

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



**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, 20 November 2007

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

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New Vision  
Tuesday, 20 November 2007

## My Point

By Joseph Fomolu, Email:  
josephfomolu@yahoo.com

# Give Charles Taylor's Ill-gotten Wealth to Sierra Leone



The scars of Charles Taylor's sponsored-war on Sierra Leone are visible everywhere.

It is visible on those whose limbs were amputated. It is visible on relations who lost their love ones during the war. It is visible on destroyed infrastructures. Above visible on destroyed in the minds of young boys and girls.

The scars of this war will not be erased in the minds of Sierra Leoneans overnight. The harm is enormous. But the enormity could be minimized if there is genuine repartition of those who suffered the greatest during the 11 years.

It was a war that was orchestrated by no less a person than the former President of Liberia, Charles Ghabkay Taylor. He is presently undergoing trial in The Hague, Netherlands by the Special Court of Sierra Leone.

The former Liberian Leader did not only provide route for the defunct Revolutionary United Front (RUF) and National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) to invade Sierra Leone from

Liberia, but provided route to transport ammunition and other suppliers for the rebels and also a provided a sage heaven for them in Liberia.

Therefore from March 1991 to January 18, 2002, Charles Taylor, the Kingpin and strategic planner of the war, became the sole beneficiary. His men and women attacked all potential economic areas of the country. Areas such as Kono, Tongo, Kailahun, Sierra Rutile, Magbass, etc. they vandalized everything and carted them away, not even school Liberian were left untouched by these vandals.

So much was acquired by these rebels, especially from diamonds and the agricultural produces – cocoa and coffee. Sierra Leone has diamond fields that cover an area approximately 7,700 square miles. The rebels plundered the entire diamond producing area.

It is believed that the rebels may have carted away diamonds worth \$US200-500 million during the war.

Charles Taylor Benefited

Charles Taylor seem to be the only beneficiary from the proceeds of diamond dug during the war. Some he used to buy ammunition, for the RUF, the rest he pocketed. He cannot deny benefiting from the war in Sierra Leone.

Though, Foday Sankoh, ex-leader of the RUF is no more, he may not have benefited from the war as Charles Taylor. Not even late Massquita Bockarie did.

Most of the errand boys of these people have nothing to show for as benefit from the war. They are seen gallivanting in the streets of Sierra Leone. Some with shoes that whose heels are bended. Others are seen piling the streets, sometimes not having a Kobo to take a cab. I am yet to see anybody to tell me that these former RUF guys have even jalopies.

Therefore, no other person would have benefited from the immense wealth of Sierra Leone, during the war, except Charles Taylor.

He cannot tell us that the money has been kept in a bank to accrue interest. If these boys and girls who

were his errand people look so destitute, then he has money for the people of Sierra Leone.

Charles Taylor has committed a sin against the people of Sierra Leone. He should pay for it. The international community should turn over all his wealth to the people of Sierra Leone. The war victims are still to be repatriated. Some have become single parents because of the war. Some can't educate their children. Some can't do anything on their own because of their amputated limbs.

He has put Sierra Leone backward to 50 years, let him ill-gotten wealth be returned to Sierra Leone.

# Sierra Leone

## "Blood Diamonds"

### and the Blood Diamond Merchants

By Ahmed Ojullah Elangura, UK

'Blood diamonds' are precious stones that are illegally and immorally used to fuel conflict in many resource rich countries. These stones are either smuggled or are part of legitimate diamonds exported to international markets. They are used by individuals, groups or rogue political elites in countries that believe in greed and lack moral esteem.

These categories of people have caused so much mayhem in many resource rich African countries through exchange of these diamonds for arms. Some of the acts committed as a result of this trade are not only unimaginable but also unforgettable. After years of brutal civil war fuelled by these blood diamonds, attempts have been made to bring some of the perpetrators to justice for crimes against humanity. But the dispensation of justice seems to be selective and subjective.

Sierra Leone is one of the countries worst affected by more than a decade of brutal civil war that left many raped, hundreds maimed, thousands killed, and tens of thousands displaced. Ironically, the war was fought under the pretence of fighting against corruption and bad governance.

But unfortunately, what many Sierra Leoneans witnessed and experienced was a 'paradox of war'. The war which was hoped to alleviate the then prevailing political, economic and social malaise in the country ended up bringing more hardship, brutality, greed, and more indicators of war.

Many diamond dealers, businessmen, and politicians took advantage of the collapsed state of affairs of the political system to provide security and social services. Eventually Sierra Leone was left at the mercy of 'blood money' individuals referred to as 'Blood Diamond Merchants'. These are business cronies who seek illegal trade in diamonds and sometimes evade taxes on the trade that provoked and sustained conflict and destruction in Sierra Leone.

As a result of the colossal human suffering inflicted on the people of Sierra Leone, justice was needed to send the chapter of the war to the past. But this attempt is viewed as conspiracy and an indication of double standards. Those who have been tried for their role in the conflict look like scapegoats in my view. They face justice now while many more who aided the war in similar circumstances walk like diplomatic free-men.

It is a fact that Charles Taylor never fought as a rebel soldier in Sierra Leone but he is on trial for allegedly aiding the RUF/SL during their reign of terror. Like Charles Taylor, Libya's Muhamad Khaddafi was accused of training the core of the RUF in Libya; whilst Ivory Coast became a safe haven for the late RUF leader Foday Sankoh, and Burkina Faso became a transit point for arms and mercenaries under the auspices of both heads of states.

It is apparently justifiable that the political leaders of these countries played diabolic roles during the senseless brutal war in Sierra Leone. Unequivocally, there are other individuals who traded arms for diamonds and even facilitated shipment of these arms from Western and former Soviet states to kill Sierra Leoneans of all ages, sex and status. The pivotal reason for the behaviour of these 'Blood Diamond Merchants' was solely for our precious diamonds. They never had the moral act to take prudent decision for the sake of humanity and avoid the catastrophe that befalls our beloved land.

But what is perplexing to me is that why is Charles Taylor the only non-Sierra Leonean (Blood Diamond Merchant) to face trial for heinous crimes associated with our diamonds?

He, like many others, aided the RUF diabolically. The Heads of State of Ivory Coast and Burkina Faso, and Libya, facilitators of arms from European countries to Sierra Leone, should also be held accountable for their actions.

Academic writers and environmental groups have always pointed at the role of 'Blood Diamonds' in Sierra Leone's darkest days. None of them is questioning the role of the merchants who traded in the very diamonds they refer to as 'blood diamonds'. Can diamonds train mercenaries? Can diamonds kill? Can diamonds travel to Liberia, Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso, Libya or reach the international market in exchange for arms? Who were responsible? Was Charles Taylor the only one to answer for his role in Sierra Leone's brutal war?

This is not justice. The history of the brutal war will be incomplete if we fail to bring to justice other 'Blood Diamond Merchants' (Africans and Europeans alike) in the conflict, who for immoral reasons aided and abetted the 'war of untold stories'.

Awoko

Tuesday, 20 November 2007

## Human Rights Commission Rights go north

A one-week workshop, organised by the Human Rights Commission in Sierra Leone on human rights activities, has ended in Makeni, northern Sierra Leone.

Briefing participants on the reason for the formation of the commission, the Human Rights Commissioner Mrs Jamestina King explained that the United Nations (UN) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) urged governments of the sub-region to setup such a commission to promote a national culture of human rights.

She explained that, "in Sierra Leone the commission was established as an independent National Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone under Act No. 9 of 2004 as provided in the

Lome Peace Accord of 1999 and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) report".

Mrs King stated that the basic function of the commission was to investigate or inquire into any allegations with regards to human rights violations.

The commission, she explained, "has power to recommend payment for compensation to victims of human rights violation, their families or legal representatives."

The chairperson reiterated that, "the commission is independent and shall not be subjected to the control or direction of any person, authority or government", adding that even if that institution or individual was providing financial support to the commission.

The Port Loko Voice of Children representative explained that the rate of child labour and domestic violence in the district was alarming.

He commended the organisers of the workshop, pointing out that it was timely as it was a positive step in the campaign against human rights violation.

Paramount Chief Bai Shebora Kashanga II thanked the commission for enlightening his subjects on what he described as "a sensitive issue." He identified the various human rights problems faced by the community, and asked the commission to intervene.

The PC also appealed to government to look into what he described as the 'immoral' dressing of some women.

Awoko

Tuesday, 20 November 2007

# Drivers 'Toe line'

*By Kelvin Lewis*

Long vehicle lines have emerged again on the streets of the capital Freetown as motorists line up outside fuel stations waiting to buy a few gallons.

Oil Industry officials have dismissed the long fuel lines which started developing Sunday evening as the result of "panic buying"

"This is because they have seen us holding meetings and some people may have

misinterpreted this to mean that we intend to raise prices" the industry official explained

"Presently there are two million one hundred and sixty eight thousand (2,168,000) gallons of petrol which will take us up to December 3<sup>rd</sup>" he said adding that "NP (National Petroleum) has in stock some two thousand one hundred and sixty one (2,161) gallons which does not include what NP is offloading now"

TOTAL the official disclosed "has in stock three hundred and forty eight thousand (348,000) gallons"

In terms of diesel the official

disclosed that there is in stock "one million six hundred and seventy six thousand nine hundred and eighty four (1,676,984) gallons which does not include the five hundred and eighty nine thousand three hundred and seventeen (589,317) gallons which TOTAL has."

Oil Industry officials have been meeting with government officials over the increase of fuel pump prices for a long time now.

International fuel oil prices have risen to the unprecedented price of US\$99 over the past months.



This increase started during the days leading to the August 11 elections. However the SLPP government officials then were reluctant to increase the prices even though the oil pricing formula had been triggered and should have resulted in an increase in the pump price.

Oil industry officials fearful of being blamed for the political fall out the rapid increases in consumer goods as a result of the fuel price increases would have caused, backed down and agreed to wait after the elections.

The losses suffered by the oil companies became compounded when the elections had to go into a run off. Again talks were stalled. After the elections also it was decided to give the new government some time to settle down before discussing an increase which would definitely have far reaching implications for the populace.

At some point it was envisaged that the money in the strategic stocks fund which had run up to several billions of leones would be used by the government to

starve off any talk of price increase in the short term.

Eventually after a brain storming meeting with the new President an agreement was reached which should have come into force on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2007.

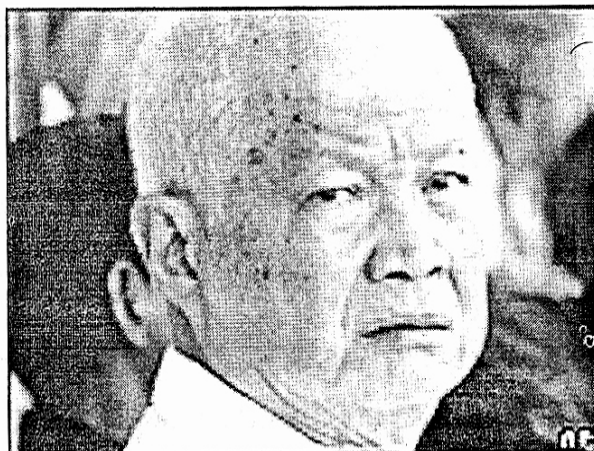
In this new agreement the government decided

to forgo a lot of its taxes and charges so that the pump price would remain the same at least up to December when they hope the electricity situation would have improved easing the consumption of fuel for generators by households and some private enterprises.

Port charges which used to

The New Citizen  
Tuesday, 20 November 2007

# Top Khmer Rouge Leader Detained



*Khieu Samphan is the fifth Khmer Rouge official to be detained*

Police in Cambodia have arrested Khieu Samphan, the Khmer Rouge's former head of state, and taken him to a UN-backed genocide tribunal.

The elderly ex-leader was taken from a hospital in the capital, Phnom Penh, to face a panel of investigating judges.

He is the fifth person to be

targeted by the court, set up to bring surviving leaders of the Khmer Rouge to the dock.

More than one million people are thought to have died between 1975 and 1979 under the brutal Maoist regime. Khieu Samphan's arrest had been widely expected.

A former guerrilla fighter, he became the president of Democratic Kampuchea - as Cambodia was then known - after the Khmer Rouge came to power. He was a close confidant of leader Pol Pot.

He has long claimed that his position was ceremonial, and in a recently pub-

lished book he denied responsibility for policies to starve people and orders to carry out mass killings.

Last week, amid reports that his detention was imminent, he was flown to hospital in Phnom Penh after apparently suffering a stroke.

Early on Monday, police entered the hospital and drove the former leader to the special courts to appear before a panel of investigating judges.

"An initial appearance will be held today during which he will be informed of the charges which have been

brought against him," a tribunal statement said.

Khieu Samphan's arrest completes the initial round-up of suspects by the tribunal, which was established last year after decades of delay.

Former Foreign Minister Ieng Sary and wife Ieng Thirith, the social affairs minister, were arrested last week and charged with crimes against humanity.

Pol Pot's second-in command, Nuon Chea, and Kang Kek Ieu - known as Duch - the head of the notorious Tuol Sleng prison, are also facing similar charges.

Their trials are expected to begin next year.



## UN News Service (New York)

Monday, 19 November 2007

### **Greater Public Awareness of Rights Report Aim of UN-Backed Review**

Ongoing efforts to implement the findings of Sierra Leone's Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), meant to help heal rifts left by 11 years of bloody civil war, are the focus of a two-day meeting that began today in Freetown under the auspices of the United Nations and the country's main human rights body.

In 2004, the seven-member Commission made a number of recommendations to deal with past abuses and violations and foster reconciliation as the West African nation seeks to consolidate its hard-won peace.

They included the payment of reparations by the Government to amputees and other wounded victims, those who were sexually violated, and the widows and children who suffered deprivation, displacement, or worse between 1991 and 2002.

In determining payment, the panel recommended meeting victims' needs in "health, housing, pensions, education, skills training and micro-credit, community reparations and symbolic reparations."

The meeting that began today in the capital aims to review the status of the recommendations, increase greater public awareness about them and facilitate their implementation, according to the UN Integrated Office in Sierra Leone (UNIOSIL), which organized the event together with the national Human Rights Commission and a number of civil society groups.

"It will present the opportunity for all stakeholders to be informed on the recommendations that have been implemented thus far, those still pending and strategize on the way forward," UNIOSIL stated.

Also in Freetown today, UNIOSIL's Police Section began the first phase of a two-week training programme on traffic management, in collaboration with the Sierra Leone Police.

The programme aims to enhance and facilitate the free flow of traffic, particularly in the capital, as well as to re-organise the entire Traffic Department of the Police Force towards better service delivery.

Speaking at the inauguration of the training today, the Secretary-General's Executive Representative in Sierra Leone noted that in a country like Sierra Leone, where 25 per cent of the population is concentrated in the capital and there are no rail services, people are completely dependent on road networks.

Stressing the vital need to ensure the free flow of traffic on the roads, Victor Angelo pointed out that "traffic congestion not only creates delays and inconvenience, but more importantly it has a direct effect on the national economy due to the loss of productive hours." Therefore, addressing traffic problems is critical to a country's development, as well as to its ability to compete in the global market.

A total of 125 officers across the country will benefit from the training.

# United Nations Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

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## **UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 19 November 2007**

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

### **International Clips on Liberia**

#### **President Sirleaf Gets Israel's Support**

Nov 19, 2007 (Liberia Government/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- The Government of Israel has pledged its support towards Liberia's reconstruction. The pledge was made today in Jerusalem, Israel, when President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf held talks with Israeli President Shimon Peres and Foreign Minister Madam Tzipi Livni at the start of her official visit to Israel. President Johnson Sirleaf solicited Israel's support for her government's developmental agenda as she called on the country to strengthen the strong ties it once enjoyed with Africa in the 1960's.

### **International Clips on West Africa**

#### **Don't Disappoint Voters, Fashola Tasks Koroma**

Deji Elumoye

Lagos, Nov 19, 2007 (This Day/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- Governor Babatunde Fashola of Lagos State has charged the new President of Sierra Leone, Ernest Bai Koroma to justify the citizen's fervent hope in democracy by providing them necessities of life. Fashola who spoke in Freetown, the Sierra Leonean capital at the inauguration of President Koroma declared that it was only through good governance that democracy could be entrenched in Sierra Leone.

### **Local Media – Newspaper**

#### **Major Rubber Company Suffers Double Blow**

*(The News, New Democrat, Heritage, National Chronicle, The Analyst, Daily Observer, The Inquirer, The Informer, The Reality and Liberian Express)*

- The Government over the weekend called for the use of 'maximum force' against armed crime following two separate incidents in which a Belgian employee of the Liberian Agricultural Company (LAC) was shot dead, and the hijacking of a vehicle belonging to the Global Bank carrying US\$150,000 by armed bandits on the Monrovia-Buchanan Highway over the weekend.

#### **President Johnson-Sirleaf solicits Israel's support**

*(Heritage, The Analyst, Daily Observer, Liberian Express, The Informer, Public Agenda and The Inquirer)*

- President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf has arrived in Jerusalem, Israel at the start of a four-day state visit to help strengthen bilateral ties. President Sirleaf will today meet and hold talks with Israeli President,

#### **Major road rehabilitation targets 300 Liberians for employment**

*(Daily Observer, Heritage, Liberian Express, The Reality and The Inquirer)*

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf last Friday launched the first phase of the road rehabilitation initiative of government which focuses on the construction of the

Monrovia-Buchanan Highway. The road project which is sponsored by the World Bank is estimated at US\$23.4 million and is being implemented by the Chinese Road Construction Company, CHICO.

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

**Church Trauma Section Holds Seminar for Government Functionaries**

- In an interview, the Chief Trainer of the Lutheran Church's Trauma Healing and Reconciliation Programme Lazarus Flomo said that his unit has organized a Training of Trainers seminar for 35 security officers and local government officials to train them to rule of law, good governance and the effect of trauma as a measure to help strengthen and sustain the peace in Liberia.

*(Also reported on ELBS, Star Radio, SKY FM and Truth FM)*

**Government Extends Postal Services to Rural Liberia**

- Speaking at the dedicatory ceremony of a postal facility in Ganta, Nimba County, Posts and Telecommunications Minister Jackson E. Doe said that extension of postal services throughout the Country remains a priority of his administration and that efforts were being exerted to decentralize such services especially following the recent recognition by President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, of the good work the Ministry was doing. *(Also reported on ELBS, Star Radio, SKY FM and Truth FM)*

**Lofa County Principals Association Calls for Support**

- Correspondents said that the President of the Lofa County Principals Association, Rev. Zubah Kollie said that the Government's free and compulsory primary education would fail unless the Government subsidizes the schools. He pointed out that Government schools throughout the Country are unable to cater to the growing numbers of students in the streets as such educational stakeholders should put measures in place to make the process effective.

*(Also reported on ELBS, Star Radio, SKY FM and Truth FM)*

*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. Weah Karpeh at [karpeh@un.org](mailto:karpeh@un.org).*

## BBC Online

Friday, 16 November 2007

### Prison term for ex-Rwandan mayor

A former Rwandan mayor has been sentenced to 11 years in prison for crimes committed during the genocide.

Some 800,000 Tutsi and moderate Hutus died in the 100-day slaughter in 1994.

Juvenal Rugambarara pleaded guilty for failing to investigate and then punish those in his district of Bicumbi who were implicated in a massacre.



**Rugambarara was arrested in 2003 in Uganda by Interpol**

Since 1997 the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), which sits in Tanzania, has convicted 29 genocide ringleaders and acquitted five people.

In 2003, Rugambarara was arrested in Uganda where he had been living since fleeing Rwanda after the genocide.

Earlier this year, the ICTR prosecutor agreed to withdraw eight of the original nine counts against the former mayor, which included genocide and crime against humanity.

Rugambarara told prosecutors he wished to serve his prison sentence in Europe, preferably France.

The ICTR is due to complete its work by 2010.

## The Monitor (Kampala)

Tuesday, 20 November 2007

### 'Peace' Gives Kony What War & Murder Couldn't

Why, as we asked last week (see "Kony Is Crazy, So Why Does Riek Love Him?" June 28) does the SPLA-led Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS), and in particular its vice-vice-president Riek Machar, seem to be going soft on LRA leader Joseph Kony?

And better, even more intriguing, is the government of President Yoweri Museveni really interested in having Kony arrested and taken for trial at the International Criminal Court in The Hague? Besides the fact that Kony's forces helped Riek fight SPLA when the former fell out with John Garang, there was never consensus among the ranks of the SPLA that they should help Museveni destroy the LRA.

The Sudanic and Luo people of wider northern Uganda and southern Sudan are cousins, brothers and sisters. Some of the SPLA fighters were actually Ugandans who just used to withdraw back into the villages in the north when the going was tough.

The information that has come out of the north in recent years indicates that Kony rebels lived in terror of the SPLA, and considered it relatively soft duty facing the UPDF.

The SPLA, therefore, would have wiped out Kony more easily than UPDF. They didn't because they needed the LRA to survive enough to pose a threat to Uganda, and to maintain a structure that Khartoum would back. That way Uganda would keep its military and diplomatic support for the SPLA. The southern Sudanese rebels, therefore, were never emotionally committed to the defeat of Kony.

Now that they have formed a government after the peace deal, the LRA is, after oil, the GOSS's most important diplomatic tool. By setting themselves up as mediators between Kampala and Kony, the GOSS has got itself its first international role, and won diplomatic relevance.

The talks, and the International Criminal Court's (ICC) requests to the GOSS to arrest Kony, are important legitimisation factors in its evolution into New Sudan. For these representations by foreign governments and international organisations constitute a recognition of its sovereignty.

The ICC opposes any deal with Kony and insists he be handed over for trial in The Hague. In many ways, its interest is no different than the GOSS's. They both want Kony, but for different reasons. Kony would be the first murderous rebel leader plucked from the bush after an ICC warrant. The other war criminals who have ended in The Hague were presidents, as in the case of Liberia's Charles Taylor, or Yugoslavia's Slobodan Milosevic (who expired in the ICC's jails).

They committed most of their crimes as state actors. There is now international consensus that the impunity of non-state actors must be punished equally as those of state actors like Taylor, to send a message of zero tolerance for mass murder.

Kony is a cheap target, because the ICC probably views him as less sophisticated than Ratko Mladic, the elusive former Serbia-Bosnian military chief and war criminal. Kony, because of his brutal methods and abduction of children which have revolted the world, would be a popular catch and do the ICC's image a lot of good.

But that isn't necessarily what Kampala wants. Sources suggest that the Uganda government's initial intention was that the Kony case be taken to the International Court of Justice, which hears disputes between governments, not the ICC which investigates and tries individuals accused of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity.

Kampala hoped the ICJ would find Khartoum guilty of violating the security of Uganda and the human rights of its people through supporting Kony. This way Sudan's support for the LRA would become a definite international crime, not just a contentious geopolitical issue. It was a tall order, but the strategic thinking behind it was undoubtedly shrewd.

Instead we ended up with the ICC indicting Kony & Co. One view has it that Kampala doesn't want Kony in The Hague, because since he will have a right to put his side of the story, he could tell some ugly truths that the government wants hidden.

For example, did the LRA kill all the people in the northern war? What role did the UPDF either through cynical policy to break the back of the northern rebellion, or by the actions of rogue elements inside it contribute in the killings and amputations? What evidence does Kony have?

For that reason, Kampala would rather kill Kony in a confrontation in the tall grass, or cut a deal with him, than see him testify in The Hague.

Kony's outing (including an interview with The Times) has also been possible because there's excitement in the region among the Sudanic community that New Sudan will be the first, if only, powerful Nilotic/Luo republic in a "Bantu-dominated" region. To hand Kony over, therefore, would be a "grand betrayal" of the cause. It's a price the GOSS, at this stage, might be reluctant to pay.

Indeed last week after this column, I got very angry emails. One of them, from an author who softened a little bit after a couple of exchanges, said, and I reproduce parts of it verbatim: "Habari wewe... [you] sounded like a fool human who burn down his/her own house for being stupid. "What is ICC? You think we can't handle even simple things like reconciliation between two brothers. Why we try to discourage some African heroes like them [Kony and Riek]? "I got your problem, you're one of Ugandan tribalists, but don't bring it to this board ok. Bcoz you are from Bantus and Kony from Nilotics...Kony will lead you whether you like it or not. Don't you think you are only smart person....your second articles don't ever posting it that way again here". I rest my case.