

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



The Prosecutor presenting medals to members of the UNMIL's Mongolian Guard Force on Sunday, 30 April 2006

PRESS CLIPPINGS

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

Tuesday, 2 May 2006

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

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Concord Times
Tuesday, 2 May 2006

Another major loss to Special Court

The UN backed Special Court for Sierra Leone suffers another loss in the composition of its expatriate staff following the resignation of the Chief Prosecutor, Desmond de Silva QC, Friday 28th. The outgoing prosecutor who took after his predecessor, David Crane some two years ago has notified the Secretary-General of the United Nations that he will not seek to renew his contract when it expires on 30 June 2006.

Mr. de Silva originally joined the Special Court as Deputy Prosecutor in August 2002 after being nominated for the post by the Government of Sierra Leone.

As Deputy Prosecutor, Mr. de Silva headed the Appellate Section of the Office of the Prosecutor, where he oversaw the successful Prosecution response to the many legal challenges to the Court's jurisdiction and existence which were brought by the Defence.

Some of these cases, Mr. de Silva observed today, resulted in landmark legal decisions which will have a considerable impact on the development of international jurisprudence in years to come.

In July 2005, upon the departure of then-Chief Prosecutor David M. Crane, the Secretary-General of the United Nations appointed Mr. de Silva as Chief Prosecutor of the Special Court.

At a press conference in Freetown shortly after I took up the post of Prosecutor, I pledged to

Sierra Leoneans that I would strain every nerve and every sinew to bring Charles Taylor to trial before the Special Court for Sierra Leone. Mr. de Silva said. I leave the Court with that pledge fulfilled.

When he leaves at the end of June, Mr. de Silva will be the longest serving international member in the Office of the Prosecutor.

In his letter to the Secretary-General, Mr. de Silva indicated that, after four years in Sierra Leone, he now wishes to spend time with his family in England and also to attend to matters at his Chambers in London.

Mr. de Silva further informed the Secretary-General that, when Charles Taylor comes to trial, whether in Freetown or elsewhere, he would be willing to be considered for reappointment were that the wish of the Secretary-General. By Statute, only the Secretary-General can appoint a Prosecutor of the Special Court.

When I joined the Special Court four years ago, I was no stranger to Sierra Leone, Mr. de Silva said. I was called to the Bar in Freetown back in 1969 when I served as defence counsel in Sierra Leone's first treason trial. One of the defendants in that case, in which my colleagues and I finally prevailed, was Samuel Hinga Norman, who is now one of the defendants facing trial before the Special Court. Such is the wheel of fate!

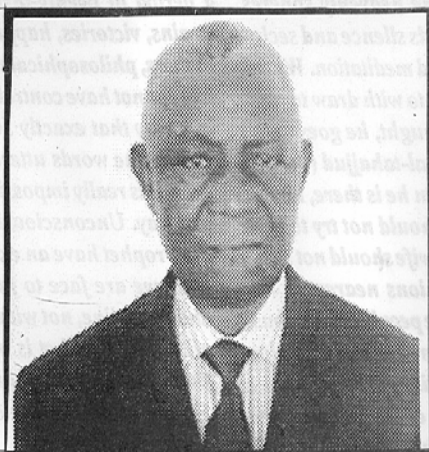
African Champion
Tuesday 2 May 2006

Kamajor Say 'No Hinga Norman, No SLPP'

Kekura Reports From Nongowa

Kekura, a young man in his late twenties, and an ex-Kamajor commander in Largo Jasawabu, Nongowa chiefdom has just returned from the eastern provincial headquarter city of Kenema. He brought with him news from that district that speaks of more political troubles for the SLPP. Unlike the various pronouncements by various personalities in the SLPP that places like Kenema are solidly united behind the SLPP, Kekura reported that it is in fact the PMDC, which is now the party of choice in those areas.

"SLPP is a very ungrate-



Solomon Berewa, tough time

ful government," Kekura said, speaking on behalf of residents of that district, particularly the youths. I wanted to know why Kekura said the SLPP government is

ungrateful. "It was us Kamajors when the war was at its most desperate took on us the trouble of defending the integrity of the state along side

ECOMOG; why should this government so betray our trusted leader, Chief Sam Hinga Norman?"

Slowly, even the Mendes who used to support the SLPP unconditionally are coming to a new realization that the state of Sierra Leone is more important than any one individual, grouping or party.

"If there is any one person who should be before the Special Court accused of the greatest responsibility it should be Kabbah or Berewa but not Chief Norman," Kekura reiterated.

Kekura had other points of grievance people of Kenema district have against the ruling SLPP.

"Even after the war, what

has the SLPP done for the people of this district?" The main streets of Kenema city have not had any new coating of tar since the 1970s. People complain that the cost of educating their children is very expensive and with very few scholarships available for higher education, they cannot see their children however brilliant or gifted being able to compete against the children of the new urban bourgeoisies.

"This government cheated us, we know," Kekura added. "We know fully well that it was

not only money for disarmament we were supposed to receive after the end of the war. We were also to receive building materials for our own houses. Those materials we never saw and never received. Somebody has enriched himself with them." Everywhere around the country today, the SLPP government is seen as corrupt and not working in the best interest of the people of this country. "Leh SLPP nor think say nar den get dis country o," Kekura warned. "We are just keeping quiet because peace is what we want," Kekura said. His tone sounded threatening.

Australia Broadcasting Corporation

Tuesday, 2 May 2006

Australia boosts Sierra Leone court funding

Australia will increase its funding to a Special Court set up to try cases of human rights abuses in Sierra Leone.

Foreign Affairs Minister Alexander Downer says Australia will contribute another \$300,000 to the court, which was set up by Sierra Leone and the United Nations.

The UN secretary-general Kofi Annan requested the funding increase.

Eleven people have been indicted by the Special Court, charged with war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Daily Yomiuri Online

Tuesday, 2 May 2006

Countries reluctant to house former warlord Taylor

Charles Taylor, the architect of Liberia's destructive civil war that killed about 250,000 people and destabilized its neighbors, is heading to The Hague to be tried for alleged war crimes. That is, as soon as a country agrees to take him when the trial is over.

Taylor has pleaded not guilty to 11 war crimes, most of which concern atrocities committed by a rebel group he led that launched a debilitating civil war in neighboring Sierra Leone, often using child soldiers. The Sierra Leone war led to 50,000 deaths and more than 500,000 people being displaced. Taylor remains a destabilizing force in the region's fragile political scene, and it is widely agreed that keeping him in West Africa would be dangerous.

Before Taylor can be moved, however, the Netherlands has requested that a post-trial home be found for him. Sweden and Austria were initial candidates, but have declined, and no other country has stepped forward. Most recently, Denmark said it would reject any request for Taylor to be held there. Until a place is found, Taylor remains under close guard in Sierra Leone, as the region awaits the U.N. Security Council resolution that would authorize his transfer from Freetown to The Hague.

Taylor led a rebel group that fought a civil war in Liberia for most of the 1990s before he became president in 1997. By 2003, however, continued warfare and international pressure forced him to resign and he accepted asylum in Nigeria in exchange for staying out of Liberian politics.

Earlier this year, Liberia held national elections and newly elected President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf requested Taylor's extradition in late March. Days later, Taylor disappeared from his Nigerian residence, but was apprehended by Nigerian authorities while trying to cross into neighboring Cameroon. He was helicoptered to Sierra Leone where he is being detained under the authority of a U.N.-backed tribunal there.

The international tribunal and Johnson-Sirleaf have requested Taylor be moved to the Netherlands, where he would be tried by the U.N.-backed Sierra Leone court. The move was requested because it is feared Taylor, who still has allies in the region, could foment further unrest if he remains in Sierra Leone, where the last of the United Nations' peacekeeping forces have been gone for barely four months. But a British-backed resolution in the Security Council to authorize his transfer has stalled, largely due to the question of where Taylor would go after the trial.

Countries have been reluctant to take Taylor in part for the same reason his trial will be moved to The Hague: With many of his allies still at large, holding him could be a security risk.

"I don't think there's any provision in our legal system that will allow us to do so, but I do hope he will find a nice place," said Chinese Ambassador to the United Nations Wang Guangya, when asked two weeks ago if his country would take Taylor.

The other major concern is financial. As of last week, the Sierra Leone court had received only 9 million dollars in pledges, but needs 25 million dollars to operate this year. This has not, however, been the most significant factor holding up Taylor's transfer.

"The funding of the special court is a problem. But it has been a problem [before]. Taylor being in The Hague is only an added increment of cost," said British Ambassador to the United Nations Emyr Jones Parry.

Taylor broke out of a Massachusetts jail in 1985 where he was being held on charges of embezzlement. It is believed he spent the next four years in Libya, where he was trained in guerrilla warfare tactics that he would later use to start the Liberian civil war.

Perhaps his penchant for escapes is another reason why no one seems eager to be responsible for him.

"Our jail system maybe is not the most appropriate for this case," said Greek Ambassador to the United Nations Adamantios Vassilakis.

Melbourne Herald Sun

Tuesday, 2 May 2006

Acquitted detective returns to work

Paul Anderson

A VETERAN Victorian detective acquitted of child sex offences in Sierra Leone returned to work for Victoria Police yesterday.

Det Supt Peter Halloran, 57, is now the official boss of a new cold case taskforce. Supt Halloran was reinstated last month after appealing against a conviction that he indecently assaulted a 13-year-old West African girl.

The experienced detective had taken leave without pay in 2004 to work as commander of the war crimes unit with the UN-backed Special Court in Sierra Leone. He was working in Freetown when the allegations were made.

After originally being found guilty and jailed for 18 months, Supt Halloran successfully appealed in October on the grounds of a lack of evidence.

Supt Halloran now heads a taskforce that will re-examine cases including unsolved murders and robberies.

A delighted Supt Halloran walked in for his first day of work yesterday. "I'm quite pleased to be back at work and, obviously, I'm more pleased to be back in the crime department," he said.

Human Rights Watch 2006

Friday, April 28 2006

Taylor Transfer Stalled Unless a Third Country Steps Forward

Compiled by Kandy Ringer

HRW via BBSNews - Brussels, April 27, 2006 -- The transfer of former Liberian President Charles Taylor to face trial in The Hague remains stalled unless a third country steps up to take Taylor if he is convicted, Human Rights Watch said today.

August 11, 2002: Charles has promised to step down and hand over the presidency of Liberia to his Vice President Moses Blah.

Image Credit: AFP File Photo, US Department of State

For the image shown above in a larger size, see Charles Taylor.

More BBSNews images are available in BBSNews Photos.

On March 29, Taylor was surrendered to the Special Court for Sierra Leone, where he is indicted on war crimes and crimes against humanity. The following day, the Special Court requested a change in the location of the trial to The Hague, citing concerns about stability in West Africa if the trial is held in Freetown.

The Netherlands has agreed to host Taylor during his trial, but on the condition that he be transferred out of the country after final judgment. The relocation of Taylor's trial to The Hague would mean that trial judges and staff from the Special Court would conduct the proceedings according to the court's statute and rules. The International Criminal Court has agreed to lend its facilities for the trial.

"Liberia's new president took a real risk by requesting Taylor's surrender, and security concerns prompted the Special Court to request relocating the trial to The Hague," said Richard Dicker, International Justice director at Human Rights Watch. "How can other countries now sit back and do nothing?"

So far, Sweden and Austria have reportedly declined to accept Taylor if he is convicted. Denmark also appears to have declined, but Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen has yet to give an official answer. Sweden, Austria and Denmark have provided detention facilities for individuals convicted either by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda or by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. However, in declining on Taylor, they have cited lack of resources or the fact that they have shown a commitment to international justice in other ways.

"A third country needs to offer a jail cell for Charles Taylor if he's convicted," said Dicker. "Countries should be lining up to take Taylor, not backing away."

A number of countries currently have agreements with one or both of the international criminal tribunals for Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia to allow convicted persons to serve sentences there. The European countries include Austria, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Norway, Spain and Sweden; the African countries include Benin, Mali and Swaziland.

These countries are well-placed to promptly reach an agreement to take Taylor if he's convicted, Human Rights Watch said. Regardless, any country that makes such an offer must have facilities that meet international standards of detention.

Moving Taylor's trial outside Sierra Leone would create serious challenges that the Special Court and its donors would have to address, Human Rights Watch noted. The most significant drawback is that trying Taylor in The Hague could limit the accessibility of the trial to people in West Africa. Nonetheless, legitimate concerns over security may make the move necessary.

If the relocation of Taylor's trial moves forward, Human Rights Watch will issue a briefing paper to the Special Court and its donors on the crucial importance of maintaining the accessibility of The Hague trial for the people of West Africa. The briefing paper will include a number of specific recommendations on how this can be achieved.

Background

The Special Court for Sierra Leone was set up in 2002 to try those "bearing the greatest responsibility" for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed during Sierra Leone's armed conflict. The crimes include killings, mutilations, rape and other forms of sexual violence, sexual slavery, the recruitment and use of child soldiers, abduction, and the use of forced labor by armed groups.

The Special Court has charged Taylor with war crimes (murder, pillage, outrages upon personal dignity, cruel treatment, terrorizing civilians), crimes against humanity (murder, mutilation, rape, enslavement, sexual slavery), and other serious violations of international humanitarian law (use of child soldiers) in the course of Sierra Leone's armed conflict. The indictment alleges that Taylor, as president of Liberia, provided training and financing to the main rebel group in Sierra Leone, the Revolutionary United Front.

For more of Human Rights Watch's work on International Justice in Sierra Leone, please visit: [Sierra Leone Work](#).

Weekend Observer

Monday, 1 May 2006

Charles Taylor could be jailed here

By Fanyana Mabuza

Ousted Liberian warlord and dictator Charles Taylor may serve his sentence in the country if he is finally convicted for crimes against humanity by a United Nations special court, currently sitting in Sierra Leone.

The authoritative South African radio station SAFM broke the news yesterday morning.

Taylor is facing such crimes following his involvement in the civil war in Sierra Leone that left thousands either dead or severely maimed. He is accused of supporting a rebel movement led by Foday Sankoh, that perpetrated the Sierra Leone civil war in return for diamonds, which he then used to bankroll his own war in Liberia.

He is fresh from an exile stint in Nigeria, after he was ousted from the seat of power back home in Liberia two years ago.

His appearance in the United Nations court follows pleas by the current Liberian President Ellen Sirleaf Johnson, Africa's first ever woman president, who requested that Taylor be indicted for the crimes he allegedly committed against the country's people and the nation at large.

News on the progress of the court case claim that Swaziland has been chosen among the countries that would house Taylor if he is convicted. Other African countries touted to house Taylor as he does his time are Mali and Benin, both in North Africa.

There are other European countries which have been touted, among them Denmark, Sweden, and Austria, who have swiftly turned down a request to accommodate Taylor. Indications are that the other touted European countries may follow suit.

The Personal Assistant to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Alpheous Nxumalo, commenting in the absence of Foreign Affairs Minister Mathendele Dlamini, who is out of the country, stated that even though he did not listen to the programme, he had heard of the reports from sources he described as impeccable.

“Yes, I did receive the news from someone I have very reason to trust. Even though I did not hear the report myself, some people called to break the news to me. It should be remembered that Swaziland can be perceived the best country to house Taylor when looking at the fact that both Mali and Benin are precariously close to Liberia and that may cause unnecessary tension. Also, it should be remembered that Swaziland was known, the world over, as one country whose foreign policy has never been hostile to another regardless of that its political pedigree,” he said.

When asked if the government had been informed about such a decision by the U.N., Nxumalo observed that it was a bit too early and Swaziland was merely being touted. But if all the other countries refuse to take him in, then they can then inform the country's authorities seeking permission.

“In fact, as a kingdom, we are perceived the world over as a peaceful country guided by King Sobhuza II’s philosophy

“I do not have an enemy’ hence we could be found to be conducive for such circumstances,” he said. He closed by reminding the nation that a few years ago, Swaziland was chosen again, by the U.N., to be the proper country that could house Rwandan genocide perpetrators and the relevant instruments were signed between the U.N and the country.

Current Deputy Prime Minister Albert Shabangu signed for the country in his capacity as Minister for Foreign Affairs at that time.

The deal eventually fell through, just when the country was expecting the first batch of Rwandan prisoners.

Saylac.com

Monday, 1 May 2006

Another Nuremberg by Soleiman Amin

"Quotes"

"I object to violence because when it appears to do good, the good is only temporary, the evil it does is permanent". Mahatma Gandhi

Can the World Once Again Will Assemble Another Nuremberg type International War Crimes Tribunal?

Introduction

United Nations efforts of forming separate small war crimes tribunals for Rwanda, Sierra Leone and Bosnia-Herzegovina is a commendable endeavor, but limited in scope, hobbled by lack of enough funds and most of all receiving very little attention from the leading powers. Therefore, isn't time to organize another full-fledged Nuremberg-type international war crimes tribunal where all the perpetrators of war crimes, crimes against humanity, gross violations of international treaties, principles and protocol are adjudicated?

Since the Nuremberg trials of 1946-1949, the world has seen numerous devastating conflicts and warfare, wars such as the Korean, Vietnam, the Algerian, the Sudan and a number of other wars. But the wars happening for the last 30 years are much different than say world war 1 and world war 11, primarily in the sense that the afore-mentioned wars were wars between multiple states from both sides of the conflict, who have one thing in common, they were wars between sovereign states.

In contrast the wars happening for the last 40 years were guerrilla wars betting a state against indigenous nationalist forces, militias fighting colonial forces or wars raging within a state, against rebellious parts of that state, or nation states waging a war against some segments of their population. Case in point the war between the now defunct Somali state and the various indigenous guerrilla groups within the country.

The end of of the Somali state culminated with the central government army and air force waging a devastating full-fledged attack on Somaliland's major urban centers with tanks, fighter/bombers, long range artillery, multiple howitzers and what have you.

Tens of thousands of civilians have been perished in those heinous attacks, and the large beautiful Somaliland urban centers were in ruins, depicting a scene reminiscent of world war 11 allied devastating bombing of the German city of Dresden. Despite all the fire power, the central government in Mogadishu has eventually lost the war plus the hearts and minds of the Somalilanders. The fact that nobody is in custody for the above-mentioned war crimes is unbelievable and a gross travesty of justice.

The Republic of Somaliland declared its independence in 1991 and the Somali state has permanently split into its two original components, Republic of Somaliland and Somalia. In the Republic of Somaliland the people built a full-fledged state with all the attributes of a functioning

Democratic state, such as two houses of congress and elected president, a relatively independent judiciary and other civil society institutions as Universities, political Think Tanks, human rights organizations so on and so forth.

But over 15 years, since the collapse of the Somali state, the civil strife and conflict that followed the collapse of that state is raging on in Somalia. For the last decade, the conflict has degenerated into intractable clan wars in most of Somalia(Southern Somalia) .The vicious cycle of mayhem, senseless killings, kidnappings, extra-judicial killings and chaos keep on going on without an end in sight. Numerous attempts destined to put an end to these wars and form a government have been made, but so far, all the efforts seems to be in vain. The IGAD sponsored government of 2004 seem not making much traction on the ground in Somalia.

Background Information

The International Military Tribunal held in Nuremberg, Germany between 1946-1949 was a milestone in international relations. It was formed by four nations, the United States, Great Britain, France, and the Soviet Union. President Harry Truman appointed the United States supreme court justice Robert Jackson, as the chief persecutor of the International Military Tribunal of War Crimes in Nuremberg

21 high level defendants were paraded in front of the court. Among the most the famous of them were:

- (1). Herman Goering deputy Fuhrer and the chief of the German air force (the infamous deadly Luftwaffe).
- (2). Albert Spear, minister of armament and munition.
- (3). Keitel Wilhelm, chief of staff of the German high command.
- (4). Julius Streicher, editor and propagandist.
- (5). Alfred Jodl, chief of operations for the German high command.

Indictments

The 21 defendants were charged with four counts:

- (1). Conspiracy to wage aggressive war, or crimes against peace.
- (2). Waging aggressive war, or crimes against peace.
- (3). War crimes
- (4). Crimes against humanity

International treaties and protocols the Nazi regime have breached

- (1). The Geneva convention of 1924 for the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes, signed by the representatives of 48 governments that declared that a war of aggression constituted an international crime.
- (2). 1924 6Th pan-American conference of 21 nations unanimously adopting a resolution, stating that war of aggression constitutes an international crime against human species.
- (3). 1927 League of Nations unanimous resolution of the representatives of 48 member nations including Germany, declared that war of aggression constitutes an international crime.

(4). Brian Kellogg pact of 1928 by which all nations of the world renounced war as an instrument of national policy.

(5). Article 4 of the Weimar(German state that existed before Nazis came to power) provided that "the generally accepted rules of international law are to be considered as binding integral parts of the law of the German Reich".

(5). The German abrogation of the Versailles treaty.

The Nuremberg international war Crimes Tribunal marked a turning point in world history. It was the first time the leaders of a major European power were brought to trial for aggression, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Nuremberg trials chief prosecutor Chief justice Robert Jackson's opening statements:" The wrongs which we seek to condemn and punish have been so-calculated, so-malignant, and so devastating that civilization cannot tolerate their being ignored because it cannot survive their being repeated".

Analysis

Many observers thought at the time, with the advent of founding of the United Nations and the successful conclusions of the Nuremberg trials, were hoping for the dawn of a new era of international relations. They envision the specter of a new epoch whereby, the international community will establish a long-lasting sustainable, good bilateral and multilateral relations, where the rule of law is respected and international crisis are addressed through multilateral institutions such as the UN security Council, General Assembly and others.

But Alas! they were wrong. Certainly, they were not in a position at the time to predict the plethora of serious human rights violation, actions amounting to war crimes and genocide that were in store for the world. They can't fathom how, their noble aspirations and sincere efforts and hard work for a better world may have been in vain if not a total waste.

The fifty years following world two have witnessed several macro-genocides and dozens of micro-genocides. The world has been rudely awakened by the specter of the Rwandan genocide, the human carnage in Bosnia-Herzegovina and specially the cold-blooded genocide in Srebrenica at the watch of the United nation's Dutch peace-keeping forces. We have seen the human catastrophe resulted from the 30 years Eritrean-Ethiopian war, the human carnage, misery, chaos in Somalia (southern Somalia), and the on going Darfur human debacle.

The fighting seem to be tapered off for now, but the people in this beautiful Congo river basin have seen a hell on earth for most of the 90s and until recently. More than five neighboring states were at one time physically involved in a civil war that betted several Congolese factions against each other. This rich area has become the beacon of misery, death, destruction and human suffering.

For a good part of the 80s and 90s, West Africa and especially Sierra Leone and Liberia have suffered devastating civil wars, mostly perpetrated by the now indicted war criminal Charles Taylor. The latter have arrested about a month ago by the Nigerian authorities who handed him

over to the international war crimes court in the Hague. The capturing of Charles Taylor may be a turning point in the history of the civil strife ridden-Africa. This important event may set a hopeful precedent. Other fugitive war criminals who are still rampaging through the streets of Mogadishu, Kismayo, Merka, Jowhar and other places must take notice, and may soon be spending a lot of time watching their backs.

Charles Taylor's wars in Liberia and Sierra Leone were wars of greed, power, ethnic hatred, diamond smuggling, child soldiers, mass rapes and genocide. More than 3 million people have been forcefully moved from their homes as a result of this war. Currently the once highly valued jewel of West Africa, France's big ticket Ivory Coast is embroiled in a civil war mainly started out of southern arrogance, greed and gross miscalculation of their power.

They always thought the French will stand by their excesses, human right abuse of the Northern Ivorians. Basically it is a war that started out of an arrogance of a group of people who were drunk with the unlimited support of a neo-colonial power, at the expense of other groups. The latter is a text book fuel for most fires that have engulfed a number of the post-colonial artificial states in Africa and elsewhere. Again lack of transparency, accountability, injustice, greed, miscalculation, over-estimation of one's power is the front and center of these civil wars raged or raging across the length and breadth of this sleeping giant-Africa.

Conclusion

Today's perpetrators of war crimes are men smaller in political stature than their predecessors. They may not be heads of states or the leaders of nations. Today's genocides are much smaller and limited in scope and magnitude than those carried out by the mighty Nazi military machine. But they still constitute heinous crimes against humanity.

The modern or late 20Th century perpetrators of war crimes are in many cases not nation states but freelance actors, such as warlords, tribal militia commanders, tribal and clan leaders, drug pushers, community leaders, or some other unknown beings who do not hold high political offices.

The last 10 years of the just expired 20 Th century have witnessed a vicious genocides and wanton loss of life. The old scenes of war crimes and destruction were Russia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Britain, France, North Africa, Scandinavia and other places. The new scenes of genocide, ethnic cleansing and mass graves are Bosnia-Herzegovina, Rwanda, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Somalia and others.

Unlike the Nuremberg trials, where all defendants were in custody. most of the perpetrators today's war crimes are still at large and so far, very little restitution and readdressing have happened. The exception to this unfortunate reality is the recent Nigerian delivery of Charles Taylor to the International War Crimes Court in the Hague. The recently passed Slobadon Milosevic's trial went nowhere.

Most of the war crimes and crimes against humanity especially those transpired in Africa in the recent past, can be called war crimes with almost unequivocal certainty. There is very little grey area regarding the atrocities perpetrated against civilians, the weak, the unarmed and the elderly. In many cases there are numerous calculated and premeditated cruelties that targeted civilians. These gross inhumanities must not be left without making someone accountable. I wonder how sustainable peace is attained without fully redressing the heinous Rwandan genocide, where over half a million people have been slaughtered within a span of just three months. That

swift and nasty genocide executed with the highest efficiency and precision should not be overlooked.

Similarly in Sierra Leone anti-government militias chopped the hands and legs of those they think are supporting the government. In Liberia Charles Taylor is directly responsible of more than 200,000 people perished in a vicious conflict he engineered, and nearly 2 million people were driven out of their homes. Thanks but no thanks to the Nigerian authorities who originally harbored him, but finally decided to give him up. All of The conflicts raging within the borders of states have one thing in common, regarding intensity, magnitude, the indiscriminate shelling and mass killings of civilians, and the callousness of their perpetrators.

It seems they care less about anything including the consequences of their actions so and so forth. These people act as there are no tomorrows, after world, humanity. Allah or anything. If the international community will not come together and come up with a way of stabilizing, pacifying and helping the fragile post civil war states in Africa, the mess, mayhem and the human carnage will continue unabated. Generations of unschooled children who don't know anything about peace, tolerance and harmony are growing up. A the backdrop of the above-mentioned specter, the future is frightening. Therefore, the international community must come up a way of seriously addressing the issue of the rapidly failing and collapsing states.

There are some Grey areas which may from time to time arise, as to what constitutes war crimes according to the statutes, principles and protocols agreed upon at the advent of the end world war 11, and over the years revised and ratified by the United Nations. But the international community needs to earnestly and cautiously sort out those glitches with the help of experts on international law.

Some of the still at large famous alleged perpetrators of war crimes:

Mengistu Hailu Mariam

Radavon Karachik leader of the Bosnian-Serb militias

Radko Mladic former general in the Yugoslav army and commander of the brutal Bosnian Serb militias

Some high level military officials in Siyad Barre's ousted regime

Mogadishu warlords

Some high level Hutu government officials

Charles Taylor

Husaini Habre-former Chadian strongman

This list is neither accurate nor contains all the at large war criminals. This is a work in progress which is subect to change.

Mengisto Hailu Mariam, the former butcher of Ethiopia is Scot-free in Zimbabwe under the watch of Robert-Mugabe, the former strong man of Somalia-the man who engineered most of the carnage that transpired in that part of the world just passed without any accountability. The victims of these strong men are crying for justice, making amends and closure.

Chief Jackson's closing statements " The two score years in the 20Th century will be recorded in the book of years one of the bloodiest n all annals. Two world wars have left a legacy of dead which number more than all the armies engaged in anyway that made ancient or medieval history. No half a century ever witnessed slaughter on such scale, such cruelties and inhumanities, such wholesale deportation of people into slavery, such annihilations of minorities"

United Nations
Monday, 1 May 2006

Excerpts from Daily Press Briefing by the Offices of the Spokesman for the UN Secretary General and Spokesperson for the General Assembly

Spokesman: The Special Court in Sierra Leone is continuing with the process and the preparations of the trial.

Question: Is it true that we don't know yet where Taylor is going to be put after the trial?

Spokesman: The issue of his residency after a judgement has at this point no real effect on the procedures that have to take place vis-à-vis a trial. Those are continuing in Sierra Leone at the Special Court.

Question: But that particular issue of his residency after the trial has not been resolved?

Spokesman: No.

Question: About a week ago, we have asked how involved the Secretary-General was in contacting Member States on that issue. Is he still involved in that?

Spokesman: As I said earlier, the Secretary-General would like to see this issue resolved, but beyond that, I have nothing to add.

Question: Is there not a concern about the danger to the stability in Sierra Leone of Taylor's incarceration? Is there also a concern that the whole The Hague strategy is going to unravel? Also, can you tell us who is managing this whole issue in the Secretariat?

Spokesman: No, I have nothing to share with you on that, but I would stress that while that issue is being discussed by Member States and the Secretary-General, there are steps that are being taken in Sierra Leone. Before 17 May, there will be some initial disclosures by the prosecution in terms of witnesses. There is a time line in the Special Court that continues to be followed.

Question: There are a lot of NGOs and various groups that are getting louder, saying: "Keep him there in Sierra Leone." Given that nobody seems to want him, is there a rethinking of the strategy?

Spokesman: I have nothing to say on that on this point.

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 1 May 2006

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

International Clips on Liberia

Arraignment postponed for former Liberian president's son

Source: AP DataStream Date: May 01, 2006

MIAMI _ The son of former Liberian President Charles Taylor will not enter a formal plea to passport fraud charges until the end of May. Attorney Miguel Caridad requested the delay Monday and it was granted after government prosecutors said they had no objection. Charles McArthur Emmanuel is in the process of hiring a private attorney and wanted to put off entering a plea until then, Caridad said. Emmanuel, 29, was arrested in March at Miami International Airport after arriving from Trinidad. Prosecutors say Emmanuel, also known as Charles "Chuckie" Taylor Jr., lied about the identity of his father on his application for a passport.

BBC 1 May 2006

Liberia: Lobby group backs rehabilitation of ex-members of anti-terror unit

The Liberia Democracy Watch [LDW] has appealed to government to consider the defunct Anti-Terrorist Unit [ATU] in its rehabilitation programmes. The executive director of LDW, George Williams, believes that members of the former ATU were uniformed combatants used and abused by [former President] Mr Taylor for his personal security.

International Clips on West Africa

Ivory Coast moves to rescue cocoa wealth

ABIDJAN, April 30, 2006 (AFP) - Ivory Coast is urgently looking at a plan to rescue a vital product -- now threatened by deteriorating quality -- that has traditionally earned it the title of the world's leading cocoa producer. Torn between rebels and government forces for nearly four years, the West African country is hoping to restore this major source of wealth, which supplies some 41 percent of the world cocoa market.

Five dead in clash in western Ivory Coast - U.N.

ABIDJAN, April 29 (Reuters) - At least five people have been killed and 10 wounded in clashes in western Ivory Coast believed to be between rival ethnic groups, the United Nations mission in the West African country said on Saturday. "There was an attack yesterday morning at Dieouzon, a village in the Bangolo region (near the border with Liberia)," U.N. military spokesman Colonel Omar El Khadir said.

Local Media – Newspapers

Three African Countries Agreed to Imprison Taylor

(The Inquirer)

- Following the refusal by four European countries, Mali, Benin and the Kingdom of Swaziland have offered to imprison former President Charles Taylor if he is convicted at a war crimes trial. The three are the only African countries that have signed a formal agreement with the International Criminal Court in The Hague to accommodate persons convicted before the court.

U.S. Ambassador Implores Media to Keep Government in Check

(The News, The Inquirer and Liberian Express)

- Serving as keynote speaker at the 17th anniversary ceremony of *The News*, U.S. Ambassador Donald Booth urged the media to take on the responsibility of monitoring how the government spends the country's money. He said that the media must expose fraud and abuse to ensure transparency and accountability.

Press Union to Celebrate World Press Freedom Day

(Liberian Express)

- Under the theme "The Media and Poverty Eradication", the Press Union of Liberia yesterday commenced the celebration of World Press Freedom Day with an intercessory service at the first United Methodist Church on Ashmun Street.
- As part of the celebrations, PUL members and associates will parade the principal streets of Monrovia on Wednesday followed by a special edition of the PUL's monthly discourse--Edward Wilmot Blyden Forum--which will be addressed by UNDP Resident Representative Steve Ursino and University of Liberia Associate Professor Joe Mulbah.

Liberian Refugee Girls Resort to Prostitution

(New Democrat and Liberian Express)

- Cuts in funding to Liberian refugees in Guinea have caused many young women to turn to prostitution to raise school fees, according to the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS). At the end of the 2004/2005 school year, the UN refugee agency UNHCR redirected funding for refugee

schools in the south of the country to meet development needs in Liberia.

UNMIL Decorates Mongolian Troops

(Heritage and Liberian Express)

- Special Representative of the Secretary-General Alan Doss recently decorated the Mongolian contingent with UN peacekeeping medals for toward maintaining the security of the Special Court for Sierra Leone. Mr. Doss commended the peacekeepers for their professionalism and dedication to duty and stressed the vital role of the Special Court in reinforcing the rule of law in Sierra Leone and the sub-region in helping to end impunity.

Gbarpolu Residents Deny Reports of Secret Military Training

(The News and Heritage)

- Residents of Fassama Town in Belle District, Gbarpolu County over the weekend denied persistent media reports of secret military training in the Belle Forest during a verification visit by UNMIL Military Spokesman Anders Johansson and a team of journalists. The Operations Officer of the Pakistani Contingent in Tubmanburg, Maj. Javed Shahid said that the contingent had patrolled the area and neither saw nor heard of any secret military activity taking place.

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

Government will not Condone Cheating from Investors

- Addressing the citizens of Grand Bassa County over the weekend, President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf said that the government will not condone any investors that will operate against the interest of Liberians, adding that the people must benefit from the operations of concessions in their areas. The President assured the people of the county that the government would keenly study the concession agreement with the Mittal Steel Company.

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

Lawmaker Urges President not to Pay Soldiers for Absconding

- Maryland County Representative Balfauer Chambers has requested President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf not to pay the aggrieved former soldiers of the Armed Forces of Liberia because they absconded during the war. Representative Chambers said that by not compensating such soldiers, the incoming soldiers will not follow suite.

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

Lawmaker Says Current Political Arrangement is Healthy

- In an interview, Grand Kru County Senator Blamo Nelson said that the present political arrangement where the ruling Unity Party is not

dominating, is healthy for Liberia's democracy. Senator Blamo said that all political stakeholders have been included in government denying the ruling party from taking all the political positions.

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

Press Union Observes World Press Freedom Day

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

County Superintendent Calls for Proper Waste Management

- Speaking at the dedication of a pit-latrine in Monrovia over the weekend, Montserrado County Superintendent Nyennekon Barcon has called for proper management and control of waste materials in Liberia.

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

Liberian Refugee Returnees Stranded at Guinea-Mali Border

- A Radio Veritas correspondent in Ghana said that some Liberian refugees from a refugee camp in Ghana are reportedly stranded at the Guinea-Mali border while en route to Liberia.

ELBS RADIO *(News monitored yesterday at 19:00 pm)*

County Elders Query County Legislative Caucus

- Grand Bassa County Council of Elders has criticized the county Legislative Caucus for fermenting disunity and displaying greed for money and encouraged them to unite to build the county. The county Senator, Gbezohngar Finley dismissed the claims of disunity but admitted that there existed political differences between the Lawmakers.

Complete versions of the UNMIL International Press Clips, UNMIL Daily Liberian Radio Summary and UNMIL Liberian Newspapers Summary are posted each day on the UNMIL Bulletin Board. If you are unable to access the UNMIL Bulletin Board or would like further information on the content of the summaries, please contact Mr. Jeddi Armah at armahj@un.org.