

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



**Justice Richard Lussick presided over today's Status Conference at The Hague.
in the case of the Prosecutor vs. Charles Ghankay Taylor.**

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:**

Friday, 21 July 2006

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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Special Court for Sierra Leone Press and Public Affairs Office

PRESS RELEASE

Freetown, Sierra Leone, 20 July 2006

Special Court Returns Bonthe Island Facility to the Sierra Leone Government



The Special Court today returned its detention facility on Bonthe Island to the Sierra Leone Prison Service.

The building, which formerly housed a minor offences prison for the Sierra Leone Prison Service, had been provided to the Special Court by the Government of Sierra Leone to house detainees and for judicial proceedings while the New England complex was under construction.

Between March and August 2003, Special Court Judges presided over nine initial appearances of accused persons in Bonthe.

In a brief ceremony on Thursday, Special Court Registrar Lovemore Munlo, SC (pictured left) handed over the keys to Moses Showers, Deputy Director of Prisons for the Republic of Sierra Leone Prison Service.

Mr Munlo thanked the Prison Service for its cooperation with the Court. “You know, certain days were rather tough and challenging,” he said. “But you came forward. We did not find you wanting. You gave us whatever assistance we wanted.”

Mr Showers noted that the Special Court had renovated the facility, “for your own purposes initially, but I just say we are the greater beneficiary of that exercise”. He noted that the Prison Service has officers serving on secondment at the Special Court.



“We want to thank you, and we want to assure you of our continued cooperation at all times for the director and all the members of staff of the prison service,” Mr Showers said. “I want to assure you that that good will, and that cooperation will continue”.

#END

The Special Court is an independent tribunal established jointly by the United Nations and the Government of Sierra Leone. It is mandated to bring to justice those who bear the greatest responsibility for atrocities committed in Sierra Leone after 30 November 1996. To date, the Prosecutor has indicted eleven persons on various charges of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other serious violations of international humanitarian law. Ten indictees are currently in the custody of the Court.

Awoko

Friday, 21 July 2006

Bonthe Island detention facility handed back to Prisons

The Special Court yesterday returned its detention facility on Bonthe Island to the Sierra Leone Prisons Service.

In a brief ceremony yesterday, Special Court Registrar Lovemore Munlo handed over the keys to Moses Showers, Deputy Director of Prisons.

Mr. Munlo thanked the Prisons Service for its cooperation with the Court, saying that “you know,

certain days were rather tough and challenging but you came forward. We did not find you wanting. You gave us whatever assistance we wanted.”

In response Deputy Director of Prisons, Moses Showers, noted that the Special Court had renovated the facility, “for your own purposes initially, but I just say we are the greater beneficiary of that exercise.”

He noted that the Prisons Service had officers serving on secondment at the Court,

stressing that, “we want to thank you, and we want to assure you of our continued cooperation at all times from the Director and members of staff of the Prisons service.”

The building, which formerly served as minor offences prison, was provided to the Special Court by the Government of Sierra Leone to house detainees and for judicial proceedings, while the New England complex at the time was under construction.

New Citizen
Friday, 21 July 2006

SEARCHLIGHT

With Wysemann Dee
076-633-807

DOWNBELOW: SIR ALBERT CONVERSES WITH MARAH & TEACHER LAGAWO—EPISODE 8 / PART 4

Teacher Lagawo answered, "no, but later in the evening, the name of the new government and its leaders were announced."

Sir Albert asked, "what was the name of the government?"

Teacher Lagawo answered, "the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC)." Sir Albert questioned, "who was the leader?"

Teacher Lagawo replied, "Sir Albert, you can't believe the individual named as the head of the AFRC."

Sir Albert again questioned, "why must I not believe?"

Teacher Lagawo answered, "can you imagine Sir Albert, the coup leader was named as Major Johnny Paul Koroma."

Sir Albert murmured, "hmm ... was this the same Johnny Paul Koroma who was standing trial for treason?"

Teacher Lagawo replied, "exactly so Sir Albert, that is the gentleman. It was observed during his statement on radio that his pronunciation was very poor as he spoke with a typical Limba accent pronouncing Sierra Leone, 'Sherra Lone'."

Sir Albert smiled and remarked, "but gentlemen that does not matter. The people now had a new government as your own president had fled the country. What did Johnny Paul Koroma



Johnny Paul explain about the coup?" Teacher Lagawo responded, "Johnny Paul Koroma gave a background to the formation of the Kamajors, reminding people about the 'hindo', 'hindo' in Kenema and the



Foday Sankoh clashes between Kamajors and soldiers in Kenema." Again, Sir Albert asked, "by the way gentlemen, how did Johnny Paul Koroma become the coup leader when in actual fact he was already incarcerated in prison for treason charges?"

Marah answered,



SAJ Musa

"that is a very good question Sir Albert. At first, the combined forces of soldiers and RUF rebels did not have a leader."

Sir Albert asked for a second time, "you mean people attacked the government blindly for no just cause?"

Marah responded, "that is not the case Sir Albert. The people knew what they were up to but as Richard had earlier mentioned, the rebellious soldiers held banners with the portrait of SAJ Musa while the RUF rebels on the other hand displayed the portrait of Foday Sankoh."

Sir Albert asked, "what did that mean?"

Marah replied, "that was an indication that the coup plotters did not have a leader."

Sir Albert said, "was this the reason why a Corporal Tamba Gborie went on radio to announce the coup in broken English and Creole?"

Marah observed, "Sir Albert, what actually happened is that the coup plotters were remnants of the NPRC who still perceived SAJ Musa as a good leader and were longing for his return to Sierra Leone. The RUF rebels were also expecting political appointments and other material rewards from the coalition with the AFRC once the allied forces had taken over the reigns of government."

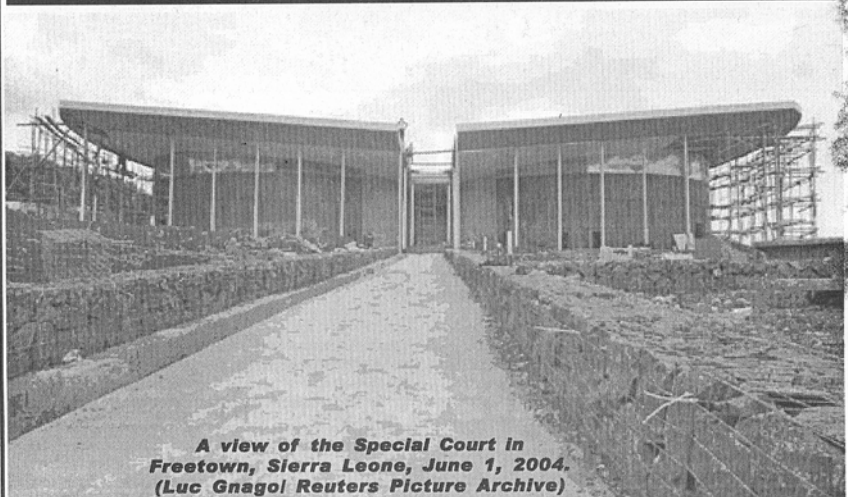
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Independent Observer
Friday, 21 July 2006

AFRICA:

The Laboratory Of Justice

By
Thierry
Cruvellier



**A view of the Special Court in
Freetown, Sierra Leone, June 1, 2004.
(Luc Gnagol Reuters Picture Archive)**

Yesterday, South Africa. Today, Ethiopia, Rwanda and Sierra Leone. Tomorrow - and this is far from an exhaustive list - Uganda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan, Liberia and Ivory Coast. For a decade sub-Saharan Africa has provided a prime terrain for pioneers of what is generally known as transitional justice. There is not a single experiment in this field that has not been tested in this part of the world, from truth and reconciliation commissions to UN tribunals, 'hybrid' criminal courts, domestic trials and even an attempt to implement universal jurisdiction.¹ It should come as no surprise that, in its need to prove itself, the International Criminal Court should today focus on central Africa - both on Ituri in the Democratic Republic of Congo and northern Uganda. And in the flourishing marketplace of different legal responses to conflict and mass murder, it is common to define one's position with reference to two major experiments: the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) and the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

The latter's existence can be understood only in the light of the experience of the former. For the Special Court in Freetown has been constructed largely in response to the perceived failings of the Arusha Tribunal. The Special Court's ambitions mirror the setbacks that the Arusha Tribunal has suffered. Three essential points define the relationship between the two bodies and will probably shape future comparisons between them: the connection (or lack of it) between the tribunal and the society affected by the crimes it is considering; the strategy of the Prosecutor's office; and the cost and length of the process.

A Return To The Local

Based in Tanzania, a few thousand kilometers from Kigali, the ICTR has never succeeded in bridging the gap between itself and the Rwandan people. More than seven years after trials began in Arusha, they remain a largely esoteric process for the majority of the Rwandan population, who are unable either to follow the hearings or to understand their workings. As the effort of international justice after the genocide of 1994 is weighed down by both geographical distance and the exclusion of all Rwandans from the key mechanisms of the judicial process (no Rwandan may occupy a post of any importance in the chambers, the Prosecutor's office, the Registry or even, de facto, the

Defense Office), its impact is likely to prove derisory, particularly where reinforcement of the national legal system is concerned.

To the extent that a legal culture has started to grow, however tentatively, in Rwanda over the last ten years, this is due to the trials heard by the national courts - which have passed judgment on around 9,000 people in seven years - rather than the influence or supposed example of the UN tribunal. The ICTR is not the only tribunal to show such sorry results: its counterpart in The Hague has also been severely criticized for its isolation from the populations of the former Yugoslavia. The lessons of these experiences clearly led to the establishment of the Special Court within Sierra Leone's territory itself rather than in a different country. They were also crucial to the development of the Court's 'mixed' constitution, which must include Sierra Leoneans at every level and in all organs. The aim is to make international justice locally relevant.

Strengths And Limits Of The Hybrid Approach

The Special Court for Sierra Leone has been in place for almost two years and, practically speaking, is only halfway through its term of existence. More particularly, the trials have not yet started. But a few judgments can be made on the basis of its experience so far. Open directly to Sierra Leonean society, the Court has shown a greater awareness of its duty to explain its workings to the population at large. In the first five months of their presence in the country, the Chief Prosecutor and Registrar held public meetings in almost every province in the country, a procedure which may be largely symbolic, but is a real innovation in relation to the ad hoc UN tribunals. In its staffing - and its regular budget - the administration has also made provision for outreach teams whose task is to keep the wider public informed, both in the capital and the rest of the country. There is an evident contrast here with the ICTR which, apart from opening an information centre in Kigali in 2000, has carried out no action of this type, arguing that there was no funding for it.

Another noteworthy feature of the Special Court for Sierra Leone is its 'hybrid' character. Across all categories, more than half its staff are Sierra Leoneans. However there is a clear imbalance between national and international staff in posts of responsibility. Although one of the three Trial Chamber judges is Sierra Leonean, the Appeals Chamber has only one Sierra Leonean judge out of five and there

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are no Sierra Leoneans at management level in the other organs of the Court. To some extent the Sierra Leonean government itself contributed to this imbalance by appointing foreigners to the few key posts left to its discretion, such as that of the Assistant Prosecutor.

However, despite these limitations, a quarter of the managerial staff in the Court are Sierra Leonean and it is generally acknowledged that in the long term their involvement will represent the most significant legacy for the country. The presence of Sierra Leonean investigators in the Prosecutor's teams has been noted as a key factor for quality and speed. This observation is all the more significant when we remember that in Arusha the Prosecutor's office of the ICTR instigated a small revolution in this regard in May 2003, by appointing three Rwandans to advise it in its work. These were the first Rwandans to take up such posts, eight years after it began its investigations and a year after some devastating errors in its indictments.²

Redefining Prosecution Strategy

In September 2003, Carla del Ponte, who had for four years been Chief Prosecutor at the courts of The Hague and Arusha, lost half her functions with the appointment of a separate prosecutor for the Rwandan tribunal. At the time del Ponte made no secret of the fact that she believed she had been ousted from the ICTR because she had sought to prosecute members of the Rwandan Patriotic Army (RPA), the military wing of the Rwandan Patriotic Front, which had been in power in Kigali since 1994. There is no doubt that the Rwandan government demonstrated its unwillingness to see some of its soldiers appear before the international tribunal, using, with particular success, access to witnesses in Rwanda as a means of influencing the Tribunal. But Carla del Ponte's comments masked two more disagreeable realities: her own part in the de facto abandonment of investigations into the RPA and the wider condemnation of her prosecution strategy, marked by an inflated number of investigations and indictments. In its last report on the ICTR, published in September 2003, the International Crisis Group's recommendation was to "immediately stop the filing of new charges on genocide dossiers,"³ in other words definitively to bury Carla del Ponte's plan in order to forestall a "deadly overburdening" of the tribunal. More recently, on April 6, 2004, the judges of the war crimes tribunal for the former Yugoslavia granted themselves the new and highly significant power to throw out charges that did not concern those "most responsible for crimes within the jurisdiction of the tribunal."

It was against this background of failure - that of a prosecution policy that was ill-defined and, hence, subject to a broad interpretation by the Chief Prosecutor - that the Special Court for Sierra Leone was established. Its sponsors - headed by the United States - wanted to be sure that the Prosecutor's office would understand its mandate in an extremely restricted sense. Two years after his appointment as Chief Prosecutor, David Crane must surely satisfy them in this respect. To date thirteen persons have been charged by the Special Court.⁴ All can legitimately be regarded as people with major responsibility in the different forces that fought during the ten years of civil war. Nothing suggests that the Prosecutor intends to deviate from a rigorous interpretation of his

The Laboratory Of Justice

From
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mandate, and in all likelihood the idea that the action of a tribunal of this kind should be confined to a very limited number of cases will be seen as a positive legacy of the Sierra Leonean experience.

The most serious failure of the Prosecutor's office at the Special Court thus far has been of a quite different nature: its inability to bring criminal charges against representatives of the business community who profited from the civil war and, as a result, from crime. This was one of David Crane's major ambitions and many people expected the Court to open a new front in the struggle against crimes against humanity by attacking the financial networks that underwrite them. According to his recent statements, the Prosecutor has had to accept that he has not yet succeeded in establishing a judicial link between the businessmen and the crimes that fall within the jurisdiction of the Court.

Swift Justice, Economical Justice

A limited number of trials in a limited time and for limited cost: this was the pragmatic task given to the members of the Special Court for Sierra Leone by those who supported its creation and, above all, provide most of its funding: the United States, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and Canada. In its nine years of existence the Rwanda tribunal has passed judgment on only 21 of the 80 people it has indicted and already it has cost around \$600m. When - constrained by its donors - it closes its doors, it will have been in existence for around fifteen years and probably swallowed up \$1.4 billion. By contrast the Freetown Court was set up on the understanding that it must complete its work in three years with a total budget of around \$60 m, less than two thirds the annual cost of the ICTR.⁵

Washington also insisted that the Special Court should be free of the United Nations bureaucracy. So the Court runs on voluntary contributions from states and its budget is closely monitored by a management committee composed of the main donors, a UN representative and a representative of the Sierra Leonean government. A

clear advantage of the Freetown Court's emancipation from the UN has been its infinitely greater flexibility in recruitment. A greater handicap is the precariousness resulting from its mode of finance: the promises of states lack the certainty of the annual budget of the United Nations.

Judges In Question

"The new model of Sierra Leone may well be the right one. [Its] advantages could be used elsewhere," said the President of the Special Court, Geoffrey Robertson, in January 2003.⁶ Even before it has accomplished anything at all, the Special Court for Sierra Leone has been promoted by both its members and several elements of the U.S. media as a model that could be applied elsewhere. Clearly this is taking things rather fast. Apart from the questions raised about the interaction between the Court and the society around it, the necessary focus of prosecutions or the cost and duration of the process, the Special Court for Sierra Leone has yet to prove its capacity to deliver trials that are both swift and fair. At the moment, after a convincing launch, the Court seems to be looking for its second wind. The first trials began in June, fifteen months after the first arrests, and it remains to be seen whether the Court will avoid the procedural complexities in which the ICTR became rapidly and fatally embroiled.

The role of the judges is crucial here. In March, faced with a first crisis that undermined their president, the Appeals Chamber judges sent out a rather disturbing message. Justice Robertson's impartiality was questioned by defense lawyers on the basis of what he had written about the rebels of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) in a book published in 2002.⁷ Justice Robertson's peers eventually decided to keep him on, but forbade him to hear the cases of RUF members - in other words a third of the trials.⁸ This inevitably gave the impression that personal considerations override "the superior interests of justice," to use the lawyers' wonderful phrase. For how, in the context of so limited a mandate as that of this jurisdiction, is it possible to justify keeping a judge in post when he is prevented from hearing at least one case in three?⁹ At the same time, in a plenary session, the judges made opportune modifications to the regulations, by reducing the presidency of the Court to a non-renewable term of one year, thereby making it possible to replace Justice Robertson immediately in this post. The bizarre combination of the functions of judge and legislator given to the judges of the ICTR and ICTY clearly led to these tribunals'

sliding worryingly off-course. Here the Freetown judges have ventured onto the same slippery slope.

Dealing With Defense

The Special Court for Sierra Leone also has yet to deal with the question of legal aid and, more generally, the place of the defense within the institution. At both the ICTY and ICTR, the defense costs of the accused have been a matter of lively debate. In addition to the fact that they have generally spun out of control, these expenses have been subject to widely-recognized abuse by a minority of teams of lawyers, with the at least passive complicity of the tribunals' administrators. At a more institutional level, the defense has always felt excluded or denigrated as an integral, fundamental element in the trials. The countries financing the Freetown Court are particularly worried about budgetary matters, so it is important for this new tribunal to innovate and protect itself from the financial mismanagement and corruption that has undermined the ICTR. The mechanism selected has now become apparent. Drawing on the British model, the establishment of a Defense Office led by a 'Chief Defender', and a ceiling on lawyers' fees, should guarantee budgetary control and a greater participation by the defense in the functioning of the Court.¹⁰ It is crucially important that this initiative should prove successful if the Court is to become a model for future judicial initiatives.

Assessment Of A Dual Process

Another lesson can now be learned from the Sierra Leonean experience concerning the possible relationship between a criminal court and a truth and reconciliation commission. The two institutions functioned simultaneously throughout 2003. Many fears were expressed concerning the potential conflicts arising from their parallel operation; however these have largely been calmed, notably as a result of the positions adopted by the Prosecutor. In May 2003 the Canadian William Schabas, one of the foreign commissioners of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, said, "I note that the two institutions function in synergy rather than in a competitive way. We are currently proving that the two institutions can co-exist, responding to the same problem in different ways, although we may not have explored the limits of possible conflicts due to problems with the functioning of the Commission."¹¹ A year later, when the Commission was in the final stage of drawing up its report, David Crane reinforced this view, saying that "it has largely succeeded. It wasn't perfect, but mainly positive."

CNN

Friday, 21 July 2006

Charles Taylor appears in court

Taylor was flown to the Netherlands in June amid fears that a trial in Sierra Leone could trigger unrest.



THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) -- Former Liberian President Charles Taylor appeared in a Hague courtroom Friday for a hearing aimed at paving the way for his war crimes trial.

The former warlord faces 11 charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity for allegedly overseeing the murder, rape and mutilation of thousands of people during Sierra Leone's bloody 10-year civil war.

He has pleaded not guilty, but faces a life sentence if convicted.

Taylor, wearing a gray double-breasted suit and tie, sat flanked by two U.N. guards in a courtroom of the International Criminal Court being rented by the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

He listened intently to lawyers discussing progress in the case, but did not immediately make any comments.

Prosecutors had hoped to start the trial early next year, but Taylor's attorney told the court he was unlikely to be ready for trial before July 2007.

"For a case of this size and magnitude, particularly given the geographical displacement of this court from Sierra Leone ... I do think that the earliest this trial can properly start is around July of next year," attorney Karim Asad Ahmad Khan said.

Taylor was flown to the Netherlands in June amid fears that staging his trial in Sierra Leone could trigger fresh unrest in the war-scarred African nation.

The charges against Taylor stem from his alleged backing of Sierra Leonean rebels, who terrorized victims by chopping off body parts.

Taylor also launched a Liberian insurgency in 1989 and won elections that handed him the presidency in 1997. Rebels took up arms against him three years later, and he fled to Nigeria in 2003 at the end of Liberia's 14-year civil war.

In March, he was captured as he attempted to slip out of Nigeria after the country agreed to hand him over to authorities seeking his prosecution.

The Dutch government finally agreed in June to host his trial after British authorities agreed to find a cell for Taylor if he is convicted.

Taylor is being held in a detention unit operated by the International Criminal Court located in a wing of the maximum security Dutch prison in The Hague -- the same prison where former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic died in March while on trial for genocide and war crimes at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

BBC

Friday, 21 July 2006

Taylor complains about Hague jail

Charles Taylor has pleaded not guilty to charges of war crimes

Former Liberian President Charles Taylor has said he is unhappy with "draconian" conditions in the Dutch prison where he is awaiting trial.

Mr Taylor's lawyer made the complaint during his first appearance before a special UN-backed war crimes tribunal.

Mr Taylor faces 11 war crimes charges after allegedly backing rebels in the decade-long Sierra Leone civil war.

He was arrested in Nigeria this year and detained in Sierra Leone before being moved to The Hague for security.

Attorney Karim Asad Ahmad Khan described The Hague jail regime as "far more draconian... than operates in Freetown", the capital of Sierra Leone.

He said Mr Taylor was locked in his cell for up to 16 hours a day and could not make as many phone calls as he was allowed in Sierra Leone.

He also complained that his client was forced to eat "Eurocentric" food.

'Repugnant to justice'

Mr Khan also objected to comments made by United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan during a visit earlier this month to the Special Court for Sierra Leone in Freetown.

TAYLOR TIMELINE

1989: Launches rebellion

1991: RUF rebellion starts in Sierra Leone

1995: Peace deal signed

1997: Elected president

1999: Lurd starts rebellion to oust Taylor

June 2003: Arrest warrant issued

August 2003: Steps down, goes into exile in Nigeria

March 2006: Arrested, sent to Sierra Leone

Mr Khan said Mr Annan had referred to war crimes suspects such as Mr Taylor as criminals, undermining their right to be presumed innocent - something that was "repugnant to justice".

Although the Special Court for Sierra Leone is situated in Sierra Leone itself, Mr Taylor is being tried in the Netherlands for fear that his presence in Sierra Leone might lead to unrest.

The Dutch government agreed to host Mr Taylor's trial, as long as he was imprisoned in another country if he was convicted.

The United Kingdom has agreed to jail Mr Taylor in the event he is convicted.

Both Sierra Leone and Liberia are recovering from years of conflict, in which Mr Taylor played a central role.

Sierra Leone's Revolutionary United Front rebels were notorious for mutilating civilians, by hacking off their arms or legs with machetes.

The Analyst (Monrovia)

Monday, 17 July 2006

War Court Forum Identifies Civil War Imposers

By D. Sompon Weah II

Several individuals, institutions and governments in West Africa and beyond have been identified in Monrovia as principle suspects that would face the ensuing Monrovia based war crimes court for their alleged involvement in arms trafficking, military and logistical supports to belligerent warring factions that reigned terror during the Liberia civil crisis.

According to a dossier released last Saturday by the forum for the establishment of a war crimes court in Liberia, the then Guinean Defense Ministry Administrator and its Chief of Staff General Mamadou Balilo Diallo and the then Defense Minister of Burkina Faso Albert Millogo are alleged to have played major parts in fueling the 15-year crisis.

Other suspected supporters of the crisis have identified include the Guinean Director of Katex Mines, Mr. Aadj Fouzi and the then manager of Weasua Airline in Liberia among others.

The group, backed by some local and foreign human rights entities, further named Leonid Minin, an Israeli businessman of Ukrainian origin; Talal el-Ndine, Charles Taylor's illicit arms dealing pay master; and convict Gus Van Konwenhoven, as people who pillaged Liberia resources.

They also named Simon Roseblum, an Israeli businessman based in Abidjan who they say was allegedly in charge of ex-president Taylor's reported arms shipment in trucks from Liberia to Sierra Leone. Also named is Mr. Charles Taylor Jr., an American citizen, who was allegedly responsible for reported torture, death and mutilation of people in Liberia.

The forum further averred that it is preparing legal documents to request the extradition of Mr. Charles Taylor Jr., alias "Chukie," from America to Liberia so as to face his alleged numerous victims of war crimes and violations of international humanitarian law.

A 14 page dossier of purported evidences signed by the forum's Chairman Mulbah K. Morlu Jr., Secretary General M. Boakai Jaleiba Jr., Chief Spokesman Abel Saye Voker and national coordinator Sampson Tweh, emphasized the need for people and institutions identified to be arraigned at a special court for alleged war crimes committed.

Others who signed the document include chairman Reekie Doe of the New Vision of Liberia Inc, and Chairman Prince Kreplay of the Citizens United to Promote Peace and democracy in Liberia.

According to them, these revelations have re-enforced their plan to hold a 3-day hunger strike at the Capitol Building as a means of pressurizing the government, especially the National Legislature to deliberate the forum's petition already submitted calling for the establishment of a special war crimes court in Liberia.

They maintained that their planned hunger strike will go ahead as planned beginning from this week Friday, 21 and end on Sunday 23 July 2006 before the Capitol Building on Capitol Hill in Monrovia.

They noted that the extent to which those named individuals, entities and governments took parts in the destruction of Liberia, the pillaging of the resources through illicit arms deals, military and logistical supports provided the various rebel groups, contradict United Nations protocols therefore calls for the court here.

Efforts are being made to get comments from the accused.

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Friday, 21 June 2006

Liberian group publishes dossier of alleged Taylor-era massacres

Monrovia - A group advocating for the establishment of a war crimes court in Liberia has published a dossier cataloguing dozens of massacres and secret killings allegedly committed by the regime of former leader Charles Taylor.

The report alleges Taylor's former army chief of staff General Yeaten ordered the massacre in 2002 of 175 civilians accused of sympathizing with LURD rebels.

The group calling itself the Forum for the Establishment of a War Crimes Court further accused Yeaten of masterminding the killing of the deputy ministers of public works and national security, Isaac Vaye and John Yormie.

The dossier also claimed that 2003 a bodyguard of Yeaten's fed 26 people live to lions on Taylor's farm in central Liberia.

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Reuters

Friday, 21 July 2006

Charles Taylor unhappy with conditions in Hague

THE HAGUE (Reuters) - Charles Taylor is not happy about conditions in the Hague jail he was moved to last month, his lawyer said on Friday as the former Liberian president appeared in court for the first time since he left Sierra Leone.

Defence lawyer Karim Khan told the U.N.-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone, which will hear the war-crimes case against Taylor, that his client could not make phone calls as freely as he could in Freetown, lockdown hours were more draconian and he was unhappy about the food.

Taylor, wearing a grey suit and tie to the procedural hearing, also asked the court through his lawyer to speed visas for his family to visit him in The Hague. Taylor's wife is six months pregnant.

The Sierra Leone special court had asked to move Taylor to The Hague and use the premises of the International Criminal Court because of fears a trial in Freetown could spur unrest in Sierra Leone or Liberia.

Taylor already appeared in court in Freetown for his initial hearing in April, when he pleaded innocent to 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity for backing rebels who raped and mutilated civilians during a brutal 1991-2002 civil war in Sierra Leone, Liberia's neighbour.

United Nations



Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 20 July 2006

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

International Clips on Liberia

BBC Monitoring Africa, 20 July 2006

Ghanaian leader to visit Liberia next week

Excerpt of text report by Micheal Donkor and Emmanuel Bonney posted by Daily Graphic on 20 July

The President, John Agyekum Kufuor, is expected to visit Liberia next week to participate in the inauguration of the electrification project carried out by the [Ghanaian] Volta River Authority (VRA) in that country [Liberia]. The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Cooperation and NEPAD, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Ado, who made this known at a news conference in Accra yesterday [19 July] said that on his return, President Kufuor would travel to the USA where he will sign the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) on 1 August 2006.

International Clips on West Africa

Foreign mediators pledge to pursue fragile I/Coast peace

By Emmanuel Goujon

ABIDJAN, July 20, 2006 (AFP) - International brokers seeking to end the political crisis in Ivory Coast met on Thursday determined to push ahead with the country's fragile peace process, a day after pro-government supporters paralysed Abidjan in protest at a vital voter identification scheme. "We are determined to continue to support the peace process with everyone," said Pierre Schori, head of the UN peacekeeping mission overseeing the peace deal.

Local Media – Newspapers

President Johnson-Sirleaf Demands Independent Function

(The News, The Inquirer, The Analyst, Daily Observer, Heritage, The Informer, Liberian Express and The Monitor)

- Addressing a news conference on a wide range of national issues in Monrovia on Wednesday, President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf opted for the independence of all three branches of government.

UNMIL and Government Seek More Than US\$104 Million for Liberia

(The News, The Analyst, The Informer and Liberian Express)

- The United Nations Mission in Liberia and the Government of Liberia have launched a US\$104,125,552 appeal to address the country's urgent humanitarian needs.

Chinese Reduces Engagement with Liberian Government

(Liberian Express)

- [sic:] Report of scepticism and mistrust has beclouded Liberia-Sino relations, resulting to the Chinese Government slowing down on the implementation of various Chinese-sponsored projects in Liberia.

UNMIL Boss Warns Against Early Troops Reduction

(Liberian Express)

- Special Representative of the Secretary-General Alan Doss has warned the international community on what he called a "precipitous draw down on UN troops in Liberia." Mr. Doss made the statement when he addressed the Security Council on the UN Secretary-General's recent report on UNMIL activities in Liberia.

UNMIL Confirms Corruption in Liberia National Police

(The Monitor)

- A quarterly human rights report covering February to April 2006 published by the United Nations Mission in Liberia has acknowledged corruption within the Liberia National Police. The report said that corruption in the police continues to be reported.

Liberian Foreign Mission Properties Sold in United Kingdom and Nigeria

(New Vision)

- [sic:] An investigation conducted by *New Vision* has revealed that the Liberian Embassy properties in the United Kingdom and Lagos, Nigeria, were sold by former Foreign Minister Thomas Yaya Nimley with the full knowledge the chairman of the erstwhile Transitional Government of Liberia, Gyude Bryant.

Local Media – Radio Veritas *(News monitored yesterday at 18:45 pm)*

President Disagrees With House of Representatives

- President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf told journalists yesterday that there were continuing attempts by certain individuals to pit the Executive and Legislative branches of government against each other. She described such attempts as disturbing.
- The President criticized the House's request for a budget performance report as a requirement to pass the new national budget, saying that it is not necessary.

(Also reported on Star Radio)

STAR RADIO *(News culled from website today at 09:00 am)*

Former Presidential Guards Appeal For Forgiveness

- A spokesman for the presidential guards who served former President Charles Taylor, Anti-Terrorist Unit (ATU), Bartuah Gbor, has appealed to government to forgive the group for the wrongs they committed. The ATU was accused of gross human rights violations in the country.

Diplomatic Efforts Underway to Evacuate Liberians Stranded in Lebanon

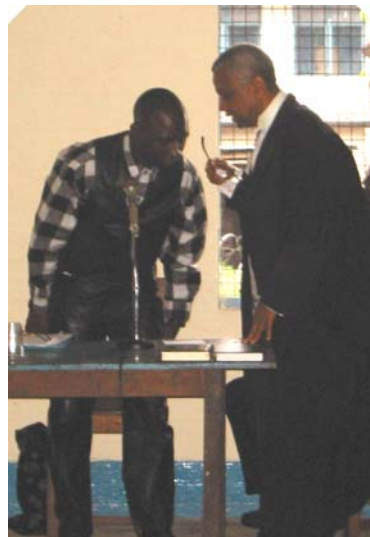
- The Liberian Government has begun diplomatic efforts to evacuate Liberians stranded in Lebanon, Foreign Ministry Spokesman William Ledlum said yesterday.
- The government has initiated discussions with the Nigerian Embassy and Greek diplomatic missions in Lebanon to help evacuate Liberians, Mr. Ledlum added.

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. Jeddi Armah at armahj@un.org.

Special Court Supplement

Flashback to 2003: Photos from the Bonthe Island, which was returned yesterday to the Sierra Leone Prison Service.





Special Court Supplement
Associated Press Photos from Today's Status Conference in The Hague

