

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



**PRESS CLIPPINGS**

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

Wednesday, 2 December 2009

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

Wednesday, 2 December 2009

### 'I Helped Reconcile Rebel Commanders'...Taylor Tells Special Court

*By Alpha Sesay*

Charles Taylor helped three major Sierra Leonean rebel commanders to reconcile their differences but such reconciliation was not for purposes of a military takeover of the country, the accused former Liberian president told Special Court for Sierra Leone judges Friday in The Hague.

Mr. Taylor was responding to questions during his cross-examination on his decision to host Revolutionary United Front (RUF) leader Foday Sankoh, his deputy Sam Bockarie and Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) leader Johnny Paul Koroma in a meeting in Liberia. Taylor explained that after the signing of the peace agreement between the government of Sierra Leone and the RUF in 1999, there were certain differences between the RUF and the AFRC which needed to be resolved in order to make the peace agreement suc-

cessful.

Prosecution counsel Nicholas Koumjian suggested to the accused that he wanted to help the rebel commanders reconcile their differences in order to restore a military regime in Sierra Leone.

"Did you invite Foday Sankoh, Sam Bockarie and Johnny Paul Koroma to Liberia for reconciliation on how to return to military power in Sierra Leone?" Koumjian asked Taylor, but the latter responded with a resounding "No."

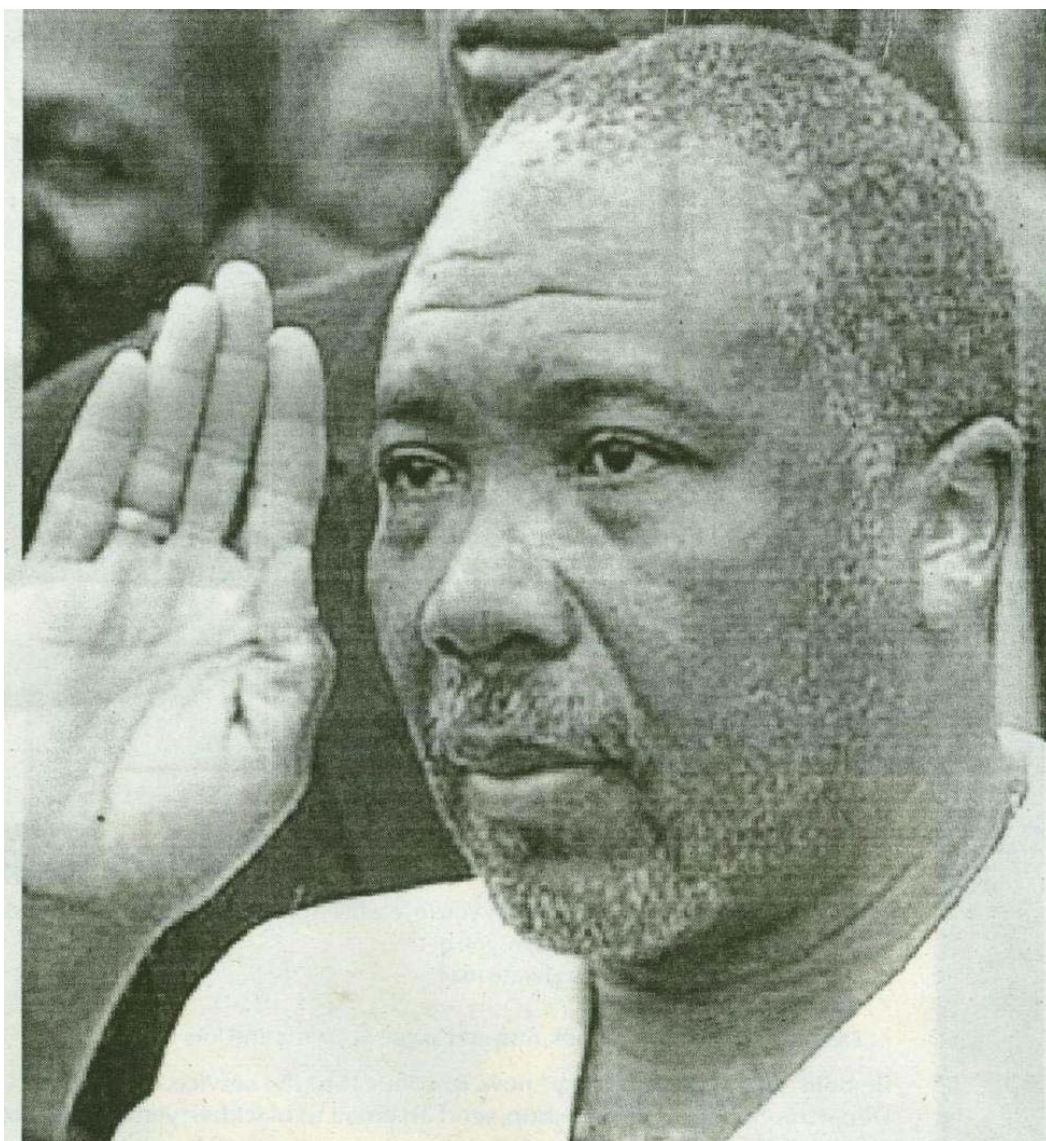
The AFRC which was formed by members of the Sierra Leone Army (SLA) overthrew the elected government of Sierra Leone in 1997 and formed a merger with the RUF. The AFRC/RUF junta regime ruled Sierra Leone until 1998 when they were forcefully removed from the country's capital by West African peacekeepers. In 1999, the government signed a peace agreement with the rebel forces in the Togolese capital, Lome.

Taylor agreed with

Koumjian that when the three rebel commanders met in Liberia, the government of Sierra Leone was not represented there. "Why not invite the government of Sierra Leone?" Mr. Koumjian asked. "Because the government of Sierra Leone was not part of the issues between them. There was bad blood between the SLA and the RUF and their purpose was to sort out that bad blood," Taylor said, adding that former Sierra Leonean president Ahmed Tejan Kabbah "was kept informed" of the meeting between the rebel commanders in Liberia.

He insisted that the meeting with the rebel commanders in Liberia was necessary to make the peace agreement between the Sierra Leone government and the rebels successful. He explained that at the signing of the peace agreement in Togo, a decision was taken to make RUF leader Sankoh vice president of Sierra Leone but nothing was said about what position should be





given to AFRC leader Johnny Paul Koroma. It was at the meeting in Liberia, of which President Kabbah was kept informed, that a decision was taken to make Koroma the chairman for the commission for consolidation of peace (CCP), Taylor said, stressing that he kept other West African leaders informed of these developments.

"I did not act alone," he said. "I was on the phone

with Obasanjo [Nigerian president], Eyadema [Togolese president] and Kabbah [Sierra Leonean president]. I was not a lone ranger in this. Johnny Paul Koroma needed assurance and I assured him."

According to the former Liberian president, it was after this reconciliatory meeting in Liberia that the RUF and AFRC leaders decided to travel together to

Sierra Leone. They were received in Sierra Leone by president Kabbah, Taylor said.

The judges will use Monday (today) to determine whether such "fresh evidence" should be used by the prosecution. There will therefore be no court hearings today.

Mr. Taylor's cross-examination continues on Tuesday.



## For di People

Wednesday, 2 December 2009

# *Demjanjuk tried for Nazi crimes*

**JOHN DEMJANJUK, accused of helping to murder more than 27,000 Jews at a Nazi death camp, has gone on trial in the German city of Munich.**

Mr Demjanjuk, who is 89 and was deported from the US in May, entered the courtroom in a wheelchair. His eyes were closed but he seemed conscious.

He denies being a camp guard at Sobibor, in Nazi-occupied Poland.

The trial is expected to last until May and, if found guilty, Mr Demjanjuk could be sentenced to 15 years in jail.

The trial's first session was delayed, AFP news agency said, as large numbers of people tried to gain access.

Witnesses have been arriving for the court session, but organisers were overwhelmed by the crowds of people trying to get in, including journalists and relatives of Holocaust survivors.

**DEMJANJUK - PROSECUTION CHALLENGES**

89 years old, health failing. Described by prosecution as low-ranking guard. No death camp survivors to testify against him personally. Prosecutors relying heavily on about 30 joint plaintiffs and circumstantial evidence

Thomas Blatt, a Sobibor survivor, told journalists on his way into court that he was not looking for revenge.

"I'm here to tell the way it was years ago, I don't know Demjanjuk in person," he said.

John Demjanjuk is a retired US car worker, but he stands accused of having helped the Nazi death factory to function.

Prosecutors say that, as a camp guard at Sobibor, he pushed thousands of Jewish men, women and children to their death in the gas chambers.

Mr Demjanjuk was born in Ukraine and captured by the Nazis while fighting in the Soviet army. He denies even being at Sobibor.

Over 60 years later, this may be Germany's last big war crimes trial.

### DEMJANJUK CASE TIMELINE

1952: Gains entry into the US, claiming he spent most of the war as a German prisoner  
1977: First charged with war crimes, accused of being "Ivan the Terrible"  
1981: Stripped of US citizenship  
1986: Extradited to Israel  
1993: Israeli Supreme Court overturns conviction, ruling that he is not Ivan the Terrible  
2002: Loses US citizenship after a judge said there was proof he worked at Nazi camps  
2005: A judge rules in favour of deportation to his native Ukraine  
2009: Germany issues an arrest warrant for him; deported by US; formally charged with 27,900 counts of accessory to murder

But the BBC's Oana Lungescu in Munich says that, as the first to focus on a low-ranking foreigner rather than a senior Nazi commander, it breaks new legal ground.

As Mr Demjanjuk is 89 and in poor health, doctors have asked that hearings should be limited to two 90-minute sessions per day.

There are no living witnesses in this case, but over 30 people listed as joint plaintiffs are expected to testify about what happened at Sobibor, described by investigators as hell on earth.

**BBC** WORLD SERVICE TRUST

Tuesday, 1 December 2009

John Kollie

## NEWS ITEM

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### **Taylor NPFL did not take by force**

*Liberia's Former President Charles Taylor has denied allegations that his fighters forcibly took people's property during the country's 15-year civil war. Mr. Taylor said those who attempted confiscating people's belongings were dealt with by him. But Prosecuting Attorney, Brenda Hollis, accused him of misleading the court.*

*Mr Taylor also rejected suggestions that arms and ammunition were supplied to his rebel group, the NPFL, by Libya. BBCWST's John Kollie transcribes reports from The Hague on the trial of the former president...*

Mr Taylor has been closely questioned about the period during which he was preparing the revolution that overthrew President Samuel Doe in 1989-90. He said that by the time he launched his invasion of Liberia, his NPFL fighters had acquired all the arms and ammunition they needed. Miss Hollis pressed him further.

This was a moment of tense exchange between the former Liberian leader and prosecutor Brenda Hollis. It was all over alleged looting and seizure of property by the NPFL fighters loyal to Mr. Taylor when they entered Liberia.

Mr Taylor said although most fighters did not live in their own homes, the NPFL followed customary practices of asking local Chiefs to provide lodging, while other residents simply offered the use of their homes to the Front.

Mr. Taylor also disclosed he received 1 million US dollars from Taiwan which he said was used to finance his presidential campaign and setup the Charles Ghankay Taylor foundation.

Meanwhile the judges have granted a request from the prosecution to introduce fresh material which will challenge some of the evidence given by Mr Taylor in his defence.

The trial of Mr. Taylor continues in The Hague.

**BBC** WORLD SERVICE TRUST

## CharlesTalyorTrial.org (The Hague)

Tuesday, 1 December 2009

### **Charles Taylor Received Money From Taiwan and Libya For His Presidential Campaign, He says**

Alpha Sesay

Charles Taylor today told Special Court for Sierra Leone judges that he received money from both Taiwan and Libya as contributions to his campaign to become president of Liberia in 1997.

"In 1996-1997, i received money from Taiwan and Libya," Mr. Taylor told the court today.

Mr. Taylor explained that during his campaign in the Liberian presidential elections in 1997, the Taiwanese government gave him 1,000,000 United States Dollars to support his candidacy. The money, Mr. Taylor said was delivered through the Taiwanese embassy in Ivory Coast and was received by his Chief of Protocol Musa Sesay. Although the check was addressed in his name, Mr. Taylor said that it was cashed by Mr. Sesay in Abidjan, based on his (Taylor) authorization. Asked by lead prosecutor Ms. Brenda Hollis why the Taiwanese government had given him such amount of money, Mr. Taylor explained that the Taiwanese government probably did so for Public Relations (PR) reasons.

"They developed an interest in me," Mr. Taylor said. "At that particular time, it was clear that elections were coming up. There was this concern that after the elections, they were concerned that China will block their interest in Liberia. It was like a form of PR for them because they were concerned that diplomatic support will continue after i became president. It was part of a policy to try to court foreign countries or prospective leaders."

Mr. Taylor further explained that the Taiwanese government provided him with two ambulances which he donated to the Liberian government. Part of the money received from the Taiwanese government was also used to establish the Charles Ghankay Taylor Educational and Humanitarian Foundation, the former president said.

Also in his cross-examination, Mr. Taylor explained that during the 1996-1997 presidential elections campaign, he received about 500,000 United States Dollars from the Libyan government of Muamarr Ghadaffi. The money, Mr. Taylor said was delivered in cash. He said that he cannot tell whether the Libyan government provided similar support for the other presidential candidates.

Mr. Taylor was responding to questions about the sources of his alleged wealth and assets while as leader of the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) and then president of Liberia. Mr. Taylor has long been accused of enriching himself through receipt of diamonds from Sierra Leone's Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels. Prosecutors argue that Mr. Taylor benefitted financially from proceeds of diamonds supplied by RUF rebels and that in return, the former president provided the rebels with arms and ammunitions which were used to commit atrocities such as rape, murder, amputations, recruitment of child soldiers, and terrorizing the civilian population in Sierra Leone. The accused former president has denied receiving any diamonds from Sierra Leonean rebels. During his cross-examination today, prosecutors sought to elicit information from Mr. Taylor about monies he allegedly received from timber production in NPFL controlled areas in Liberia, monies used to purchase his White Flower residence, his fleet of cars and how he maintained himself and his family while in exile in Nigeria.

Mr. Taylor explained that some of his cars were given to him as birthday gifts by different individuals. He said that when he made international travels, he was most times provided with aircraft by the Libyan government. According to Mr. Taylor, on one of his trips to South Africa, the Libyan government provided him with 500,000 United States Dollars.

When asked about the source of a private presidential boat that he had while as president of Liberia, Mr. Taylor explained that "It was my property. It was a birthday gift given to me by a Greek shipping magnate."

Mr. Taylor was also asked about parcels of land that he bought in Liberia and he explained that some portion of land was given to him by his grand mother while he bought another 1000 acres of land from various tribal leaders just outside Monrovia.

Ms. Hollis also asked Mr. Taylor how he now gets money to maintain his White Flower residence in Monrovia while in jail in Holland. In his response, Mr. Taylor said that "I have individuals, I still have friends who help me to put food on the table."

Mr. Taylor denied prosecution suggestions that he had been involved in various forms of business or that he has bank accounts opened in different places under different names.

Asked by Ms. Hollis about how he supported himself financially while in exile in Nigeria, the former president explained that "when i left Liberia, i was fully supported by the Nigerian government. Every month, the Nigerian government gave me subsistence."

To dispute Mr. Taylor's claim that he was supported by the Nigerian government, Ms. Hollis read portions of a letter by the Nigerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, dated August 11 2003, which outlined the conditions of Mr. Taylor's asylum in Nigeria. The letter indicated that Mr. Taylor will be responsible for his own communication and living costs as well as taking care of his family members who travelled with him to Nigeria. Ms. Hollis stated that there is nothing in the letter indicating that the Nigerian government would provide support for Mr. Taylor while in Nigeria.

"It is very simple. The government of Nigeria provides millions of dollars to the Special Court for Sierra Leone. It is very easy for you to find out. The government of Nigeria provided me with assistance. You can find out," Mr. Taylor responded.

Mr. Taylor agreed that when he was arrested along the Nigerian border with Chad in March 2006, he had over 50,000 United States Dollars in his possession. The money, he said was given to him by former Nigerian president Olusegun Obasanjo. In March 2006, when the Liberian government of Ellen Johnson Sirleaf requested Nigeria to hand Mr. Taylor over to the custody of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, it happened that Mr. Taylor reportedly disappeared from his Calabar residence in Nigeria. Hours later, he was arrested in a convoy of vehicles while allegedly trying to enter into Chad. Many have alleged that Mr. Taylor was trying to escape arrest but the former president has insisted that he was on his way to visit his friend, the Chadian president Idriss Deby.

Mr. Taylor is responding to charges that he provided support to RUF rebels in Sierra Leone. Prosecutors allege that Mr. Taylor received Sierra Leone's diamonds from RUF rebels and in return supplied them with arms and ammunition, which were used to commit atrocities in Sierra Leone. It is further alleged that Mr. Taylor occupied a position of superior authority to RUF rebels and that he knew or had reason to know that the rebels were committing atrocities in Sierra Leone but failed to prevent the commission of those crimes or that he did not punish perpetrators when he knew that such atrocities had been committed. He is now charged of bearing the greatest responsibility for the crimes committed by rebel forces in Sierra Leone. Mr. Taylor has denied all the allegations against him. He has testified in direct-examination as a witness in his own defense and he is presently being cross-examined by the prosecution.

Mr. Taylor's cross-examination continues tomorrow.



Charlestaylortrial.org

Tuesday, 1 December 2009

## **Judges Grant Prosecution's Request To Use "Fresh Documents" In Cross-Examination**

By Alpha Sesay

The Special Court for Sierra Leone judges today granted the prosecution's request to use new documents in cross-examination in order to impeach or challenge the credibility of Mr. Taylor and his testimony as a witness in his own defense. On November 10, the prosecution sought to use "fresh evidence" in the form of new documents which had not been submitted as part of the prosecution's case and had also not been raised in Mr. Taylor's direct-examination. Mr. Taylor's defense objected, calling it a "trial by ambush."

The judges asked the prosecution to make a formal application for use of those documents and the defense be given the opportunity to respond. After filing of motions by the parties, the judges delivered their ruling today granting the prosecution's request to use the new documents. The judges also ruled that the prosecution may also use as evidence in cross-examination a certain category of documents in order to prove the accused's guilt but such documents must be disclosed to the defense in advance.

"Starting Tuesday, we will begin making use of such documents to show Mr. Taylor was not truthful in his direct testimony," Special Assistant to the Prosecutor, Mr. Jeremy Weiser said today in an email.

We shall endeavour to do a summary of the judgement for readers soon.

## Daily Observer (Liberia)

Tuesday, 1 December 2009

### Taylor Claims Peacemaking Role in Sierra Leonean Conflict

By: Alpha Sesay



Former warlord, Charles Taylor, on trial in The Hague  
- Denies Claims of Cannibalism among NPFL Troops

THE HAGUE – The accused former Liberian president, Charles Taylor, has told the Special Court for Sierra Leone in the Netherlands that in 1999, he hosted Revolutionary United Front (RUF) leader Foday Sankoh, his deputy, Sam Bockarie, and Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) leader, Johnny Paul Koroma, for a meeting in Liberia.

Taylor was answering questions Thursday under cross-examination by the prosecution.

The meeting, Taylor said was geared towards reconciling the differences that existed among the rebel commanders. Taylor explained that after the signing of the 1999 peace agreement between the RUF and the government of Sierra Leone, there was ‘bad blood’ between the RUF and the AFRC, and that such differences needed to be resolved in order to make the peace agreement successful.

This, Taylor said, was the reason why he hosted the rebel commanders in Liberia. Prosecution counsel, Nicholas Koumjian, stepping in for the indisposed Brenda Hollis, who fell ill on Tuesday and could not recover to continue Taylor’s cross-examination, suggested to Taylor that he wanted to help the rebel commanders reconcile their differences in order to restore a military regime in Sierra Leone.

“Did you invite Foday Sankoh, Sam Bockarie and Johnny Paul Koroma to Liberia for reconciliation on how to return to military power in Sierra Leone?” Koumjian asked Taylor.

Taylor responded with a resounding “No.”

The AFRC, which was formed by members of the Sierra Leone Army (SLA), overthrew the elected government of Sierra Leone in 1997 and formed a merger with the RUF. The AFRC/RUF junta regime ruled Sierra Leone until 1998 when they were forcefully removed from the country’s capital by West African peacekeepers. In 1999, the government signed a peace agreement with the rebel forces in the Togolese capital, Lome.

Taylor agreed with Koumjian on Thursday that when the three rebel commanders met in Liberia, the government of Sierra Leone was not represented there.

Why not invite the government of Sierra Leone?” Koumjian asked.

“Because the government of Sierra Leone was not part of the issues between them. There was bad blood between the SLA and the RUF, and their purpose was to sort out that bad blood,” Taylor answered.

Sierra Leonean president, Ahmed Tejan, Kabbah “was kept informed” of the meeting between the rebel commanders in Liberia, Taylor said.

He has reiterated and maintained throughout his testimony as a witness in his own defense that he was a peace mediator, and that he did not help Sierra Leonean rebel commanders to plan a military take-over of Sierra Leone. The former president also told Special Court for Sierra Leone judges that his fighters did not enter neighboring Guinea to attack the Guinean government but went there on “hot-pursuit” missions after rebel forces fighting to unseat his Liberian government ran into Guinea.

Throughout his testimony as a witness in his own defense, Taylor has insisted that his involvement with Sierra Leonean rebels was purely for peaceful purposes in the West African country. He has stated that upon his election as president of Liberia, he became a member of the Committee of Five, a body set up by West African leaders with a mandate of facilitating a peaceful end to the conflict in Sierra Leone.

On Monday, lead prosecutor, Brenda Hollis, accused Taylor of sending rebel fighters to Guinea in 2001 with an aim of destabilizing the country. The attack on Guinea, which, Hollis alleged, was code named “Operation Take No Sides,” was led by National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) commander Mark Guan. Taylor denied the prosecution’s assertion.

“I know Mark Guan but I do not know of any operation of that name,” he said.

The former NPFL leader admitted that he approved “hot pursuit missions” into Guinea but denied sending fighters to attack the country.

“There were operations that crossed into Guinea; but they were hot pursuit operations, and I personally ordered those operations,” Taylor told the court.

He has consistently accused the late Guinean president, Lansana Conte, of supporting Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) rebels who were threatening to unseat his government in Liberia. Prosecution witnesses have testified that Taylor used this as justification to send rebel forces, including Sierra’s RUF rebels to attack Guinea. Taylor has denied giving any orders to rebels to attack Guinea.

In response to allegations by Hollis that based on Taylor’s orders, RUF rebels joined NPFL rebels in 2001 to attack Guinea, the former Liberian president said “not to my knowledge.”

“I am aware of hot pursuit missions in Guinea. These were standing orders approved by me. There are no operations planned but only of hot pursuit,” he added.

Taylor also denied allegations that his subordinates in Liberia killed civilians during the country’s conflict as well as when he became president of the country. In November 1994, prosecutors alleged, NPFL rebels killed more than 100 civilians in Bong County. Prosecutors further alleged that after the United Liberation Movement of Liberia for Democracy (ULIMO) attack on the NPFL headquarters in Gbanga, NPFL rebels killed civilians who were alleged to be ULIMO supporters. Taylor denied these allegations, insisting that if he had known of any NPFL rebels killing civilians, they would have been prosecuted.

“Not to my knowlege. I can’t say it did not happen but if someone did, he would have been prosecuted by the NPFL courts. The NPFL was the only organization in Africa and Liberia that had courts,” the former president said.

Hollis also pointed to allegations that NPFL commander, Mark Guan, killed nine civilians in 1998; that in March 2001, fourteen civilians were killed by Momoh Jibba; that in July 2000, one hundred seventy people were killed at Tubmanburg on orders of Taylor’s Director of Special Security Service (SSS), Benjamin Yeaten; and that in July 2003, more than 70 wounded combatants were massacred on Yeaten’s orders. Taylor dismissed these allegations as “totally incorrect.”



Hollis suggested to Taylor that his “subordinates” in Sierra Leone understood how he conducted himself in Liberia and so they saw no reason not to commit the same atrocities in Sierra Leone.

“Sierra Leonean perpetrators understood that was the way you conducted yourself in Liberia,” Hollis told Taylor.

“I disagree with that interpretation. No NPFL of mine went to Sierra Leone. Liberians went there but not anyone did I send there except in 1991-92,” Taylor responded.

Also on Monday, Taylor dismissed allegations that his rebel forces were involved in acts of cannibalism during Liberia’s conflict.

“No subordinates of mine involved in cannibalism. I know that some parts of Liberia are involved in cannibalism. If anybody had been caught in the act, he’ll first of all be dealt with for how he got somebody killed,” he said.

Taylor has dismissed allegations of his involvement in cannibalism as “racist.” In 2008, a former member of Taylor’s NPFL, Joseph “Zig Zag” Marzah, testifying as a prosecution witness against his former commander, told the court that he feasted on human beings in the same bowl with Taylor. The former warlord denied the witness’ claim, saying that prior to seeing the witness in court, he had never known him in Liberia.

On Wednesday, Taylor told the court that he sent his Chief of Protocol to accompany a Sierra Leonean rebel commander to Burkina Faso in 1998 but denied that he helped him transport arms and ammunition through Liberia for use by rebel forces in Sierra Leone.

Koumjian asked Taylor about RUF commander Bockarie’s 1998 visit to Burkina Faso, during which it is alleged that the rebel commander transported arms and ammunition through Liberia for use by rebel forces in Sierra Leone. Taylor admitted that he sent his Chief of Protocol, Musa Sesay, to act as an interpreter for Bockarie on his visit to President Blaise Campaore in Burkina Faso. Taylor agreed with Koumjian that Bockarie was under a UN travel ban at the time of the visit, but said that he approved the rebel commander’s passage through Liberia.

“You sent him on this trip?” Koumjian asked Mr. Taylor, referring to the former president’s Chief of Protocol, Sesay.

“Surely I did,” Taylor responded.

“Isn’t there a better use for a Chief of Protocol than to act as an interpreter on a trip?” Koumjian further inquired.

“That’s a very, very good use from my calculation. Other protocol officers in other countries did the same thing. Whether you are talking about Togo... I remember the Protocol Officer in Togo interpreting between Eyadema and myself... sometimes Musa did. So when you say better, that’s a qualification that was for me, a reasonable task,” Taylor responded.

Taylor agreed with Koumjian that Burkina Faso probably had its own interpreters, but said he was requested to have his Chief of Protocol travel with Bockarie, a request he granted. Koumjian put it to Taylor that it is the task of the host government to provide interpreters for their visitors.

“Sir, isn’t it the protocol that when you are visiting the president of a country in that country, it’s the host government that provides the interpreter?” Koumjian asked Taylor again.

In response, Taylor said, “that is a protocol, I will agree, but that is not what you will call the only protocol. There had been times when presidents had come to visit me and I will provide the interpreters and some of them will provide their own.”

The prosecution has introduced evidence pointing to the alleged relationship that existed between Taylor and RUF commander, Bockarie. Witnesses have testified that the RUF commander took orders from Taylor. It has also been

alleged that Bockarie transported Sierra Leone's blood diamonds to the former Liberian president, who in return gave the RUF commander loads of arms and ammunition. Taylor has denied these allegations.

Prosecutors have alleged that during Bockarie's 1998 trip to Burkina Faso, the RUF commander returned with arms and ammunition through Liberia's Roberts International Airport (RIA). During cross-examination on Wednesday, Koumjian pointed out that it would not be possible for a plane full of arms and ammunition to arrive in Liberia for use by RUF rebels in Sierra Leone without the president's knowledge. Taylor responded that it was possible to bribe corrupt officials, pointing out how he had also bribed officials in other countries to bring arms and ammunition to Liberia in violation of a UN arms embargo.

"It would not be impossible," Taylor told the prosecution.

"It is very, very simple. It depends on the quality of corrupt officials involved; it would never get to my attention. I, during tough times transferred arms and ammunitions through countries that did not even know. So that happens all the time. It depends on how much you are willing to pay and who you dealing with," he added.

Koumjian accused Taylor of using his position as an Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) negotiator to support the RUF in pursuit of their war in Sierra Leone. Taylor dismissed the allegation as wrong.

Taylor is responding to charges that he was involved in a joint criminal enterprise with RUF rebels in Sierra Leone. He has denied allegations that he supplied arms and ammunition to the rebels in return for Sierra Leone's blood diamonds and that he helped them plan certain operations during which atrocities such as rape, murder, and amputation of civilians' arms were committed. Taylor has said that he did not have arms and ammunition with which to fight rebel forces in his own country, and therefore could not have supplied any materials to the RUF. He has dismissed the charges as a scheme by western countries, specifically Britain and the United States to bring him down.

As he continues his testimony, the former president has challenged prosecutors to present evidence that he used Sierra Leone's diamonds to enrich himself and open bank accounts in various countries as alleged. From July 14 to November 10, 2009, Taylor testified in direct-examination as a witness in his own defense. As his cross-examination commenced, prosecutors sought to present "fresh evidence" to impeach Taylor's testimony but the accused former president's defense objected, calling it a "trial by ambush." The judges spent Monday determining whether such "fresh evidence" should be used by the prosecution. There were therefore no court hearings on Monday.

Taylor's cross-examination continues today.

## The International Herald Tribune

Thursday, 26 November 2009

### "Keeping West Africa Stable"

Louise Arbour in the International Herald Tribune

Three West African states — Liberia, Sierra Leone and Cote d'Ivoire — have emerged from civil war to fragile stability in the past few years. But a civil war is brewing in Guinea that may destroy those achievements and produce a humanitarian disaster.

When the country's long-time dictator, Lansana Conte, died in 2008, it briefly looked like Guinea might transition relatively smoothly to elected government. That hope began to fade when Captain Moussa Dadis Camara, the leader of the military junta that had taken over, began to backtrack from the promise that he would not seek permanent power. It turned to nightmare on Sept. 28, when soldiers killed more than 150 demonstrators and raped scores of women.

There may be worse to come. In the month before that massacre, observers reported the recruitment of militias in Guinea's isolated forest region, where elements of the badly fractured military leadership were training fighters for possible bids to seize power.

Many of these fighters are ex-combatants from the Liberian civil war, when Guinean militias helped overthrow Charles Taylor's dictatorship. In its recruiting drive, the junta, some of whose members were deeply involved in that conflict, is reactivating the networks that fed West Africa's recent wars.

Two days after the massacre, officials from the regional organization, Ecowas, told the International Crisis Group that international action was urgently needed to remove the military from power and hold early elections. Their fear was not only of a war that could spread like wildfire but also of the consequences of another power grab.

Only months before, the president of Niger overthrew his country's Constitution and got away with it. Captain Camara and the Guinean military saw that and drew the conclusion that they could do likewise. If they now solidify their power, a half dozen leaders across Africa will be calculating their chances to do the same, Ecowas officials warned. We must not allow that to happen.

After the September massacre, Ecowas and the African Union began demanding that the military keep its promise to yield power to elected civilians and appointed President Blaise Compaoré of Burkina Faso to mediate the process.

The large majority of Guineans who insist they will not accept military rule have formed the Forces Vives, a coalition of political parties, unions and other elements of civil society. But Captain Camara and the junta will not go easily. Mr. Compaoré, a former soldier, coup leader and political godfather of Charles Taylor, is not the most reliable man to preach democracy and civilian rule.

An attempt to replace Captain Camara, who gives signs of mental instability, with another general, even temporarily, could fracture the military's unity and bring the militias out of their forest camps with guns blazing. The Forces Vives understandably will not accept a junta offer or a Compaoré proposal of a "national union" government the military would inevitably dominate.



What is needed quickly is broad international support for the good intentions of Ecowas and the African Union. The Compaoré mission should accept U.N. offers of mediation support and stick to the region's initial objective: managing the junta's withdrawal from power. The U.S., with a major investment in a stable Liberia, should supplement its diplomatic backing for that effort by delegating a senior military officer to speak general-to-general with the junta.

The junta has abused Russia's major bauxite investment to the point that Moscow recognizes the junta equals chaos, and is cooperating with the Africans. Immediately after the September massacre, the junta announced a \$7 billion Chinese investment. Details of the deal with the Hong Kong-based company remain murky, and there are clear signs Beijing is skeptical that its interests would be served by Captain Camara. In any case, it should make sure no Chinese company props up the junta.

The elements of an unusually unified international approach — a transitional administration for no more than six months to prepare civilian elections — thus exist. What is needed is high-level attention in the main capitals, both to keep the pressure on and to prepare an operational strategy.

That strategy needs to include incentives for the Guinean military to cooperate — incentives that involve legitimate roles under a civilian-led government. An early step should be to get an Ecowas political and military team on the ground in Guinea, to provide guarantees against another massacre and prepare the way for a group to safeguard elections. The alternative for quickly putting such a strategy in place is likely to be a new war from which all West Africa would suffer.

Louise Arbour is president of the International Crisis Group

United Nations  Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

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## UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 1 December 2009

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

### International Clips on Liberia

#### **Liberia pledges support to small farmers**

**Afrol News**, 1 December - The Liberian authorities have expressed unwavering support to small farmers saying they are critical in poverty alleviation through agriculture-led strategies. Vice-President Joseph Boakai and UN Deputy Envoy Moustapha Soumaré said smallholder farmers' play a vital role in guaranteeing food security and alleviating poverty in Liberia, calling for increased investment in smallholder farming. "Farmers are the key stakeholders who must benefit from attractive incentives, and other inducements to motivate them towards increasing production," Vice-President Boakai said. Mr Boakai also said that agriculture export and trade promotion are at the heart of contemporary relations among countries, stating that farmers have become the key drivers of this phenomenon in Africa. Mr Soumaré on the other hand said farmers need land and secure water supplies, inputs and extension services for enhanced agricultural production. "They also need better market access and fairer trade. Our job is not just to feed the hungry, but to empower the hungry to feed themselves," the UN official said.

#### **Liberian Government Secures Huge Investment in Palm Oil Production**

Monrovia, Dec 01, 2009 (allAfrica.com/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- The Liberian government has announced that it is in the final stages of securing a U.S. \$1.6 billion Indonesian investment in palm oil production which is expected to create 35,000 jobs. Richard Tolbert, chairman of the country's National Investment Commission, told AllAfrica in an interview that the investment, in south-eastern Liberia, will give a major boost to the country's post-conflict economy. "The government has about 33,000 persons on its payroll," he said. "Here we have one company that will provide jobs for about 35,000 persons. These jobs, I believe, will create livelihoods for about 300,000 to 400,000 people." The investment deal is with Golden VerOleum, a company headquartered in Indonesia which is a subsidiary of Golden Agri-Resources (GAR), one of the world's leaders in palm oil production.

### **Guinea**

#### **Guinea: Party wants Konare to replace Compaore as ECOWAS mediator**

The president of the Democratic Union of African Builders (RDBA), Lanciné Camara, Monday proposed that former Malian president Alpha Omar Konare takes over from Burkinabe President Blaise Compaoré as the ECOWAS mediator for Guinea. "President Compaore did his best and is a good mediator. However, we believe that Mr. Konare is more able to reconcile belligerents in Guinea," Camara told PANA in Paris. According to Camara, the former Malian leader and former chair of the AU commission is more neutral than Mr. Compaore. "Compaore's role in Sierra Leonean and Liberian wars is to be treated with caution. Besides, he is already deeply committed in solving the Ivorian crisis. On the other hand, Konare will be entirely available and could be the right man for the mediation in the Guinean crisis," he said.

Paris - Pana

## **Cote d'Ivoire**

### **UN Peacekeepers Plant Trees to Fight Climate Change**

Dec 01, 2009 (UN News Service/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- United Nations peacekeepers planted nearly 600 trees in a botanical garden in Cote d'Ivoire over the weekend, a small but symbolic step in a project to combat climate change that has already surpassed its target of 7 billion trees - one for every person in the world. The planting in the town of Bingerville follows a similar ceremony in neighbouring Liberia where UN blue helmets planted 1,000 trees earlier this year as part of the initiative launched by UN Environment Programme (UNEP) to plant 7 billion trees by the end of 2009, a goal it reached in September.

### **Côte d'Ivoire President Gbagbo invites UNOCI to a meeting on security provisions for electoral process**

ABIDJAN, Côte d'Ivoire, December 1, 2009/African Press Organization (APO)/ — The Principal Deputy Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Côte d'Ivoire, Abou Moussa, took part this afternoon, in a working session on the electoral process and the security provisions for the elections. At the end of the meeting presided over by the Ivorian head of state, Laurent Gbagbo, Mr. Moussa said that UNOCI had defined the areas in which it would provide a support with regard to security provisions for the elections. For his part, the Chairman of the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), Robert Beugré Mambé, who also attended the meeting, said he gave an overview of the situation of the electoral process with regard for the posting of the provisional electoral lists. He urged Ivoirians to continue to show discipline while consulting the lists. "There are problems and we have solutions", added the IEC chairman who indicated that a timetable was already in place for the election date.

#### **Local Media – Newspaper**

##### **NEC Certificate Montserrado County Senator-Elect**

(The Informer, The Inquirer, Heritage, New Vision)

- The National Elections Commission (NEC) today certificated the winner of the just-ended Montserrado County Senatorial by-election, Geraldine Doe-Sheriff.
- The certification of Senator-elect Doe-Sheriff follows her win with 56.0% of the votes cast in a hotly contested by-election run-off.
- The by-election became necessary following the death of a Congress for Democratic Change Lawmaker, Hannah Brent in August this year.

##### **Cabinet Endorses New Policy Measures**

(Heritage, The Inquirer, The Informer)

- Several strategy and policy measures proposed by a number of Government ministries and agencies to ensure the effective implementation of Government's Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) initiatives have been endorsed by the cabinet at two separate meetings held last week.
- An Executive Mansion release issued in Monrovia said the initiatives range from a strategy on pay to upgrading of civil servants, gender equity, social welfare, national policies and strategies.

##### **One of the Senators Accused in the Pilgrimage to Mecca Scam Breaks Silence**

(New Democrat, Heritage, New Vision)



- Grand Cape Mount Senator Abel Masaley has broken silence on the status of the ten controversial Liberian Muslims deported from the Saudi Arabian city of Mecca.
- In his clarification, Senator Massaley believes the ten deportees may have purchased illegal passports.
- He said the Mecca journey was well-organized and there was no need for pilgrims to be deported.
- The Grand Cape Mount Lawmaker was reacting to criticism that he was involved in a scam resulting to some deportation of some pilgrims from Mecca.

### **Justice Ministry Submits Findings of Information Ministry Scandal to Executive Mansion** (Heritage)

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf says she has received the Justice Ministry's report on the over US\$300,000 financial scandal at the Information Ministry.
- The scandal uncovered in October this year involves the checks of Foreign Service employees some of whom are ghosts.
- The President who did not disclose the findings of the investigation said she was awaiting another report from the General Auditing Commission before acting.
- President Sirleaf suspended Information Minister, Laurence Bropleh two months ago due to his alleged link to the financial scandal at the Ministry.

### **Crowds Disrupt Senatorial Debate** (The News, New Democrat, Daily Observer)

- A political debate for the Montserrado Senatorial by-election was on Saturday overwhelmed by surging crowds forcing organizers to abruptly end the process.
- The debate was organized by the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) in collaboration with the Press Union of Liberia (PUL).
- It brought together all ten senatorial candidates contesting the November 10 poll to fill the vacancy created in the Senate following the death of Hannah Brent.
- PUL President Peter Quaqua expressed disappointment over the incident but said the purpose of the debate was achieved.

### **Liberia Shines in High-Level Indian Corruption Scam** (New Democrat)

- Liberia is featuring in a high-level corruption case in India, where a top minister is accused of fraudulently buying mines here worth some US\$1.7 million.
- Former Jharkhand Chief minister and Lok Sabha MP, Madhu Koda is accused of purchasing mines in Liberia in the name of his close associates worth US\$1.7 million
- The reports note that the report contains names of additional persons who will also be barred from holding public office for several years as indicated in the first report.

### **IOM Official Calls For Vigilance In The Face Of Human Trafficking** (Daily Observer)

- The head of the Liberia office of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Mr. Ferdinand Paredes has warned that issues of human trafficking are getting increasingly serious.
- Mr. Paredes said people have adopted different methods of trafficking under the guise of providing them assistance.
- Mr. Paredes spoke at the weekend during the end of a three-day capacity building seminar for religious and community leaders on countering human trafficking.
- For his part, Assistant Gender Minister for Planning Jerolinmek Piah described the increasing reports of human trafficking as worrisome noting that collective efforts were needed to successfully combat the wave of human trafficking in the country.

## **UN: Afghan Police, NATO Acted Slowly in Attack**

(New Democrat)

- [SIC] The United Nations has demanded to know why it took an hour for Afghan police and NATO to respond to a Taliban attack on a guest house filled with UN Staff including a Liberian woman, Yah Lydia Woyene killed in Kabul.
- Afghan authorities denied they were slow to respond and a NATO spokesman said the Afghans did not ask the international force for support.

**Local Media – Star Radio** (*culled from website today at 09:00 am*)

### **ERU Officers in Greenville Ahead of Deployment at Sinoe Rubber Plantation**

- [SIC] Latest report from Sinoe County says over 50 officers of the Emergency Response Unit of the Liberia National Police have arrived in the provincial city of Greenville ahead of a planned deployment today at the Sinoe Rubber Plantation today.
- The armed police officers are being deployed to restore law and order at the plantation which has been the scene of illicit tapping by people believed to be ex-combatants.
- Over the weekend, Sinoe County Attorney, John Gabriel in a radio announcement aired on the local radio station ordered the ERU to move to the plantation without delay and return fire for fire in case of any eventuality.
- Correspondents say the order was intended to put the police in a defensive position should disgruntled illicit tappers open fire on them.
- Attorney Gabriel said the situation at the Sinoe Rubber Plantation has the propensity to impede development efforts in Sinoe County.

### **Justice Ministry Submits Findings of Information Ministry Scandal to Executive Mansion**

(Also reported on Radio Veritas, Sky F.M., Truth F.M. and ELBC)

### **Senator Johnson Indicts TRC Commissioner Steward**

- Nimba County Senator Prince Johnson says he has obtained classified document in which a Commissioner of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Liberia (TRC), John Steward confirmed being a rebel fighter.
- According to Senator Johnson, Mr. Steward confessed to fighting for the combat security group, the black beret.
- Senator Johnson said the June 18, 2009 confession by Commissioner Steward before a US District Court in Minnesota questions his neutrality and the credibility of the TRC final report.
- When contacted, Commissioner Steward said he would not dignify the comments by Senator Johnson because he was never a rebel fighter.

### **One of the Senators Accused in the Pilgrimage to Mecca Scam Breaks Silence**

- Grand Cape Mount Senator Abel Masaley has broken silence on the status of the ten controversial Liberian Muslims deported from the Saudi Arabian city of Mecca.
- In his clarification, Senator Massaley believes the ten deportees may have purchased illegal passports.
- He said the Mecca journey was well-organized and there was no need for pilgrims to be deported.
- The Grand Cape Mount Lawmaker was reacting to criticism that he was involved in a scam resulting to some deportation of some pilgrims from Mecca.

(Also reported on Radio Veritas, Sky F.M., Truth F.M. and ELBC)

### **Truth F.M.** (*News monitored today at 10:00 am*)

### **NEC Certificate Montserrado County Senator-Elect Today**

### **Cabinet Endorses New Policy Measures**

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## Associated Press

Wednesday, 2 December 2009

### **Khmer Rouge tribunal names new foreign prosecutor**

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia — The Khmer Rouge genocide tribunal said Wednesday that it has appointed a new international prosecutor whose most recent job was defending former Liberian President Charles Taylor at his war crimes trial.

Andrew T. Cayley of Britain, who has also served as a prosecutor at international war crimes courts, was named to the post left vacant in September by the resignation of Canadian co-prosecutor Robert Petit, the tribunal said in a statement.

The tribunal, known as the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia, incorporates mixed teams of foreign and Cambodian judges, prosecutors and defenders. Political wrangling between the two sides has led to many delays, and allegations of corruption among the tribunal's Cambodian staff have hurt the tribunal's credibility.

A verdict is expected early next year in the tribunal's first trial, of Khmer Rouge prison chief Kaing Guek Eav, also known as Duch, who is charged with crimes against humanity, war crimes, murder and torture.

The brutal 1970s rule of the Khmer Rouge left an estimated 1.7 million people dead from torture, execution, disease and starvation.

The tribunal is also holding four former senior Khmer Rouge leaders in custody, and they are expected to be tried next year or later.

Cayley has spent the last two years in private practice, during which time he defended Charles Taylor, the tribunal said. Taylor, accused of providing arms to Sierra Leone rebels in exchange for diamonds mined by slave laborers, ended 13 weeks on the witness stand earlier this month at the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

Cayley earlier served as senior prosecuting counsel for the International Criminal Court investigating crimes in Darfur and the International Criminal Tribunal investigating war crimes in the former Yugoslavia, it said.

The tribunal also said American Nicholas Koumjian was appointed reserve co-prosecutor.

## Associated Press

Wednesday, 2 December 2009

### **International court rules Bemba to stay in jail**

By MIKE CORDER

THE HAGUE, Netherlands — International Criminal Court appeals judges on Wednesday reversed a decision to release former Congo Vice President Jean-Pierre Bemba from custody, ordering him to stay in jail until his trial.

The court in August ordered Bemba freed, saying he would otherwise spend too much time in custody after his arrest in May 2008.

But appeals judge Akua Kuenyehia ruled Wednesday that there was a risk Bemba would flee if released.

"The potential length of sentence if he is convicted is a further incentive for him to abscond," Kuenyehia said. Bemba faces a possible lengthy prison sentence, although the court's statutes mention no maximum term.

Bemba did not react to the decision and said nothing at the brief hearing, but one of his lawyers told reporters they would continue to fight for his release.

"We expect this issue to be examined again by the pretrial judges," said attorney Aime Kilolo.

Bemba faces five counts of murder, rape and pillage for allegedly commanding a militia responsible for atrocities in the Central African Republic. That country's president at the time, Ange-Felix Patasse, had appealed to Bemba's militia for help in defeating a coup.

He has not entered a plea ahead of his trial, which is scheduled to start April 27 next year.

Bemba is the most senior political figure in the custody of the world's first permanent war crimes tribunal. He ruled a vast chunk of north-eastern Congo during that country's 1998-2002 war, with support from neighboring Uganda. After a peace agreement ended the war, he became one of the country's four vice presidents in a reunited Congo.

Bemba was arrested in Belgium and transferred to the court in The Hague in July 2008.