

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



Special Court President Justice Jon Kamanda and Acting Registrar Binta Mansaray welcoming SCSL footballers at last Saturday's semi-final which the SCSL team won. The final is tomorrow at the St. Edwards school ground, Kingtom at 4pm. Photo Credit: Leon Kenny Romain, Finance

**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:**

Friday, 20 November 2009

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.  
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact  
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Concord Times  
Friday, 20 November 2009

## West African leaders scold Taylor

By Alpha Sesay

Prosecutors spent much of yesterday's cross-examination of former Liberian president, Charles Taylor, reading out statements by other West African leaders condemning the accused's Liberian rebel group for crimes committed against Liberians and members of international humanitarian agencies, including American Catholic nuns and peacekeepers during his country's civil war.

In a 1992 statement read by lead prosecutor, Brenda Hollis, Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) leaders condemned Taylor's rebel group (the National Patriotic Front of Liberia - NPFL) for their actions against West African peacekeepers serving in Liberia under the banner of ECOMOG.

The ECOWAS leaders had "warned all warring factions against the commission of war crimes" in Liberia. The statement alluded to the killing of civilians, peacekeepers and American Catholic nuns during "Operation Octopus", an operation launched by Taylor's NPFL on the Liberian capital Monrovia in October 1992.

Taylor, in his response explained the circumstances surrounding the death of the nuns.

"That issue remains contested. They were killed in the area controlled by Senegalese forces. It remains contested. The United States raised that issue, we investigated it and it was determined that they were not killed deliberately by the NPFL but they were killed by crossfire," he explained.

"If you have a docu-



ment showing that they were deliberately killed by NPFL, then you can bring it here," the former Liberian president challenged the prosecution counsel.

"We will bring it later," prosecutor counsel Ms. Hollis responded.

Hollis also read portions of the 1993 Cotonou Peace Agreement that was signed between the interim government of national unity of Liberia (IGNU), the NPFL and the united liberation movement of Liberia for democracy (ULIMO). Among many other things agreed to in the Cotonou agreement, the various parties declared a ceasefire, agreeing to stop all hostilities and to disarm all fighters in Liberia.

Ms. Hollis pointed out that fighters were not disarmed as agreed in Cotonou and that immediately after the signing of the agreement, Taylor's NPFL started attacking Liberian towns and peacekeepers. In his response, Mr. Taylor said other parties were responsible for the ceasefire violation.

"There were fightings but various parties were responsible," he said.

Taylor explained that the peacekeepers were taking sides in the conflict, and therefore their neutrality was brought into question.

He also denied allegations that in 1994, his NPFL rebels held Tanzanian peacekeepers hostage, taking away their arms and ammunition, but admitted that radio communication sets were taken from the Tanzanians.

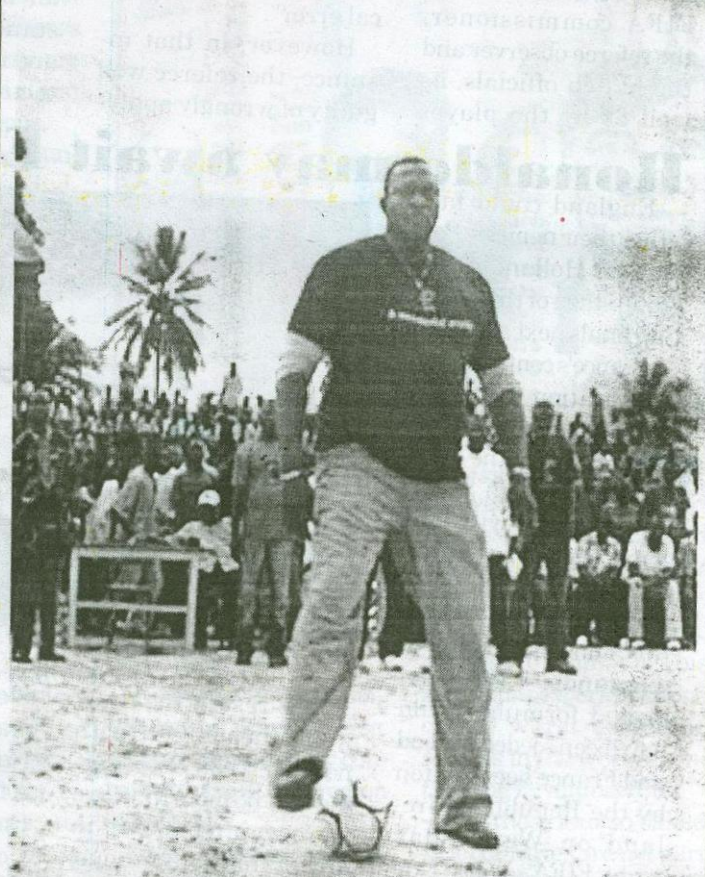
"I do not recall the NPFL arresting Tanzanian peacekeepers and taking away their ammunition. NPFL soldiers took radio sets from the Tanzanians but we took care of that by punishing those who were responsible," he said. Ms. Hollis also read portions of the August 1995 Abuja agreement signed by the various parties to the Liberian conflict which established executive authority in Liberia in the hands of a "six-member council of state" headed by Wilton Sankawolo. The agreement also established a time-table for certain actions to be taken including the deployment of ECOMOG peacekeepers and the disarmament of all fighters.



Concord Times  
Friday, 20 November 2009

## Zain Corporate Gala Final: UNIPSIL takes on Special Court

The United Nations Integrated Peace Building Office in Sierra Leone, UNIPSIL will come face-to-face with the Special Court for Sierra Leone on Saturday in the grand final of the Zain corporate gala at the St. Edwards field, Kingtom.



### *Zain's Probyn Browne ... to start the ball rolling*

Both sides made it to the final after knocking out the US Embassy and Union Trust Bank respectively in the semi-finals.

Corporate soccer pundits say they are expecting a very thrilling, entertaining and competitive final as both sides boast of a formidable squad.

The Special Court are confident they will retain their title, while UN boys believe this is their year.

The early kick-off of the day will see the two losing semi-finalists, US Embassy and Union Trust Bank, battling for third place.

Zain Sierra Leone's corporate and SME sales manager, Probyn Browne said everything has been put in place for the grand finale to be a success, adding that all the trophies and medals have arrived from the United Kingdom, UK.

He said he was impressed with this year's tournament as it has proven to be more competitive than previous ones.

"This year we organized the competition in a round-robin-basis, which has helped the tournament to be more competitive," Browne said.



The New Citizen  
Friday, 20 November 2009

**A**s part of the policy decision derived from the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) report 2004, President Ernest Bai Koroma will on December 5 2009 launch the war victims Trust Fund at the National Stadium.

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*By Abu Kalokoh*

# 'Support War Victims'

# 'SUPPORT WAR VICTIMS'

*From page 1*

Over 30,000 war victims have so far been registered as beneficiaries in all 149 chiefdoms and the Western Area and have been provided with some benefits including surgeries, fistula operations, micro-grants, group psycho-social and symbolic reparations, all in an effort to heal the wounds and promote peace and reconciliation.

The Trust Fund will complement donor funding to sustain the programme and at the same time provide additional lowly prioritized but very essential benefits.

It is in this light that the government of Sierra Leone solicits support morally and financial from all Sierra Leoneans, the donor community, international organizations, government institutions, embassies, non-governmental organizations, moral guarantors and financial institutions.

Speaking to journalists at

the Ministry of Information and Communication's 8<sup>th</sup> floor Youyi Building conference room, NaCSA Deputy Commissioner, Charles Rogers revealed that the reparation programme targets five sets of war victims, the wounded, sexually abused, amputees, war widows and children orphaned as a result of the war underscoring that the fund would restore the dignity of the beneficiaries as well as restore their shattered hope.

Director of Reparations, Buya Kamara, articulated that those who failed to register have to wait for another time because most of the war victims never took the registration exercise seriously.

He said the reason for the Trust Fund is to continue the process after the Peace Building Fund support would have ceased and to also demonstrate to the international community that the country is committed to addressing the plight of its war victims.

## CharlesTaylorTrial.org (The Hague)

Thursday, 19 November 2009

### **Charles Taylor Was Not Honest With The United Nations Panel Of Experts, Prosecutors Say**

Alpha Sesay

Charles Taylor was “not honest” with the United Nations Panel of Experts set up to investigate his alleged dealings with Sierra Leonean rebels, prosecutors told the Special Court for Sierra Leone today during cross-examination of the accused former Liberian president.

The UN Panel of Experts report released in 2000 accused Mr. Taylor of fuelling the conflict in Sierra Leone through diamonds and arms trade with Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels, a group that fought an 11-year conflict in Sierra Leone. In cross-examining Mr. Taylor today, lead prosecution counsel Ms. Brenda Hollis pointed out that when the UN Panel of Experts met with Mr. Taylor in 2000, the former president lied to them about the whereabouts of notorious Sierra Leonean rebel commander Sam Bockarie. In 1999, Mr. Bockarie, having fallen out with the leadership of the RUF, relocated to Liberia where Sierra Leonean rebels loyal to him were recruited into Mr. Taylor’s Anti-Terrorist Unit (ATU). According to some prosecution witnesses, Mr. Bockarie relocated to Liberia on Mr. Taylor’s invitation. Mr. Taylor on the other hand has said that Mr. Bockarie’s relocation to Liberia was based on a decision by West African leaders. In 2000, reports indicate that Mr. Bockarie left Liberia for Ivory Coast, where he was involved in the conflict there, allegedly on Mr. Taylor’s orders. Mr. Taylor has refuted such assertions. In his cross-examination today, the former president denied prosecution claims that when asked by the UN Panel of Experts about the whereabouts of Mr. Bockarie, he told them he “did not know where Bockarie was.”

“Well, I could not tell where he was,” Mr. Taylor said.

When told by Ms. Hollis that Mr. Bockarie “was carrying out your duties undermining other governments,” Mr. Taylor responded that such an assertion was “a blatant hallucination.”

“Charles Taylor had no money, so why is he undermining other governments?” Mr. Taylor asked.

Mr. Taylor insisted that he was honest in his response to the UN Panel of Experts, asserting that he was not asked directly where Mr. Bockarie was.

“I was never asked precisely where he was. I was being honest with the UN because as president of Liberia, I needed to be sure of where he was. I told them the official position of my government that he was escorted to the Ivorian border,” he said.

Mr. Taylor explained that when Mr. Bockarie indicated that he wanted to relocate to Burkina Faso, he asked to be escorted through Ivory Coast and therefore the Liberian government had to escort him to the Liberian border with Ivory Coast.

Asked by Ms. Hollis whether he informed the Ivorian government that Mr. Bockarie, though on a UN travel ban, was being escorted to their border and was passing through their territory, Mr. Taylor said that he did not see the need to share such information with the Ivorian government.



“I did not feel the obligation to tell them. It is not the function of the government to tell other governments that somebody is on a travel ban and was on his way to their country,” he said.

Ms. Hollis further pointed out that Mr. Bockarie travelled on a Liberian passport with the name Solomon Johnson.

“This could have been a travel document given to him in 1998 because we gave him a passport in 1998. I don’t know what name he travelled on,” Mr. Taylor responded.

Mr. Taylor agreed that when Mr. Bockarie was given a Liberian passport in 1998, he was not a Liberian citizen. He said the RUF commander and his followers were given Liberian citizenship only when they left Sierra Leone for Liberia in December 1999.

Ms. Hollis also pointed out that in Mr. Taylor’s direct-examination, he had said that the UN Panel of Experts had not asked him about diamonds from Sierra Leone during their interview with him in Liberia. Ms. Hollis read portions of notes prepared by a member of the Panel of Experts, Ian Smillie, on his October 6, 2000 meeting with Mr. Taylor. The notes indicate that the UN Panel of Experts asked Mr. Taylor about comments made by the then United States Under-Secretary of State, Thomas Pickering, to Mr. Taylor that he had evidence of Mr. Taylor’s dealings in diamond with RUF rebels. Mr. Taylor insisted that those notes were prepared by Mr. Smillie and could well not reflect what was discussed in the meeting.

Mr. Taylor’s association with RUF commander Mr. Bockarie has occupied a huge portion of the case against him. Witnesses have testified that Mr. Bockarie used to take orders from Mr. Taylor and that when the RUF commander left Sierra Leone in 1999 and relocated to Liberia, the former Liberian president sent him to launch attacks in Ivory Coast, with an aim of destabilizing that country. These allegations add to charges against Mr. Taylor that he was involved in a joint criminal enterprise with RUF rebels in Sierra Leone. It is alleged that while the RUF rebels took orders from him, he also received diamonds from the rebels in return for supplies of arms and ammunition. The prosecution argues that Mr. Taylor bears responsibility for crimes such as rape, murder, terrorizing the civilian population and recruitment of child soldiers by the RUF in Sierra Leone.

To buttress these claims against the former president, the prosecution has been pointing out atrocities allegedly committed by Mr. Taylor’s rebel forces in Liberia as a means of showing a consistent pattern with those committed by the RUF in Sierra Leone. Mr. Taylor has denied these claims.

In cross-examination today, Ms. Hollis pointed out to Mr. Taylor that “forces under your control such as the ATU committed crimes against civilians.”

“Crimes committed by your faction were definitely systematic,” Ms. Hollis told Mr. Taylor.

“No. Not to my knowledge. It is possible that individuals in those units did commit crimes. In some parts of the country, I’ll say that was possible,” Mr. Taylor said.

Mr. Taylor, however, denied prosecution claims that his forces burned entire villages and killed civilians.

“In fact the best kept places in the country were those under NPFL [National Patriotic Front of Liberia] control. Winning 70 percent in an election does not seem like reigning terror on people. You lost on that Ms. Hollis, you are wrong,” Mr. Taylor asserted.

Mr. Taylor’s cross-examination continues on Monday.



## Radio Netherlands Worldwide

Wednesday, 18 November 2009

### ICC body hails US presence at meeting as policy change

By International Justice Desk



The International Criminal Court's (ICC) management body welcomed on Wednesday the United States' first-ever attendance of one of its meetings as a sign of changing policy.

The US decision to send an

observer team to the eighth session of the Assembly of States Parties "is a very important gesture on the part of the US administration," assembly president Christian Wenaweser told journalists in The Hague.

The US is not a signatory of the Rome Statute which set up the court, fiercely opposed by former president George W. Bush who feared it could target Americans out of political bias considering US dominance around the world.

"It is the most concrete expression that we have seen so far that the policies in place under the past administration are changing," said Wenaweser.

"Symbolically, politically, the presence of the US delegation is of a very, very high importance."

#### **Assembly of State Parties (ASP)**

The ASP is the management, oversight and legislative body of the ICC. It is made up of representatives of member parties, and approves the court's annual budget -- expected to be around 102 million euros (about 150 million dollars) for 2010.

Its annual meeting started in The Hague on Wednesday, and ends on 26 November.

Wenaweser said he expected the US also to attend an ICC review conference, to be held in Kampala, Uganda, in May next year, though he did not have official confirmation.

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said in August it was a "great regret" that her country had not yet signed up to the ICC.

President Barack Obama's administration has previously said that it is reviewing the US position on the court.

A total of 110 countries are parties to the ICC, the world's only independent, permanent tribunal for adjudicating genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The ICC started operating in The Hague in July 2002.