

**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 September 2009

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

Wednesday, 2 September 2009

### Rebels Final Arguments Starts Today

*By Abdul Fonti  
& Augustine Samba*

The Appeal Chambers of the Special Court for Sierra Leone will this morning commence hearing of the final oral arguments on the appeal of the trial judgment that recently convicted three leaders of the defunct Revolutionary United Front (RUF), Chief Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, Stephen Rapp told newsmen yesterday Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2009.

“At this hearing the Prosecution will present its arguments for rejecting the 96 grounds of appeal that have been filed by the three RUF accused, Sesay, Kallon and Gbao, against the Trial Chamber’s judgments of conviction entered in February 2009 and the sentences of imprisonment pronounced in April 2009,” Stephen Rapp disclosed in his farewell press briefing held at the Wallace Johnson Street conference hall of the Sierra Leone News Agency (SLENA) in Freetown. He explained that the Prosecution would be pursuing three grounds of appeal asking for additional determinations of criminal responsibility.

The Special Court Prosecutor noted that this week’s appeals hearing would mark the last time that attorneys for the Prosecution and Defence would make arguments in the RUF case. “When the judges of the Appeals Chamber pronounce their final ruling several weeks from now, all judicial proceedings will be complete,” he pointed out, adding that: “This is a very significant period in the history of the Special Court for Sierra Leone”.

On the Charles Taylor trial in The Hague, Stephen Rapp said the accused was presenting a story that was very different from the evidence offered by the Prosecution. “We called over 90 witnesses who appeared in person before the Court and testified about the grave crimes committed against tens of thousands of innocent victims in Sierra Leone and provided the linkage evidence showing Taylor’s responsibility for the commission of these atrocities,” he disclosed.

He stated that the prosecutors have been waiting patiently while the accused give what he described as “his own contrary version” of events and denies all the charges against him. “When our turn comes to ask the questions, we will confront Charles Taylor with the full weight of our case,” he firmly asserted. He stated that the legacy of the Special Court in

Sierra Leone was an increase in the respect for the rule of law by all individuals, no matter how powerful, and thus contributed to lasting peace

and security for the people of Sierra Leone. He used the forum as an opportunity to inform pressmen that he would cease being a Prosecutor for the Special Court on September 7, 2009, in order for him to take up a new appointment in America as Ambassador at large for War Crimes.



# The Torchlight

Wednesday, 2 September 2009



## OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT



### PRESS REPORT

## SPECIAL COURT PROSECUTOR BIDS FAREWELL TO PRESIDENT KOROMA

The Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, Stephen Rapp, today bade farewell to President Koroma to return to his native United States where he has been given a job in the Obama administration.

In a very low and somber tone, the world-acclaimed legal luminary, who took up the job three years ago, told the President, "I have come to you for the last time in my capacity as Chief Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone," as he went on to narrate how he is badly wanted in Washington for national service and that the UN Secretary General has already approved his departure. Leaving next week, the Prosecutor will do his final appearances in the Court on Thursday and Friday as they deliberate on matters relating to "forced marriages, sexual slavery, and attacks on peacekeepers". He informed about the conclusion of the prosecution against Charles Taylor at The Hague, and how the accused has been doing a direct testimony for eight weeks running.

On the leadership succession, Rapp said naturally the Deputy Prosecutor, Sierra Leonean-born Joseph Kamara, would take over, but that there would have to be nominations for the substantive holder of the office, which he acceded "is a competitive process" that will be communicated to the presidency. Notwithstanding, Rapp's wish is for Kamara to be confirmed: "I hope it will be someone who has been involved with the Court beforehand."

Giving an update of the past year, Rapp said he has been very pleased with the activities they undertook in terms of conducting trainings and sessions around the country "to make sure skills are developed and passed on". He noted that there are outstanding challenges, including "making sure the Court's facilities are used well in future, residual issues of the cases, transfer of prisoners, ensuring that witnesses are protected", while noting that the process will be enhanced in consultation with government. "Thank you very much for hosting me for the past three years. It has been a wonderful experience," he concluded.



Responding, President Koroma said, “We’ve been very pleased having you as Prosecutor... The Special Court, in addition to trying people responsible for war crimes, contributed not only to the beauty of the country but to the institutional capacity of related areas, especially the justice sector.” The President acknowledged the existence of residual challenges, even as the life span of the Court has another two years, but “we will handle them by working in consultation with the Court... There’ll be no reversal of the process.”

The President congratulated Rapp on his new appointment, wishing him all the best. While noting that the trial at The Hague would make people think we are still in a war situation, the President said, “We know you will remember us and that you will be one of our ambassadors out there to tell the new story of Sierra Leone. We have to work hard to let the world know it’s a completely different environment – as we are at peace, and building our institutions.”

President Koroma was upbeat about the prospects of a Sierra Leonean becoming Prosecutor of the Court and was particularly happy that the out-going Prosecutor was recommending Deputy Prosecutor Joseph Kamara for the position: “We will be very proud to have him as Prosecutor”.

The Head of State then thanked the outgoing Prosecutor, on behalf of the people of Sierra Leone, for doing a very good job during his tenure.

Rapp would lead the State Department’s Office of War Crime Issues, which helps formulate U.S policy responding to atrocities in areas of conflict around the globe.

**THE PRESS SECRETARIAT**  
**STATE HOUSE**  
**01 SEPTEMBER 2009**



# CHARLES TAYLOR ACCUSED OF CANNIBALISM

August 31, 2009

**By John Kollie**

Former Liberian President, Charles Taylor, said arms could have entered Liberia without his knowledge. A former Liberian Special Security Service, SSS, Officer in Charles Taylor's government testified in 2008 that he and the former Liberian President were cannibals. But in his testimonies on Monday, M. Taylor disowned Mr Joseph Zigzag Marzah. Mr Taylor has accused the current Liberian President, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf again. John Kollie transcribes reports for the BBC World Service Trust...

Mr Taylor told the court on Monday that it was possible for arms to have entered Liberia without being detected by his government. He said the terrorists who launched the 9/11 in the United States beat the sophisticated intelligence network of that country.

The former Liberian leader said it's not possible for the President of a country to know everything that happens in that country.

Testifying for the Prosecution last year, former SSS Officer, Zigzag

Marzah said he and Mr Taylor were members of a human eating society. Mr Marzah said he was a close bodyguard to former President Taylor, but his name was not on the SSS list presented in court on Monday.

Defence lawyer, Courtenay Griffiths, asked Mr Taylor why Mr Marzah's name was absent from the list of SSS officers. Mr Taylor has again accused current Liberian President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf of dissident activities.

Mr Taylor said his government granted clemency to supporters of the rebel group, Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy, LURD in 2001. He told the court the clemency was intended to end the LURD incursion.

Mr Taylor alleged in his testimonies that President Johnson-Sirleaf was one of those granted amnesty. He said former war-Lord Ahaji Kromah used American facilities like the Voice of America and the Washington Post newspaper to castigate his government.



Awoko

Wednesday, 2 September 2009

# “The death of Chief Norman was one of my disappointment” - *Rapp*

*By Betty Milton*

**A**t his final press conference held at SLENA building yesterday the outgoing prosecutor of the Special Court Stephen Rapp has disclosed that one of his disappointments was the death of Chief Sam Hinga Norman.

Chief Norman was the National Coordinator of the Civil Defence Forces (CDF) and was indicted by the Special Court for crimes against humanity, war crimes and serious international humanitarian law during the ten years war in the country.

Chief Norman was flown to Senegal for a hip operation through an electric surgery but he died before he was flown back to the country to continue with his trial.

Mr Rapp who disclosed that Chief Norman left just as he arrived said “I was devastated when I heard the news of his death and an investigations was done and it was

determined that it was cardiac arrest and it was unrelated to the surgery it was unrelated to the treatment that he received ...”

The outgoing prosecutor added that “it was important that given the significance and the controversy of that case that a verdict could be rendered to him at the end of the trial but that did not happen, justice was denied and that was one of the disappointments I had.”

He said that he “very much appreciates the good will of people and understanding but it was a great disappointment for me and a tragedy for the people of Sierra Leone as justice was denied in that case as the verdict of guilt or innocence would have followed the trial.”

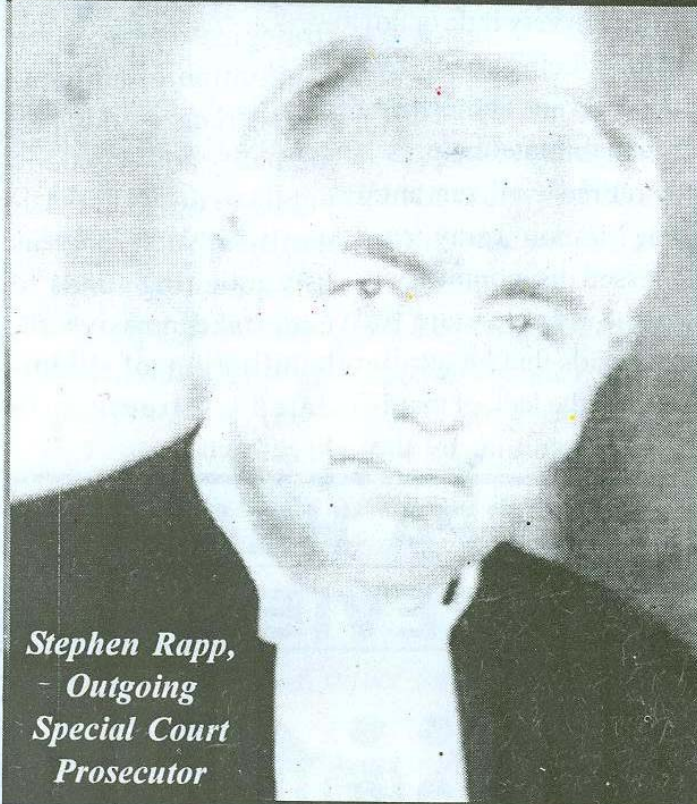
Mr Rapp explained further that justice had already been done and it was now in the hands of the judges to determine the guilt or innocence of the accused but under the rules of

*Continued on Page 6*

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# Special Court Prosecutor Bids Farewell



*Stephen Rapp,  
- Outgoing  
Special Court  
Prosecutor*

*By Amadu Kargbo*

Stephen Rapp, Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone yesterday bade farewell to media practitioners at a press briefing held at the Sierra Leone News Agency (SLNA) on Wallace-Johnson Street in Freetown.

He observed that the week is significant because it marks the commencement of the Appeals Chamber's final oral argument on the appeal of the trial judgment that convicted the three leaders of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) and at The Hague where the defence phase of the trial of Charles Taylor would continue with the direct examination of the accused nearing conclusion.

**Cont on page 2**



# Special Court Prosecutor Bids Farewell

*From page 1*

According to Stephen Rapp, this time, the prosecution would present its argument for rejecting the ninety-six grounds of appeal that have been filled by the three RUF accused persons, Issa Sesay, Morris Kallon and Agustin Gbao against the trial chamber's judgments of conviction entered in February in 2009 and the sentences of imprisonment pronounced in April 2009 adding that the prosecution would also be pursuing three grounds of appeal asking for additional determinations of criminal responsibility.

He continued that the prosecution is pleased to state that the trial process

of Charles Taylor has reached the stage where the accused would be given the opportunity to respond to charges against him noting that the evaluation of his testimony is a matter for the judges for which he cannot comment on the specifics of the testimony underlining that the accused is presenting a story that is different from the evidence offered by the prosecution.

The prosecutor further recalled that over ninety witnesses who appeared in person before the court and testified about the grave crimes committed against tens

of thousands of innocent victims in Sierra Leone providing the linkage evidence showing Taylor's responsibility for the commission of these atrocities. Bidding farewell to the press, he recalled July this year when he was nominated by President Barack Obama to be the United States Ambassador at Large for War Crimes Issues, a nomination he maintained has been confirmed by the US Senate and has already being forwarded to the UN Secretary General that he would resign as Special Court Prosecutor on September 7 this year which would give him the opportunity to take up the new post that is based in the US States

Department in Washington in the Office of the Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton.

"With my new position, I will continue the work on behalf of the US government in assisting countries to achieve accountability," Stephen Rapp assured.

He also paid special tributes to the victims who testified during the trial against those responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity underlining that President Ernest Bai Koroma has expressed desire for the magnificent and imposing legacy of the Special Court.



## The Exclusive

Wednesday, 2 September 2009.

# "Taylor Is A Cannibal"

## **-Close Bodyguard Reveals**

Former Liberian President, Charles Taylor said arms could have entered Liberia without

Continued page 2

# Taylor Is A Cannibal

From front page

his knowledge. A Former Liberian Special Security Service, SSS, Officer in Charles Taylor's government testified in 2008 that he and the Former Liberian President were cannibals. But in his testimonies on Monday, Mr. Taylor disowned Mr Joseph Zigzag Marzah. Mr. Taylor has accused the current Liberian President, Ellen Jonhson-Sirleaf again.

Mr. Taylor told the court on Monday that it was possible for arms to have entered Liberia without being detected by his government. He said the ter-

rorists who launched the 9/11 in the United States beat the sophisticated intelligence network of that country.

The Former Liberian Leader said it's not possible for the President of a country to know everything that happens in that country. Testifying for the Prosecution last year, Former SSS Officer, Zigzag Marzah said he and Mr. Taylor were members of a human eating society. Mr. Marzah said he was a close bodyguard to Former President Taylor, but his name was not on the SSS list presented in court on Monday.

Mr. Taylor said his government granted clemency to supporters of the rebel group, Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy, LURD in 2001. He told the court the clemency was intended to end the LURD incursion.

Mr. Taylor alleged in his testimonies that President Johnson-Sirleaf was one of those granted amnesty.

Mr. Taylor said Former War-Lord Ahaji Kromah used American facilities like the Voice of America and the Washington Post Newspaper to castigate his government.



# Rapp's legacies in RUF, CDF cases

## ...says he is grateful to Salone

*By Ibrahim Tarawallie*

Prosecutor of the special court for Sierra Leone, who would officially resign his position on September 7 in Freetown, yesterday pointed to the landmark rulings in the AFRC, CDF cases as legacies.

Stephen Rapp is expected to

take up his new job with the United States government as ambassador at large for war crimes issues.

He said during his tenure as prosecutor, he has overseen the prosecution of all trials before the court where they secured

convictions of the leaders of the AFRC, CDF and at trial level, the RUF for atrocities committed during the civil war.

The special court prosecutor was nominated on July 1 this year by President Barack Obama to be the United States' ambassador at large for war crimes issues.

Rapp told journalists at the Sierra Leone news agency that his nomination has been approved by the US senate and that he would take up the new post at the office of the US secretary of state, Hillary Clinton, immediately after his resignation from the UN backed tribunal.

"As I leave the representation of the prosecution in the Charles Taylor trial in the capable hands of my colleagues, I would like to express my gratitude to the people of Sierra Leone," he

*Contd. page 3*



*Stephen Rapp*



## Rapp's legacies in RUF, CDF cases

*From page 1*

said.

He said since his very first days in the country, he has been struck by the courage, tolerance and the goodwill of Sierra Leoneans who suffered so terribly during the civil war and who worked very hard to re-build their communities and country.

Rapp paid special tribute to victims who testified at the trial of those responsible for wounding their bodies and killing their loved ones, noting "we in the prosecution have always said we are fighting for justice in our name."

"It has been my greatest honour to serve as the chief prosecutor of the special court for Sierra Leone. I am particularly proud to been part of the judicial proceedings that resulted in the first convictions in history for the recruitment and use of child soldiers as a war crime," he maintained.

He said he was pleased to have seen through the presentation of the prosecution's case against Charles Taylor,

the start of the defense evidence and their preparations to meet the defense case.

"In my new post, I will work on behalf of the US government to assist countries in achieving accountability after the widespread commission of violations of international humanitarian law," he said.

Stephen J. Rapp was born on January 26, 1949 in the United States. The American lawyer has been the Chief Prosecutor at the Special Court for Sierra Leone since December 2006. Rapp was a lawyer in private practice, a Democratic member of the Iowa House of Representatives, and a Staff Director and Counsel for the United States Senate Judiciary Committee. Rapp ran for the United States House of Representatives in Iowa's 3rd congressional district twice, losing to Charles Grassley.

From 1993 to 2001, Rapp was the United States Attorney for the Northern District of Iowa. In 2005, he became

the Chief of Prosecutions at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, where he assisted Chief Prosecutor Hassan Bubacar Jallow in investigating violations of international criminal law in Rwanda during 1994.

In December 2006, Rapp succeeded Desmond de Silva to become the third Chief Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

Hearings began in July 2009 in the United States Senate for him to serve in the Obama Administration as an envoy for war crime issues. Rapp would lead the State Department's Office of War Crime Issues, which helps formulate U.S policy responding to atrocities in areas of conflict around the globe.

Rapp received his A.B. degree with honors from Harvard University in government and international relations. He attended Columbia Law School and received his J.D. degree with honors from Drake University.



# Concord Times

Wednesday, 2 September 2009

## Taylor Denies Knowledge of Arms Flow

*By Alpha Sesay*

Significant shipments of weapons, intended for use by rebels in Sierra Leone's 11-year civil conflict, could have been transported through Liberia without Charles Taylor's knowledge, the accused former Liberian president told judges at the Special Court for Sierra Leone Monday at his trial in The Hague.

"It is possible that significant amounts of arms could come into Liberia without my consent. With the level of corruption in the country, it is possible. I don't run the airports or the roads," he told the judges.

Mr. Taylor was responding to allegations that he transported arms and ammunition from Libya and Burkina Faso for onward transfer to Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels in Sierra Leone. He has denied these allegations.

In his testimony, Taylor explained that when these allegations against him were made, he took steps to make sure that no such arms were transported through Liberia. His accusers, he said, had no evidence to prove these allegations.

"They could not show us what was coming in. We were as diligent as we could be. If they had the evidence, they could have confronted us with it," Taylor said. "If anyone thinks that anything coming into Liberia is with the knowledge of Taylor, then I am already guilty."

Taylor explained that even in the United States where "you have the best security network," the terrorists who launched the September 11, 2001 attacks were able to enter the country and wreak havoc without being detected by the United States intelligence.

"When it comes to these small countries therefore, lots of things could happen," he said.

He said when his government was attacked by the Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) rebels in 1998, he asked the United Nations to lift its arms embargo on Liberia. When the UN refused, his government ordered loads of arms and ammunition to defend the country. Afterwards, he

informed the UN of the list of arms that they had bought and the purpose for which they would be used.

Reinforcing his point that arms could have been transported through Liberia without his consent, Taylor said that the arms and ammunition that were bought by the Liberian government to fight against LURD rebels were transported through European countries without the consent of their respective governments.

"We imported arms from Europe; these European countries were bound by Chapter VII of the UN Charter. They [arms] stopped in these countries but the governments did not know and they got to Liberia," Taylor said. "If you have a little bit of money, and you want to move weapons, I don't care what resolution is passed, you will move weapons including through the best of the countries you can imagine and use some of their own companies to do it."

Mr. Taylor said that the same thing could have happened in Liberia when individuals or groups could have transported arms into the country and transferred the arms to rebel forces in Sierra Leone. All this, Taylor said, could have happened without his knowledge or consent.

"So the fact is that something can come into Roberts International Airport [Liberia's main airport], the president in Monrovia doing what he's got to do, if sufficient contacts are made at that airport, those things would come into the airport, if its weapons, of course. With sufficient money, you can bribe the officials and the weapons can be brought in at a time, it can happen anywhere," he said.

He also told the judges that at the relevant times that he is accused of transporting arms and ammunition to rebel forces in Sierra Leone, the main roads linking Liberia to Sierra Leone were occupied by other rebel groups who were fighting against his National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL).

"When we look at the period of occupation as



from 1991 up to my election in 1997, ULIMO had control of the very position. LURD attacked in 1998 and up to 2001, they made significant gains," Taylor said. "As of August 2001 to 2002, LURD is occupying the very position that ULIMO occupied earlier. They know the strategic nature of occupying this area."

Mr. Taylor is accused of providing support for RUF rebels in Sierra Leone through the supply of arms and ammunition in return for diamonds. Several witnesses have testified to the transfer of arms and ammunition from Liberia to Sierra Leone with Taylor's knowledge and participation. He has denied these allegations.

Mr. Taylor's testimony continues tomorrow.



## Standard Times

Tuesday, 1 September 2009

### **Former Liberian President Charles Taylor "Arms Entered Liberia Without My Knowledge"**

Former Liberian President, Charles Taylor said arms could have entered Liberia without his knowledge. A Former Liberian Special Security Service, SSS, Officer in Charles Taylor's government testified in 2008 that he and the Former Liberian President were cannibals. But in his testimonies on Monday, Mr. Taylor disowned Mr Joseph Zigzag Marzah. Mr. Taylor has accused the current Liberian President, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf again. John Kollie transcribes reports for the BBC World Service Trust...

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The Former Liberian Leader said it's not possible for the President of a country to know everything that happens in that country.

Testifying for the Prosecution last year, Former SSS Officer, Zigzag Marzah said he and Mr. Taylor were members of a human eating society. Mr. Marzah said he was a close bodyguard to Former President Taylor, but his name was not on the SSS list presented in court on Monday.

Defence Lawyer, Courtenay Griffiths asked Mr. Taylor why Mr. Marzah's name was absent from the list of SSS Officers. Mr. Taylor has again accused current Liberian President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf of dissident activities.

Mr. Taylor said his government granted clemency to supporters of the rebel group, Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy, LURD in 2001. He told the court the clemency was intended to end the LURD incursion.

Mr. Taylor alleged in his testimonies that President Johnson-Sirleaf was one of those granted amnesty.

Mr. Taylor said Former War-Lord Ahaji Kromah used American facilities like the Voice of America and the Washington Post Newspaper to castigate his government.



**BBC** WORLD SERVICE TRUST  
Tuesday, 1 September 2009

**John Kollie**

**Another Illness Hits Taylor's Defence Team, Trial Postponed for a Day**

*Illness has struck the war crimes trial of Indicted Former Liberian President, Charles Taylor again. The Judges of the Special Court dressed in their legal regalia marched in solemnly at 9:30 am Netherlands' time, and called for the commencement of the trial, but the Defence Lawyer conducting Mr. Taylor's direct examination was not in his seat. John Kollie has this transcription from The Hague...*

For the second time in the Defence case illness has hit Defence Lawyer, Courtenay Griffiths, the man leading Mr. Taylor's team.

In August, Mr. Griffiths fell ill as a result of food poisoning, and the trial was adjourned for a day.

The main character in the case, Mr. Taylor sat in his witness seat in expectation of another long day of direct examination.

But his Lead Lawyer, Mr. Griffiths was absent.

The Defence team applied for one day postponement of the trial to allow Mr. Griffiths recover from another illness.

Defence Lawyer, Morris Anyah explained that Mr. Griffiths was sick from sore throat.

Presiding Judge, Richard Lussick sought the Prosecution's reaction to the Defence application for one day adjournment.

Justice Lussick after conferring with his fellow Judges gave a ruling to the motion of the Defence team for adjournment.

The war crimes trial of the Former Liberian Leader is expected to continue Wednesday.

**BBC** WORLD SERVICE TRUST





United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

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## UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 1 September 2009

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

### International Clips on Liberia

#### **Arms Could Flow Through Liberia without Taylor's Consent, He Says**

Sep 01, 2009 (CharlesTaylorTrail.org/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- Significant shipments of weapons, intended for use by rebels in Sierra Leone's 11-year civil conflict, could have been transported through Liberia without Charles Taylor's knowledge, the accused former Liberian president told Special Court for Sierra Leone judges today at his trial in The Hague. "It is possible that significant amounts of arms could come into Liberia without my consent. With the level of corruption in the country, it is possible. I don't run the airports or the roads," he told the judges. Mr. Taylor was responding to allegations that he transported arms and ammunition from Libya and Burkina Faso for onward transfer to Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels in Sierra Leone. Mr. Taylor has denied these allegations. In his testimony today, Mr. Taylor explained that when these allegations against him were made, he took steps to make sure that no such arms were transported through Liberia. His accusers, he said, had no evidence to prove these allegations.

### International Clips on West Africa

#### **Sierra Leone**

#### **In Sierra Leone, a 'women's project, for women'**

**By Scott Kraft**

**September 1, 2009**

Reporting from Freetown, Sierra Leone - They gather every day in a tiny former dry goods shop on a residential street here in this West African capital, and to the neighbors they are what they seem: seven women in front of sewing machines learning to make brightly colored dresses, dashikis and slippers. But the women share a secret. "It's a very long story," said one of them, Christiana John, a tired look on her face. "I don't like to remember most of the things that happened to me." Among the many victims of Sierra Leone's brutal, decade-long civil war are the "bush wives," the girls and women who were kidnapped, raped and forced to "marry" combatants and bear their children. Even now, seven years after the war ended, they remain ostracized by their families. The daily sewing class, a few blocks from the international tribunal that has tried and convicted the worst of the war criminals, is one woman's effort to help some of those victims learn a skill -- and, perhaps, win back a scrap of their self-respect.

### Local Media – Newspaper

#### **Students Perform Poorly In WAEC...But J.J. Roberts Tops**

(New Vision, Heritage, The News, The Inquirer, The Informer, National Chronicle)

- The National Offices of the West African Examinations Council (WAEC) have released the May 2009 indicating that the overall performance of this year's examinations was very poor.



- Announcing the results in Monrovia yesterday, the Head of WAEC Monrovia Office, Professor Thomas Gaie said out of the total number of 20,670 candidates that sat the exams nationwide, more than 11,600 candidates made a successful pass.
- Mr. Gaie said over 6,700 candidates from the 12th grade Division failed the examination.
- He said despite the poor performance of candidates, a female student from the J.J. Roberts United Methodist High School, Hester Andoh topped the exams while all 12<sup>th</sup> Grade students of the Ford-Madden High in Monrovia, School of Prime System in Paynesville High Way Christian Academy in Montserrado and C.H. Dewey P.M in Bomi County made a successful pass in the examination.

### **Presidential Taskforce Dissolved After Alleged Standoff with Muslim Worshipers**

(The Informer, Daily Observer, New Democrat, Heritage, National Chronicle, New Vision)

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has dissolved the Special Presidential Task Force set up to clean Monrovia after it allegedly disrupted a Muslim prayer service in Monrovia.
- The task force headed by the Acting Mayor of Monrovia, Mary Broh was given the responsibility to clear Monrovia of all makeshift structures and keep the city tidy.
- In an interview, Presidential Press Secretary Cyrus Wleh Badio said the President dissolved the taskforce immediately after the group reportedly disrupted the prayer services of some Muslim worshipers.
- Mr. Badio said the President apologized to the Muslim community for the behaviour of the taskforce which she described as "uncalled for".
- Meanwhile, the Acting Monrovia Mayor has described as untrue claims by the Muslim Community that she disrupted their prayer service. She said the allegations against her were politically motivated.

### **Opposition Liberty Party on Constitutional Violation**

(The Inquirer)

- The Opposition Liberty Party says the President's appointment of Acting City mayors without confirmation by the Senate is a continuous constitutional breach.
- The Party's Chairman, Israel Akinsanya said the act violated the constitution which states that the President shall nominate and with the consent of the Senate appoint and commission Superintendent, other County officials and officials of other political sub-divisions.
- The Party believes the appointment without confirmation also violates the charter of city governments and makes mayors accountable to the President rather than the people.
- The Party wants President Sirleaf to immediately instruct her appointees to halt operations until they are confirmed by the Senate.

### **UNDP Donates Vehicles To Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission**

(The Inquirer, Heritage, Daily Observer)

- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has donated two vehicles to the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC).
- The vehicles are the last of three jeeps the Commission has received from the UNDP under the Peace Building Fund (PBF) project to enhance its work.
- Presenting the two jeeps, UNDP Assistant Representative for Governance and Rule of Law, Nessie Golakai, said the presentation of the vehicles was in fulfillment of the UNDP's support to the work of the LACC, particularly the Education and Enforcement Divisions of the Commission.
- Receiving the vehicles, the Commission's Executive Chairperson, Counselor Frances Johnson-Morris thanked the UNDP for the presentation saying the gesture would help in alleviate the transportation needs of the Commission.

### **President Sirleaf Makes More Appointments**

(Heritage, New Vision)

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has made new appointments in Government.
- According to an Executive Mansion release, Mr. Kpangbala Sengbe, has been named Assistant Minister of Planning at the Ministry of Health & Social Welfare; Mr. William Paye, Assistant



Minister for Commerce & Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry; and Mr. Miller B. Catakaw, Assistant Minister for Land Transport

- Also appointed was Mr. Ben Cooper, Acting Mayor, Clayashland City, Montserrado County.
- The release says the appointments are subject where applicable to confirmation by the Liberian Senate.

### **UNMIL Bangladeshi Doctor Trains Nurses at Major Referral Hospital in Central Liberia**

(Daily Observer)

- A Bangladeshi Gynecologist of the Bangladesh Engineers Contingent-12 serving in the UN Mission in Liberia has ended a four day workshop on the reduction of maternal mortality with midwives at the Phebe Hospital in Bong County.
- Major Dr. Nahid Reaz Shapla said the training was intended to sharpen the skills of the midwives with an aim to reducing maternal mortality in the part of the country.

### **Eight Persons Arrested for Illegal Scrap Trade in Nimba**

(Heritage)

- At least eight persons have been arrested in Yekepa, Nimba County in connection with the seizure of a container truck loaded with scrap materials and large oxygen cylinders, used to cut rails.
- They were arrested by a joint security delegation dispatched to the area on Friday.
- Justice Minister Christiana Tarr reportedly dispatched the team following complaints of theft by Mittal Steel.
- The eight suspects operating under the Hillious Trading Corporation are accused of scraping rail tracks and rail plates in Acelor Mittal operation area.

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

#### **Presidential Taskforce Dissolved**

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

#### **Opposition Liberty Party on Constitutional Violation**

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

### **Eight Persons Arrested for Illegal Scrap Trade in Nimba**

#### **Schools Reopen Today**

- The Education Ministry has mandated all schools across the Country to open on Tuesday, September 1, for Academic 2009/2010.
- According to a Ministry of Education release, the date is in line with the 2009/2010 academic calendar developed by consensus.
- The Ministry has allegedly threatened administrative action against any school that fails to open on Tuesday.
- The mandate comes less than a week after the House of Representatives requested Education Minister Joseph Korto to ensure that no private school increases its fees more than fifteen percent. But latest reports say the private schools have rejected the request and have asked for an audience with House Speaker Alex Tyler.

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

#### **Higher Education Commission Threatens Legal Action**

- The National Commission on Higher Education has threatened legal action against universities and colleges operating illegally in the country.
- The Commission's threat comes in the midst of reports that disqualified universities might be operating secretly.
- According to the Commission's Director, Dr. Michael Slawon, the disqualified universities and colleges including Monrovia University, Vision University and Liberia International Christian College did not meet the requirement set to operate in Liberia.
- Dr. Slawon urged students wishing to acquire higher education not to enrol at any of the disqualified universities and colleges as they are not recognized.

## Radio Netherlands Worldwide

Monday, 31 August 2009

### Two new trials at Rwanda genocide tribunal

By Thijs Bouwknecht



*Arusha, Tanzania*

The Rwanda genocide tribunal hears two new cases as it is set to close its doors next year. Thirteen suspected génocidaires remain at large.

Two new trials started in Tanzania before The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) on Monday. One involves the former head of Rwandan Tea Company, Michel Bagaragaza and the other a businessman, Gaspard Kanyarukiga.

Both genocide suspects had initially expected to be tried in the Netherlands and Rwanda. The UN tribunal sought to have its remaining cases transferred to courts elsewhere. But because of legal obstacles Bagaragaza and Kanyarukiga are two of the last suspects to be tried in Arusha.

#### **Plea agreement**

The wealthy Bagaragaza, who voluntarily surrendered to the genocide tribunal, is accused of financing, training and arming extremist Hutu militia who spearheaded the 1994 massacres which killed 800 000 people.

After having testified against other defendants before the tribunal, Bagaragaza who feared for his safety, was the court's first suspect to be transferred to another country.

In exchange for this collaboration, prosecutor Hassan Jallow had committed to entrust his case to a European country and send Bagaragaza to the UN prison in The Hague. But attempts to have him tried in Norway and the Netherlands failed.

Bagaragaza, who initially pleaded not guilty to all charges, was transferred back to Arusha in May 2008 and signed a confidential plea agreement with the prosecutor.



## **Nyange church massacre**

Also on Monday, Gaspard Kanyarukiga will answer charges for his role in the Nyange Parish massacre. More than 2000 Tutsi refugees were slaughtered when the church was burned to the ground, attacked with grenades, and bulldozed. Kanyarukiga denies involvement in the bloodbath.

Prosecutors say Kanyarukiga conspired with convicted génocidaire and priest, Athanase Seromba, as well as wanted suspect, Fulgence Kayishema and recently captured genocide indictee, Grégoire Ndahimana in the massacres Tutsi's in the Kivumu commune.

The powerful businessman's trial was initially to be held in Kigali, Rwanda. The ICTR's appeals chamber, however, rejected his transfer on the basis of fair trial concerns.

## **ICTR**

The ICTR has completed 45 genocide cases since its establishment in 1994. It has convicted and sentenced former government officials, military, militiamen, priests, radio broadcasters and intellectuals from the former extremist Hutu regime for their role in the 100-day genocide.

Twenty-three cases are still in progress and three other trials will start in the coming months. In addition, there are still 13 suspects at large, including the genocide's main financier Felicien Kabuga who is believed to be hiding in Kenya.

One of the fugitives, Grégoire Ndahimana, was arrested two weeks ago in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Kinshasa still has not transferred the suspect.

No decision has been taken on what will happen with the remaining suspects when the court closes. Initial plans to transfer the cases to Kigali were dropped because the court is concerned that the suspects will not get a fair trial there.

## Voice of America

Wednesday, 2 September 2009

### Kenyan TJRC has mandate to Recommend Prosecution, Says US Member

By James Butty



Nairobi in Kenya

One of the three foreigners on the nine-member Kenyan Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission (TJRC) said the commission has the power to recommend prosecution of those it would find committed violations of both international and Kenyan law.

The TJRC was established to look at the history of human rights abuses in Kenya from independence in 1963 to 2008.

Its formation has been criticized by a number of prominent Kenyans. For example, former President Daniel Arap Moi has reportedly said that the TJRC could further divide Kenyans. Nobel Laureate Wangari Maathai also said the Commission would facilitate impunity.

But Ron Slye, the American member of the Kenyan TJRC said the commission is in the early stages of its work.

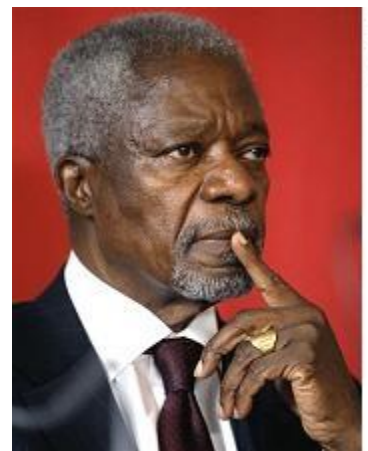
"We are in the very early days of the process; it's a process that was agreed to by all the political parties at the end of the election violence in 2008 and a set of peace agreement that was brokered by former (UN) Secretary General Kofi Annan," he said.

Slye disputed claims by critics that the TJRC would further divide Kenyans.

"My sense is that there is broad support among many Kenyans to want to finally address the abuses that occurred in the past, and I have every confidence that we will do that," Slye said.

He said the commission has powers under its mandate to recommend prosecution of those it would find committed violations of both international and Kenyan law.

"We do have very clearly the power to recommend prosecution if we discover that there's evidence of individuals who have committed both violation of international criminal law and Kenyan law," Slye said.



Former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan



Slye disagreed with Nobel Laureate Wangari Maathai that the Commission would perpetuate the culture of impunity which she said was started in Kenya by the early explorers.

"The commission itself was not set up to further impunity, and certainly all of the individuals who have been appointed on the commission do not have that purpose," Slye said.



Nobel Laureate Wangari  
Maathai

However, he said Maathai and other Kenyan human rights activists have an important role to play in keeping a close eye not only on the commission but on the Kenyan government to make sure they do what the commission was set up to do.

Slye said the Kenyan truth commission has a two-year time period within which to do its work.

He said prior to the start of the two-year mandate, the commission has a three-month preparatory period within which it may hire staff, secure offices and prioritize its mandate.

The foreign members of the Kenyan TJRC were appointed by the Panel of Eminent African Personalities headed by former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan. The other two members are from Zambia and Ethiopia.