-for-the-cia-he-did-not-manipulate-prosecution-witnesses-he-says

Charles Taylor did not work for the United States' top spy agency while he was a rebel leader in Liberia, but did receive sophisticated communication equipment from the agency in the hope that Mr. Taylor's forces could help protect American citizens and property during Liberia's brutal civil conflict, he told the Special Court for Sierra Leone today.

Prosecutors have previously accused Mr. Taylor of working for the United States' Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) while at the same time collaborating with the Libyan government which provided support to his National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) rebel group. In his re-examination today, the former president denied working for the CIA.

"I have never, ever, and will not ever work for the CIA or any other intelligence agency, never, no," the former president told Special Court for Sierra Leone judges today.

Mr. Taylor's lead defense lawyer, Courtenay Griffiths, further asked the former president about prosecution allegations that he provided information to the CIA. Mr. Taylor insisted that he did not. However, Mr. Taylor did return to a statement he made during cross-examination on November 16, 2009, in which he denied that he was an agent of the CIA but indicated that his NPFL rebel group did share information with the US intelligence agency.

"The organization [NPFL] provided information to the CIA. The NPFL at the time did provide information to the CIA and there was information from the CIA to us too. There was exchange of information, mostly from between 1991-92," Mr. Taylor said.

Mr. Taylor also said that the CIA provided sophisticated communications equipments to the NPFL because they wanted his rebel group to protect American citizens and properties in Liberia during the country's conflict.

In other developments today, Mr. Taylor denied prosecution allegations that he used his telephone services in his detention facility to manipulate witnesses set to testify for the prosecution. Prosecutors have previously alleged that Mr. Taylor worked with associates in Liberia to intimate and discourage people from testifying against him.

Mr. Taylor today dismissed the allegations, telling judges that the court's registrar, who oversees his detention in The Hague, has never accused him of misusing the telephone services provided to him. He said that all his telephone calls are fully supervised and are arranged after intensive investigations on who he wants to call.

“First, I have to submit a number of an individual that I would like to call at some time, the process takes two weeks for the Sierra Leonean court and the facilities to do their security checks on the number and the individual,” Mr. Taylor said. “After about two weeks, that number is approved for calling. I cannot just automatically get up and say, please call this number, no, it has to be vetted and approved by the Sierra Leonean court.”

Mr. Taylor also today distanced himself from a January 5, 1999 letter written by former Sierra Leonean president, Ahmed Tejan Kabbah, to the United Nations Secretary General in which the former Liberian president was accused of providing support to Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels who were at that time waging war in Sierra Leone.

“I have a mountain of evidence that rebel offensive has been supported and sustained by the Taylor government,” President Kabbah’s letter noted.

Dismissing the letter as nonsense, Mr. Taylor explained how he would have reacted if he had received a copy of the said letter.

“I would have taken a different disposition during that particular period that Kabbah — who was calling me and talking to me and visiting Liberia — could write a letter making such an accusation. It would have probably changed me significantly,” Mr. Taylor said.

The former Liberian president added that if he had received the said letter, he would have removed himself from the Committee of Five, a committee established by West African leaders to facilitate a peaceful end to the conflict in Sierra Leone.

Mr. Taylor is charged with 11 counts of war crimes, crimes against humanity and other serious violations of international humanitarian law in relation to his alleged role in supporting and controlling Sierra Leonean rebels who committed mass crimes during the brutal civil conflict in his neighboring country.

Taylor disproves Kabbah's claims



*Sierra Leone's former president, Alhaji Dr.
Ahmad Tejan Kabbah*

Former Liberian president, Charles Taylor has dismissed as untrue former Sierra Leone president, Ahmad Tejan Kabbah's letter which accuses him of supporting and sustaining rebel activities in Sierra Leone.

The former Liberian leader also denied any double dealing with Libya and the Central Intelligence Agency, the CIA and of using telephone in the detention facility to manipulate prosecution witnesses.

Prosecutors during cross-examination accused Mr. Taylor

Contd. page 4

Taylor disproves Kabbah's claims

From page 1

of double dealing with the Central Intelligence Agency, the CIA and the North African country of Libya.

They alleged that Libya assisted the former Liberian leader to launch his revolution in Liberia while at the same he was working for the CIA.

On re-direct examination, Taylor told the court that the CIA gave sophisticated communication equipment to his rebel movement, the National Patriotic Front of Liberia, the NPFL. He said the American Intelligence Organization wanted the NPFL to ensure the protection of American citizens and properties in Liberia during the war. But the accused denied ever working for the CIA.

Former Sierra Leone president, Tejan Kabbah told the United Nations Secretary General in a letter dated January 5, 1999, that Liberia's Charles Taylor was supporting rebels in his country. "I have mountain of evidence that rebel offensive has been supported and sustained by the Taylor government," Kabbah declared in his letter read in court.

However, Taylor described Kabbah's allegation as total nonsense, and said he would have reacted strongly if he had received a copy of that letter. The former president further denied using telephone in his detention facility to manipulate Prosecution witnesses.

He said the surveillance kept over all his

calls made it impossible for him to have interfered with prosecution witnesses. The prosecution alleged during their case that Mr. Taylor and his associates in Liberia threatened and discouraged some of their witnesses from testifying against him.

But the accused told the court that the Registrar of the Special Court who has oversight responsibility for his wellbeing in prison has never accused him of any misuse of his telephone.

He explained to the court how all his telephone calls are arranged by the prison guards. The re-direct examination of Taylor continues.

Also, during his re-direct examination on Wednesday, the former denied that the Covert Operation Account opened at the Liberia Bank for Development and Investment, LBDI in 1999 was to enrich himself.

Mr. Taylor also sharply disagreed with his former defence minister, Daniel Chea who allegedly described in a magazine the 1995 disarmament in Liberia as a fiasco.

Taylor told the court that 51st Legislature of Liberia authorized him in December 1999 to open the covert account at the LBDI to defend the country against rebel forces. He said the covert account was opened in his name to ensure complete control.

During cross-examination, the Prosecution accused him of depositing funds generated from

Liberia's timber and maritime in a secret personal account.

But on re-direct examination, Taylor denied using the covert account at the LBDI to enrich himself. He told lead defence lawyer, Courtenay Griffiths how he used money from the LBDI account.

The former Liberian leader said he was forced by constant rebel attacks during his presidency to purchase arms and ammunition secretly from the International Community.

On Monday, Taylor disassociated himself from his former defence minister that the 1995 disarmament in Liberia was a fiasco. Mr. Chea in an interview with an international magazine named World Line in May of 2005 said there was no disarmament in Liberia in 1995. But Taylor, Chea's former boss, differed with him.

Chea told the magazine that Taylor disappointed the Liberian people by opening too many fronts that he could not contain. Dressed in a long moron African traditional gown and hat, Taylor breathed an air of relief as he comfortably answered questions on re-direct examination from his own lawyer.

For the past two months, prosecution lawyers bombarded the former Liberian president with controversial and incriminating questions about his alleged support to Sierra Leonean rebels. His re-direct examination continues.

The Spectator

Friday, 19 February 2010

Charles Taylor Dismisses ECOMOG Commander's Allegations as "Nonsense"

Claims that Charles Taylor secretly smuggled arms and ammunitions into Liberia in 1997 without informing the West African peacekeepers were dismissed as "nonsense" today by the former Liberian president in his trial in The Hague.

During cross-examination, prosecutors had raised allegations of Mr. Taylor's involvement in arms smuggling in Liberia, pointing to a book written by Nigerian General Victor Malu - the head of West African peacekeeping forces in Liberia during Mr. Taylor's presidency. In his book, General Malu reportedly claimed that in 1997, Mr. Taylor secretly smuggled arms and ammunition from South Africa through the Free Port of Monrovia without informing Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) peacekeepers. The former ECOMOG commander said that before his forces were alerted, Mr. Taylor had removed the arms and ammunition from the Free Port. As Mr. Taylor continued his re-examination today, Mr. Taylor dismissed the allegations as nonsense.

"Since ECOMOG arrived in Liberia in 1990, they maintained full control of the Free Port of Monrovia. So to say at this particular time that arms are being brought into the Free Port, the Navy of ECOMOG is based there," Mr. Taylor told the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

"Even through my presidency, ECOMOG was deployed fully in Monrovia and its environs by this time. So this is total nonsense that someone could have brought a shipload of arms into the Free Port, the Navy of Nigeria is running this port, it's totally, totally crazy here, it's not possible."

Asked whether General Malu had confronted him with intelligence that shiploads of arms and ammunition had

been brought to Liberia through the Free Port, Mr. Taylor responded that "never, so help me God, never, Malu never discussed this with me."

Prosecutors have alleged that even with an ECOMOG presence in Liberia and with the West African country under a United Nations arms embargo, Mr. Taylor smuggled arms and ammunition into the country. These arms, prosecutors say, were then sent to Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels in Sierra Leone, a rebel group that Mr. Taylor is alleged to have provided support to during the 11-years conflict in Sierra Leone.

While maintaining that his country did not have arms to supply rebel forces in Sierra Leone, Mr. Taylor has admitted that at some point in his presidency, he

secretly bought arms and ammunition solely for the purpose of fighting rebel forces which were threatening to unseat his government in Liberia.

Also in his re-examination today, the former Liberian president dismissed General Malu's accounts that during Mr. Taylor's rebel days, he had acquired about 20 armored personnel carriers, four tanks, tons of artillery and anti-aircraft rifles for use in 'Operation Octopus' - a 1992 operation by Mr. Taylor's rebel forces to capture the Liberian capital, Monrovia.

Mr. Taylor maintained that during the entire period of the Liberian conflict, his National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) rebel group never had access to armored personnel carriers, tanks and anti-aircraft rifles. He explained that Operation Octopus was a military operation which was aimed at capturing Monrovia and bringing the Liberian conflict to an end.

Mr. Taylor, who has previously testified that he had several disagreements with General Malu, today told the court that when he was elected as president of Liberia in 1997, he called for the replacement of the Nigerian General.

Referring to General Malu as "abrasive" and "rude," Mr. Taylor added that ECOMOG soldiers were not loved by the Liberian people.

"Liberian citizens complained seriously about the treatment that ECOMOG meted out to ordinary citizens. At check points, they would beat the people, they would take away their items, I mean, they were wild," Mr Taylor said. "And I was the person that always talked about the sovereign rights of Liberians in their country, unruly behaviors on the part of ECOMOG troops - Liberians were really, really angry," he said.

In his re-examination, Mr. Taylor has been seeking to clarify certain issues that were raised during his cross-examination by the prosecution. His defense counsel, Courtenay Griffiths today informed the court that Mr. Taylor's re-examination will likely be concluded by tomorrow. If that happens, both prosecution and defense will tender several documents to be admitted in evidence and then Mr. Taylor's witnesses will start testifying in his defense immediately after.

The African Champion
Friday, 19 February 2010

Charles Taylor Denies Double Dealing

Former Liberian President, Charles Taylor has denied any double dealing with Libya and the Central Intelligence Agency, the CIA. Mr. Taylor also dismissed as untrue Former Sierra Leone President, Tejan Kabbah's letter which accuses him of supporting and sustaining rebel activities in that country. The Former Liberian Leader also denied using telephone in the detention facility to manipulate Prosecution witnesses. John Kollie has this transcribed report from The Hague....

Prosecutors during cross-examination accused Mr. Taylor of double dealing with the Central Intelligence Agency, the CIA and the North African Country of Libya. They alleged that Libya assisted the Former Liberian Leader to launch his revolution in Liberia while at the same he was working for the CIA.

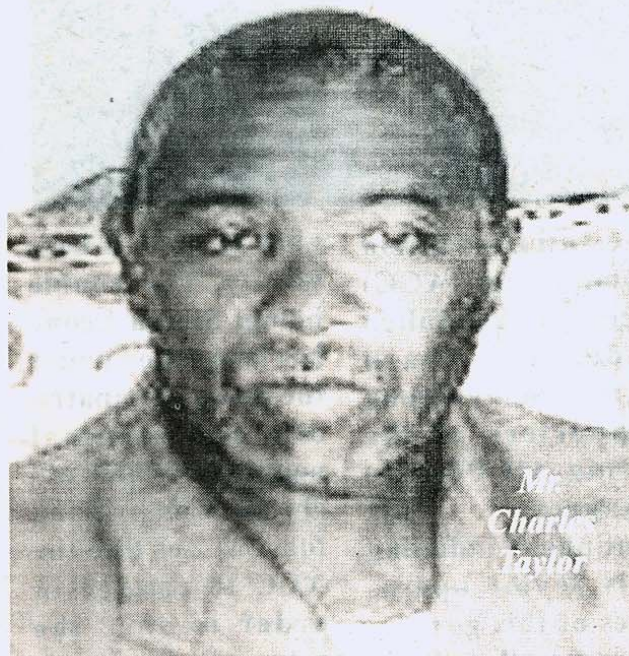
On re-direct examination, Mr. Taylor told the

court that the CIA gave sophisticated communication equipment to his rebel movement, the National Patriotic Front of Liberia, the NPFL.

He said the American Intelligence Organization wanted the NPFL to ensure the protection of American Citizens and Properties in Liberia during the war. But Mr. Taylor denied ever working for the CIA.

Former Sierra Leone President, Tejan Kabbah told the United Nations Secretary General in a letter dated January 5, 1999, that Liberia's Charles Taylor was supporting rebels in his country. "I have mountain of evidence that rebel offensive has been supported and sustained by the Taylor Government, Mr. Kabbah declared in his letter read in court.

Mr. Taylor described Mr. Kabbah's allegation as total nonsense, and said he would have reacted strongly if he had received a copy of that letter. The Former Liberian Leader on Tuesday de-



Mr.
Charles
Taylor

nied using telephone in his detention facility to manipulate Prosecution witnesses.

Mr. Taylor said the surveillance kept over all his calls made it impossible for him to have interfered with Prosecution witnesses. The Prosecution alleged during their case that Mr. Taylor and his Associates in Liberia threatened and discouraged some of their witnesses from testifying against him.

But Mr. Taylor told the court that the Registrar of the Special Court who has oversight responsibility for his wellbeing in prison has never accused him of any misuse of his telephone.

The Former Liberian President explained to the court how all his telephone calls are arranged by the prison guards. The re-direct examination of Mr. Taylor continues on Wednesday.

Charlestaylortrial.org

Friday, 19 February 2010

As Charles Taylor Concludes Several Months Of Testimony, He Says Prosecutors Have Not Proven Any Case Against Him

By Alpha Sesay

As former Liberian president Charles Taylor wrapped up his testimony today, he had one message for the judges: prosecutors have not proven their case against me.

Prosecutors say Mr. Taylor is responsible for heinous crimes committed by rebel forces in the neighboring West African nation of Sierra Leone — including murder, rape, amputations and using child soldiers to fight — during the country's brutal 11-year war. The former president has been testifying in his own defense since July 14, 2009. He has denied all charges against him in his trial at the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

"In order to make their case that they have not been able, in my opinion, to prove, they can call me any name, it does not make it right. And the facts before this court, the judges in their decision will determine as to whether this is true — 'He's got billions of dollars'," Mr. Taylor said, repeating the allegations made against him by prosecutors, who say he enriched himself with profits from selling diamonds he got from rebels in exchange for weapons.

"We've been in this court now, I've been sitting in this chair here for almost seven months, where are the billions?" he said. "I disagree with them, but I think it's a part of their job to say these kinds of things or to try to make me look bad, this is not true, so I disagree with them."

Prosecutors have also tried to demonstrate that while Mr. Taylor was president of Liberia between 1997 to 2003, he abused the trust of the Liberian people, which in turn caused the international community to back away from supporting his government. Mr. Taylor, right through his testimony, has asserted that he diligently served his country as president, and that he is now in the Special Court thanks to a conspiracy among western countries to make him a scapegoat for crimes in Sierra Leone.

"Everything that I did as president, is being done [now] exactly as I did it, these very same people, Maryland Wood is operating in Liberia right now, the same procedure... is being used right now by Ellen Johnson, everything, there is nothing unlawful, nothing illegal, the same procedure of designating and permitting an oligopoly for rice — because rice is a matter of life and death in Liberia — is going on the same way right now. There's nothing but just allegations and just mere allegations. That's it," the former president said.

Mr. Taylor also dismissed as lies prosecution allegations that he persecuted journalists and human rights activists who became critical of his government. Mr. Taylor told the judges that persons who have been named by prosecutors as journalists and human rights activists were opposition activists who were bent on spreading misinformation about him and his government.

"There is a political context here in dealing with certain people that have been raised here...but these were people that were involved in a process of spreading information, disinformation, misinformation, doing everything to bring my government down," he said.

As Mr. Taylor concluded his testimony today, he reaffirmed his position that he did not in any way support armed groups in Sierra Leone, including the RUF and Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) — a group of disaffected Sierra Leonean soldiers who overthrew the elected government of Sierra Leone in May 1997.

"Did you, Charles Taylor, between November 1996 and January 2002 provide assistance, support or any kind of help with war-like materials to either the AFRC or the RUF?" Mr. Taylor's defense counsel, Courtenay Griffiths, asked him as a final question in his re-examination.

"No. Never," Mr. Taylor responded.

Other defense witnesses will start testifying in Mr. Taylor's defense on Monday.

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

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

International Clips on Liberia

**International Clips on West Africa
Guinea**

18 February 2010

ICC prosecutor arrives in Guinea for massacre probe

The deputy prosecutor of the International Criminal Court arrived in Guinea on a three-day visit to assess whether it can try those responsible for a 2009 opposition massacre if the government fails to do so. Fatou Bensouda is set to visit the Conakry stadium where rights groups say more than 150 people died and 1,200 were injured when troops attacked opponents of Guinea's military junta gathered for a rally on September 28 last year. The junta says 63 people died. Soldiers shot, stabbed and beat up protesters and publicly raped women. A UN report said regime leader Captain Moussa Dadis Camara and his aides were responsible for crimes against humanity. In a brief statement at the airport Bensouda said: "The aim of our visit is to observe what has been done about the painful events of September 28 2009 here in Conakry so that justice should be done to the victims." She was welcomed by **Guinea's** Justice Minister Colonel Siba Lohalamou.

Sierra Leone

Seven Hills staff, Clark students travel to Sierra Leone

www.telegram.com 2010/02/18

WORCESTER — Somewhere in Bo, Sierra Leone, children are playing a new game, Duck, Duck, Goose. They learned the game from staff members of Seven Hills Foundation and students at Clark University, who traveled to Sierra Leone in January with David A. Jordan, president and chief executive officer of Seven Hills Foundation and social entrepreneur-in-residence at Clark. Older members of the community laughed while the volunteers ran around with the children. Teaching the tag game to the children was just one way the group communicated despite the language barrier. "Play is international," Mr. Jordan said. The trip was part of Seven Hills Global Outreach, an affiliate program of Seven Hills Foundation that partners with a course at Clark University taught by Mr. Jordan. Seven Hills Foundation is a Worcester-based organization that supports and helps individuals with disabilities in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Global Outreach volunteers worked with Fresh-Hope Ministries International to help care for at-risk orphans and young women. Seven Hills Global Outreach was formed in October 2008 by students in Mr. Jordan's social entrepreneurship course and club at Clark and his staff at Seven Hills. Students range from freshmen to seniors, across all majors. In class, they discuss how to use business principles to support nonprofit organizations.

Ivory Coast

Roads blocked as opposition calls for more protests in Ivory Coast

2/18/2010

Source::: Reuters

AFP- ABIDJAN: Thousands of demonstrators blockaded parts of Ivory Coast yesterday in protest against President Laurent Gbagbo's decision to dissolve the government and electoral commission, witnesses and protesters said. Gbagbo's decision following a spat with the electoral commission over voter registration is certain to delay yet again a presidential election that was scheduled for early March. Frustration is growing at years of delays to a vote meant to restore peace to West Africa's former economic hub, after a 2002-3 war divided it between Gbagbo's government and rebels who control the north. The opposition has called for big street protests, raising the spectre of violence in the world's top cocoa grower. In the main city of Abidjan, a protester seized and set fire to a bus belonging to a national transport company. "There was a vandal amongst the bus passengers who sprayed the bus with flammable liquid," said Thomas Koffi, the transport company manager.

Ivory Coast PM Says will Pick Government in Two Days

2/18/2010

YAMOOUSSOUKRO (Reuters) - Ivory Coast's Prime Minister Guillaume Soro said on Thursday he had asked for two extra days to form a government to replace the one that his president sacked almost a week ago. President Laurent Gbagbo dissolved the government and electoral commission after a row over voter registration last Friday, sparking a political crisis and opposition demonstrations across the country. "In the meeting with head of state (on Thursday), we insisted on getting 48 hours extra to permit us to finalise the consultations we are engaged in," Soro told journalists in the capital Yamoussoukro.

Local Media – Newspaper

ECOWAS Leaders Agree On Several Issues

(The Inquirer, Front Page, The Informer, New Democrat and New Republic)

- Heads of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) have expressed their commitment to the mobilization of international support for a comprehensive post-electoral reform of the defense and security sector, urgent socio-economic assistance and the re-launch of the Guinean economy.
- The ECOWAS Leaders in a communiqué issued at the end of their day-long summit in Abuja also appealed to the international community to support Guinea for a successful transition and rapid economic recovery.
- Speaking at the summit, the President of ECOWAS, Dr. Mohammed Ibn Chambas disclosed that even though significant progress has been made in member states, the issue of peace, security and democratic environment remained fragile and susceptible to reversals.

Liberia National Red Cross Society Seek Local Partners

(The Inquirer and the News)

- The President of the Liberia National Red Cross Society (LNRCS), Theresa Sherman is calling on local partners to join the organization in achieving self sustainability in order to remain a strong and reliable partner of the Liberian people.
- Speaking yesterday at the organization's year in review that outlined LNRCS achievements and operational challenges, the LNRCS Head said the need for LNRCS to raise domestic resources to complement the contribution of external donors cannot be over emphasized."
- She said during this period of the country's existence all must understand that the need to save lives is a humanitarian imperative that requires a nationalistic participation.

GAC Finally Submits Copies of HIPC Audits

(The Analyst, The News and The Monitor)

- The General Auditing Commission (GAC) says it has finally submitted draft copies of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) audit reports to the Ministries of Finance, Education, Public Works, Health, and Lands, Mines and Energy.

- The GAC said the five ministries carry the largest portion of the national budget and are recommended by international partners and Government for the HIPC.
- According to the GAC, the final copies of the HIPC audits are expected to be sent to the Legislature and the President at the close of this month.

“Ellen, Weah May not Contest Elections... As Senators raises Constitutional Issues” (Daily Observer)

- [SIC] The question regarding whether or not President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, George Opong Manneh Weah, Sen. Prince Y. Johnson, and others will contest the 2011 General and Presidential Elections triggered intense political debate at the Liberian Senate yesterday, with some members raising constitutional issues.
- The more than three-hour debate took place in the chambers of the Upper House of the National Legislature with the body failing to arrive at any conclusion.
- The Senate debate followed a Referendum Bill passed last year by the Lower House and forwarded to the Senate for concurrence.
- The bill, among other things, seeks to amend several provisions of the 1986 Constitution of Liberia, including the reduction of the tenure of the presidency from six to four years; the tenure of members of the House of Representatives from six to four years; and the

Former President Taylor Did Not Work For The CIA, He Did Not Manipulate Prosecution Witnesses, He Says

(The Monitor and News Democrat)

- Former Liberian President Charles Taylor said he did not work for the United States' top spy agency while he was a rebel leader in Liberia.
- He however told the Special Court for Sierra Leone that he receive sophisticated communication equipment from the agency in the hope that Mr. Taylor's forces could help protect American citizens and property during Liberia's brutal civil conflict.
- Prosecutors have previously accused Mr. Taylor of working for the United States' Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) while at the same time collaborating with the Libyan government which provided support to his National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) rebel group. In his re-examination, the former president denied working for the CIA.
- In other developments, Mr. Taylor denied prosecution allegations that he used his telephone services in his detention facility to manipulate witnesses set to testify for the prosecution.
- Prosecutors have previously alleged that Mr. Taylor worked with associates in Liberia to intimate and discourage people from testifying against him.

Opposition Liberia Unification Party Suspends Chairman, Secretary General Over Merger

(The News and National Chronicle)

- The National Executive Committee of the opposition Liberia Unification Party (LUP) has announced the suspension of its Chairman and Secretary General with immediate effect.
- In a letter to the National Elections Commission (NEC), LUP Executive Committee said the suspension of Isaac Mannah, Chairman and Cletus Sieh, Secretary General remains enforced.
- According to the letter, the Standard-bearer and chairman of the supreme council of LUP, Dr. Shelton Beedo said the men were suspended for what the party called their unilateral ratification of the article of merger between LUP and the Unity Party.
- The LUP National Executive Committee declared the ratification of the article of merger null and void and suspended all discussions relating to the merger.
- The party called on the NEC to halt all political transactions with the men as an interim leadership would be elected soon.

Finance Ministry Officials On Submission of Budget Proposals, Sets New Deadline

(The Informer, Daily Observer)

- Deputy Finance Minister for Budget, Dr. George Gonpu has expressed concern over delay by some government ministries in submitting their budget proposals for the 2010/2011 Fiscal Year.

- Dr. Gonpu at a news conference Wednesday said that as the country prepares for the 2010/2011 National Budget, the Department of Budget at the Finance Ministry was reminding all spending entities of government that the deadline for the submission of budget proposals had expired.
- He disclosed that up to present, only 26 entities had submitted their budget proposals.
- Meanwhile, the Ministry has set February 22, 2010 as the final deadline for the submission of budgetary request.

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

Rights Group Resurrects Murdered Schoolboy's Case

- Regional Watch for Human Rights has written Justice Minister Christiana Tarr drawing her attention to the brutal murder of little Vewu Kesselee of Lofa County.
- In the letter the group's Regional Director Thompson Adebayor gave a brief outline of the history of the case and pleaded for the Minister's intervention.
- Mr. Adebayor informed Cllr. Tarr that the matter was previously brought to the attention of her predecessor Cllr. Philip Banks but he failed to fully address it.
- He said since the mysterious death of Little Vewu Kesselee of Kpazagezia Town, family members and the entire citizenry of Zorzor have been crying for justice.

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

GAC Finally Submits Copies Of HIPC Audits

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

IFRC, Others Pledge US\$4 Million To Liberian Red Cross

- The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies have pledged about US\$4 million support to the Liberian National Red Cross Society.
- The societies include the International Committee of the Red Cross, the British Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross and the Danish Red Cross amongst other.
- The societies made the separate pledges at a partnership meeting in November last year.

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

Experts Recommend Reform In Liberia's Criminal Justice System

- Four Liberian Criminal Justice experts have expressed support for the bill seeking to reform Liberia's Criminal Justice System.
- The four experts told a House of Representatives Committee there was a need to improve the criminal justice system of the Country.
- However, Justice Minister Christina Tah said the Prison Reform bill still needs to be reviewed especially the proposal to make the Bureau autonomous.
- Messrs Cecil Griffiths, Losay Kendor, Boakai Kanneh and Justice Minister Christina Tah spoke Wednesday during a public hearing on the draft Prison Reform Act under the sponsorship of Margibi Representative Saar Gbollie.

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

Pre-trial Hearing Begins In Former PPCC Chairman Murder Case

- A pre-trial hearing in the Keith Jubah murder trial has begun at Criminal Court A.
- Judge Saykijipo Wolloh had earlier assigned the case to officially begin Wednesday but could not, based on some legal imperatives.
- The imperatives include a Defense request for the provision of all relevant documents and a listing of prosecution witnesses.
- Reports say the court has mandated the Prosecution to provide the documents to the defense by Thursday.
- Nine men indicted for allegedly killing Mr. Jubah would be appearing in court when the trial officially begins.

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

Law Reform Commission Evaluates Residency Clause

- The Law Reform Commission (LRC) says it is concluding a research with urgency to help the Senate reach a determination on the controversial Residency Clause.

- The Chairman of the commission, Counsellor Philip Banks said findings from the research will include the significance of the clause and reasons why the crafters included it in the constitution.
- Counsellor Banks said the commission will ensure debatable constitutional issues which often arise are quickly addressed because not many people understand the nature of those issues.
- According to the LRC boss the commission has so far gathered eighty percent of the existing laws and has begun reviewing them to determine whether they need reform.

LEITI Launches Second Report Today

- Liberia Extractive Industrial Transparency Initiative (LEITI) will today launch its second report.
- The report covers payments made to government by seventy-one mining, oil, agriculture and forestry companies during a one year period beginning from July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009.
- According to the secretariat, the report will be launched and released by the Multi Stakeholders' Group.

LUP Suspends Chairman, Secretary General, But...

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

Criminal Court B Admits Defense's Documents Into Evidence

- Criminal Court B has admitted into evidence ten separate documents produced by the defense lawyers in the Angel Togba murder case.
- The documents among other things include American pathologist's report, the criminal scene measurement and the Police first investigative report.
- Judge Blamo Dixon in his ruling said the documents met legal requirements and must be endorsed as part of court records in determining the case.

Agence France Presse

Thursday, 18 February 2010

ICC prosecutor arrives in Guinea for massacre probe

By International Justice Desk



Conakry, Guinea

The deputy prosecutor of the International Criminal Court arrived late Wednesday in Guinea on a three-day visit to assess whether it can try those responsible for a 2009 opposition massacre if the government fails to do so.

Fatou Bensouda is set to visit the Conakry stadium where rights groups say more than 150 people died and 1,200 were injured when troops attacked opponents of Guinea's military junta gathered for a rally on September 28 last year.

The junta says 63 people died.

Soldiers shot, stabbed and beat up protesters and publicly raped women. A UN report said regime leader Captain Moussa Dadis Camara and his aides were responsible for crimes against humanity.

In a brief statement at the airport Bensouda said: "The aim of our visit is to observe what has been done about the painful events of September 28 2009 here in Conakry so that justice should be done to the victims."

She was welcomed by Guinea's Justice Minister Colonel Siba Lohalamou.

The deputy prosecutor will visit military camps and hospitals and meet Guinea's interim President General Sekouba Konate, transitional Prime Minister Jean-Marie Dore, cabinet ministers, judges and representatives of victims' groups, prosecution aide Beatrice le Fraper told AFP ahead of the visit.

"Cooperation is good," she added. "The Guinean authorities were not obliged to show us the places where potential crimes were committed but they have been transparent."

The Netherlands-based ICC said in October it had launched a "preliminary examination" of the violence to determine whether the alleged crimes fell within the court's jurisdiction and whether the facts warranted a full-scale investigation.

Examining crimes

To this end, the court has to examine the nature and gravity of the crimes, whether or not there were national criminal proceedings, and the interests of justice in general, said le Fraper.

Guinea is a state party to the founding Rome Statute of the court, the world's only permanent tribunal for the adjudication of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

It only acts when a member state is unwilling or unable to try individuals accused of serious violations. A junta-appointed commission this month absolved Camara, who is convalescing in Burkina Faso since a December assassination attempt, of blame over the stadium incident.

Guinea has insisted it has the will and the means to prosecute those responsible for the killings.

"We are going there to tell them that by virtue of the Rome Statute, which they ratified, they are obliged to do so," said le Fraper.

Radio Netherlands Worldwide

Thursday, 18 February 2010

Goldhagen's Worse than War - is genocide a political act?

By International Justice Desk



Amsterdam, Netherlands

Are genocides an inevitable feature of human societies? If not, why do they continue to happen, long after we've all agreed "Never again"?

According to historian Daniel Jonah Goldhagen, it's because some political leaders see them as a way to achieve political goals.

"We must stop detaching mass elimination and its mass-murder variant from our understanding of politics. Eliminationist politics, like the politics of war, is a politics of purposive acts to achieve political outcomes, often of ultimate ends and often of desired power redistribution." Daniel Jonah Goldhagen, *Worse than War: Genocide, Eliminationism and the Ongoing Assault on Humanity*

Contrary to much of the received wisdom about genocide, Goldhagen argues that it's never the result of irrational, frenzied bloodlust emerging from natural social tensions. In his view, genocides are planned and reasoned decisions: conscious political choices, with clear political ends. "Mass murder is a political act," he says, and any serious attempts to prevent it must take this into account. If genocide is indeed the rational, calculated action of political leaders, we need to make sure that leaders don't benefit from atrocities. "It's a political game....[and]...if people involved knew at the end of the day they'd be the losers, they would not play the game," says one of Goldhagen's interviewees.

You can read more about Daniel Jonah Goldhagen's views on genocide in this article from The New Republic:

<http://www.tnr.com/article/world/ending-our-age-suffering>

Let us know what you think? Do you agree with Goldhagen's description of mass killing? Is it always a calculated "top down" political action, or can genocide be sparked by natural societal tensions - ethnic, economic, religious, etc? What does that tell us about how to stop it from happening?

Richmond Register

Monday, 8 February 2010

<http://www.richmondregister.com/localnews>

EKU, Berea College host Black History Month celebrations

Register staff report

Eastern Kentucky University and Berea College each have several events planned for Black History Month.

Berea College alumnus Carter G. Woodson, known as the “Father of Black History,” began the nation’s annual observance celebrating African Americans and their achievements as Black History Week in 1926. Woodson graduated with a bachelor’s degree in literature from Berea in 1903.

The Berea College Black Cultural Center, in conjunction with other departments and programs on campus, is sponsoring events in celebration of Black History Month. The events are open to the public and free of charge unless otherwise noted.

The Intercultural/ Interracial Community Dialogue Dinner is scheduled for 4 to 6 p.m. Tuesday at the Black Cultural Center inside the Alumni Building.

The dinners are designed to bring members of the community together to discuss race and other experiences relating to diversity. Dinner is provided and a vegetarian option is available. The event is limited to 20 participants. Call 985-3797 for reservations.

The Carter G. Woodson Memorial Convocation is scheduled for 3 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 18 in Phelps Stokes Auditorium and will feature Robert Bullard as the guest speaker. Bullard will be presenting “Environmental Justice: Strategies for Creating Healthy and Sustainable Communities.”

The Annual Carter G. Woodson Unity Banquet will begin at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 20 in the Upper Seabury Gymnasium in the Seabury Center. Tickets are \$12 for non-Berea College students.

John Fleming will present the “Museums and the African American Experience” convocation at 3 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 25 in Phelps Stokes auditorium.

Fleming, a 1966 Berea College graduate who earned his Ph.D. from Howard University, was the founding director of the National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center and director of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center.

He now serves as the executive director for the national traveling exhibition, “America I Am: African American Imprint on America.”

Call 985-3797 for more information about the events.

EKU’s Black History Month highlight will feature a presentation by political strategist Donna Brazile at 7 p.m. Monday in Brock Auditorium on the ECU campus. Her presentation is titled: “National Politics and the African American Community.”

Brazile, adjunct professor, author, syndicated columnist and television political commentator, made history as the first African American woman to lead a major presidential campaign when she served as Campaign Manager for Gore-Lieberman 2000.

Brazile, a New Orleans native, has worked on several presidential campaigns for Democratic candidates, including Carter-Mondale in 1976 and 1980, the Rev. Jesse Jackson's first historic bid for the presidency in 1984, Mondale-Ferraro in 1984, U.S. Representative Dick Gephardt in 1988, Dukakis-Bentsen in 1988, and Clinton-Gore in 1992 and 1996.

Bankole Thompson, a judge for the Trial Chamber of the Special Court for Sierra Leone and former Justice of the High Court of Sierra Leone, will present "The Contributions of the UN-Backed Special Court for Sierra Leone to the Administration of International Criminal Justice," from 11 a.m. to noon Thursday in the Posey Auditorium inside the Stratton Building.

The "African American Read-In," will be conducted from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, Feb. 15 in Room 108 of the Crabbe Library where students, faculty, staff and community members will read excerpts from their favorite works by African American authors.

No pre-registration is required and all readers are welcome. Food and giveaways will be available to all who attend.

The Black History Month Showcase will be featured Monday, Feb. 22 through Thursday, Feb. 25 in the Powell Building, ECU Cultural Center and the Kennamer Room inside the Powell Building.

This feature will showcase the cultural contributions of black Americans, highlighting music, literature, poetry, social movements, foods and local and national historical figures.

Call Lisa Daniels at 622-4373 or Marta Miranda at 622-2913 for more information.

History Panel: "Civil Rights in Lexington, Kentucky," will be presented from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 24 in Room 108 of the Crabbe Library.

Call 622-8676 or afastudies@eku.edu for more information.

Ronica Shannon can be reached at rshannon@richmondregister.com or 624-6608.