

**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:**

Tuesday, 21 April 2009

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

Tuesday 21 April 2009

# Cocaine trial: 15 convicted



*The Cocaine plane being pushed to the hangar by security officers*

## Cocaine trial: 15 convicted

*By Kelvin Lewis*

In a marathon judgement which saw lawyers, court clerks, journalists, relatives and security officers catching a nap in court, Justice Nicolas Browne Marke Monday evening convicted 15 people including 7 foreign nationals of conspiracy to import cocaine into Sierra Leone.

This follows an unauthorized landing of a Cessna 441 conquest aircraft on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2008 at the Lungi International airport. The aircraft was found to contain nearly 700 kilograms of white substance believed to be cocaine.

The convictions come after nearly four months of trial which is an exemplary feat for the judiciary in Sierra Leone. The convicted foreigners include 6 South Americans (Colombians, Venezuelans, Mexican and American) and 2 West Africans, a Cuban-Togolose and Guinea Bissau national.

The Sierra Leonean nationals include 2 police officers, a national security officer, 2 air traffic controllers and the former national team manager.

In the nearly four hour long reading of the judgement, Justice Browne Marke painstakingly went through the statements made by the accused persons, the witnesses, and the handling of the exhibits.

He stated that according to the second accused whom he said made a clean breast of the whole event, the plane made two stops before landing in Sierra Leone.

These stops were in Venezuela and Colombia, and it was on the Colombian frontier with Venezuela that the cocaine was loaded in the plane.

He narrated the incidents at the airport which led to the landing of the plane the flight of the pilots until they were

caught and documents found in a house which also included a map of the international airport.

At the end justice Browne Marke convicted the 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> accused on count 1 and 4 which deals with accessory after the fact to the importation of cocaine and possession of cocaine respectively while finding the 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> accused not guilty.

With count 6 which deals with knowing and willfully displaying a false mark on an aircraft, the 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>

accused were found guilty.

On count 5 which was conspiracy to import a prohibited drug without lawful authority all the accused persons were found guilty.

The accused and their lawyers then pleaded for mercy. The 8<sup>th</sup> (Harvey Steven Perez) and 9<sup>th</sup> accused (Gerardo Quistana Perez) cried in court as they pleaded for mercy.

Sentencing was postponed for today Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2009



# 'Child Rights Act empower Parents to control their children

- *NaCWAC scribe*

*BY ALHAJI SAIDU KAMARA*

The Acting Executive Secretary of the National Commission for War Affected Children (NaCWAC) Alhaji M. S. Kanneh has said in Freetown that section 36 of the Child Rights Act (2007) makes provision for "parental rights". Alhaji Kanneh made the point clear, for as it has been observed that the general public is seemingly jittery about what appears to be an over emphasis on the rights of children.

He said to allay any concerns that may be lingering on the minds of parents and others, the Commission wishes to draw the atten-

tion of the public to section 36 of the Child Rights (2007) which deals with "Parental Rights".

He said that the Act gives parents the right to control and guide their children's upbringing and to have access to acceptable parenting programmes.

He said parents also have the right to maintain personal relations with any of their children who are not living with them and to act as their children's legal representative regarding property and other interests.

Alhaji Kanneh said that a parent bearing disproportionate burden in the care of his child due to the neglect of parental duties by a co-parent has the right to apply for financial or other relief.

He said apart from the parental rights, the Act spells out the responsibilities of everyone including children. The Acting Executive Secretary of NaCWAC said that these include the responsibility of children to refrain from violating other people's right, to obey laws and regulations as well as to respect their parents and other elders.

He pointed out that the Act is fundamentally a domesticated version of the United Nation's Convention on the Rights of the Child and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child.

The Act lays emphasis on the rights of children in Sierra Leone and what actions should be taken by parents, guardians, other adults, and Government to protect children and enhance their wellbeing in preparation for adolescence and adulthood.

## Standard Times

Monday, 20 April 2009

### IN THE COURTROOM

#### **3 Freed, 15 May Go to Jail....As Sierra Leone Braces For Cocaine Case Verdict**

If Justice Nicholas Browne Marke goes strictly according to the Anti Drug Act, all those that would be found guilty under the act will be sentenced to life imprisonment. The Act makes provision for both fine and jail term. It would be the discretion of the presiding judge to decide what penalty each of the accused would carry. Already, three out of the eighteen accused persons charged to court have been acquitted and discharged. They are Ebenezer Adetunji Macauley, Badara Allieu Tarawalley and Martha Pinieres. Both Ebenezer Adetunji Macauley and Badara Aliou Tarawalley are employees of the Sierra Leone Airport Authority.

They were charged with offences relating to the unlawful landing of a Cessna plane, the flight the brought into the country the 700 Kilogram of Cocaine substance. They were acquitted and discharged on the grounds that they were acting on instructions from their superiors. In addition, there were insufficient evidence to keep them on trial and conviction. Martha Pinieres is a school teacher in Colombia who came to visit her husband in Sierra Leone, a foreigner working for a so-called investor in the country. She too was acquitted and discharged. All three persons regain their total freedom last month, when the trial judge discovered that there is no pieces evidence adduced against them.

Today 20th Monday, 2009 the High Court presided over by Justice Nicholas Browne Marke will officially close the cocaine case when Judgement would be delivered against fifteen accused persons, who according to the court have a case to answer regarding the matter they were being tried for. These people include George Aritstizabel Archilla, Victor Manuel Araujo Lastreto(jnr),Julio Cesar Morales-Cruz, Mohammed Bashil Sesay(a.ka. Ahmed Sesay), Hassan Karim Mansaray, Patrick Moriba Johnson, Cherenor Momodu Bah, Harvey Steven Perez, Gerardo Quistana Perez, Yeimy Fernandez Leandro, Alex Romeo, Ibrahim Mohammed Manley, Alimamy Kabia, Sadjo Sarr and Mohammed Musa Kamara.

Meanwhile, a Notice of Judgement has been sent out by the Court to the Attorney General and Minister of Justice, the office of the Acting Director of Public Prosecution, Mr. O.V.Robbin-Mason, the Master and Registrar of the High Court in Freetown, and Defence Lawyers representing the accused persons. Lawyer C.F.Edwards Esq is representing 1st, 13th and 14th accused (Badara Aliou Tarawalley 13th and Ebenezer Adetunji Macauley 14th accused persons) have already been acquitted and discharged.

Lawyer James Forna Sesay Esq is representing 2nd and 11th accused persons; Lawyer S.Jamiru Esq is for the 3rd accused, while RSV Wright Esq is for the 4th accused. Lawyer S.K.Koroma is representing 5th,7th and 10th accused. He also represented Martha Pinieres who was acquitted and discharged last month. Lawyer A.E.Manley-Spain Esq with him, G,Thorie Esq are representing the 6th accused person. Lawyer M.S.Turay, alias Spancho is representing the 8th, 9th, 15th, and 16th accused persons. D.B.Quee Esq is for the 7th accused and Lawyers E.Ngakui and M.A.Beloku Sesay for the 12th and 18th accused persons.

The Notice of Judgement was also sent to the keeper of the prison, Central Prison, Pademba Road, Freetown and the Inspector General of Police. The notice reads "Take Notice that Judgement in the above –mentioned matter will be delivered on Monday 20th Aril, 2009 at 10 am, in High Court No 1, Law Court Building Siaka Stevens Street Freetown



# TAYLOR TO ASSEMBLE 200 WITNESSES

**Gives Defense 80,000-Page Evidence**

Stephen Rapp, the Chief Prosecutor for the Special Court for Sierra Leone, now sitting in The Hague, rapped and caajoled the world and perhaps the gullible western press to indict and convict Charles Ghankay Taylor long before his indictment for war crimes and crimes against humanity could be read to him in open court. He promised that come what may, Taylor was already a 'convict' and his argument appeared to have stemmed from the number of mandrill witnesses who obfuscated the trial and entertained the Special Court with some of the most cacophony of innuendos and blatant lies that seemed to have inflamed the consciences of people of the civilized world long before the trial began. Throughout the presentation of his evidence, Charles Ghankay Taylor sat there and quietly looked at his antics; his scramble for the truth and his attempt to prove each of the count in his 35,000-page documentary evidence but in vain. But now the moment of reckoning is at hand and Taylor is about to line up 200 witnesses after giving his defense team 12 cartons of documentary evidence, totaling 80,000 pages, what would be left of Stephen Rapp's conviction blab to the oratory of a man that is widely revered even amongst his foes as an excellent campaign and presenter of issues? Baba Tunde Olateji reports. *Continue on Page 6*



The head of the defense team for former Liberian leader, Charles Taylor now standing trial in The Hague for war crimes and crimes against humanity says he is absolutely overwhelmed by the scale of incontrovertible evidence assembled by his client and the quality and character of witnesses expected to be introduced at the trial following the completion of his full testimony.

The former Liberian leader is expected to speak in his own defense, traversing all of the allegations made by the prosecution for sixteen hours each day and the testimony will take two consecutive months beginning with the formation, training and abortive invasion of the Patriotic Forces (PF) of the late General Thomas Quinwonkpa of November 12, 1985, to the organization, scouting of resources, recruitments, training and the launching of the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) on December 24, 1989.

A former NPFL insider says Taylor's testimony will be in three phases, with the first covering the period of November 12, 1985 to December 10, 1989 when he was just an executive member of rebellious forces to the Samuel Kanyon Doe regime.

During that period the source added, Taylor was first in jail in Boston Massachusetts, USA, and then allegedly broke jail and transported to Africa upon the instructions of the head of the rebellious forces; settled in Ghana and again transported to Libya where he was introduced to President Muammar Kaddafi.

In phase one, the source added, Taylor will identify the recruitment site, the financiers of the war and will give the name and position of the personality who purchased or negotiated the first ship loads of arms France found in boxes in a ship under charter by Firestone Plantations Company that led to the destabilization of Liberia.

In phase two, beginning with 1989, the source continued, Taylor will identify the command structure of the NPFL and will substantially and specifically discuss how decisions were derived and who had the authority and power to issue orders when, where and why.

He will discuss the war strategy and how many trips were made to NPFL controlled areas by its financiers including the famous trip of Sunday, April

4, 1990 in Tappita at the Catholic Compound during which two female executive members of the NPFL, Marie Washington and another famous female politician, were commissioned Brigadier and Major Generals respectively.

Further in phase two, Taylor will talk about his ascendancy as battlefield commander of NPFL leader and circumstances surrounding the division within the front that led to the deaths of prominent citizens.

At that stage, he might likely name the commander-in-chief at the time and what types of instructions were issued and for what purpose they were executed.

In phase three, he is expected to talk about the wave of instability in the sub-region as well as other parts of Africa and the multiplicity of anti Taylor forces beginning with the formation of the Movement for the Redemption of Muslim (MRM) of Alhaji Kromah, and the United Liberian Movement for Democracy in Liberia (ULIMO), later ULIMO-J and ULIMO-K and thereafter the Liberia Peace Council (LPC) with a horde of other splinter groups such as the Lofa Defense Force, Nimba Redemption Council and Central Revolutionary Council (CRC).

He might also discuss Sierra Leone as a Frankenstein story beginning with the nursing of MRM, ULIMO and later LURD.

The insider further told this paper that Taylor's evidence is solid that it beats the prosecution's 35,000-page documentary evidence in a ratio of 2 to 1, and judging by the materiality of the evidence and quality of witnesses, it is most likely that the defense team will not even exhaust half of its evidence to prove the innocence of its client.

The 80,000-page documentary evidence is in two phases, and phase one will directly counteract or demobilize the 35,000-page documentary evidence produced by the prosecution while the rest will address instructions and orders given him by regional, continental and world leaders to play a constructive role in the Sierra Leonean crisis covering the period 1997 to 2002.

At this stage, past and present sub regional leaders might be subpoenaed if the need arises by the Special Court to certify and affirm some of the pieces of documentary to be introduced at the trial by the defense team.

An investigation by this

paper revealed that Taylor has categorized his witnesses into two groups, and that is one group representing a total of 105 witnesses will directly testify as eye witnesses and will demonstrably back and confirm documentary evidence to be introduced.

The investigation quoting senior former NPFL sources say the second group will comprise 95 witnesses and will be required to give corroborative and assenting testimonies to what will already be testified to, identified confirmed and reconfirmed by the first group of 105 witnesses backed by the 80,000-page documentary evidence covering the periods, 1985 to 1988, 199 to 1996, and 1997 to 2003.

The Special court might subpoenaed or require depositions from a number of African and western heads of governments to confirm or deny some of the documentary evidence in the possession of the defense team.

Addressing a news conference recently in Monrovia, the head of the defense team Courtenay Griffiths said Taylor is in high spirit and will speak from his heart to tell the court nothing but the whole truth.

He said the Liberian leader was in good health and has been preparing for this long awaited moment to speak.



# After 91 Witnesses:

## NO EVIDENCE AGAINST TAYLOR



By: Rolanda Arthur-Gibson (Mrs.)

"If the judges will be fair enough and divest themselves of any mindset or any persuasion from any quarter, ignore the negative media campaign from the west and look at the substance of the case and the evidence produced by the prosecution, I'll not be surprised to hear that Charles Taylor is a free man out of the dark prison of The Hague because the prosecution woefully failed to produce any evi-

dence to link him to war crimes and crimes against humanity", these were the words of the lead counsel of the defense team representing the former Liberian leader Charles Ghankay Taylor, now standing trial in The Hague for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

"The case against your former President is political and not criminal and therefore there likely indi-

*Continue on Page 6*



cators that they might try to politically convict him based on what they think and not on what the prosecution has horribly presented at the trial", he added.

Addressing a press conference recently at the Crystal View Hotel in Monrovia the Queen's lawyer although he has implicit confidence in the integrity of the court and its judges, he however believed that the case has deeply politicized by the western media to the extent that the judges could be driven towards the mindset of a conviction contrary to the weight of evidence adduced at the trial.

He said after producing 91 witnesses at the trial and presenting its side of the case to argument, the prosecution miserably failed to establish any direct links or how his client directed or supervised the activities of the RUF which allegedly committed war crimes and crimes against humanity in the Sierra Leonean civil war.

Griffiths said the defense team is very confident that when the trial commences, the defense team will move the court to take judicial notice of two separate and distinct rulings by other judges of the Special Court in which it was established that the RUF had no links or part to play in the invasion of Freetown in 1998.

He said one of the key elements of the prosecution's indictment is that President Taylor instigated, planned and directed the invasion of Freetown in 1998 by the RUF, something which he said has disputed by two separate rulings of the same court.

Though he spoke of a number of legal remedies available to the defense team including the filing of a motion for judgment of acquittal but noted that it was frustrating to note that the witnesses produced by the prosecution contradicted each so much that it was completely useless for them to have taken the witness stand in the first place.

He said some of the witnesses made statements that had no relevant or probative value to the case against President Taylor.

Griffiths said one of the shameful contradictions came from Taylor's former Vice President Moses Blah, who told the Special Court that Sam Bockarie was strangled to death but that

a post mortem analysis conducted at the behest of the prosecution itself shows that Bockarie died from bullet wounds.

"Your former Vice President Moses Blah was their high-profiled witness who claimed that he was an insider but look at what he told the court; it is nothing but a big lie", Griffiths added.

He said even though he is not indifferent to the sufferings of the people of Sierra Leone who suffered the consequences of the civil war but was absolutely unconvinced about what has been said against President Taylor because all of the witnesses produced failed to prove or link his client to the crimes charged.

"I did not say, people were not hurt, amputated or raped but those acts were not committed by my client or at his instructions and all of the witnesses produced did not link him to the atrocities committed during the war", he strongly argued.

## Frost Illustrated

Wednesday, 20 April 2009

<http://www.frostillustrated.com/full.php?sid=5484>

### **Accused ex-president Taylor could take stand**

Ex-Liberian President Charles Taylor might soon be taking the stand in his own defense. If so, he will face sharp questioning over charges that he took part in horrific war crimes including murder, rape, enslavement and conscription of child soldiers in neighboring Sierra Leone.

For now, attorneys for former president Taylor are pressing the U.N. tribunal to acquit their client on all 11 counts of what prosecutors called a joint criminal enterprise to control Sierra Leone 's diamond wealth and topple the government in Freetown.

Taylor's lawyers concede that he supplied arms and ammunition to Sierra Leonean rebels of the Revolutionary United Front in what became one of the most brutal civil wars in modern history. By the time the conflict ended in 2001, some 120,000 people had been killed and tens of thousands more had had their arms, legs, noses or ears cut off.

But, evidence needed to convict Taylor is lacking, defense lawyer Morris Anyah insists.

The prosecution rested its case in February after hearing from 91 witnesses in just over a year. The "Motion for Judgment of Acquittal" is now before the judges who are expected to rule on the matter in a few days. Should the motion be rejected, lawyers for Taylor say they will call him to the stand.

The three most senior surviving members of the RUF group have already been found guilty of murder, sexual enslavement, and attacks against U.N. troops.



# The Liberian Times

Friday, 17 April 2009

## **Liberia: Compensate the destroyers; an examples of lasting conflict in Liberia; deterrence versus anti-deterrence**

by Michael Kpayili / Staff Writer

President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf recent reward and subsequent distribution of Five thousands and Seven thousand five hundred United States dollars to former rebel generals deserves an uphill questions judging from the actions of the recipients of said tax payers money. I say tax payers because the money paid to the so-called ex-rebel generals will be reflected in the annual budgetary reports.

The process of reconciliation is one of the greatest tasks Liberians should be looking at in all its entirety and ignoring the greatest aspects of reconciliation will definitely signal a black print if possible risk the development of the present generation and the generations yet unborn. Not ignoring the fact that Liberians just ended their civil conflict and the pains and suffering such conflict have had on many lives and families remains lasting history and rewarding those who inflicted such pains before the nicked eyes of the victims reminds me of a President with dead conscience.



It is no guess that major perpetrators in the Liberian civil conflict were these so-called ex-rebel generals who were just rewarded by the President of Liberia. The rewards according to information gathered is intended to compensate the rebel generals for creating sufficient awareness in demobilizing and disarming their respective fighting forces. In contrast to such assertion from the government propaganda machinery, the United Nations Development Program with supports from other international organizations overwhelmingly supported the DDDR, an institution established to spearhead the disarmament process in Liberia, and dishing out money under the guise of rewarding the former rebel generals warrant another sign that befits anti-deterrence.

The danger of the civil conflict in Liberia resulted to the deaths of over three hundred thousand Liberians and other nationals mainly of the civilian population. Almost all of these so-called rebel generals inflicted pains and lasting suffering on Liberians who are now classified as victims of the war. The glooming pictures of these victims are in a deplorable condition till visitors coming to Liberia will want to question the available programs created to seek their protection or interest.

President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf in her sober mind would not want to pay people who kill their fellow human in thousands, ate human beings, rape women, drank human blood as water, destroyed our infrastructure and left Liberia in disgrace, her desire to succumb to such pressure is surrounding fear that other people who benefited immensely from the loots of the civil war would use these so-called rebel generals to forcibly unseat her. Another understanding to the President donation to the ex-rebel generals was meant to satisfied or in fact reward the fighters for ably discharging their military duties since President Sirleaf was considered Commander-in-Chief in the past and present.

The Disarmament, Demobilization, Rehabilitation and Reintegration (DDRR) settles all those employed to effect the disarmament process and opening another payroll for these so-called rebel generals at the disadvantage of the suffering population rings further bell that people can commit the worst crime and be rewarded by a sitting President.

My ROTC course I did tells me that where there exist Generals in any military establishment; under men such as junior Officers will definitely exist. In as much as President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf was able to give such huge money to former rebel generals, additional funds should be set aside for

Colonels, Majors, captains and so on.

If we retrospect on the activities of the former AFL as it relates to the payment of their demobilization benefits, chaos and conflicts which by extension led to the constant blocking of roads were observed.

Dishing out sufficient money to ex-rebel generals may not be the solution to the problem in our dear country now. In response to the President's donation to the ex-generals, former battlefield commander and head of the elite notorious fighting group, Roland Duoe clearly informed the Liberian Leader that jobs were the major problems in the country. In essence, once the people are empowered, the silence fears ringing in the ears of the President will be quieted and people will be busy trying to develop their lives rather than engaging in negative things.

The government of Liberia has refused to explain in detail the essence and by extension the actualities surrounding the President's donation. What if the remaining former rebel generals took onto the streets in protest of partiality against their existence as ex-rebel generals? As a Liberian who had the opportunity to live and survive under the rebel territory of the defunct National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL), one could figure the total numbers of rebel generals by physical counts on their exhibition of powers to be close to Five hundred. I do not want to believe that Charles Taylor, the head of the NPFL had the list of those enlisted in the NPFL. Besides the NPFL, other rebel fictions existed in the fifteen years of civil conflicts in Liberia. ULIMO J, ULIMO K, LPC, LURD, AFL, LDF, and so on had additional rebel generals. Is there any plan by the Liberian government to compensate the remaining generals once protest erupts?

Besides the monetary values that were attached to the DDDR programs organized by the international community and the interim Government of Liberia, other additional benefits were involved. Some rebel generals and rebel fighters who felt denied of careers took advantage of it and upgraded their skills. Others for the love of money sold their DDDR tickets to non-combatants who felt satisfied with the programs and empower themselves through vocational skills and college education.

How prepare is the Liberian government militarily to resist severe protest if the money donated to the ex-rebel generals runs out? Yes, the prospect of severe protest is eminent because it happened in the past. Once funds given to the ex-combatants runs out, other unnecessary plan could developed and result of street demonstration and pressure will be mounted on the government again for additional funds/money.

We (Liberians) are under immense pressure to transform ex-combatants especially those that were forcibly recruited into the fighting forces but singling out special group of people with the name and style 'former rebel generals" and rewarding them further buttress their actions committed against the people of Liberia.

Already, former rebel generals who testified before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission have denied ever committing atrocities against anyone in Liberia. Majority of them have justified their actions and expressed willingness in doing it again if the need be. One of the most famous Commanders who committed high level of cannibalism in the Country, Zig Zag Massah during his testimony at the TRC admitted eating human beings along with Charles Taylor and all ex-generals of the defunct NPFL just rewarded by the Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf but denied ever committing crime against anyone. What a irony and a flagrant wicked utterance.

Another ex-rebel general of the defunct NPFL and now Representative of Margibi County, Saah Gbolie during his testimony at the TRC denied ever killing or shooting anyone during the Liberian civil conflict. Days after his testimony, another senior Commander of the same fiction, Daniel K. Bracewell Confirmed that Saah Gbolie shot and killed someone during the Liberian civil conflict. Listening to these wicked acts committed by those so-called rebel generals and rewarding them invokes more questions than answers. Sarcastically, it was better to reward them with Liberia's highest honor since their actions were signs and symbols of national pride.





*former rebel general in action*



*victims of general's action*



*victims in cool blood*

**About the Author:**

Michael Kpayili is a staff writer for [TheLiberianTimes.com](http://TheLiberianTimes.com). Kpayili has written articles which have appeared on [TheLiberianTimes.com](http://TheLiberianTimes.com) since late 2005, and his hard hitting investigative journalism has earned the respect of the Liberian press community.

## UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries 20 April 2009

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

### **Newspaper Summary**

#### **Liberia's Vice President Praises Pakistani Peacekeepers**

(The Informer)

- [sic:] Vice President Joseph N. Boakai has held talks with visiting Pakistani Chief of General Staff, Lieutenant General Muhammad Mustafa Khan, commending the roles of Pakistani peacekeepers in Liberian and wooing investments from that Asian country. Speaking Thursday at his Capitol Building office when the general paid a courtesy call on him, Vice President Boakai expressed gratitude to Pakistan for helping Liberia to be where it is today. "Your presence here has led to stability," he said, noting that Pakistani troops are not only rendering military duties, but are providing humanitarian services to communities in which they are deployed. "In addition to peace keeping, Pakistani troops are working with rural communities to build roads and educational facilities, provide medical services and build the capacities of rural dwellers," Vice President Boakai added. He said the Pakistani UNMIL Contingent is "very courteous and gets along well with the people". He noted that because of the services Pakistani troops render communities in which they find themselves, the perception of Liberians about the military as a brutal force engaged only in negative activities, has changed.

#### **Anti-Corruption Commission Code under Review**

(Daily Observer, The Inquirer)

- In an effort to collaborate on the fight against corruption, the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) and the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) on Friday, April 17, 2009, held a meeting to review the internal policy instruments of the Commission, and to receive civil society's inputs into the instruments.
- The meeting reviewed the Commission's Internal Code of Conduct, Statement of Understanding and Confidentiality, By-Laws, Standard Operational Procedures, Employees' Contract and Citation for summoning individuals and institutions accused of corrupt acts. The documents will be validated at a two-day workshop scheduled for April 29-30, 2009 and will bring together civil society organizations and other stakeholders.

#### **Small Arms Control Campaign Reaches Western Liberia**

(The Informer)

- The Liberia Action Network on Small Arms (LANSA), an organization fighting against the proliferation of small arms in the country has launched another campaign in Tubmanburg, Bomi County.
- According to the organizers, LANSA's campaign on small arms control is geared toward creating awareness on the danger of small arms and its proliferation in the country.
- Catholic prelate and chairperson of the organization, Rev. Fr. Anthony Borwah addressing a cross-section of Bomi citizens at the St. Dominic School Campus recently said that small arms are dangerous to the society. He cautioned the youth who he said were forced to fight during the civil crisis, to see the importance of the campaign because as puts it the proliferation of arms in the society is dangerous.



## Radio Summary

### **Star Radio** *(News monitored today at 9:00 am)*

#### **Several Escapees Re-arrested in Zwedru's Jail Break**

- Reports say police have re-arrested at least 29 of the 40 prisoners who escaped the National Correction Palace in Zwedru.
- According to the Police, the men who are mainly hardened criminals were arrested over the weekend.
- The Police said a big security presence is currently in Grand Gedeh pursuing the other escapees.
- News about the big jail break in Grand Gedeh broke early Friday morning.
- The news was disturbing because government had earlier sent nearly two dozen notorious armed robbers to the Zwedru facility for detention.
- Most of them were arrested in Monrovia and transferred to the Zwedru facility.

*(Also reported on Truth FM, Sky FM, and ELBC)*

#### **President Sirleaf meets US Secretary of State Clinton on Tuesday**

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf is expected to meet US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on Tuesday.
- According to the Executive Mansion, the meeting is at the invitation of the US Secretary of State and will discuss development issues.
- Presidential Press Secretary Cyrus Wleh Badio said the President will detail progress in Liberia, and thanked the US for its support.
- President Sirleaf is also expected to speak of UNMIL's draw down plan and the expected aftermath.
- Mr. Badio disclosed the President will also meet with other US government officials before returning home.
- The President has been in the US for over two weeks launching her book and doing her medicals.

*(Also reported on Truth FM, Sky FM, and ELBC)*

#### **South-easterners Mandate Lawmakers to Vote for Passage of Threshold Bill**

- Citizens of South-eastern Liberia have instructed their Lawmakers to vote for the passage of the threshold bill with immediate effect.
- They also mandated their lawmakers to push for the passage of the act to amend certain portions of the 1986 constitution initiated by National Election Commission.
- According to the citizens, the delay in the passage of the bill is dangerous to the peace process.
- Their decision came at the end of civic and voter education meeting in Fish town, River Gee County conducted by NEC.
- Meanwhile, the National Elections Commission has warned, time is running out for the setting up of benchmarks for the successful conduct of the 2011 elections.
- NEC Chairman James Fromoyan said the necessary legal framework has not been put in place for the elections.
- Mr. Fromoyan named the proposed population threshold, referendum and boundary harmonization bills at the Legislature.
- The NEC Boss believes the continual delay for the passage of the proposed bills has the ability to endanger the 2011 elections.
- According to Mr. Fromoyan, the proposed bills are pre-requisites to the electoral process.
- The Elections Commission Chairman called on the Legislature to perform its constitutional mandate or risk court action.

*(Also reported on Truth FM, Sky FM, and ELBC)*

### **Redundant Workers Demonstrate in Buchanan as Financial Crisis hits ArcelorMittal**

- [sic:] Report from Grand Bassa County says several workers redundant by Acelor Mittal over the weekend staged a peaceful demonstration in Buchanan. The workers' demonstration was in demand of twenty-five months benefits the company allegedly owes them. The workers are also demanding twenty-five years pay off salaries from Acelor Mittal since it breached their employment contract. The redundant workers have called on government to intervene in order to address their plight. Authorities of the county appealed to the workers to remain calm, assuring everything is being done to address their plight. Mittal Steel downsized its workforce citing constraints resulting from the global financial crisis.

### **"Great Progress in Financial Management Sector" –IMF outgoing Rep**

- The outgoing Country Representative of the International Monetary Fund says Liberia has made great progress in its financial management sector.
- Mr. Micheal Thurkur spoke of improvement in the country's banking sector citing the vigorous enforcement of the laws by the Central Bank.
- Mr. Thurkur also spoke of government's adherence to its cash based budget policy.
- According to the IMF Official, the Liberian government has been disciplined and diligent in implementing its commitment to a cash-based budget.
- Mr. Thurkur who spoke at a farewell dinner hosted in his honour said the government was making steady improvement in its public financial management system.
- Deputy Finance Minister for Administration Tarnue Mawolo commended the outgoing IMF Official for the role he played in the country's reform program.
- Mr. Mawolo recounted the role of the outgoing IMF Mission Chief in helping Liberia draft and implement most of its financial management programs.
- The Deputy Finance Minister also thanked Mr. Thurkur for all his efforts in helping Liberia reach closer to getting final debt relief.

*(Also reported on Truth FM, Sky FM, and ELBC)*

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## Brookings

Tuesday, 21 April 2009

<http://www.brookings.edu>

### **When to Indict? International Criminal Indictments, Peace Processes, & Humanitarian Action**

Prosecutor Luis Moreno Ocampo's July 2008 request to the International Criminal Court (ICC) to issue an arrest warrant for President al Bashir of Sudan on charges of crimes against humanity, war crimes and genocide sparked a firestorm of praise, criticism, anxiety, and relief in equal measure among peacekeepers, aid workers, diplomats, and human rights activists. Opponents of the Prosecutor's move argued that it amounted to a call for regime-change and would imperil any future peace negotiations and the still-incomplete deployment of peacekeepers. At the same time, human rights organizations hailed Ocampo's courage and lauded the request as a bold and long-overdue step towards challenging impunity for state-sponsored violence against civilians. And between these two camps, thousands of aid workers on the ground in Darfur worried about further access restrictions and harassment by government authorities.

The potential reach of the ICC poses new dilemmas for humanitarian actors operating in tense politicized conflicts, where aid workers are often on the frontlines. For example in Darfur, the government's tight control over access to its territory has put aid workers in the uncomfortable position of serving as primary eyewitnesses to alleged atrocities and, subsequently, the primary targets of government suspicion. Aid agencies have been forced to walk a careful line between adherence to humanitarian principles and supporting abstract notions of accountability and justice without explicitly collaborating with the UN-mandated war-crimes investigators. Given President Bashir's demonstrated sensitivity to international humiliation, the consequences of an ICC indictment are potentially devastating to the aid agencies and the 2.5 million IDPs they regularly assist.

The Bashir indictment is the latest—and most controversial—chapter in Ocampo's effort to establish the court as a legitimate actor and a credible deterrent force. Only a successful track record of interventions and subsequent prosecutions would bolster support for the court among signatories and prove its value to wavering countries, most notably the United States, which withdrew from the Rome Statute in 2002. Since 2002, the Prosecutor has issued criminal indictments in Northern Uganda, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the Central African Republic, and Sudan, carefully navigating turbulent national and international political waters. In each case, the timing of the indictments has elicited much comment and controversy, particularly regarding their potential impact on delicate peace agreements or ongoing negotiations. At issue is a fundamental debate over whether peace and justice can be pursued simultaneously. Proponents of the Court insist that justice can and should prevail, citing as examples the arrests and prosecutions of President Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia by the International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia (ICTY) and former Liberian President Charles Taylor by the Special Court for Sierra Leone. However, a closer examination of the complexities of these two examples shows that the interests of peace superseded justice, at least in the short term. Furthermore, the cases suggest that certain pre-conditions – strong, unified international pressure and the ability to impose real costs for non-compliance – are necessary for indictments to have an impact on peace negotiations.

Prompted by the international reaction—both in favor of and opposed to—the indictment of Bashir and its potential effects on the conflict in Darfur, this study examines what impact, if any, the timing of international criminal indictments has on fostering peace and improving humanitarian conditions on the ground. An analysis of the court's trajectory, from its first indictments in Northern Uganda to the controversial indictment of the Sudanese President, highlights the delicate challenges of pursuing justice in the midst of international efforts to resolve some of the world's most complex and deadliest conflicts. Although the Taylor indictment does not fall under the jurisdiction of the ICC, it is included in this study because it often serves as a reference point for those arguing in favor of the court as an instrument to promote durable peace. After an examination of the Taylor indictment, the cases of northern Uganda, the DRC and Sudan are then looked at in chronological order, with a specific focus on the timing of the Prosecutor's indictments and the evolution of the court's strategy as a result of lessons learned.



## Humanitarian Blues

Monday, 20 April 2009

<http://mrzine.monthlyreview.org/mccormack200409.html>

### **The Thin Blue Line: How Humanitarianism Went to War, Verso, 2008.**

Conor Foley,

All is not well within the world of humanitarian aid organisations. In his new book, *The Thin Blue Line*, Conor Foley, an experienced aid worker, discusses many of the problems associated with the burgeoning relationship between contemporary aid organisations and recent military and 'peacekeeping' interventions which have been conducted ostensibly for the purposes of ensuring human rights. Foley's book should be required reading for all those supporters of so-called humanitarian interventions, as he has many insightful critiques and anecdotes, both drawing upon his own wide experience but also upon other critical accounts. At the heart of this often insightful book, however, lies a contradiction that Foley cannot overcome: on the one hand Foley wants to make a case for (limited and 'neutral') humanitarian aid, yet on the other hand, the events discussed within the book, and the problems associated with them, seem to point to the opposite conclusions to those he would like to reach.

Foley does not shy away from discussing the problematic effects of contemporary humanitarian interventions, discussing recent interventions in Kosovo, Iraq and Afghanistan. In the case of the Kosovo intervention Foley argues against the orthodoxy that in Kosovo the Albanian population were being subjected to a campaign of 'genocide'; rather, as Foley points out, in Kosovo there was a political problem about territory and sovereignty (p90). The NATO intervention simply turned a counter-insurgency campaign that the Serbian government was waging against the paramilitary organisation the KLA into a full scale disaster. He does not spare his fellow aid workers either, arguing that UNMIK was, in short, a disaster with little overall planning or control, incapable even of ensuring that the province's electricity supply was restored (p88) whilst the staff were a mixed bag ranging from seconded civil servants to people who had simply turned up to Kosovo on speculation (p87).

Foley also discusses what can really only be described as the obscenity of bombing Afghanistan, an utterly impoverished state. This was a state already so devastated by the previous decades of superpower-sponsored war that by the second day of bombing by the world's most powerful states, US pilots were returning to their bases having failed to drop their bombs as there was simply nothing left to bomb (p95). He describes also the bizarre spectacle in East Timor under the UN 'peacekeeping force' UNTAET, in which the budget for bottled water for UN staff was about half of the total budget for the new Timorese government (p142).

As well as detailed critiques, Foley also has some interesting broader political quarrels with contemporary interventions. He points out that any kind of intervention tends to internationalise a conflict, so for example even straightforward aid can distort totally a local economy for the worse. Furthermore, as Foley argues, there is a fundamental contradiction between intervention and any notion of self-determination. Foley also draws attention to the strange spectacle of humanitarian organisations lecturing the citizens of poorer countries upon social and economic rights that not only could simply not be implemented due to the material circumstance of the state but that go far beyond what actually occurs in even the most liberal and wealthy societies. He gives as an example a UNICEF lawyer lecturing social workers in Kosovo on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (p43). Foley also argues that actually the impact of aid is often far less than we might like to think (p132-133) and that ultimately political solutions are the best ones.

So where did it all go wrong for humanitarian organisations? For Foley, traditional neutral humanitarian organisations have been co-opted into what he terms political humanitarianism, a development that has serious implications both for the organisations themselves and more importantly for those on the receiving end. Foley argues that his shift began in the 1990s, when many aid organisations were increasingly co-opted into the political agendas of powerful states, whilst organisations such as the ICRC, which mostly sought to remain apart from this trend, were increasingly vilified. For Foley this reached its apex under the post-9/11 Bush administration, which showed an utter disregard for international law. For Foley, Afghanistan was where military and humanitarian mandates became indistinguishable -- aid workers became part of the front line in a global war waged by the Bush administration and assisted by Britain.

I am not sure to what extent Foley's argument that traditional neutral humanitarian organisations have been hijacked and co-opted into other people's political agendas tells quite the whole story. From Foley's own illustrations, it

would seem that many organisations were very willing participants. First in the roll call of shame must be Oxfam, actually calling for the bombing of Serbia and resisting pressure from Belgrade staff to condemn the bombing of civilian targets (p159-160); however, let us not leave out CARE calling for military intervention in Somalia (p161).

Moreover, it is unclear why Foley singles out the Bush administration when, as he himself so well demonstrated, political humanitarianism (as he calls it) emerged in the 1990s. So, bizarrely it seems to this reviewer, Foley ends up arguing, despite his intelligent critique of interventions in the 1990s, that Blair's liberal internationalism presupposed the existence of an international rules-based system, which was then undermined by Bush (p228). Yet it is really Kosovo that marked the high point (or low point) of political humanitarianism, for example the downgrading of sovereignty; the interventions in Afghanistan and Iraq simply followed in the path already established by the liberal internationalist governments of Blair and Clinton in the 1990s. There was some kind of 'international rules based system' before that, and it was premised upon the formal presumptions of sovereign equality and non-intervention as codified in the UN Charter, precisely the presumptions that liberal internationalism has sought to erode.

Despite Foley's criticisms of what he terms political humanitarianism, he is none the less sympathetic to the frustrations and limitations of traditional 'neutral' humanitarian aid, and believes there is a case to be made for active humanitarian organisations and, in certain circumstances, a moral case for intervention (p151). So is it possible to steer between the Scylla of indifference and the Charybdis of political humanitarianism? For Foley the answer is yes, and that solution is to be found in developing international law and increasing what he calls 'humanitarian accountability' (p200).

For Foley, the International Criminal Court (p175) is a potentially positive step in the right direction, representing the potential for universal justice. At the moment, he argues, there are practical problems with the implementation of universal justice through the mechanisms of the ICC (p177), such as American refusal to ratify it, leading to accusations of double standards. Foley also argues that the ad hoc criminal tribunals established after Bosnia and Rwanda also represent positive steps in the right direction, going so far as to say that the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) represents a system of justice far superior to that of a national court. Foley also praises the ad hoc tribunal set up for Sierra Leone (SCSL), arguing that it is a positive feature of this court that it applies international rather than domestic law and that this means that the court is safeguarded from domestic pressures (p193).

In fact as John Laughland has shown in his excellent book on the ICTY, the new ad hoc criminal courts are more or less utter travesties of justice, and the kind of institutions that would have surely have made even Stalin blush. Furthermore, given Foley's identification of the anti-democratic aspects of political humanitarianism, it seems odd that he can then argue that it is actually a positive thing that a court applies international rather than domestic law and is actually insulated from the society over which it presides.

Given the many important problems that Foley has raised about other aspects of intervention, it is unclear why he believes that the ICC could genuinely be a mechanism for universal justice and, more importantly, that universal justice could exist in a divided world. Domestic law has many limitations: as Anatole France wrote, the law, in its majestic equality, forbids the rich as well as the poor to sleep under bridges, to beg in the streets, and to steal bread; formal equality masks real substantive inequality, and the parameters are set (defence of property for example). Compared to international law, however, even existing domestic legal systems are paragons of justice and fairness, as at least within certain narrow parameters we can all have recourse to some sort of system of redress or enforcement of agreements (for example). International law consists of treaties between states, there is no mechanism of enforcement, international law rests upon the political will of states. As such it is subject to all the limitations of political humanitarianism and more.

The same problem is to be found in Foley's argument for increasing humanitarian accountability. Of course aid agencies are not accountable to the people they supposedly serve (p205) and as Foley points out, various schemes involving consultation are by no means the same thing as proper accountability. The problem is that this is not a problem that can be resolved in the absence of a transformation of power relations in the world; as Foley himself argues, the problem is the political problem of power differentials (p204).

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