

**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, 20 August 2008

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

International News

(Untitled) / <i>BBC World Service Trust</i>	Page 3
Charles Taylor's Trial Could be Disrupted / <i>Heritage</i>	Pages 4-5
Taylor Ends Boycott / <i>New Democrat</i>	Page 6
Moses Blah Survives US \$4.5M Lawsuit, But... / <i>The Informer</i>	Page 7
Court Dismisses Urey's US\$4.5M Libel Suit / <i>The News</i>	Page 8
Urey's US\$4.5m Claim Against Blah Trashed / <i>New Democrat</i>	Pages 9-10
Court Drops Charges Against Blah / <i>The Inquirer</i>	Page 11
Court Dismisses Benoni Urey US\$4.5M Action for Damage Case / <i>Heritage</i>	Pages 12-13
'Bush Wives' of Rebels Seek Justice / <i>The National</i>	Pages 14-16
UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries / <i>UNMIL</i>	Pages 17-18

BBC World Service Trust

Tuesday, 19 August 2008

For the second day running the trial of Charles Taylor has been disrupted by an argument over new security measures to which the Former Liberian President object. Once again Mr. Taylor refused to appear in court, and the Presiding Judge warned that if the security problem was not resolved it could endanger the future of the trial. Mariama Khai Fornah reports from The Hague.

FORNAH: Mr. Charles Taylor's boycott of the trial has been provoked by new security measures imposed by the Dutch authorities because of a risk assessment affecting a number of detainees in The Hague. They have been told that until further notice they will be chained and subjected to what is referred to as sensory deprivation while being transported to and from the court.

FORNAH: Mr. Taylor's Lead Counsel, Courtney Griffiths, told the court although his client remains disgusted about the new measures, he was anxious that the trial should not be delayed.

GRIFFITHS: He tells me that he would be willing to attend court tomorrow despite the continuation of that regime so long as attention is given to seeking to remove those conditions at some time in the future.

FORNAH: The person who has been dealing with the Dutch authorities is head of office of the Special Court in The Hague, Gregory Townsend. Under questions from the Judges, he explained that he was not at liberty to disclose the exact nature of the new measures. Judge Richard Lussick pressed him on that point.

LUSSICK: Do I take it that you can discuss these details in closed session?

TOWNSEND: Only in camera, Your Honours, and not in open - closed session.

LUSSICK: What do you mean in camera? In chambers?

TOWNSEND: Exactly, your Honours.

LUSSICK: So you've been made privy to the reasons behind all of this, of which the Court knows nothing, and you're able to tell the Court if you come to our chambers, is that right?

TOWNSEND: That's exactly correct, your Honours.

FORNAH: After hearing Mr. Townsend's report in Chambers, the Judges returned to open court to give their ruling, presiding judge Teresa Doherty.

JUSTICE DOHERTY: The Trial Chamber is still not satisfied that there is any rational basis or justification for Mr Taylor being subjected to the increased security measures. We register our concern that if this situation is not resolved it could result in serious disruption of the trial.

FORNAH: An additional problem for the Court is the unexpected illness of one of the Defence teams. If he fails to recover by the next session, there will be an enforced change to the witness schedule.

For the BBC World Service Trust, this is Mariama Khai Fornah reporting from the Hague.

Heritage (Liberia)
Wednesday, 20 August 2008

Amid New Security Measures:

Charles Taylor's Trial Could Be Disrupted

...Detainee against being chained



Charles Taylor's Lead Defense Counsel Courtenay Griffiths



Former Liberian President Charles Ghankay Taylor

Charles Taylor's

From Front Page
 exempt Taylor of all other maximum security measures, except these two. Only the Dutch security authorities know how long this maximum-security level will last and they will not share that information with the Court. On a confidential basis Townsend has received intelligence as to why these maximum security measures are in place and is willing to tell the Court in Chambers (this means: the judges, without the presence of the Prosecution and the Defense and, obviously, also without the public).

Both Defense and Prosecution agree for this information to be shared in Chambers only, to enable the judges to make an informed decision.

Subsequently, Court was adjourned shortly before 10.00 a.m. and was back in session shortly after 11.00 a.m.

Presiding Judge Doherty said that the Trial Chamber had considered: 1) the report distributed to all parties; 2) a confidential report of the Registrar and 3) the oral explanation given in Chambers.

Doherty then informed the Court of the following: The Trial Chamber is still not satisfied with the reasons why Mr. Taylor is submitted to these kinds of security measures and thinks this will lead to a serious disruption of the trial.

The Trial Chamber directs the Registrar to find a speedy resolution and report back to this Court on Monday 25 August 2008 on what he has achieved. The Trial Chamber notes the remark of the Defense that Mr. Taylor will be in Court tomorrow and notes that, when Mr. Munyard has not recovered by tomorrow morning, the Prosecution will call to the stand another witness until his recovery. At 11.15 a.m. the court adjourned until Wednesday (today) 9.30 a.m.

At the same time, the trial chamber hearing the case of detained former Liberian President, Charles Taylor, has spoken about the new security measures announced Monday, expressing serious concern on the matter.

Prison authorities in the Dutch state said the detained former Liberian

President would now be chained as he goes to court.

Taylor's lawyers objected to the measures, stating that the actions are degrading and would make the defendant feel like a leashed animal.

The presiding judge inquired the reason for Taylor being subjected to the increased security measures.

Judge Teresa Dohati said the court has registered its concern that if the situation is not resolved, it could result in a serious disruption of the trial.

Earlier, Mr. Taylor told his lawyer that he was prepared to undergo the constraints to appear in court Wednesday, if there was signal that the measures would shortly be unperturbed.

The presiding judge directed the register to continue to investigate promptly resolution of the situation and report to the court on August 25, 2008.

Meanwhile, it appears that Mr. Taylor would be escorted to court in chains pending the outcome of the investigation.

On Monday, the Special Court for Sierra Leone sitting in The Hague resumed hearing in the Charles Taylor trial after its annual Judicial Recess. However, the court adjourned for one day due to the absence of the defendant (Taylor).

Presiding Judge Doherty informed with Lead Defense Counsel Courtenay Griffiths why Charles Taylor was not in Court Monday.

Griffiths informed the Court that last Friday Mr. Townsend from the Registry and Silas Chekera from the Defense tended to Taylor who expressed his concerns about a raised level of security during his transportation to Court starting this Monday, while the security risk was not related to himself. There are two particular procedures to which Taylor objects: during the transport certain measures cause him sensory deprivation (on request of Taylor Griffiths did not go into detail here); during the transport Taylor will be chained around his waist, leading him to feel like a leashed animal,

degrading.

Griffiths continued to say that a heightened level of security has caused difficulties in the past, while in those cases it always proved to be a false alarm. The accused would like to see the matter investigated and will not come to Court when these two measures are in place. Griffiths drew attention to the impact these measures may have on Taylor having a fair trial: to the public it may appear that Taylor himself poses a threat; having to undergo these measures will hinder the accused in the attention he can give to the proceedings and therefore also hinder the accused's advisers.

Griffiths therefore applied that the proceedings be adjourned until these particular difficulties have been resolved.

Lead Prosecutor Brenda Hollis replied that under rule 60 (A) (i) of procedure and evidence of this Court the accused had the opportunity and the right to come to Court and it was his choice not to attend. Taylor waived his right to come to court and these proceedings should not be held hostage to the will of the accused.

Registrar Townsend said that on 13 August 2008 Charles Taylor was informed that security during transportation would raise from medium level to high level, due to a situation having to do with another ICC detainee. This morning Taylor declined to fill in the form in which he waives his right to be present in Court.

Subsequently Court was adjourned at 9.50 a.m. for the judges to confer in private. Court was back in session at 10.30 a.m. when Presiding Judge Doherty informed the Court about their decision.

The trial proceedings hitherto have been very smoothly and Taylor has conducted himself very reasonably. The upgrading of the level of security is due to factors non-relating to his behavior. Proceedings would not continue well without the benefit of instruction of the accused.

Kind Courtesy of BEC News.

New Democrat (Liberia)
Wednesday, 20 August 2008

Taylor Ends Boycott

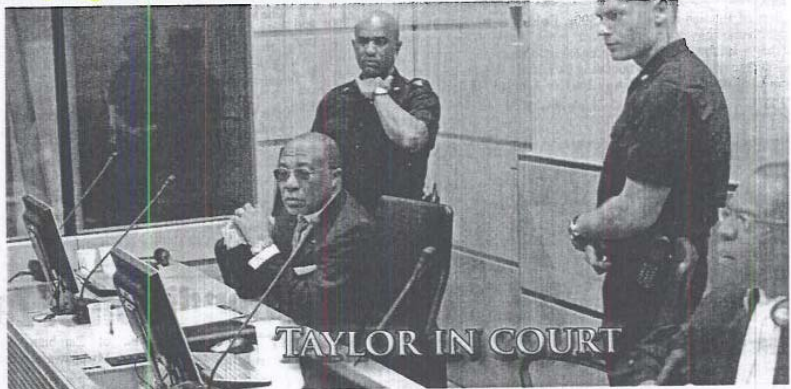
But Concerned About Tough Security Measure

Mr. Charles Taylor has expressed concerns about stringent security measures Dutch security officials have adopted around him, including chaining the former President en route to court from his detention center, but the accused has agreed to attend court pending the resolution of the standoff.

According to court reports, Mr Taylor's lead Defense Counsel, Courtenay Griffiths told the Court Tuesday that he visited his client Monday in the detention center and that Mr. Taylor continued to express concern on the two extra security measures he would have to undergo in order to attend Court. Mr Griffiths said he received intelligence that Dutch authorities were not showing flexibility towards lifting these measures due to the maximum security that is now in place during the transport of Taylor to and from this Court, adding that Taylor has been

anxious for the Court proceedings to continue. He said Mr Taylor has therefore decided to submit himself to these extra security measures on the condition that the Registry will continue to take steps to pressure the Dutch authorities to lift these two particular security measures.

Upon conferring with other judges, briefly and Presiding Judge Doherty asked Gregory Townsend, head of the SCSL The Hague Office, to give the outcome of the directions given to him yesterday. Townsend showed a report, ready to be distributed to the entire Court (the judges, the Prosecution and the Defense) and then gave an explanation: DVNO is the Dutch company in charge of transportation of detainees, not only for the SCSL (Special Court for Sierra Leone), but also for the ICC (International Criminal Court) and the ICTY (International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia). This is a gratis service the Dutch government provides for the SCSL. Since last



week the level of security has been raised to the maximum level. This applies not only to the accused in this trial, but also to one ICC detainee and to one ICTY detainee. It is not due to any misconduct of Charles Taylor. DVNO has been able to exempt Taylor of all other maximum se-

curity measures, except these two. Only the Dutch security authorities know how long this maximum-security level will last and they will not share that information with the Court. On a confidential basis Townsend has received intelligence as to why these maximum-security meas-

ures are in place and is willing to tell Court in Chambers (this means: the judges, without the presence of the Prosecution and the Defense and, obviously, without the public). Presiding Judge Doherty said that the Trial Chamber had considered: 1) the re-

**Ban Cites
Lawlessness, Corruption
As Stability Threats Here**

Taylor Ends Boycott

distributed to all parties; 2) a confidential report of the Registrar and 3) the explanation given in Chambers. Doherty then informed the Court of the following: The Trial Chamber is still not satisfied with the reasons why Mr. Taylor is submitted

to these kind of security measures and thinks this will lead to a serious disruption of the trial. The Trial Chamber directs the Registrar to find a speedy resolution and report back to this Court on Monday 25 August 2008 on what he has achieved. The Trial

Chamber notes the remark of the Defense that Mr. Taylor will be in Court tomorrow and notes that, when Mr. Munyard has not recovered by tomorrow morning, the Prosecution will call to the stand another witness until his recovery.

The Informer (Liberia)
Friday, 15 August 2008

Moses Blah Survives US\$4.5M Lawsuit, But...



Former President Moses Z. Blah

BY: Kennedy L. Yangjan
Civil Law Court Judge Yussif Kaba yesterday dismissed the US\$4.5M libel lawsuit against former president Moses Blah. Former President Blah was last month dragged to the Civil Law

Court at the Temple of Justice by former Maritime Commissioner Benoni Urey. Urey took Blah to court on claims that the former President accused him of feeding former President Charles Taylor with the Liberian Maritime funds.

Blah (as Vice President) worked together with Urey in the Charles Taylor's government, until he (Blah) succeeded Taylor in 2003 after the Liberian leader left power and ran into exile as part of deal to end years of bloody

civil war in Liberia.

Blah's statement against Urey was allegedly made early this year when Blah testified against his former boss Charles Taylor on trial for 11-count war crimes

TURN TO PAGE 6

MOSES BLAH

charges at the UN backed special court for Sierra Leone sitting in The Hague.

The former Maritime Commissioner, Urey, claimed the allegation made by the former president injured his character leaving him with no alternative but to issue a lawsuit of libel, claiming US\$ 4.5M damages.

During hearings into the lawsuit, former president Blah, represented by Cllr. Yarmie Quiqui Gbeisay argued that as a matter of law, testimonies made before a court of competent jurisdiction is not judicable and cognizable before

another court and that the issue of libel filed by the plaintiff has no material facts; therefore, same should be dismissed and a summary judgment awarded to the defendant.

Lawyer representing Urey, Atty. Cyrenius Cephas, maintained in his argument that the statement by the former president against the former Maritime Commissioner was libelous and prayed the court to hold the defendant liable.

After careful review of the arguments by both lawyers, Judge Yussif Kaba, following hours of

summary into the proceedings on yesterday, claimed that the testimony of the defendant at the Special Court was solicited by the court.

In view of the foregoing, Judge Kaba ruled and ordered dismissed costs against the defendant.

However, lawyer representing the former Maritime Commissioner, Atty. Cyrenius Cephas, excepted and took an appeal to the honorable Supreme Court, which the Judge endorsed.

The News (Liberia)
Friday, 15 August 2008

Court Dismisses Urey's US\$4.5M Libel Suit

....Against Moses Blah

By C. Emmanuel Johnson

The Civil Law Court at the Temple of Justice in Monrovia has dismissed the US\$4.5 million libel suit recently filed against former President Moses Z. Blah by former Maritime Commissioner Benoni Urey.

Mr. Urey had filed a US\$4.5 million damage suit against Mr. Blah following his testimony at the Special War Crimes Court sitting in The Hague.

Mr. Urey sued Blah for accusing him of dishing out over US\$3 million of the country's maritime fund to former President Charles Taylor.

Judge Yusuf Kaba dismissed the case on grounds that it did not have merit.

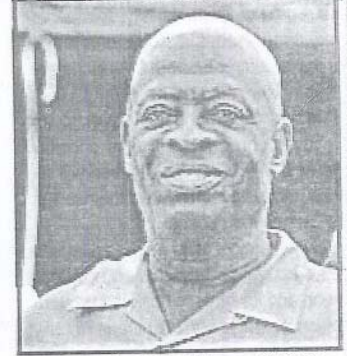
The Court said the libel suit against the former president could not be granted because defendant Blah should not have been taken to court for his testimony in The Hague.

Judge Kaba said Mr. Blah served as prosecution witness and he enjoyed the privileges of the Special Court.

"Blah was a subpoena witness and, like in all other cases, a witness appearing before a common court would be required to answer all questions to



Mr. Benoni Urey.



Former President Moses Z. Blah

the best of his knowledge," the court ruled.

"Since the testimony provided by the

witness was not in anyway objected to by the court, defendant Blah can not be

Cont'd on page 6

COURT DISMISSES

held liable for such testimony," Judge Kaba ruled.

The ruling further states "there is principle of law that if the testimony is pertinent to the issue and relevant to the question posed by prosecution, though it may be defamatory, yet it is not answerable to."

The court said if the plaintiff is injured by the defendant's testimony, he should have appeared before the Special Court to exonerate himself by testifying.

Prosecution took exception to the ruling and announced an appeal at the Supreme Court sitting in its October A.D. 2008 Term.

New Democrat (Liberia)
Friday, 15 August 2008



UREY(L) & TAYLOR

Urey's US\$4.5m Claim Against Blah Trashed

Former Maritime Commissioner Benoni Urey's USD 4.5m libel claim against former President Moses Z. Blah has been thrown out of court.

But Mr. Urey and his lawyers said they will challenge the ruling in the Supreme Court.

Judge Yussif Kaba of Civil Law Court ruled Thursday that a witness testifying before a court of competent jurisdiction can not be held liable for injury because of statements made in a court of competent jurisdiction if the witness's testimony is relevant to the question asked.

Page 10

Urey's US\$4.5m Claim Against Blah Trashed

The court maintained that Mr. Blah enjoyed a special privilege conferred upon him by virtue of his status as a witness testifying before the Special Court, therefore he can not be held liable for any statement he gave in that court.

The court further ruled that the former president was under the jurisdiction of the law when testifying before the Special Court to answer all questions posted to him to the best of his knowledge and recollections, which the court said, he did.

The court advised Mr Urey of options available to him. "...The remedy of Mr. Urey is to either to appear before the Special Court in the Hague to clear his name by testifying to the facts to the best of his own recollection or send a rebuttal witness".

Reported by Nindi Tarley

The Inquirer (Liberia)
Friday, 15 August 2008

Court Drops Charges Against Blah

The Sixth Judicial Circuit Court at the Temple of Justice in Monrovia has dropped the libel suit levied against former Liberian care-taker, President Moses Blah by former Maritime Commissioner Benoni Urey.

Mr. Urey filed a libel suit against former President Blah this year alleging among other things that

Mr. Blah told the United Nations Special Court in Sierra Leone, which is

hearing the war crime case against former Liberian President Charles Taylor

Cont'd on Page 10

NDPL Youth Wi

with fire Court Drops Charges

Cont'd from front Page

when he testified before the court that he, Urey negotiated and facilitated the release of the country's maritime fund to Mr. Taylor four years in advance to help the government finance the war against advancing rebel forces.

The former Maritime Commissioner sued his former boss for libel before the court claiming financial reward for injury done to his reputation.

But after hearing the case for the last few months, the circuit court yesterday dismissed the complaint against Mr. Blah.

The presiding judge of the court, Yussif D. Kaba in his ruling on the matter said the defendant's testimonies before the special court was voluntary upon which, he was questioned.

The court said it noted that the defendant, Mr. Moses Blah was subpoenaed and that the defendant was considered as

a subpoena witness before the special court and in keeping with common law of court, was therefore under obligation to answer to all questions put to him to the best of his knowledge and recollection.

The court said it also noted that during Mr. Blah's testimonies, no objection was raised when the question concerning Mr. Urey was posed to him.

The Circuit Court said since the Special Court allowed witness Blah to answer the questions in the view of the court, the testimony of the defendant was relevant to the case and as such, he cannot be held liable for the answer provided before the court. The Circuit Court added that as much as the plaintiff, Mr. Urey may have been injured by the defendant, yet, the defendant enjoys special privileges conferred upon him by virtue of his subpoena as a special witness before the special court.

The Heritage
Friday, 15 August 2008

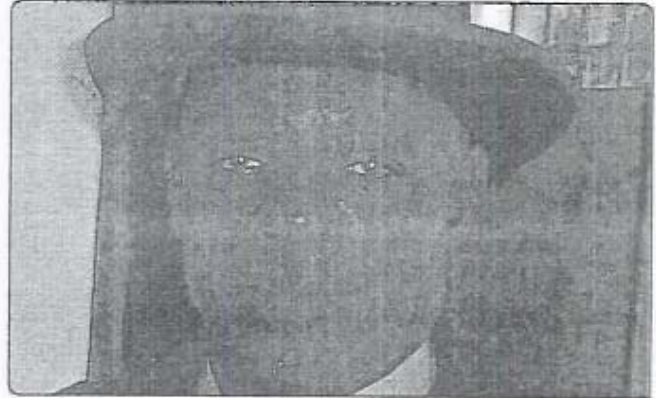
Court Dismisses Benoni Urey US\$4.5M Action For Damage Case *...But Ex-Maritime Boss Runs To Supreme Court*

THE JUDGE OF THE CIVIL LAW Court at the Temple of Justice Thursday dismissed the complaint filed against former President Moses Zeh Blah for an action for damage in the amount of US\$4.5 million.

Recently, the former Commissioner of the

Bureau of Maritime Affairs (BMA), Benoni Urey, filed the complaint against former President Blah for testimony he (Blah) gave before the Special Court in Sierra Leone sitting in The Hague. In his testimony, the former Liberian leader told the court in The Hague that Mr. Urey gave former Liberian President Charles Ghankay Taylor

See Page 6



Former Liberian President Moses Zeh Blah

Court Dismisses

From Front Page

US\$70 million as advance maritime fees before his (Taylor) departure from Liberia.

In his ruling, Judge Yusuf Kabba said all the

statements made by Mr. Blah were solicited by in court through questions posed to him by lawyers.

Judge Kabba indicated that before Mr. Blah went to The Hague he was subpoena by the court and was under oath to say the truth.

He stated that the testimony of witness Blah was relevant to the court and therefore he cannot be held for injuring the character of someone for said testimony.

He further stated that witness (Blah) was under legal obligation to answer all questions posed to him to the best of his knowledge and recollection.

According to him, it was observed by the Civil Law Court that from the study conducted by it while going through the transcripts of the records from the court in The Hague that no objection was raised when the witness was asked questions in court.

Judge Kabba among other things added that the remedy to Mr. Urey is to appear before the court in The Hague to clear his name by testifying to the facts to the best of his recollection.

Meanwhile, the lawyer representing Mr. Urey, Attorney Sayma Syrenius Cephas has rejected the ruling of the Civil Law Court, and henceforth took an appeal to the Supreme Court.

By Festus M. Dukuly

The National (UAE)
Tuesday, 19 August 2008

‘Bush wives’ of rebels seek justice

Jared Ferrie, Foreign Correspondent

Marlon Kargbo, above, says she was abducted and forced to become a bush wife to a rebel commander. Jared Ferrie / The National

FREETOWN // Three former rebel leaders awaiting judgment on war crimes charges could become the first convicted of an offence that is new to international law and can now be applied in future tribunals – forced marriage.



During Sierra Leone’s civil war, thousands of women are said to have been abducted and forced to become “bush wives” to rebel commanders. This year, the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone ruled that their experiences constituted a crime distinct from those – such as rape and sexual slavery – that are already recognised as war crimes.

“You couldn’t describe it as only a sex crime,” said Stephen Raap, the lead prosecutor, explaining that women were also forced to perform such duties as cooking, cleaning and maintaining the camp.

“They were referred to as wives,” he said. “It was being [seen] as a husband and wife, as a conjugal relationship. Conjugal is more than a sexual relationship.”

Many women bore children to the commanders who forced them into marriage, and they continue to bear the stigma of being so closely associated with the rebels, Mr Raap said.

Judges are deciding whether Issa Sesay, Morris Kallon and Augustine Gbao, all former leaders of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), are guilty of an array of war crimes, including forced marriage.

“There is the possibility that come November or December we will have the first convictions,” Mr Raap said.

Marion Kargbo agreed that forced marriage should be prosecuted as a separate crime, but a conviction would provide her little comfort.

She said she and other women who were abducted and forced to become bush wives were given little, if any, assistance when the war ended in 2002. And when they returned home, they were rejected by family and friends who accused them of being rebels.

Ms Kargbo said she still suffers emotional trauma from her experience, which began the day she was abducted by rebel soldiers.

On Jan 6 1999, members of the RUF joined an invasion of Sierra Leone’s capital, Freetown, led by the

Armed Forces Revolutionary Council, another rebel group. Soldiers came to her house and demanded her mother give them one of the children. Her mother consented and took Ms Kargbo, then 18, to their commander.

“On the way I started to cry, and I asked mother why,” Ms Kargbo said. “She said, ‘Well, they asked for a child, and if I don’t they will kill us’.”

Later that day, during a forced march to another town, seven rebel soldiers attacked her.

“At that time I was a virgin. They raped me, and I started to bleed,” she said.

A rebel commander called C O Papa then claimed Ms Kargbo as his wife. “We stayed together like husband and wife,” she said. “C O Papa didn’t allow any other men to touch me again – only him.”

Soon after Ms Kargbo became pregnant she managed to escape. But her troubles were far from over.

She had been sent to the town of Makeni to buy supplies when she ran into a government soldier she knew before the war. She begged him to rescue her, and he took her to a house where he and some other soldiers were living, along with a few women. But the soldiers treated the women badly, she said, withholding food and beating them.

She convinced her friend to leave with her, and they walked to a neighbouring town. She wanted to return to her family in Freetown, but he refused to accompany her, so she set out on her own.

By the time Ms Kargbo made it to Freetown, months later, she was seriously ill from drinking tainted water. But her homecoming was anything but sympathetic.

“My family rejected me,” she said. “They said I am a rebel. Even my mother denied me and told me to leave this place.”

Destitute, with nowhere to turn, a friend told her about Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE), which was helping female victims of the war. The group provided her with medical treatment, counselling and job training, as well as mediating the conflict with her mother.

Ms Kargbo and her daughter now live with her mother. But she said other members of her family still refuse to speak to her.

Eileen Hanciles, FAWE’s national co-ordinator, said the fate of bush wives is one of the most shameful legacies of the postwar relief effort. While former fighters received financial and training packages in exchange for turning in their weapons, Ms Kargbo and other bush wives were excluded from the UN’s disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration process.

“These are the girls who were left to fend for themselves,” Ms Hanciles said. “We betrayed them. We left them behind.”

A 2003 study by Physicians for Human Rights estimated that 250,000 women and girls (33 per cent of the female population) were subjected to sexual violence during Sierra Leone’s decade-long civil war.

After the war, their rebel “husbands” also abandoned them, she said. “They just took their money and went. The kind of package we had at the end of the war meant these people took no responsibility.”

The special court is trying only the leaders of armed groups, including those who fought on the government side. Field commanders and other fighters are exempt from international justice.

Ms Hanciles said she hoped making forced marriage a war crime could serve as a deterrent in future conflicts. But even if the court decides to convict the RUF leaders, it will be a hollow victory for those who have lived through forced marriages.

Ms Kargbo said the man who made her his bush wife was killed during the war. But there are plenty of other commanders who should be charged with the same crime, she said.

“Some of these men, they should not go free like that because they know what they have done in this war,” she said. “They should face [justice] in this court.”

UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries 19 August 2008

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

Newspaper Summary

Taylor Protests New Security Measures

(New Democrat, Heritage)

- Detained former President Charles Taylor has resisted a new security measure for him to be chained while coming to court.
- Taylor's lead lawyer, Courtney Griffiths said his client objected to the measure because it is degrading and is like treating him as an animal.
- Mr. Griffiths also said the prison authorities announced another security measure considered sensory deprivation.
- He requested the court to launch an investigation into the new security measures but the prosecution lawyer, Brenda Hollis said the security measures did not undermine his rights to a fair trial.
- The Presiding Judge, Teresa Doherty has ordered the Registrar of the court to investigate and is expected to report today.

President Sirleaf and Guinean Counterpart Hold Talks

(The Analyst, The News)

- An Executive Mansion release issued in Monrovia said President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf is back in the country after holding consultations with Guinean President Lansana Conteh.
- The discussions were aimed at fostering bilateral cooperation and strengthening peace and security between the two countries.
- The meeting between Presidents Sirleaf and Conteh comes ahead of a Mano River Union (MRU) Summit to be held in Conakry, Guinea later this month.

Planned Demonstration in Lofa over death of 13-year old boy

(National Chronicle)

- [sic:] Citizens of Lofa County, specifically Zorzor District, are due to the into the streets of Lofa County to protest against the death of a 13-year old minor who was killed in Kpassagizia Town. According to one of the organizers of the demonstration, Omecee Johnson, the march is expected to commence on 24 August 2008, from 8 am.

Senate Set to Elect Acting President Pro-Tempore Today

(New Vision, The Inquirer, The Independent, Daily Observer, Heritage)

- The media reports that all is now set for the election of an acting President Pro-Tempore of the Senate today. The election comes nearly two weeks after the Senate suspended Isaac Nyenabo as Pro-Tempore for six months. The spokesman for the Senate, Varney Gbessay said the elections would go ahead as planned.
- The Daily Observer reports that a group of Grand Gedean, constituents of the President Pro-Tempore Isaac Nyenabo, has called on the Liberian Senate to come public with the violations of its code of conduct that the President Pro-Temp has committed otherwise the Senate should reverse the suspension it slapped on him a couple of days ago.

Mittal's Manager Slapped with Criminal Libel against Superintendent

(New Democrat)

- Arcelor Mittal's Project Coordinator in Buchanan, Mr. Robert Ferguson was Thursday arrested and jailed at the Buchanan Central prison on charges of Malicious Malfeasance. According to a Grand Bassa Police charge sheet, Mr. Ferguson was released on bail Saturday after spending two nights in a cell. He is expected to appear at the Grand Bassa Magisterial court Wednesday to be formally arraigned.
- Mr. Ferguson was arrested on Thursday in Cotton-Tree, Margibi County on his way to Monrovia when he was ordered to return to Grand Bassa County, where police informed him that an arrest Warrant awaited him. The Arrest Warrant accuses Ferguson of "Libelous Statements" against the Superintendent of Grand Bassa County, Julia Duncan Cassell. It is not clear what exactly were the "libelous statements" referred to in the arrest warrant.

More Liberians Return Home from Ghana

(New Democrat)

- More Liberian refugees are returning from Ghana since that country began its clamp down on Liberians refugees there, according to the Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC). The LRRRC said the increase is due to its in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).
- It said as of 10 August 2008, assisted 5,811 Liberian refugees to return. Of the total number, 5,437 refugees returned from Ghana, 196 arrived from Guinea, 170 came from Nigeria and 8 returned from Gambia.

Radio Summary

Star Radio *(News culled today from website at 8:45 am)*

President Sirleaf Returns Home after consultations with Guinean Counterpart

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

Former President Taylor Resists New Security Measures

(Also reported on Truth FM and ELBC)

Senate due to elect acting President Pro-Tempore

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

President Sirleaf Reiterates Willingness to Appear Before TRC

- Addressing reporters on Monday, Presidential Press Secretary, Cyrus Badio said President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has renewed her willingness to testify before the truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) at its ongoing thematic hearings.
- Press Secretary Badio said the President has no opinion whether her appearance should be public or in camera in an apparent reaction to reported calls for her to appear before the commission in camera to protect the Presidency.
- He said the President would appear before the TRC whenever she was invited to tell her story of political happenings from 1979-2003.
- The Commission announced earlier this month that the President would have appeared before it but later apologized on grounds that the timing was not confirmed before being released.
- Meanwhile, a group of citizens has opposed the open appearance of President Sirleaf before the TRC, citing constitutional provision.

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