

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



CHIEF BAI KAFARI, TEMNI COUNTRY.

One of the peculiarities of this chieftaincy, is that they require their king to wear a gold bangle in his nose.

He is sworn over native medicine forbidding him to see his reflection; so he drinks from some covered vessel (usually, a tea kettle) and wraps up his head when he crosses a stream.

Albert Academy Press, Freetown, Sierra Leone.

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:

Monday, 2 March 2009

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

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Government Cabinet Reshuffle

Friday, 27 February 2009

Ernest Bai Koroma

President

Sahr Sam-Sumana

Vice-President

Zainab Hawa Bangura

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Deputy Minister: Vandi Chidi Minah

Dr Samura Kamara

Minister of Finance and Development

Deputy Ministers: (1) Dr Richard Konteh (2) Momodu Kargbo

Major Rtd. Alfred Paolo Conteh

Minister of Defence

Abdul Serry-Kemal

Minister of Justice and Attorney-General

David Carew

Minister of Trade and Industry

Deputy Minister: Mabinty Daramy

Prof. Ogunlade Davidson

Minister of Energy and Water Resources

Deputy Minister: Martin Bash Kamara

Alhaji Ibrahim Ben Kargbo

Minister of Information and Communications

Deputy Minister: Saidata Sesay

Sheku Tejan Koroma

Minister of Health and Sanitation

Deputy Minister: Mohamed Daudis Koroma

Alimamy P Koroma

Minister of Works, Housing and Infrastructural Development

Deputy Minister: Abdul Babagaleh Barrie

Dauda Sulaiman Kamara

Minister of Internal Affairs, Local Government and Rural Development

Deputy Ministers: (1) Mr Ibrahim Kaloko (2) Raymond Kabia

Alhaji Alpha Saahid Bakarr Kanu

Minister of Mineral Resources

Deputy Minister: Abdul Ignosis Koroma

Dr. Sam Sesay

Minister of Agriculture, Food Security & Forestry

Deputy Ministers: (1) Ali Badara Mansaray (2) Lovell Thomas

Dr Dennis Sandi

Minister of Lands, Country Planning & the Environment

Deputy Minister: Syl Goba

Haja Afsatu Kabba

Minister of Marine Resources and Fisheries

Deputy Minister: Rosaline Oya Sankoh

Dr Soccoh Kabia

Minister of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs

Deputy Minister: Jeneh Kandeh

Hindolo Sumanguru Trye

Minister of Tourism and Cultural Affairs

Deputy Minister: Hassan Mansaray

Minkailu Mansaray

Minister of Employment and Social Security

Deputy Minister: Moijueh Kaikai

Dr. Minkailu Bah

Minister of Education, Youths and Sports

Deputy Ministers: (1) Dr Algasimu Jah (2) Dr Lansana Nyallay

Capt. Allieu Pat Sowe

Minister of Transport and Aviation

Deputy Minister: Sylvester Osmond Hanciles

Joseph Koroma

Minister of Presidential and Public Affairs

Leonard Balogun Koroma

Minister of State, Office of the Vice President

William Juana Smith

Resident Minister, East

Musa Tarawali

Resident Minister, South

Alie Kamara

Resident Minister, North

BBC World Service Trust

Friday, 27 February 2009

The Special Court for Sierra Leone sitting in The Hague is trying former President of Liberia Charles Taylor for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The Prosecution has so far presented 91 witnesses to support their case against the Accused, Mr. Taylor.

As the Defence is preparing to take over, they have requested for some time to prepare for the case.

The BBC World Service Trust's Mariama Khai Fornah has the details.

FORNAH: The Prosecution of the Special Court has disclosed in a status conference held in The Hague that they have rested their own side of the case against Mr. Charles Taylor.

The Principal Trial Attorney, Brenda Hollis, told the Judges of the Court that they have no further evidence to present in the ongoing trial.

The lead Defense counsel for Mr. Taylor, Courtenay Griffiths QC, said they need 40 working days to prepare their submissions to the Court.

He said they need this time in order for them to properly arrange their timetable and fix a date for their oral argument.

Brenda Hollis, however, consider the time requested by the Defense as undue delay.

She highlighted that the Defense has been in the case of Mr. Taylor for a year and half since the case resumed.

Brenda Hollis told the Judges that the Defense should have started working on the 98 submissions since the Prosecution presented their last witness in January 2009.

But lead Defense lawyer Courtenay Griffiths disagreed with the Prosecution. He said the reason for the delay is that their sole international investigator has died.

Mr. Griffiths said they are constrained with someone who will replace their international investigator as they have to put on hold many investigations the deceased was conducting.

After the short arguments in Court between the Defense and the Prosecution, the Judges decided on one thing and here is the presiding judge justice Richard Lussick

JUSTICE LUSSICK: The Trial Chamber has decided that what would be a reasonable period for the Defence to prepare its submissions would be 25 working days, which takes us up to Monday the 6th of April. So we rule that the Defence submissions for a Judgment of Acquittal under Rule 98 will be heard by this Court on Monday the 6th of April

FORNAH: The Special Court for Sierra Leone has adjourned court for hearing of the Defence oral submissions under Rule 98bis to Monday 6th April 9:30 am Dutch time.

For the BBC WST, this is Mariama Khai Fornah reporting.

Statement of U.S. Senator Russ Feingold

Thursday, 26 February 2009

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – February 26, 2009

Contact: Zach Lowe (202) 224-8657

Statement of U.S. Senator Russ Feingold

On the Special Court for Sierra Leone Convicting Three War Criminals

“I am pleased the Special Court of Sierra Leone convicted three commanders of the Revolutionary United Front, which carried out widespread atrocities during Sierra Leone’s decade-long war. This conviction sends a strong signal throughout Sierra Leone, and the entire continent of Africa, to war criminals wherever they seek to operate. I urge the Obama administration and the international community to continue to support the Special Court as it concludes its work, especially its final case against former Liberian President Charles Taylor.”

Senator Feingold, a strong supporter of Sierra Leone's Special Court and Truth and Reconciliation Commission, is the Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on African Affairs.

Statement by Lord Malloch-Brown

Friday, 27 February 2009

British Foreign Office Minister welcomes Special Court decisions

BRITISH Foreign and Commonwealth Office Press Release--Foreign Office Minister Lord Malloch-Brown issued a statement 26 February 2009 on the conviction of three Revolutionary United Front (RUF) leaders by the Special Court of Sierra Leone. The statement read : "We welcome the decision by the Special Court of Sierra Leone to convict three Revolutionary United Front (RUF) leaders of war crimes, crimes against humanity and other serious violations of international humanitarian law. "

" I want to pay tribute to the Court's role in bringing to justice those who committed terrible crimes during Sierra Leone's civil war: those who committed rape and murder, who terrorised the civilian population, and who forced children to become soldiers. The Court has made a vital contribution towards sustainable peace in the region. We encourage other states to provide funding, as the UK has done, to ensure the Court can finish its work. I pay tribute also to the courage of the individuals who have testified as witnesses, and the contribution they have made to peace and justice. "

"I hope this development will be recognised as further evidence of the international community's determination to ensure there is no impunity for those who have committed the world's most serious crimes."

Agence France-Presse

Friday, 27 February 2009

Liberia's Taylor to apply for acquittal: lawyer

THE HAGUE (AFP) — Former Liberian president Charles Taylor will apply next month for his acquittal on charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity during Sierra Leone's brutal civil unrest, his lawyer said on Friday.

"Yes, we do so intend," lawyer Courtenay Griffiths replied when asked by a panel of judges of the Special Court for Sierra Leone whether he would file a motion for a judgment of acquittal.

The prosecution case against Taylor, a warlord-turned president who played a leading role in 14 years of back-to-back wars in Liberia as well as the 10-year civil war in neighbouring Sierra Leone, wound up last month.

"We consider that we will need in the region of 40 working days in order to prepare our submissions," Griffiths added.

The judges set a date of April 6 for hearing Taylor's submissions.

Rule 98 of the tribunal's rules of procedure allow for an acquittal at the close of the prosecution case, and before the start of the defence, if the judges are convinced there is no evidence to support a conviction.

Taylor, 61, has been on trial in The Hague since June 2007 on 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity stemming from the 1991-2001 civil war in Sierra Leone.

About 120,000 people were killed in the conflict, with rebels mutilating thousands more -- cutting off arms, legs, ears or noses.

He is accused of arming, training and controlling Sierra Leone's notorious Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels, blamed for many of the mutilations and being involved in the "blood diamonds" trade.

Last month, the 91st and final prosecution witness in Taylor's trial told the judges how he pleaded with rebels to cut off his last remaining hand so they would spare his toddler son.

Chief prosecutor Stephen Rapp has said he expected the defence case to close before year-end, with judgment by early next year.

The Independent (Liberia)
Friday, 27 February 2009

Charles Taylor Coming Home...

... As Special Court Goes Bankrupt



MONROVIA: Great men's passage does happen in more cases, as in the drama of former Liberian President Charles Taylor. edly humiliating him.

Prior to his departure on August 11, 2003, detained former President Taylor left two strong "schools of thought" with Liberians and his African colleagues at that time. He narrated 'the white and black cow tale' and brought forth his return to Liberia scenario. In his return to Liberia passage, Mr. Taylor said, "God willing, I will be back".

Although the former Liberian President returned handcuffed in early 2006 upon the request of the United Nations Special Court in Sierra Leone (SCSL) at the Roberts International Airport (RIA), taken to Sierra Leone, and subsequently transferred to The Hague, in The Netherlands for trial on eleven counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity. Since then, Mr. Taylor and lawyers have reportedly complied with the SCSL even when court officers are alleg-

of reprieve begun to cover Mr. Taylor and family when two British international lawyers told journalists in Monrovia in May 2008, that charges levied against the former Liberian leader were bailable under international jurisdiction. Cynthia O'Donoghue and Sareta Ashraph said the UN-backed SCSL currently trying Mr. Taylor is a "hybrid" one, similar to those, set up by UN Security Council in Cambodia, Lebanon, Iraq and East Timor. They said these 'hybrid courts' have their own responsibilities and mandates to try individuals who bear the greatest war crimes against humanity, which are "bailable".

Again, they noted that the issue of granting bail to a suspect and the money of the bond is discretionary of the court.

Besides, the chief prosecutor Steven Rapp said to the world in November 2008 through BBC that the court was still trying to identify the link between Mr. Taylor and the rebel Revolutionary United Front (RUF). Mr. Rapp said the court's activities

Cont'd on page 6

Charles Taylor

would be reviewed in New York in March before additional funds be provided to continue with the trial.

He added if the court could not convince its donors, it would be difficult to secure the needed funds to end the prosecution of Mr. Taylor. Last week, Rapp released the biggest bombshell by indicating that the court has gone out of money. He said the court has budget shortfalls of over US\$5m as of May to continue the trial.

"With the global economic crisis continuing, to get funds is not easy, if funds run out it is possible that the judges will have to release him," said Mr. Rapp. The main court of the trial is based in Freetown, while proceedings of Taylor's trial are in The Hague. Mr. Taylor is among others charged with rape, enslavement and conscripting of child soldiers. He (Taylor) has denied all charges.

However, Rapp maintained that he would remain indicted even if freed for the lack of money for his continued prosecution or detention. The court told the world that the final verdict could be ready early 2010.

Upon resuming duties at the court in 2007, Rapp said the court's mandate does not permit prosecuting anyone who committed atrocities in Liberia but has the full responsibility to prosecute those who committed crimes in Sierra Leone. He said the court will not interfere into activities that took place in Liberia during the country's civil war. He added that if Mr. Taylor is not guilty, he would return to Liberia.

As Special Court Faces Over US\$5M Budget Shortfall:

Taylor Could Be Set Free

...Says Chief Prosecutor

DAKAR, FEB 24 (REUTERS) - FORMER LIBERIAN PRESIDENT CHARLES TAYLOR may walk free because the global financial crisis has cut donations to the court trying him for war crimes committed in neighboring Sierra Leone, its chief prosecutor said.

The U.N.-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone, which is pursuing those held most responsible for atrocities during the country's 1991-2002 civil war, faces a budget shortfall of more than \$5 million from May, officials said.

"With the economic crisis continuing, to get funds is not easy ... If we run out, it is now possible the judges will have to release him. That's our real anxiety," Chief Prosecutor Stephen Rapp told Reuters in a phone interview late on Monday.

Taylor, a warlord in a civil war in Liberia and later president, is being tried in The Hague due to fears a local trial may threaten regional stability. He denies all 11 counts of crimes against humanity and other charges including rape, enslavement and conscripting child soldiers younger than 15.

The main session of the court sits in Sierra Leone's seaside capital Freetown and, together with the

proceedings regarding Taylor in The Hague, is funded centrally.

Taylor's trial, which began in June 2007, involves the same Special Court judges and prosecutors and he would stay indicted even if freed for lack of funds for his detention. Rapp had said earlier this month a verdict could be expected early next year.

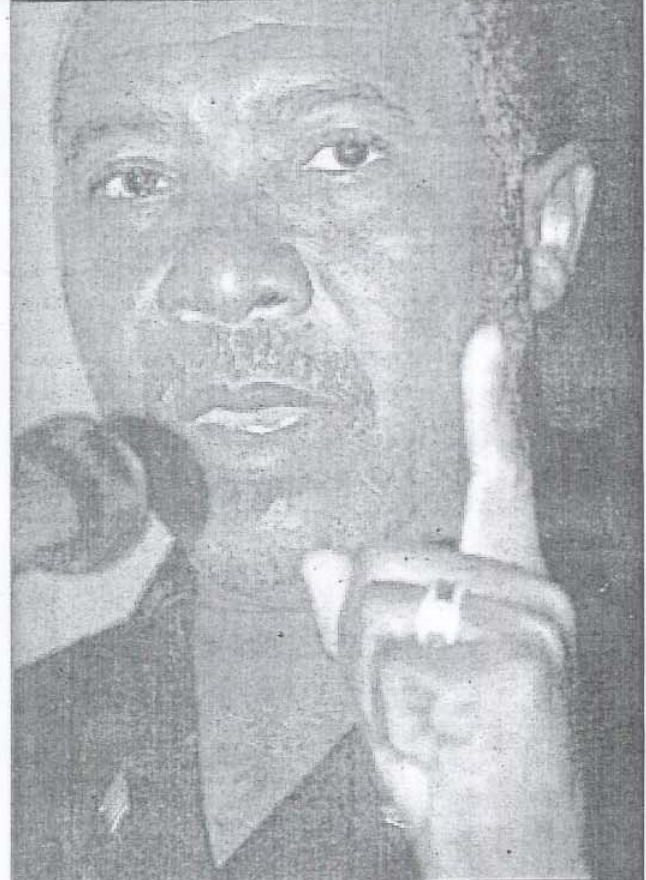
The Freetown session of the court is due to hand down its last verdict on Wednesday, in the trial of the three most senior surviving members of the rebel Revolutionary United Front (RUF).

The defendants may become the first people in the world convicted for attacks against peacekeepers and forced marriage.

The Special Court has already scored several legal firsts, ensuring the recruitment of child soldiers is now recognized as a crime under international humanitarian law, alongside forced marriage and acts of terrorism against civilians.

By Katrina Manson

Rapp said. "In terms of writing the law, this is one of the most active courts there's ever
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Former Liberian President, Dackpannan Dr. Charles McArthur Ghankay Taylor

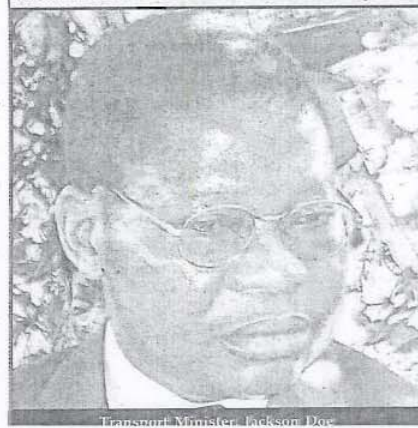
Transport Ministry Records Huge Revenues ...Underscores major achievements

A MID THE DRAMATIC ministerial goal post shift that occasioned the Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf led administration in the last

few days of 2007, little did this country realize that a new day was on the horizon as the incumbent, soft-spoken Minister, Jackson E. Doe rose to the occasion and proved

pragmatically unassuming and up to the task thus recording huge revenue intake to the tune of US\$3,450,440.67,

By Our Correspondent
which is the first of its kind ever since 2003.
See Page 6



Transport Minister Jackson Doe

At Criminal Court "E": Spanish Missionary Faces Rape Charge

THE STIPENDIARY MAGISTRATE of the Careysburg Magisterial Court in Careysburg District, Montserrat County has formally presented prosecuting documents to the Criminal Court "E" at the Temple Of Justice in Monrovia to begin prosecution of an alleged statutory rape case involving the out going Mission Director of the St. Anthony of Padua Mission School situated in



Mr. Jose Ormar Orellana
See Page 6

Taylor

From *Front Page*
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 indictees, five have already

We allege he led the RUF into Sierra Leone in 1991 and was their effective leader for much of the conflict."

Drug-crazed rebels hacked off villagers' limbs with machetes and over 50,000 people were killed in Sierra Leone's 1991-2002 war, made infamous by the 2006 movie 'Blood Diamond'.

Officials fear lack of funds will jeopardize the court, the first of its kind, relying on voluntary contributions from donor governments to foot the entire bill for the proceedings, estimated to run to \$68.4 million for 2008-2010 alone.

"A few important donors have so far not been able to provide financial support to the Court or have provided less than in previous years," Court Registrar Herman von Hebel told Reuters.

"These countries include Ireland, France and Germany, as these have always been important donors to us, but there are other donors as well," he wrote in an email.

Britain's contribution of about 3 million pounds a year has slipped by \$1.6 million in value due to the pound's depreciation.

The court is now turning to "a few countries in the Middle East" for funding, as well appealing to U.S. President Barack Obama's new administration for speedy help to raise a further \$30m to see it through to the end of 2010, von Hebel said.

TAYLOR MAY WALK FREE

-Chief Prosecutor

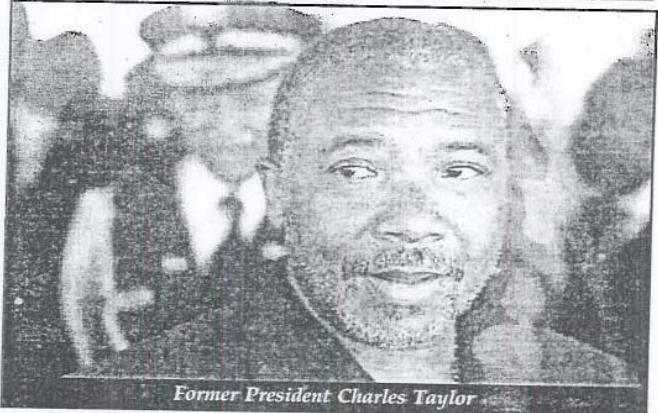
Former President Charles Taylor may walk free because the global financial crisis has cut donations to the court trying him for war crimes committed in neighbouring Sierra Leone, its chief prosecutor said.

The U.N.-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone, which is pursuing those held most responsible for atrocities during the country's 1991-2002 civil war, faces a budget shortfall of more than \$5 million from May, officials said.

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Please turn to Page 2



Former President Charles Taylor

TAYLOR MAY WALK

stability. He denies all 11 counts of crimes against humanity and other charges including rape, enslavement and conscripting child soldiers younger than 15.

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The defendants may become the first people in the world convicted for attacks against peacekeepers and forced marriage.

The Special Court has already scored several legal firsts, ensuring the recruitment of child soldiers is now recognised as a crime under international humanitarian law, alongside forced marriage and acts of terrorism against civilians, Rapp said.

"In terms of writing the law, this is one of the most active courts there's ever been," he said from Freetown.

Of nine surviving indictees, five have already been convicted of war crimes. Four of the most senior indictees bar Taylor died or disappeared before they could be tried or judged.

"The really big one, we allege, is there in The Hague — that's Charles Taylor," Rapp said.

We allege he led the RUF into Sierra Leone in 1991 and was their effective leader for much of the conflict."

Drug-crazed rebels hacked off villagers' limbs with machetes and over 50,000 people were killed in Sierra Leone's 1991-2002 war, made infamous by the 2006 movie 'Blood Diamond'.

Officials fear lack of funds will jeopardise the court, the first of its kind, relying on voluntary contributions from donor governments to foot the entire bill for the proceedings, estimated to run to \$68.4 million for 2008-2010 alone.

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"These countries include Ireland, France and Germany, as these have always been important donors to us, but there are other donors as well," he wrote in an email. Britain's contribution of about 3 million pounds a year has slipped by \$1.6 million in value due to

the pound's depreciation.

The court is now turning to "a few countries in the Middle East" for funding, as well appealing to U.S. President Barack Obama's new administration for speedy help to raise a further \$30m to see it through to the end of 2010, von Hebel said.

Meanwhile, Sierra Leone President Ernest Bai Koroma has spoken of the need for activities of the UN-backed Special Court, which is a chapter of the war, to be quickly concluded so that the nation can move on.

The President told members of the management committee of the Special Court who visited the country that while happy about the progress made so far, "it's our desire that we bring to a conclusion the issues of the Special Court as soon as possible."

Koroma said although the trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor would have to continue, those within Sierra Leonean jurisdiction would soon be ended, hence the need for the Court to fold up.

"When that happens, we will put the legacy of the war behind us and move on as a nation," he said.

The president said he has been very much involved in discussing the residual issues consequential to the Court's closure, and that government would soon come up with proposals to the effect.

One thing he however took particular interest in was the issue of enforcing the prison sentences of convicted persons, proposing that it would be desirable to have some of them serve their terms in another country or countries "just as Charles Taylor has been accepted."

Koroma thanked the management committee and their respective countries for having seen Sierra Leone through her most difficult period.

The chairman of the committee, Keith Morrill of Canada, said they were cognizant of the fact that the Special Court was jointly formed by the UN and the Sierra Leone government and would have to notify the president on any developments.

Morrill said the Court is now rounding up its activities but there are residual issues like setting up the archives, enforcement of sentences, and the question of new evidences that should be dealt with.

He said treaty that set up the Court would therefore need to be modified by legislation. Morrill said the Court's sponsors would have to still make contributions because the work has not completely come to an end. Twelve committee members from the US, the UK, Canada, the Netherlands, Nigeria, and Sierra Leonean diplomats at the UN mission in New York were among the team.

The Democrat (Liberia)
Thursday, 26 February 2009

Taylor Could Walk Free

...No Money



Former Liberian President Charles Taylor may walk free because the global financial crisis has cut donations court trying him for war crimes committed in neighboring Sierra Leone, its chief prosecutor said.

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Taylor Could Walk Free

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Daily Observer (Liberia)
Monday, 2 March 2009

'Taylor's Trial Is Political'

Lawmaker Expresses Willingness to Testify

By Stephen Binda

Barely four years of incarceration in The Hague of former Liberian president Charles Taylor, have some senior officials of the National Patriotic Party of Liberia (NPP) seemed not to be happy with the manner in which the

trial is being conducted. Some of them have come up to go to Taylor's rescue by testifying on his behalf.

One of the lawmakers, Grand Cape Mount County Senior Senator Abel Massaley, has expressed willingness to testify on ex-president Taylor's behalf if called upon by the defense team.

Speaking to the *Daily Observer* Tuesday in Monrovia, Senator Massaley said as far he was concerned, the trial of ex-president Taylor was more political than legal and as such he, being one of Taylor's former officials, was ready to testify to issues of which he had knowledge.

Senator Massaley, who

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Taylor

served as a Representative in the regime of ex-president Taylor, said the ex-president's incarceration in The Hague by what he called 'big powers' was a breach of international protocols, that had been signed between former president Taylor and the International Community.

He noted that it had been agreed that following the resignation of Mr. Taylor, all charges would be dropped against him and he would be given exit out of the country.

He pointed out that the agreement was signed between the African Union (AU) at the time headed by Thabo Mbeki of South Africa, former United States Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, the Economic

Community of West African States (ECOWAS), as well as other regional bodies in Africa and the rest of the world.

Senator Massaley added that the action by the 'big powers' to indict Mr. Taylor was a violation of international laws on grounds that there had been an agreement between heads of state from both Africa and the world, and as such to sit and allow Mr. Taylor who, he said Liberians loved, showed to the world that the 'big powers' were not to be trusted.

Commenting on witnesses testifying in the case, Mr. Massaley said majority of the witnesses were paid witnesses contracted by the prosecution to indict Mr. Taylor.

He said when cross-examined by the defense, nearly all witnesses brought by prosecution had failed to link Mr. Taylor to charges leveled

against him by the prosecution.

He pointed out that recent statements by the prosecution to the effect that Mr. Taylor would not get life sentence or death suggested defeat on the part of the prosecution, an indication that the trial was highly political, he opined.

Senator Massaley concluded by calling for the establishment of a war crimes court in Liberia owing to the fact that war-actors needed to be brought to justice.

Meanwhile, reports reaching the *Daily Observer* say the former president might be released owing to lack of funds to continue the trial in The Hague by the prosecution.

The Liberian former president is being tried in The Hague for war crimes against humanity allegedly committed in Sierra Leone.

New Democrat
Monday, 2 March 2009

Taylor To Apply For Freedom - Lawyer



Lawyers representing ex-president Taylor accused of war crimes and crimes against humanity in Sierra Leone say they will apply for his acquittal of the charges next month. "Yes, we do so intend," lawyer Courtenay Griffiths replied when asked by a panel of judges of the Special Court for Sierra Leone whether he would file a motion for a judgment of acquittal, according to AFP Friday. None of his co-accused has been acquitted since the trial began following the end of Sierra Leone's civil unrest. Two of the principal accused, Foday Sankor and Sam Hinga-Norman, died in custody before judgment could be rendered. All other co-accused have been convicted with long prison terms. Application for an acquittal is a normal process under the court's rule. Taylor is expected to testify in his own defense according to his lawyers. The report: The Hague (AFP)- Former Liberian president Charles Taylor will apply next month for his acquittal on charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity during Sierra Leone's brutal civil unrest, his **Pg.3**

Taylor To Apply For Freedom

lawyer said Friday. "Yes, we do so intend," lawyer Courtenay Griffiths replied when asked by a panel of judges of the Special Court for Sierra Leone whether he would file a motion for a judgment of acquittal. The prosecution case against Taylor, a warlord-turned president who played a leading role in 14 years of back-to-back wars in Liberia as well as the 10-year civil war in neighboring Sierra Leone, wound up last month. "We consider that we will need in the region of 40 working days in order to prepare our submissions," Griffiths added. The judges set a date of April 6 for hearing Taylor's submissions. Rule 98 of the tribunal's rules of procedure allow for an acquittal at the close of the prosecution case, and before the start of the defense, if the judges are convinced there is no evidence to support a conviction. Taylor, 61, has been on trial in The Hague since June 2007 on 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity stemming from the 1991-2001 civil war in Sierra Leone. About 120,000 people were killed in the conflict, with rebels mutilating thousands more - cutting off arms, legs, ears or noses. He is accused of arming, training and controlling Sierra Leone's notorious Revolutionary United Front rebels, blamed for many of the mutilations and being involved in the "blood diamonds" trade. Last month, the 91st and final prosecution witness in Taylor's trial told the judges how he pleaded with rebels to cut off his last remaining hand so they would spare his toddler son. Chief prosecutor Stephen Rapp has said he expected the defense case to close before year-end, with judgment by early next year.

UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries 27 February 2009

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

Newspaper Summary

Russian company Eyes Putu Range – Poised to invest US\$1Bn

(daily Observer, The News)

- A leading Russian Steel company, Severstal, has begun exploring for iron ore in the Putu Range in south-eastern Grand Gedeh County.
- Putu Mountain is potentially 500 million tons mines and investment in it would lead to the revamping of economic activity in that part of the country and the creation of thousands of jobs.
- This exploration is being carried out by SeverStal, a multibillion-dollar Russian mineral company, which has sought interest in participating in a probable bid process that would enable it to invest in the iron ore industry in Liberia. The exploration exercise costs SeverStal between US\$30 million and US\$10 million and is expected to last for the next two to three years.
- The General Manager of Severstal Mr. Alexey Mordasov said the company intends to invest nearly a billion dollar once substantial amount of iron ore is found in the Putu Range.
- The Chairman of the National Investment Commission Chairman said the company would improve the economic lives of the people in the southeast.
- Dr. Richard Tolbert, who paid host to the Russian investment delegation, hopes once a deal is completed the company would create about five thousand jobs.
- The NIC Chairman said Severstal is partnering with Mano River Resources to carry on the exploration.
- Severstal is the fourth largest steel company in the United States and the second largest in Russia.

UN Bangladeshi Peacekeepers Join Efforts to boost Food Production in Liberia

(The Informer, Heritage, Public Agenda, National Chronicle)

- Bangladeshi peacekeepers serving UNMIL continue to devise innovative initiatives for local communities to increase food production. Accordingly, the latest initiative, a multi-purpose community-based agricultural project, under the name “Bangla-Bong Ideal Village,” has been inaugurated at Maimu Town, near Totota, in Salala District of Liberia’s central province of Bong.

Justice Ministry Opens Facilities of Newly Established SGBV Unit

(The Informer)

- The Ministry of Justice will today, Friday officially open the facilities of the newly established Sexual Gender Based Violence Crimes Unit (SGBVU) located on Capitol Hill in Monrovia. The SGBV Unit is an annex to the Ministry of Justice responsible to adequately and speedily prosecute crimes relating to all sexual offenses in the newly Criminal Court “E” in the Montserrado County.

EC Signs Technical Assistance Agreement to Build Capacity of Liberian Government Ministries

(The Informer, The News)

- The European Commission has made a contribution of US\$7.4 million for capacity programs across several sectors of the Liberian government. The EU according to record is the third highest donor to the unity party led government headed by President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf following her election about three years ago.
- The EU as one of Liberia's critical development partners has provided support, particularly in the energy and water sectors of the country.
- The latest EU additional support to the Liberian government will be channeled through the Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs which was designated to assume the role of managing the EC donation of the US\$7.4 million serving as the National Authorizing office for the funds. The US\$7.4 million according to the EU is intended for capacity development and was made available through the European Development Fund

Radio Summary

Local Media – Radio Veritas *(News monitored today at 9:45 am)*

Road Rehabilitation Commences on Major Streets in Monrovia

- Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has formally launched the commencement of the road rehabilitation for the streets of Monrovia, reminding Liberians that benefits from her travels to mobilize resources are now paying off.
- Speaking Thursday at a ground breaking ceremony to commence the project, the President expressed appreciation to Liberia's international partners for the overwhelming response to the country's development programs. The rehabilitation of roads, the President said, is not only restricted to Monrovia but covers other parts of the country.
- The Liberian leader called for patience and understanding, noting that the successful implementation of the projects will require money, skills, talents, time and cooperation.
- Amid cheers by workers, the President also urged the Chinese contracting firm, CHICO, to foster strong partnership with the workers for a smooth implementation of the project. "All the workers want is to have a decent pay," the Liberian leader reminded the Chinese firm.
- Also speaking at the occasion were the Minister of Public Works, Mr. Loseni Dunzo, World Bank Country Representative Ohene Nyanin, and Chinese Ambassador Zhou Yuxiao. The men assured the Liberian leader of their institutions' cooperation in ensuring the successful implementation of the road rehabilitation project.
- The rehabilitation work which has already commenced is expected to be completed in two years. The rehabilitation will cover all major streets in Monrovia including the Caldwell to St. Paul Bridge road. The project, estimated at nearly US \$16-million, is being funded by the World Bank. It is being supervised by the Ministry of Public Works.

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

President Sirleaf Extends Executive Order No. 7, Establishing LIMPAC

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has issued and extended Executive Order number Seven, establishing the Liberia Macroeconomic Policy Analysis Capacity Building Project (LIMPAC) as a semi-autonomous entity of Liberia.
- According to an Executive Mansion release, the extension notice was contained in Executive Order #18 which took effect on Monday, February 23, 2009.
- The Government, according to the Order, is desirous of improving Macro-economic Policy formulation and analysis as a critical intervention measure in the reconstruction programme of the country through LIMPAC. The Project is to be implemented through a US \$1.8-million grant provided by the Executive Board of the African Capacity Building Foundation in support of the Government for the implementation of the project.
- The Liberia Macroeconomic Policy Analysis Capacity Building Project is to be governed by a

seven-member Board of Directors appointed by the President and Chaired by the Minister of Planning and Economic Affairs.

- In consultation with the African Capacity Building Foundation, a Project Steering Committee of key stakeholders shall be constituted. A Project Director is to also be appointed in conformity with terms and conditions stipulated in the LIMPAC Project Document.
- The Executive Order signed by President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf Monday has already taken effect.

Liberian Government Halts Publication of New Broom Newspaper

- The Liberian government has, "with immediate effect", halted the publication of the New Broom, a weekly local daily owned by Mr. Roland Worwee.
- Information Minister Dr. Laurence K. Bropleh said the government's decision to halt the publication of the New Broom Newspaper is because the paper is not registered and it is operating illegally. He said "Liberia is a country of laws and it would therefore not allow any institution to operate illegally".
- Minister Bropleh made the disclosure Thursday during his regular press conference held at the Ministry of Information in Monrovia.
- The Information Minister said the government has instructed all printing houses in the country not to print any edition of the New Broom Newspaper.
- However, the publisher of the newspaper, Roland Worwee, denied the allegations saying he has already notified the Press Union of Liberia regarding the government's action.
- He added that several persons, including dignitaries, have complained about the paper's "ethical transgression".
- In its Monday's edition, the paper accused two public officials - Eugene Shannon, Minister of Lands Mines and Energy and Agriculture Minister Christopher Toe sending huge amount of money to their families in the United States on a regular basis.
- But the two Ministers quickly reacted to the story, challenging the authenticity of the article.

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

Star Radio *(News culled from website at 12:00 pm)*

Leading Russian company to explore Putu Range

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

Residents Resort to violence following Discovery of a Dead Body in Gbarnga

- Report from Bong County says the body of a 19-year old man has been discovered on the Gbarnga-Melekei Highway. According to our correspondent, the body of Armah Jeahwulu was discovered Thursday evening in a pool of blood.
- Armah was member of the Bong County Motorcyclists Association. Our correspondent said the murder triggered angry reaction from members of the association who are on the rampage in Gbarnga. The motorcyclists set road blocks in the central regional capital and a Police Depot in the heart of Gbarnga has been set ablaze. Our correspondent said peacekeepers of the Nigerian contingent assigned in Bong County and the Liberian National Police are doing all they can to calm the situation. The security forces are said to be using teargas and business entities have shut down. The latest death of the commercial motorcyclist is the fifth incident in two years in Bong County.

Tension Brews at Liberian Senate Again – Pro Tempore Ask to Resign

- The continuing division amongst Liberian Senators suggests that the leadership crisis still persists at the Senate.
- Some members referring to themselves as the 'majority bloc' of the Senate have called for the

resignation of Senate Pro Tempore Isaac Nyenabo. Star Radio reported that majority members of the Senate continue to display the posture of non-compliance against the leadership of Nyenabo.

- For weeks now the Senate's majority members have been staging a silent walkout as soon Nyenabo assumes the role as presiding officer. The action by the Senators was formally made public Thursday by Nimba County Senator Adolphus Dolo in the plenary of the Senate. Senator Dolo said the Senate was strongly divided and there was an attitude of pretense toward the division.

BBC

Friday, 27 February 2009

Rwanda priest jailed for genocide

A former Rwandan priest has been given a 25-year jail sentence for committing genocide, sexual assault and kidnapping during the 1994 killings in Rwanda.

Emmanuel Rukundo, a former army chaplain, took part in the abduction of Tutsis who sought refuge at a seminary, many of whom were later killed.

A UN war crimes court also convicted him of the attempted rape of a young Tutsi woman.

Some 800,000 ethnic Tutsis and moderate Hutus were slaughtered in 100 days.

Rukundo was arrested in Geneva in 2001 and will receive credit for the time already spent in detention.

The court said that Rukundo monitored local Tutsis and was often accompanied by soldiers and militiamen during the violence.

"The accused was found to have abused his moral authority and influence to promote the abduction and killing of Tutsi refugees," the UN court said.

"Rukundo's acts were clearly part of the genocide," said Judge Joseph Asoka de Silva after the judgement had been delivered.

"When he committed these crimes, he intended to completely or partially destroy the Tutsi ethnic group."

Prosecutors had demanded life in prison for Rukundo.

He is the second Roman Catholic priest to have been convicted of genocide by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, based in the Tanzanian town of Arusha.

Rukundo has up to 30 days to appeal against his sentence.

RWANDA'S 1994 GENOCIDE

6 April: Rwandan Hutu President Habyarimana killed when plane shot down

April-July: An estimated 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus killed

July: Tutsi-led rebel movement RPF captures Rwanda's capital Kigali

July: Two million Hutus flee to Zaire, now DR Congo

CNN

Sunday, 1 March 2009

U.N. opens prosecution over Hariri assassination

BEIRUT, Lebanon (CNN) -- The United Nations Sunday launched a special tribunal to prosecute the assassins of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri.

The tribunal convened at The Hague more than four years after Hariri was killed in a massive car bombing in Beirut on February 14, 2005.

The bomb, detonated as Hariri's armored motorcade passed through Beirut's fashionable seaside Corniche district, contained hundreds of pounds of explosives. It left buildings shattered and streets littered with the mangled wreckage of vehicles. The blast also killed 22 other people.

The Lebanese army was out in force on the streets of Beirut Sunday as people turned out to pay their respects to Hariri, who is buried downtown in the Lebanese capital.

The U.N. tribunal will have 11 judges, whose identities are being kept secret for their safety. Four will be Lebanese. The prosecution could take as long as 10 years, sources close to the tribunal said.

Four senior Lebanese generals are being held over the bombing, which also killed 22 other people. But many Lebanese -- as well as the United States and U.N. investigators -- believe Syria ordered the assassination. Syria denies it.

The tribunal's prosecutor, Daniel Bellemare, refused to commit when asked at a news conference Sunday if Syrians would be charged. He said the public would have to wait and see.

The U.S. State Department pledged its continued support of Lebanese judicial authorities and the tribunal's operations. The United States has promised to contribute \$14 million; a request for an additional \$6 million is pending approval from Congress.

In a statement issued Sunday, acting State Department spokesman Robert A. Wood said Hariri's death "was an unsuccessful attempt to undermine Lebanon's sovereignty."

He added: "The Lebanese people answered his assassination with the Cedar Revolution, leading to the withdrawal of Syrian troops and the most democratic Lebanese elections in decades."

At the time of Hariri's death, neighboring Syria had immense political influence in the country, and had maintained troops in its smaller neighbor since the 1980s, after the fighting between Israel and the PLO in Lebanon.

Hariri was admired for spearheading the rebuilding of Beirut after the country's civil war, from 1975 to 1990, and many Lebanese blamed Syria for the killing, citing Hariri's patriotism and strong sense of Lebanese independence.

The killing sparked widespread protests that led to the eventual withdrawal of Syrian troops from Lebanon and the election of an anti-Syrian bloc in parliament.

The anti-Syrian movement is known as the March 14 Alliance, named after the day millions of supporters of Hariri took to the streets, and its actions have been dubbed the Cedar Revolution, for the nation's iconic cedar trees.

Huge counter-protests also were staged by Lebanese supporters of Syria.

Along the way, U.N. investigators tasked to probe the attack found links between Syria's government and Hariri's assassination.

The Lebanese hope the tribunal will settle the case, but there are also fears it could further divide the nation and open up older wounds in the country.

The special tribunal takes over from the Beirut-based International Independent Investigation Commission, which looked into 20 other attacks and found elements linking some of them to a criminal network behind the Hariri killing, the United Nations said.

The trial will take place in a converted gymnasium in a suburb of The Hague. The U.N. says the case is expected to be ready for trial by 2010.