

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



Sierra Leone Protectorate. Natives Playing Warri.

Historic postcard 'Natives playing warri'

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 September 2008

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

Wednesday, 17 September 2008

SPECIAL COURT CAN'T TELL IF JOHNNY PAUL KOROMA IS DEAD!

SPECIAL COURT has bones on the remains of AFRC-Ruf leader, Johnny Paul Koroma but cannot confirm whether he is alive or dead until forensic tests are carried out.

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IN THE drive to be self-sufficient in food production, the government has successfully won the assistance of the Libyan government which will soon supply the country with 300 tractors.

by **MAMOU
S BANGURA**

Disclosing the news to the public on air, president Koroma said that eight of the tractors will soon arrive from Libya and the others will follow. He urged farmers to take advantage of this opportunity as the world all over is involved in mechanized farming. He admonished farmers not to re-

lent but to come onboard the agricultural train to attain food security. He said the consumption of foreign rice by a majority of Sierra Leoneans will soon become a thing of the past and assured that he is in full support of the Minister of

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SPECIAL COURT

From Front Page

Outreach co-ordinator for the Special Court, Patrick Fatoma said they actually received information about the death of Johnny Paul at Foyah in neighbouring Liberia and they have worked on that intelligence but they cannot confirm whether their indictee is dead until proper scientific investigation is made on his remains.

Fatoma said it has to take time before the actual result is made public because the bones have to be taken out of the country but that the charges levied against Johnny Paul Koroma would not be dropped until a real scientific investigation is done with the bones collected in Liberia.

That if he is still alive the Special Court would do all it takes to bring him to justice even if the Special Court-Sierra Leone would have closed.

He said modalities are already in place to try him in any country but however called on the public to know that they already have the bones of the alleged Johnny Paul Koroma.

He said in recent years the same thing happened with Sam Maskita Bockarie but with proper investigation, the truth was revealed and therefore cautioned to let's wait and see the outcome of the investigation. **by MAMOU S BANGURA**

New Citizen

Wednesday, 17 September 2008

Steven Rapp Raps On Corruption

By Abu Kalokoh

Prosecutor for the Special Court for Sierra Leone, Steven Rapp, yesterday lectured distinguished personalities at the Anti Corruption Commission (ACC) conference room on Gloucester Street in Freetown. Making a presentation on insider witnesses, Steven Rapp articulated that the Commission requires vast ex-

perience in dealing with insider witnesses which he defined as a person who belongs to an organization and wants to give information on

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corruption to the ACC.

Steve Rapp observed that the task is to get at the top of the issue of corruption by operating behind the scene in an organization suspected of involving in criminal dealings with sufficient evidence.

The Special Court Prosecutor defined corruption as an organized effort by someone who steals or embezzles for personal use, something entrusted to him or her, highlighting that in most cases the cooperation of the insider is taxing because the culprit may tend to connive with insider witnesses.

According to Steven Rapp, in finding out ways to nab corrupt persons, it is also wise to talk to a

Steven Rapp

person already charged for corrupt practices suggesting that a reward is necessary for insider witnesses or whistle blowers because they are taking a high risk by divulging sensitive information to the ACC.

The Commission, he continued, should also be ready to protect the whistle blower and that in most cases after the case is completed there may likely be reprisals or attacks on the family of the whistle blower.

He went on, "it is also challenging to receive the cooperation of the culprits as sometimes, the Commission needs to present arguments to corrupt officials to unearth the veracity of the

corruption. In this case, the Commission should have a clear understanding of what it is doing or justify to the public why it is working with a criminal."

Concluding, he averred that it is imperative on the ACC to compel those who refuse to provide information to do so although reservations were raised about the right of the individual embedded in the 1991 constitution that gives one the right to keep silence.

The lecture was witnessed by Inspector General of Police, Brima Acha Kamara, legal luminaries and staff of the Commission.

BBC World Service Trust

Report by Joseph Cheeseman

18 September, 2008

Detained Former Liberian President, Charles Taylor is accused of aiding the Sierra Leonean Rebel, RUF to commit sexual violence, abduction and forced labour, murder, physical violence, cruel treatment, acts of terrorism among others against the civilian population of that West African State. A Crime Based Witness or Victim of the Sierra Leonean Civil War on direct examination in The Hague has testified to treatments she and her fellow captives received at the hands of the RUF and AFRC. Joseph Cheeseman reports.

A Sierra Leonean woman testifying with false name, voice distortion and screen says the RUF and AFRC Rebels forced their captives to carry wounded soldiers and boxes of ammunition. She also said captured civilians were forced to wash the clothes for the wives and children of the rebels. She vividly described how a 12 year old carrying a box of ammunition from Koidu to Kailahun Town was treated by the rebels. The witness is testifying in English, but her distorted voice is only being interpreted in Krio.

(Translated from Krio)

Witness: One small boy, he carried a box of ammunition. He said it was too heavy for him and he stopped. He was ordered to move and he was not able to, and then they killed him.

The protected witness direct examination lasted for one and half days, and she landed in the hands of Charles Taylor's defence team for cross-examination. The defence team tried to impeach the credibility of the witness by stating that through out her nearly 300 interviews and clarifications she made to the prosecution, she did not make any reference to the rebels as Charles Taylor's rebels until September 14 and 15, 2008 when she arrived in The Hague and met with the prosecution. Defence Lawyer, Terry Munyard wondered why the witness stated evidence so late.

(Translated from Krio)

Witness: I did not have the opportunity to tell you, and I was so depressed.

Mr. Munyard: Right, in February 2008 you signed a solemn declaration saying that you went through all the things previously stated, and that they were true. You had a chance then to mention Charles Taylor, isn't that correct?

Witness: I do not remember talking about that.

Mr. Munyard: You had a chance in February to talk about it.

Witness: I forgot about that.

The witness admitted that the terrible things that she experienced during the Sierra Leonean civil war affected her memory and ability to have given accurate information to the prosecution at the time. The prosecution 40th witness has ended her testimonies.

The 41st witness only presented by the prosecution for cross examination has taken the stand in Taylor's trial. Mr. Alex Bao, a Sierra Leonean Police Sergeant previously testified in the trials of Former Fighters of the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council, AFRC and the RUF in Freetown. The prosecution only presented Mr. Bao's previous testimonies in the AFRC case to the Taylor's defence team for cross-examination. On cross-examination, Mr. Bao testified that the RUF and AFRC branded peaceful civilians as Kamajors and killed them in the Sierra Leonean Town of Kenema. The cross-examination of the Sierra Leonean Police Sergeant continues on Friday.

United Nations  **Nations Unies**

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

**UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries
18 September 2008**

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

Newspaper Summary

Newly-Trained Corrections Officers Urged to Uphold High Standards of Human Rights

(New Vision, The Inquirer)

- A batch of 66 newly-trained Corrections Officers has been urged to follow the highest standards of human rights and rule of law when performing their duties. The call was made by head of the Corrections Advisory Unit of the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), Ms. Marjo Callaghan, at a graduation ceremony for the new officers at the Liberia National Police Training Academy. "As corrections officers, you are responsible for the care, custody and control of human beings," Ms. Callaghan noted.
- Mr. James Hallowanger, the Commissioner for Training and Development at the Liberia National Police Academy, urged the new officers to be transparent, accountable and respectful. He cautioned them against unethical practices in the discharge of their duties.
- The graduation of this latest batch of officers - from Classes VI and VII - brings to 209 (including 28 females), the total number of corrections officers trained at the Liberia National Police Training Academy since the inception of the training exercise in 2004. The 12-month intensive induction training course is a joint programme of the UNMIL Corrections Advisory Unit and the Liberian Bureau of Corrections and Rehabilitation of the Ministry of Justice.

Margibi Murder Trial Suspended

(The Analyst, National Chronicle, The Inquirer)

- With just few days to the hearing of a petition filed by state lawyers accusing the resident Judge of Criminal Court 'A' Korboi Nuta of giving 'greater attention' to the murder trial involving Margibi County Senator Roland Kaine along with 17 others, the Justice in Chambers of the Supreme Court of Liberia, Associate Justice Jamesetta Howard Wolokolie has given a mandate suspending the trial.
- The mandate which is dated September 12, 2008 reached Judge Korboi Nuta last Monday September 16, ordering him to resume jurisdiction over the case but, at the same time to have it suspended for this term. "By directive of her honour Jamesetta Howard Wolokolie, Associate Justice... you are mandated to resume jurisdiction of the case... however, the hearing of the main case is suspended this term so as to enable petitioner ample time to prepare its case," the mandated stated. Associate Justice Wolokolie had earlier issued a stay order into the murder trial and ordered Judge Nuta to appear before her in Chambers on September 20, 2008, to hear the petition filed by State prosecutors headed by Solicitor General Tiawan Gongloe.

TRC Hearing Mars by confusion as Witness Resorts to Invectives

(The News, New Vision, Heritage, The Analyst, New Democrat)

- A Thematic and Institutional Hearings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) nearly ended in a stalemate Wednesday evening when the former Chairman of the National Patriotic Party (NPP) Cyril Allen attempted walking out of the hall following heated exchanges between him and two commissioners.

- Allen got irritated by questions from Commissioner Massa Washington attributed to a witness that former President Charles Taylor was a “hustler”. The NPP Chairman became irritated by the question and demanded the commissioner to disclose the name of the witness who said Mr. Taylor was a hustler.
- “...If you bypass your respect you will meet your disgrace...,” Allen told Commissioner Washington when she asked him to properly address her.
- Following exchanges with Commissioner Washington, the NPP executive was also engaged in another exchange with Commissioner John Steward.
- The fury between Allen and Commissioner Steward started when he (Allen) was interrupted with another question while attempting to answer a previous one.
- “Do not interrupt me when I am talking... shut up when I am speaking; you’ve come here to talk foolishness...” Allen who was furious told Commissioner Steward.
- The Commissioner, apparently upset by Allen’s statement, said “do not insult me...if you want insult, let’s go outside.” The situation escalated – with the audience getting noisy and mumbling – when Allen deviated from a question regarding the looting of a huge generator from Bong Mines allegedly by Mr. Taylor’s NPFL. At that point, Allen referred to Steward as a “small boy”. He said Steward and other commissioners should direct their questions within the confines of his general testimony.
- As the confusion between the two men ensued uncontrollably, TRC Chairman Jerome Verdier interrupted and asked for calm. He urged Commissioner Steward to allow the witness to explain and not to interrupt him. He also cautioned Allen to watch his language.

Radio Summary

Star Radio *(News monitored today at 8:00 am)*

President Sirleaf in the U.S. to Attend UN General Assembly

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has left the country to participate in the United Nations General Assembly.
- President Sirleaf is also scheduled to Co-host with American philanthropist George Soros, a meeting of American-based foundations that support Liberia and to participate in a fundraising program for the Liberia Education Trust.
- In another development, the President yesterday signed into law an act merging the Bureau of the Budget into the Ministry of Finance.
- The act, which is one of Liberia’s benchmarks under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative (HIPC), was signed by the President at a brief signing ceremony at the Foreign Ministry after it was presented to her by the members of the National Legislature.

(Also reported on Truth F.M. and ELBC)

President Sirleaf Commissions Anti - Corruption Commissioners and Others

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has challenged government officials to uphold the public trust as they carry out their national duty.
- Speaking when she commissioned members of the Anti-Corruption Commission, President Sirleaf challenged them to use the statutory mandate to bring to book and prosecute individuals who will violate the public trust.
- Those commissioned were Cllr. Frances Johnson Morris, Executive Chairperson, Anti-Corruption Commission; Joseph Acqui, Vice Chairperson; Z. Moulai Reeves, Commissioner; Sandra Howard Kendor, Commissioner and Cllr. Ousman Kanneh, Commissioner.
- Addressing journalists shortly after the commissioning ceremony, the Executive Chairman, Counsellor Frances Johnson-Morris said her institution will leave no stone on turn in its fight against corruption.
- Counsellor Morris said the commission will request President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf to declare her assets to demonstrate the commission’s resolve in fighting corruption irrespective of status in society.
- Earlier, 18 other officials of government were commissioned.

(Also reported on Truth F.M. and ELBC)

U.S. Gives Liberia \$US80M for Development

- The United States Government has provided US\$80 million to support Liberia's development agenda.
- Speaking during the signing of the agreement for the assistance, U.S. Ambassador to Liberia, Linda Thomas-Greenfield said the support was a show of US commitment to a brighter future for all Liberians.
- The bilateral agreement amends four previous agreements with USAID increasing US support to the country.
- As part of the agreement, USAID will also provide over US\$23 million for projects in Liberia using other instruments outside of the agreements.
- The arrangement brings U.S. support to Liberia for fiscal year 2008 to over one hundred three million five hundred twenty seven thousand US dollars.
- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf thanked the United States Government for the support and said the US remains Liberia's first and foremost partner.

Star Radio (Liberia)

Thursday, 18 September 2008

Pro-war crimes forum writes for security protection

Written by Emmanuel Broh

The Forum for the Establishment of a War Crimes Court in Liberia has written the Justice Ministry to put in place security measures for its planned October 15 march.

The group's National Chairman said on the day of the march the group would inform the international community about the need to establish a war crimes court in Liberia.

Mr. Mulbah Morlu said the court would prosecute those who bear the greatest responsibility for crimes against humanity and war crimes in the country.

Mr. Morlu said it would be a violation of the constitutional right of the people if government attempts to deny them the right to peacefully gather and march.

Mr. Morlu said the October march would commemorate the mayhem that occurred when the defunct National Patriotic Front of Liberia launched its Operation Octopus in 1992.

The Octopus was the Taylor-led NPFL's second major onslaught on the capital, Monrovia in its quest to seize power by force of arms.

Thousands of Liberians were killed in the mayhem.

The Analyst (Monrovia)

Wednesday, 17 September 2008

'Absolute Disgrace'

The 3-dimensional peace formula of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) - truth telling, forgiveness seeking, and forgiveness granting - is anchored in extensive in-country interaction and Diaspora outreach.

The Commission, in keeping with this formula, recently communicated with the Special Court of Sierra Leone and the counsels of the former president of Liberia and war crimes indictee, Charles Taylor, on the possibility of giving him the opportunity to testify to his role in the Liberian civil inferno.

That should be a key Diaspora Outreach score and a rare opportunity for Taylor to testify to history. But, to the shock of observers, Taylor's counsels are fuming over the call. "But why?" is the question many are asking.

The Analyst Staff Writer has been looking at the interview Taylor's chief counsel granted BBC's Mariama Khai Fornah recently in The Hague.

Charles Taylor's lead defence counsel, Jamaican-born Courtney Griffiths, has described as "absolute disgrace" the plan of the TRC to give Taylor the opportunity to testify to his role in the Liberian civil war.

In the view of the counsel, the call is not only belated, but it also calls into question the sincerity of the TRC and the government of Liberia in seeking justice as far as Taylor's trial by a foreign court is concerned.

He said because the TRC's recent communication seeking permission to speak to Taylor in order for them to interview him and provide testimony before the TRC is anchored in that questioned sincerity, it is disgraceful and outrageous.

"I actually think this letter is an absolute disgrace, because given the fact that the Liberian government handed Mr. Taylor over to a foreign court in a foreign country, and for them now to be going cap in hand to beg that court to speak to their own citizen I find [it] totally outrageous," said chief counsel Courtney Griffiths.

According to him, the request was a disgrace because had they wanted testimony from Mr. Taylor the Liberian government would not have handed him over three years ago to a foreign country.

He said the TRC, which was commissioned in January 2006 and did not commence operation until nearly six months later, should have known that Taylor has relevant information for the Liberian TR process and acted to keep him in Liberia so that they can question him at liberty.

It is not clear whether Counsel Griffiths deliberately chose to overlook the arguments and concessions that led to Taylor's red-carpet exile to Calabar in Eastern Nigeria in 2003 whence he was extradited to Sierra Leone, but he insisted that the Liberian people, and the administration that came to power three years later, should have rescued and kept him for the kind of testimony the TRC is seeking today.

"Well I think it's disgraceful because were they truly interested in Mr. Taylor's views, they could have kept him in Liberia and questioned him there, but they didn't.

They handed him over post-haste to the Special Court for Sierra Leone, established by treaty between the Sierra Leonean government and the United Nations a body in which the Liberian government has no say whatsoever. And now they turn round almost three years later, 'Oh former president, we'd like to speak to you.' Perhaps they ought to have thought about that three years ago when they handed him over," he said.

Even though he conceded that the Liberian government has no hand or authority over the proceedings of the hybrid court, he contended that it should have acted in Taylor's favour.

He, though, neglected to say how that should have been possible at the time when Liberia was being delivered through "Caesarean section" from its own civil upheaval created by Charles Taylor, the villain now posing as a scapegoat of international intrigue.

"Is he saying that the rats should have asked the captor of Mr. Cat to leave him alone so that they (the rats) will question him on a later date?" wondered on observer regarding Mr. Griffiths' contention.

Again, the man who is seeking the possibility of having Mr. Taylor once again walk the streets of Monrovia - a free man - did not mind the distortion of the facts of Taylor's extradition to Sierra Leone by the Nigerian government and the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) with the ceremonial nod of the Liberian government.

"And why is it that he's been languishing in prison for almost three years without a visit from any member of the Liberian government or a Liberian ambassador or representative. And then all of a sudden out of the blue they want to speak to him. I think that's a disgrace," he said, justifying why he believes the TRC's call is not a blessing for Taylor to speak into history but the addition of insult to injury.

Chief counsel Griffiths said it was up to the prosecuting court and Mr. Taylor himself to say what they make of the TRC's request, noting that Taylor would not appear were it left to his judgement.

"There is no way I will allow anyone to speak to my client prior to my client giving evidence in these proceedings," he Griffiths said.

Counsel Griffiths, also describing the TRC's call for Taylor to testify "outrageous", said the only option opened to the TRC, and those supporting its initiative, is for the Commission to quietly meet with Taylor in his cell holding in The Hague and telecast his testimony to the Liberia people on giant screens in Monrovia.

"So that when Mr. Taylor gives evidence as he will do, all of Liberia can sit down and watch it in comfort. That's what they ought to do if they truly want to hear his views. They handed him over to this Court, so let them wait until he's given evidence before this Court to judge what he has to say about that critical period in their history," he said.

On arguments that the Liberian economy may be unable to foot the bill of such transaction, Griffiths said the government could contact the British and the Americans who were behind the establishment and sustenance of the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

"It's those foreign countries who are busy funding the Special Court for Sierra Leone, and it's supposed to be done in order to promote the rule of law in West Africa, because of course West Africans don't understand what the law is.

They have to be taught it by these foreigners. So consequently, as part of the 'enlightening process' let the Americans and the British put their hands in their pockets and help out the Liberian people so they can see justice being done," he said, in the view of one observer, "deliberately making fun of and politicizing the Liberian peace process".

According to Counsel Griffiths, Taylor rejected the TRC request outright after reading the communication and holding a brief discussion with his legal counsels, emphasizing that that answer was now the position of the defence counsel.

Where this final position leaves the possible telecast suggestion is not known, but Counsel Griffiths proceeded to note that it was irrelevant to the counsels whether Taylor met the TRC and testify or not.

"It will have no effect whatsoever, because at the end of the day what is happening in terms of the TRC in Liberia at one level is a total irrelevance, because remember, Mr. Taylor is not on trial for anything he did in Liberia. He's on trial for what he's supposed to have done in Sierra Leone.

Had the Liberian government any interest in what he had to say about that critical period in their history, they should have kept him on his own soil where he was born so he could speak out to his own people in that forum," he said.

It may be recalled that recently the TRC sent a 9-paragraph letter to the Registrar of the Special Court for Sierra Leone requesting access to interview Mr. Charles Taylor and to have him testify about his role in the country's brutal 14-year conflict.

Speaking on the Commission's plan at the time, TRC Chairman Jerome Verdier said it was important for the commissioners to make 'as much effort as possible' to ensure Taylor tells his side of the story.

But Chairman Verdier was not fussy at the time about Taylor testifying, making it appear as the opportunity it is.

"It is former President Taylor's prerogative to decide. The choice will be his - whether to speak to the commission and have his version of history documented and recorded for the people of Liberia to hear and read," Verdier said at the time, adding, "All options are open as far as how Taylor would testify."

In his view, Taylor did not have to return to Liberia. He could instead testify before the commissioners inside his detention facility in the Netherlands.

The News (Liberia)

Friday, 19 September 2008

ECOMOG Sold Weapons to All Factions, Arab Groups --Cyril Allen Discloses

The former Chairman of the National Patriotic Party (NPP) has revealed that the West African Peace Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) that were engaged in peace monitoring during the early days of the Liberian conflict sold weapons to all armed factions including the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) led by Mr. Charles Taylor.

Cyril Allen said ECOMOG also sold weapons to Arab groups in the middle-east while keeping peace in Liberia. He did not disclose the names of the Arab groups that ECOMOG allegedly sold weapons to.

Mr. Allen said the NPFL on several occasions bought weapons from ECOMOG and that some generals who were at the helm of military command were arms dealers.

Besides the NPFL, the former NPP Chairman told the TRC that ECOMOG also sold weapons to ULIMO-J, ULIMO-K and the Liberia Peace Council (LPC), among others.

The NPP stalwart did not state the identities of the ECOMOG generals who allegedly sold weapons to the various armed groups neither did he disclose how much the NPFL paid for each weapon.

Mr. Allen made the disclosure Wednesday when he appeared before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). His testimony about the sale of weapons by ECOMOG stunned most Liberians about their role in the peace process.

He explained that the sale of weapons by ECOMOG to the various armed groups in Liberia had enraged the United States government, prompting the Americans to raise the issue with ECOWAS states.

According to Allen, the United States Government provided US\$30 million in military support to the ECOWAS Peace Monitoring Group.

Mr. Allen said the sale of weapons caused the Nigerian administration at the time to effect a change of command.

Touching on other issues, the NPP executive said that the 17 enlisted men who staged the 1980 military were not the ones who killed former President Tolbert.

Allen said President Tolbert was murdered by foreigners and not the 17 enlisted men as reported. He argued that the coup leader Samuel Doe, also slain by the INPFL ten years after the coup, did not have the education, experience and sophistication to have staged a coup of such nature.

He told the TRC that based on conversation and interactions he held with Mr. Doe and other members of the coup, he was informed that Mr. Harrison Pennoh was the first man who entered Tolbert's room and saw him dead.

Allen said based on a book written by Tolbert's wife, Victoria, the people who killed her husband were white people, indicating that the 17 enlisted men did not kill Tolbert.