

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



Mongolian Guard Force rotation ceremony held on Saturday at the foyer of the Courthouse.  
See more pictures in today's 'Special Court Supplement'.

## **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:**

**Monday, 22 February 2010**

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

## **PRESS RELEASE**

Freetown, Sierra Leone, 22 February 2010

### **Binta Mansaray Named Special Court Registrar**



The Secretary-General of the United Nations has named Binta Mansaray of Sierra Leone as Registrar of the Special Court. Ms. Mansaray, who was appointed Deputy Registrar in July 2007, has served as Acting Registrar since June 2009.

Binta Mansaray joined the Special Court for Sierra Leone in 2003 as Outreach Coordinator, where she designed the Court's acclaimed grassroots programme to keep the people of Sierra Leone, and later Liberia, informed about the Court and the trials.

Prior to joining the Court, she was a human rights advocate for victims and ex-combatants with a number of organizations. She held the post of Country Representative for the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children in Sierra Leone, worked with the Campaign for Good Governance, and served as consultant with the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) and a number of civil society organizations.

During her time as Acting Registrar, Ms. Mansaray has overseen the end of trials in Freetown and the transfer of convicted persons to serve their sentences, as well as the downsizing of the Court and consideration of residual issues. She has also continued to focus on the legacy of the Special Court and the continuing trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor in The Hague.

#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.

INFORMATION FOR MEDIA - NOT FOR ADVERTISING

Produced by the  
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**Special Court for Sierra Leone**  
Outreach and Public Affairs Office

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**Freetown, Sierra Leone, 22 February 2010**

### **Brenda Hollis Named Special Court Prosecutor**

The Secretary-General of the United Nations has named Brenda Joyce Hollis of the United States as Prosecutor of the Special Court.

Since 2007, Ms. Hollis has been a Principal Trial Attorney in the Office of the Prosecutor (OTP), where she is responsible for leading the legal team prosecuting former Liberian President Charles Taylor.

From 2001 to 2007, Brenda Hollis was an Expert Legal Consultant on international law and criminal procedure. During this period she trained judges, prosecutors and investigators at courts and international tribunals in Indonesia, Iraq and Cambodia. She also assisted victims of international crimes in the Democratic Republic of Congo and in Colombia to prepare submissions requesting investigations by the International Criminal Court in The Hague.

In 2002 and 2003, and again in 2006, Ms. Hollis served as a consultant to the OTP, where she assisted in evidence-gathering missions and provided legal and tactical advice.

Ms. Hollis was Senior Trial Attorney at the International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia (ICTY) from 1994 to 2001, where she served as lead counsel in a number of historic prosecutions. She led case in which rape was charged as torture, and was lead counsel in the preparation of the case against former Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic until her departure from the ICTY in 2001.

Brenda Hollis paid tribute to Deputy Prosecutor Joseph Kamara, who has served as Acting Prosecutor since the departure of Stephen Rapp last September.

“I look forward to working closely in partnership with Deputy Prosecutor Joseph Kamara, for whom I have the greatest personal and professional respect,” she said.

#END

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## The Trial of Charles Taylor

**As Charles Taylor concludes several months of testimony, he says prosecutors have not proven any case against him**



**A**s former Liberian president Charles Taylor wrapped up his testimony today, he had one message for the judges: prosecutors have not proven their case against me.

Prosecutors say Mr. Taylor is responsible for heinous crimes committed by rebel forces in the neighboring West African nation of Sierra Leone including murder, rape, amputations and using child soldiers to fight during the country's brutal 11-year war. The former president has been testifying in his own defense since July 14, 2009. He has denied all charges against him in his trial at the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

"In order to make their case that they have not been able, in my opinion, to prove, they can call me any name, it does not make it right. And the facts before this court, the judges in their decision will determine as to whether this is true 'He's got billions of dollars,'" Mr. Taylor said, repeating the allegations made against him by prosecutors, who say he enriched himself with profits from selling diamonds he got from rebels in exchange for weapons.

"We've been in this court now, I've been sitting in this chair here for almost seven months, where are the billions?" he said. "I disagree with them, but I think it's a part of their job to say these kinds of things or to try to make me look bad, this is not true, so I disagree with them."

Prosecutors have also tried to demonstrate that while Mr. Taylor was president of Liberia between 1997 to 2003, he abused the trust of the Liberian people, which in turn caused the international community to back away from supporting his government. Mr. Taylor, right through his testimony, has asserted that he diligently



served his country as president, and that he is now in the Special Court thanks to a conspiracy among western countries to make him a scapegoat for crimes in Sierra Leone.

“Everything that I did as president, is being done [now] exactly as I did it, these very same people, Maryland Wood is operating in Liberia right now, the same procedure... is being used right now by Ellen Johnson, everything, there is nothing unlawful, nothing illegal, the same procedure of designating and permitting an oligopoly for rice because rice is a matter of life and death in Liberia is going on the same way right now. There's nothing but just allegations and just mere allegations. That's it,” the former president said.

Mr. Taylor also dismissed as lies prosecution allegations that he persecuted journalists and human rights activists who became critical of his government. Mr. Taylor told the judges that persons who have been named by prosecutors as journalists and human rights activists were opposition activists who were bent on spreading misinformation about him and his government.

“There is a political context here in dealing with certain people that have been raised here...but these were people that were involved in a process of spreading information, disinformation, misinformation, doing everything to bring my government down,” he said.

As Mr. Taylor concluded his testimony today, he reaffirmed his position that he did not in any way support armed groups in Sierra Leone, including the RUF and Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) a group of disaffected Sierra Leonean soldiers who overthrew the elected government of Sierra Leone in May 1997.

“Did you, Charles Taylor, between November 1996 and January 2002 provide assistance, support or any kind of help with war-like materials to either the AFRC or the RUF?” Mr. Taylor's defense counsel, Courtenay Griffiths, asked him as a final question in his re-examination.



## ICC: Guinea killings 'c

The killing of opposition supporters in Guinea last year was a crime against humanity, the International Criminal Court (ICC) has said.

The deputy prosecutor of the ICC, Fatou Bensouda, made the statement in Guinea after a preliminary investigation into the deaths in the capital, Conakry.

Security forces have been blamed for the killings of more than 150 people at an opposition rally on 28 September.

Ms Bensouda said "atrocious crimes" had been committed by men in uniform.

Senior members of the ruling military junta have also been implicated.

The military took over the country in December 2008, following the death of



*Days after the massacre hundreds of relatives had to identify bodies*

long-time leader Lansana Conte.

"As the deputy prosecutor of the ICC, I end this visit with the feeling that crimes of the order of crimes against humanity were committed," Ms Bensouda said after her three-day investigation in Guinea.

She described "atrocious crimes" at the stadium in

Conakry during an opposition rally, when "men in uniform attacked civilians, they killed and wounded".

She said: "In full daylight they mistreated, violated and submitted women to unprecedented sexual violence." Based on what she discovered in her visit, the ICC could continue with its preliminary investigation,

## crime against humanity'

Ms Bensouda said.

A report commissioned by the UN said in December that Capt Moussa Dadis Camara, who was the junta chief at the time, bore "direct criminal responsibility" for the massacre.

The report said the killings and other crimes "could be qualified as crimes against humanity".

In the weeks after the killings, Capt Camara was shot and seriously wounded by an aide who believed the captain was about to blame him for the massacre.

Capt Camara is now in exile in Burkina Faso, and the military chiefs who succeeded him have installed a civilian prime minister and say they are overseeing a transition back to democracy.

The prime minister, Jean Marie Dore, has said Guinea's judiciary is not capable of judging the massacre suspects.

The ICC can only investigate a crime if the justice system in a country cannot, or will not, investigate itself. But if it comes to

serving any indictments, says the BBC's West Africa correspondent Caspar Leighton, the court will rely on the Guinean authorities to act on any arrest warrants.

This will be a tall order in a country where the military has long held the reins of power.

The Netherlands-based court is the world's only permanent tribunal for the adjudication of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.



# The Spectator

Monday, 22 February 2010

## “Prosecutors Have Not Proven Their Case”

Charles Taylor this week finished his seven-month-long testimony with two key messages to the judges: he did not provide support to Sierra Leonean rebel forces as they committed crimes throughout his neighboring country, and that prosecutors have not proven the case against him.

“In order to make their case that they have not been able, in my opinion, to prove, they can call me any name, it does not make it right. And the facts before this court, the judges in their decision will determine as to whether this is true. He’s got billions of dollars,” Mr. Taylor said, repeating the allegations made against him by prosecutors, who say he enriched himself with profits from selling diamonds he got from rebels in exchange for weapons.

“We’ve been in this court now, I’ve been sitting in this chair here for almost seven months, where are the billions?” he said. “I disagree with them, but I think it’s a part of their job to say these kinds of things or to try to make me look bad, this is not true, so I disagree with them.”

Prosecutors say Mr. Taylor is responsible for heinous crimes committed by Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebel forces in the neighboring West African nation of Sierra Leone — including murder, rape, amputations and using child soldiers to fight — during the country’s brutal 11-year war. The former president has been testifying in his own defense since July 14, 2009. He has denied all charges against him in his trial at the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

In order to prove their case against Mr. Taylor, prosecutors have sought to lead evidence that the former president imported weapons from foreign countries into Liberia which were transferred to RUF rebels in Sierra Leone. These weapons were then used to commit atrocities against the civilian population in his neighboring country, prosecutors say. Prosecutors have also led evidence that in return for weapons, RUF rebels supplied Mr. Taylor with diamonds. According to prosecutors, proceeds of the diamonds, as well as resources from Liberia’s timber industry, were deposited by Mr. Taylor into various fake accounts, in and outside of Liberia. Mr. Taylor has denied all these allegations, challenging prosecutors to produce evidence of the money he is alleged to have hidden.

On Monday, Mr. Taylor responded to questions in re-examination about his earlier testimony that an account opened in his name at the Liberian Bank for De-

velopment and Investment (LBDI) was a covert bank account that belonged to the government of Liberia while he was president. Mr. Taylor explained that the opening of the account was done with the authorization of the Liberian legislature which instructed him to use “any and all means” necessary to defeat Liberians United for Reconciliation and Development (LURD) rebels who were threatening to unseat his government.

“This account is a covert account opened by the government of Liberia at this time. It had to be opened in my name,” Mr. Taylor.

Explaining how monies deposited into this account were used, Mr. Taylor said that “the largest disbursement from this account went to arms and ammunition. Out of this account, we paid salaries for special units, the ATU [Anti-Terrorist Unit] was paid, the SSS [Special Security Services] was paid, and various presidential projects in dealing with goodwill within that period were paid out of this account. These are the four categories that we paid out of this account,” the former president explained.



On Tuesday, Mr. Taylor told the court that he did not work for the United States' top spy agency, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) while he was a rebel leader in Liberia, but he did receive sophisticated communication equipment from the agency in the hope that his forces could help protect American citizens and property during Liberia's brutal civil conflict.

Prosecutors have previously accused Mr. Taylor of working for the CIA while at the same time collaborating with the Libyan government which provided support to his National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) rebel group. In his re-examination on Tuesday, the former president denied working for the CIA.

"I have never, ever, and will not ever work for the CIA or any other intelligence agency, never, no," the former president said. Mr. Taylor has previously noted that his NPFL and the CIA did exchange information but that did not amount to him working as an agent of the CIA.

In other developments on Tuesday, Mr. Taylor denied prosecution allegations that he used his telephone services in his detention facility to manipulate witnesses set to testify for the prosecution. Prosecutors have previously alleged that Mr. Taylor worked with associates in Liberia to intimidate and discourage people from testifying against him.

Mr. Taylor dismissed the allegations, telling judges that the court's registrar, who oversees his detention in The Hague, has never accused him of misusing the telephone services provided to him. He

said that all his telephone calls are fully supervised and are arranged after intensive investigations on who he wants to call.

"First, I have to submit a number of an individual that I would like to call at some time, the process takes two weeks for the Sierra Leonean court and the facilities to do their security checks on the number and the individual," Mr. Taylor said. "After about two weeks, that number is approved for calling. I cannot just automatically get up and say, please call this number, no, it has to be vetted and approved by the Sierra Leonean court."

Mr. Taylor also on Tuesday rebutted the contents of a January 5, 1999 letter written by former Sierra Leonean president, Ahmed Tejan Kabbah, to the United Nations Secretary General, in which the former Liberian president was accused of providing support to RUF rebels in Sierra Leone. "I have a mountain of evidence that rebel offensive has been supported and sustained by the Taylor government," President Kabbah's letter noted. Dismissing the letter as nonsense, Mr. Taylor explained how he would have reacted if he had received a copy of the said letter.

"I would have taken a different disposition during that particular period that Kabbah — who was calling me and talking to me and visiting Liberia — could write a letter making such an accusation. It would have probably changed me significantly," Mr. Taylor said.

The former Liberian president added that if he had received the said letter, he would have removed himself from the Committee of Five, a committee established by West African leaders to facilitate a peaceful end to the conflict in Sierra Leone.

On Wednesday, Mr. Taylor denied claims that he secretly smuggled arms and ammunitions into Liberia in 1997, without informing the West African peacekeepers.

During cross-examination, prosecutors had raised allegations of Mr. Taylor's involvement in arms smuggling in Liberia, pointing to a book written by Nigerian General Victor Malu — the head of West African peacekeeping forces in Liberia during Mr. Taylor's presidency. In his book, General Malu reportedly claimed that in 1997, Mr. Taylor secretly smuggled arms and ammunition from South Africa through the Free Port of Monrovia without informing Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) peace-

keepers. The former ECOMOG commander said that before his forces were alerted, Mr. Taylor had removed the arms and ammunition from the Free Port. As Mr. Taylor continued his re-examination, he dismissed the allegations as nonsense.

"Since ECOMOG arrived in Liberia in 1990, they maintained full control of the Free Port of Monrovia. So to say at this particular time that arms are being brought into the Free Port, the Navy of ECOMOG is based there," Mr. Taylor told the Special Court for Sierra Leone. "Even through my presidency, ECOMOG was deployed fully in Monrovia and its environs by this time. So this is total nonsense that someone could have brought a shipload of arms into the Free Port, the Navy of Nigeria is running this port, it's totally, totally crazy here, it's not possible."

Prosecutors have alleged that these war materials that were imported into Liberia were transferred to RUF rebels in Sierra Leone. Mr. Taylor has maintained that his country did not have arms and ammunition to supply RUF rebels. He has, however, told the court that while he served as president of Liberia, as his country was under a United Nations arms embargo, he secretly bought arms from foreign countries and transported them into Liberia but they were purely for the purpose of fighting against LURD rebel forces in his country. On Thursday, as Mr. Taylor concluded his testimony, he reaffirmed his position that he did not in any way support armed groups in Sierra Leone, including the RUF and Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) — a group of disaffected Sierra Leonean soldiers who overthrew the elected government of Sierra Leone in May 1997.

"Did you, Charles Taylor, between November 1996 and January 2002 provide assistance, support or any kind of help with war-like materials to either the AFRC or the RUF?" Mr. Taylor's defense counsel, Courtenay Griffiths, asked him as a final question in his re-examination on Thursday.

"No. Never," Mr. Taylor responded.

Mr. Taylor is charged with 11 counts of war crimes, crimes against humanity and other serious violations of international humanitarian law in relation to his alleged role in supporting and controlling Sierra Leonean rebels who committed mass crimes during the brutal civil conflict in his neighboring country.



# Charles Taylor Ends Redirect Examination

Former Liberian President, Charles Taylor, has ended his re-direct examination declaring that he's not a criminal, and that the prosecution has failed to prove its case. He dismissed Prosecution claims that he extorted millions of dollars from every company including the Firestone Rubber Plantation that operated in Liberia during his presidency. Mr Taylor also denied that his government tortured journalists and human rights activists in Liberia... **John Kollie** transcribes reports from The Hague for the BBC World Service Trust.....

Former Liberian President Charles Taylor has ended his nearly seven months of evidence on the witness stand in his own defence. Mr Taylor started his production of evidence in his own defence on July 14, 2009.

He's indicted on eleven count charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity which include the recruitment of child soldiers and sexual slavery. Mr Taylor concluded his re-direct examination Thursday by telling the court that he's not a criminal as the Prosecution alleged in its indictment.

The Prosecution had alleged in its cross-examination that former Liberian President enriched himself with millions of dollars from several companies and corporations that operated in Liberia.

The Prosecution had claimed that Mr Taylor extorted money from the Firestone Rubber Plantation, the Oriental Timber Company, the Maryland Wood Processing Company among others.

During his re-direct examination, Mr Taylor denied the Prosecution allegations and said he performed in accordance with his duty as President of Liberia. Mr. Taylor also dismissed the Prosecution claim that he rained terror on journalists and human rights activists who were critical of his government. The Prosecution had named Counsellor Tiawon Gongloe, Kofi Woods, Aloysius Toe and Hassan Bility as human rights activists and journalist who experienced Taylor's rain of terror.

But Mr Taylor said he was not aware of his government torturing any one. However, he told the court that those named by the Prosecution as Human Rights Activists were opposition in disguise.

At the end of Mr. Taylor's re-direct examination, the Prosecution applied for re-cross or to ask him questions again, but the Judges turned down the request.

According to Lead Defence Lawyer, Courtenay Griffiths, the Defence first witness after Mr. Taylor will take stand on Monday.



# "Norman will not forgive SLPP"

*- Family members lament*

*BY MUSTAPHA SESAY*

**F**amily members of the late Sam Hinga Norman who witnessed or watched the recent Mayon Day ceremony on the National Television Station have expressed their disgust at the Sierra Leone People's Party for failing to recognize the great deeds of a Fallen Hero, the Late Sam Hinga Norman who was called home to rest on the on the 23rd February 2007.

According to sources, the late man born on January 1940 in the village of Mongere, Gulala village had served his community and the nation in diverse ways before his untimely death in Senegal.

He was not only a Regent Chief in Jaiama Bongor Chiefdom, Bo District but also co-ordinated of the liberation struggle to halt the advances of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) from overrunning the whole country and controlling the seat of government.



Under the SLPP regime, the late man rose to the position of coordinating the affairs of the Civil Defense Forces in the country and Deputy Chief of Defence.

In an exclusive interview with a close friend of the Norman family, Mr. Abu B. Turay, there was the need for this great freedom fighter to be remembered in the country more so after he was indicted by the Sierra Leone Special Court on the 23rd March 2003 and suffered in captivity just after his untimely death in February 22nd 2007 to be declared as a not guilty man.

Since then, the family and

friends have been waiting patiently as to what activities or ceremonies would be planned towards his anniversary.

It is against this backdrop that all friends and family members who are still remembering the deeds of this great man are opinioned that a visit should always be made to the village of the late man on the 22 February for his anniversaries.

The recent holiday observed in Sierra Leone for all fallen heroes is a classical example of what the Norman families are expecting and nothing else from the past and present governments. Amin, Amen.

By John Kollie

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NEWS ITEM

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*Former Liberian President, Charles Taylor has ended his re-direct examination declaring that he's not a criminal, and that the Prosecution has failed to prove its case. He dismissed Prosecution claims that he extorted millions of dollars from every company including the Firestone Rubber Plantation that operated in Liberia during his presidency. Mr. Taylor also denied that his government tortured Journalists and Human Rights Activists in Liberia... John Kollie transcribes reports from The Hague for the BBC World Service Trust.....*

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**UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary  
19 February 2010**

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

**International Clips on Liberia**

**Johnson-Sirleaf: Africa's Future Depends on Good Leadership**

Source: THIS DAY 02.19.2010

Liberian President, Mrs. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf has said the future of African continent depends on good leadership. She noted that the leaders presently occupying the position of authorities must learn from the past despair, with a view to establishing a better future for Africans. Sirleaf dropped the hint yesterday in Abeokuta, when she received a honorari causa award from the University of Agriculture (UNAAB). "I am proud to be part of this leadership, to have the opportunity to shape the course of Liberia's and Africa's future. To the women of Liberia, of Africa, I dare say the world, I say we are no longer bystanders and beneficiaries; we are now full participants in the evolution of our world. Let us go forth and make it a better world", Sirleaf stressed. She said African Universities and colleges of agriculture have a critical role to play in the revitalization of the agriculture sector by reforming their curricula to become more relevant and respond to the changing needs of farmers, the agriculture business community and other stakeholders.

**International Clips on West Africa  
Guinea**

Published: February 19, 2010

**Government of Guinea Committed to a Peaceful Transition**

The United States welcomes Prime Minister Jean-Marie Dore's appointment of a transition government in Guinea. The 34-member cabinet includes 24 civilians, and represents an important step towards restoring civilian control of the Guinean Government and the country's transition process. With the 15th of January signing of the Ouagadougou Accords, the subsequent appointment of a civilian prime minister, and now a civilian transition government, interim President General Sekouba Konate and the Guinean Government continue to demonstrate their commitment to a peaceful transition to a democratically elected civilian government. Under the Accords, the government is slated to hold elections within six months. With the transition government in place, the United States looks forward to working with Guinea - in collaboration with our international partners - to help facilitate the establishment of a democratically-elected government, restore economic and political development programs and assist the Guinean Armed Forces in their goal of security sector reform.

Source: U.S. Department of State

**Ivory Coast**

**Three Killed In Ivory Coast Anti-Government Protest**

2/19/2010

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP) Police fired on demonstrators at an anti-government rally Friday, killing three people and wounding a dozen others in the latest protest since the president dissolved the government a week ago, the opposition said. Demonstrations spread to at least eight cities on Friday. Moussa Dembele of the opposition RDR party said the deadly protest took place in Gagnoa, about 125 miles (200 kilometers) northwest of the economic capital Abidjan. President Laurent Gbagbo had set a Friday deadline to form a new government but the prime minister on Thursday evening asked for a 48-hour extension.

The dissolution of the government has thrown into doubt the political reconciliation process in Ivory Coast, which was about to hold elections. Five years after the president's term ended, Ivory Coast has yet to hold a ballot to replace him. The now-defunct government was the fruit of a peace agreement signed by Gbagbo's government and the New Forces rebels in 2007 following a civil war that had split the world's No. 1 cocoa producer into a rebel-held north and a government-controlled south. The unity government was composed of 33 ministers from all political parties and rebel factions.

## **France expresses concern about situation in Côte D'Ivoire...**

APA-Abidjan (**Ivory Coast**) 19 February 2010-France has declared Thursday that it was "very worried" and "concerned" about the situation of "excesses" that occurred in Côte d'Ivoire.

### **Local Media – Newspaper**

#### **NEC, IFES Begin Week-long Assessment In Central And South-eastern Liberia**

(The News)

- The National Elections Commission (NEC) in collaboration with the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) has embarked on a week-long assessment.
- The week-long assessment mission which is targeting NEC's elections magistrate officers will be conducted in central and south-eastern Liberia.
- A release said NEC Chairman James Fromayan and IFES Deputy Country Jared Hayes will head the assessment mission.
- The assessment is intended to obtain first hand information on challenges that may arise in the conduct of elections in the leeward counties.
- IFES is the electoral support group implementing the five-year US\$17.5 million electoral support grant given Liberia by the US government.

#### **HIV/AIDS Bill Introduced In Senate**

(In Profile Daily)

- A bill seeking to protect carriers of the AIDS virus has been introduced in the Senate.
- The bill titled "National AIDS Commission Act," seeks to amend the Public Health Law of Liberia.
- Margibi Senator Clarice Jah said if passed into law the Act would help people who are being stigmatized because they suffer from the HIV virus.
- According to the Margibi lawmaker, it would ensure that no one discriminates against HIV/AIDS sufferers in the Country.
- Senator Jah said it would also ensure HIV carriers are properly catered to at various medical centres.

#### **Firestone, Arcelor Mittal Top payments in LEITI 2nd Annual Report**

(The News, The Inquirer and In Profile Daily)

- The Liberia Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (LEITI) multi-Stakeholders steering group has published its 2nd annual report with the agriculture sector topping the payment list.
- According to the report the Agriculture sector made the highest payment to government totalling a little over US\$18 million, while the mining sector reported more than US\$10 million.



- The report was launched Thursday by the Chairperson of the LEITI Multi-Stakeholders Steering Group, Finance Minister Augustine Ngafuan.

### **Seven-year Old Adopted Liberian Girl Murdered In US**

(Daily Observer)

- [SIC] Government has reported the murder of a seven-year old adopted Liberian female child in California, the United States of America.
- The cause of death remains unknown but it is believed the little girl may have been beaten to death by her adoptive American parents.
- Deputy Information Minister Norris Tweah said another eleven-year old girl, who is said to be a sister to the deceased, was also severely flogged.
- The American parents have been identified as Kelvin Schatz, 46 and his wife Elizabeth Schatz, 42 who have been arraigned before a court in California.
- Minister Tweah said the Health Ministry has contacted the US Embassy near Monrovia to ascertain the number of children adopted between 2003 and 2007.
- Meanwhile, government has instructed its Embassy in Washington, DC to make contact with authorities in the US where adopted Liberian children are kept, a move intended to stop further abuse and mistreatment of children adopted from Liberian soil.

### **All INHRC Nominees Rejected Again**

(Daily Observer, The Inquirer and Front Page Africa)

- The Senate has again rejected the confirmation of all nominees of the Independent National Human Rights Commission (INHRC).
- According to reports, the Senate took the decision Thursday during a closed door session, which brings to two the number of times the INHRC nominees have been rejected in less than three weeks. Initially, the nominees were denied confirmation because of the lack of the required votes.
- Again, in its secret session Thursday the Senate could not also obtained the 16 votes making it impossible for the nominees to be confirmed although about 23 Senators attended Thursday's session.
- The rejection means the full implementation of the controversial Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) report by the INHRC now hangs in the balance.

### **German Construction Firms Seek Partnership In Liberia**

(The Informer)

- Two German construction companies have expressed interest to invest in the Liberian construction sector.
- The companies, LGH and BGV are seeking partnership with Liberian companies.
- German Ambassador to Liberia Lindermann-Macha praised the effort and described it as fruitful for both sides.
- According to Deputy Public Works Minister for Administration, Johnson Gwaikolo the objective is for the establishment of German-Liberian teamwork.
- The Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the German Contractors Association, Heinz Rittman said such collaboration could be a good teamwork, which would comprise small and medium size German construction firms with the required expertise.

### **Former Information Minister Begins Process Of Defending Himself in Graft Case**

(New Democrat)

- Former Information Minister Laurence Bropleh Thursday began the process of defending himself against corruption charges.
- Rev. Dr. Bropleh, indicted for theft of property, criminal facilitation and forgery, is being prosecuted as a result of police investigation alleging he misused about US\$358,000 from government coffers.
- Dr. Bropleh recruited from the US is the first cabinet minister to be prosecuted on corruption charges in a government in which the President has said corruption is "systemic" and endemic.

## **PUL Wants Senate Considers Act To Transform LBS To A Public Service Broadcaster**

(Liberian Express, Liberia Journal and Public Agenda)

- The Press Union of Liberia (PUL) says it has been following with interest the investigation by the Liberian Senate into the statutory performance of the Liberia Broadcasting System (LBS).
- PUL says the reported failure of LBS to air the views of Senator Clarice Jah is only the tip of the iceberg and should now serve as a wake up call for the Legislature to begin considering the passage into law of the bill to transform LBS into a public service broadcaster.
- The Union calls on the Legislature to stop reacting to situations in this manner and take proactive steps in addressing issues that affect the democratic governance of the state.
- The Union believes the Senate has the key to good governance and transparency in the running of the state and should therefore not limit its reaction to the Clarice Jah episode.

## **Star Radio (News monitored today at 09:00 am)**

### **NEC, IFES Begin Week-long Assessment In Central And South-eastern Liberia**

(Also reported on Radio Veritas, Truth FM, Sky FM, and ELBC)

### **HIV/AIDS Bill Introduced In Senate**

### **Firestone, Arcelor Mittal Top LEITI 2nd Annual Report**

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

### **Government Commends Opposition Proposal**

- Government has welcomed the proposal from the political leader of the opposition Liberty Party on the way forward for the controversial population threshold bill.
- Cllr. Charles Brumskine recommended that the number of seats for Montserrado County be restricted in a manner that no other county gets less than two seats.
- Deputy Information Minister Cletus Sieh said government is studying the proposal and Cllr. Brumskine should be commended for putting the country's interest first.
- Mr. Sieh said government would continue to encourage a constructive opposition that would put forth recommendations on crucial national issues.
- The Deputy Information Minister agreed that the threshold bill issue is crucial to the democratic future of the country and that finding a way out was necessary.

### **MYS, UNDP Graduate 116 Youths Under Its National Youth Volunteers Service**

- The Ministry of Youth and Sports in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will today hold a graduation ceremony for 116 youths at the Samuel Kanyon Doe Sports Complex in Paynesville.
- The 116 youths represent the second batch of participants of the National Youth Volunteer Service.
- The youth volunteers had been on a one-year assignment in towns and villages in Gbarpolu, Montserrado, Lofa, Bong, Grand Bassa, Grand Kru, Maryland and Grand Gedeh Counties.
- They served in the areas of education, health and agriculture, and community development with emphasis on the Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

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

### **Seven-year Old Adopted Liberian Girl Murdered In US**

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

### **All INHRC Nominees Rejected Again**

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

### **German Construction Firms Seek Partnership In Liberia**

### **Liberian Red Cross Recruits 150 Vulnerable Children**

- The Liberia National Red Cross Society (LNRCS) has recruited 150 children it considers vulnerable and war-affected for its CAR Monrovia Project.



- CAR is the Child Advocacy and Rehabilitation, a project initiated by the society to de-traumatize, rehabilitate and re-integrate war affected children in the society.
- The LNRCS CAR Monrovia Project Supervisor said the one hundred fifty war affected victims were recruited from Montserrado and Bomi Counties.
- Mr. Ernest Davis said the recruits would undergo eleven months of intensive training in various programs to enable them overcome their conditions.

**Truth FM** *(News monitored today at 10:00 am)*

**PUL Wants Senate Considers Act To Transform LBS To A Public Service Broadcaster**

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## BBC Online

Friday, 19 February 2010

### ICC: Guinea killings 'crime against humanity'

The killing of opposition supporters in Guinea last year was a crime against humanity, the International Criminal Court (ICC) has said.

The deputy prosecutor of the ICC, Fatou Bensouda, made the statement in Guinea after a preliminary investigation into the deaths in the capital, Conakry.

Security forces have been blamed for the killings of more than 150 people at an opposition rally on 28 September.

Ms Bensouda said "atrocious crimes" had been committed by men in uniform.

Senior members of the ruling military junta have also been implicated.

The military took over the country in December 2008, following the death of long-time leader Lansana Conte.

"As the deputy prosecutor of the ICC, I end this visit with the feeling that crimes of the order of crimes against humanity were committed," Ms Bensouda said after her three-day investigation in Guinea.

She described "atrocious crimes" at the stadium in Conakry during an opposition rally, when "men in uniform attacked civilians, they killed and wounded".

She said: "In full daylight they mistreated, violated and submitted women to unprecedented sexual violence."

Based on what she discovered in her visit, the ICC could continue with its preliminary investigation, Ms Bensouda said.

#### Democratic promise

A report commissioned by the UN said in December that Capt Moussa Dadis Camara, who was the junta chief at the time, bore "direct criminal responsibility" for the massacre.

The report said the killings and other crimes "could be qualified as crimes against humanity".

In the weeks after the killings, Capt Camara was shot and seriously wounded by an aide who believed the captain was about to blame him for the massacre.

Capt Camara is now in exile in Burkina Faso, and the military chiefs who succeeded him have installed a civilian prime minister and say they are overseeing a transition back to democracy.

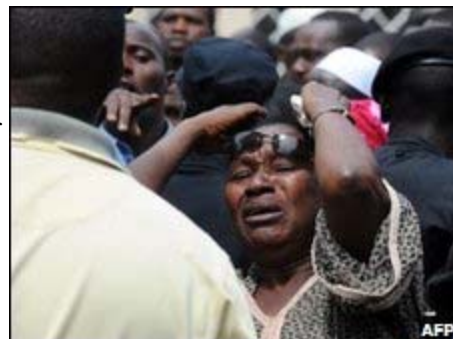
The prime minister, Jean Marie Dore, has said Guinea's judiciary is not capable of judging the massacre suspects.

The ICC can only investigate a crime if the justice system in a country cannot, or will not, investigate itself.

But if it comes to serving any indictments, says the BBC's West Africa correspondent Caspar Leighton, the court will rely on the Guinean authorities to act on any arrest warrants.

This will be a tall order in a country where the military has long held the reins of power.

The Netherlands-based court is the world's only permanent tribunal for the adjudication of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.



Days after the massacre hundreds of relatives had to identify bodies

“ Men in uniform attacked civilians, they killed and wounded ”

Fatou Bensouda  
ICC deputy prosecutor

Guinea PM: 'Judiciary incapable'



Reuters

Friday, 19 February 2010

## ICC asks for more info on Kenya probe

By International Justice Tribune



*The Hague,  
Netherlands*

Pre-trial judges at  
the International  
Criminal Court in  
The Hague have

requested more information from prosecutors before deciding whether to authorise an investigation into post-election violence in Kenya.

The ICC said on Friday the request, made on Thursday, is for "clarification and additional information" in the process of deciding whether to authorise the probe. The prosecutors are due to submit their response by March 3.

On Nov. 26 prosecutors requested permission to start the investigation, saying there was evidence of crimes against humanity in post-election violence in Kenya in 2007 and 2008.

At the time, Chief Prosecutor Luis Moreno Ocampo cited figures from Kenyan authorities that 1,220 people were killed in the incidents, with hundreds of documented rapes and more than 350,000 forcibly displaced.

Under ICC rules, the presidency of the court assigns "situations" to pre-trial chambers. In order to launch a formal investigation into a situation, the Office of the Prosecutor must apply to the relevant chamber for permission.

The ICC said the chamber, in the most recent request, wanted clarification on what allegedly happened in Kenya and how it was linked to policies of the state or other organisations.

It also requested more information on who and what would be probed and how any such investigations are being carried out in Kenya as well.

The ICC also noted that the final decision to authorise a probe or not was pending and that the court's rules set no timeframe for a decision.

Agence France Presse

Monday, 22 February 2010

## 'Genocidaires' feel the heat from warmer France-Rwanda ties

By International Justice Desk (rnw.nl)



*Paris, France*

One day before President Nicolas Sarkozy announced plans for a momentous visit to Rwanda, police turned up at a hospital in sleepy south western France and arrested a Rwandan doctor for genocide.

Sostene Munyemana had been working for nine years as a gynecologist at Saint-Cyr hospital in Villeneuve-sur-Lot,

a town better known for its plum orchards and vineyards than as a refuge for genocide suspects.

Since 2006, the father of three had been on an Interpol watch list of men sought by Rwanda for war crimes, but French authorities had made no move until last month, when Paris and Kigali began enjoying a diplomatic thaw.

"I'm not at all surprised that this is happening now," said Moneyman, who awaits a court decision in June on whether he will be extradited to Rwanda.

"Diplomatic relations have been restored between the two countries and so the circumstances were favourable to this," he told AFP in a phone interview.

Dubbed the Butcher of Tumba by one rights group, Munyemana is accused of taking part in the 1994 killings of ethnic Tutsis in Butare, Rwanda's second city, where he also worked as a doctor at the university hospital.

A group called African Rights said Munyemana was seen carrying a crowbar as he led angry mobs in attacks on Tutsi homes and rounded up victims to be locked up in an office where he would return at night to kill them.

### **Charges rejected**

The 45 year old Hutu rejects the charges and maintains he is the target of false accusations from the London-based pressure group, which he claims is close to the Kigali government.

"There were killings just about everywhere," he recalled of the atrocities in Butare. "We tried to resist and save our own skins, but I never took part in anything. I have witnesses to prove it."

Munyemana's arrest was seen as a shift in France's policy on Rwanda.

For years, activist groups have been campaigning to force the "genocidaires" to answer charges related to the mass killing of 800,000 people, mostly Tutsis, between April and July 1994.



French authorities are investigating more than a dozen cases involving Rwandan genocide suspects living in France, such as that of Munyemana and the more prominent Agathe Habyarimana, widow of the late president.

But only three people have been formally charged including a Kigali priest accused of murdering victims who sought refuge in a church and a governor who allegedly organised the massacre of tens of thousands at a school.

Sarkozy will be the first French president to visit Rwanda since the genocide when he arrives Thursday in Kigali, where anti-French sentiment runs high.

### **France accused**

The Tutsi-led Rwandan government has long accused France of siding with the former Hutu regime and providing sanctuary for alleged mass killers now enjoying comfortable lives in French towns.

Agathe Habyarimana, who wielded much power in Kigali during her late husband's reign, was airlifted out of Rwanda by French troops in the days following her husband's assassination and now lives in a Paris suburb.

She was denied asylum in a final appeal in October and could find herself before a French court to answer charges that she was one of the genocide's masterminds. Habyarimana denies the allegations.

Munyemama was released under judicial supervision and judges earlier this month asked for additional information from Rwanda on the case before making a decision on whether to extradite him.

Justice for Rwandans, he said, is an elusive goal.

"In Rwanda, everyone knows at least one killer," he said.

France last month announced plans to set up a new court with special powers to try cases of genocide and crimes against humanity, with legislation on the panel expected later this year.

"There had been absolute inertia until now," said Alain Gauthier, president of the CPCRC group of civil plaintiffs who have been seeking to bring genocide suspects to justice.

Neighbouring Belgium meanwhile has already held four genocide trials in which two nuns; a banker and others have been sent behind bars.

Agence France Presse

Friday, 19 February 2010

## Canadian court denies Rwandan envoy's refugee bid



*Ottawa, Canada*

Canada's federal court on Thursday refused to hear a former Rwandan ambassador's pleas to stay in Canada as a refugee, saying he was inadmissible to the country as a member of a

genocidal government.

Maximin Segasayo, Rwanda's ambassador to Ottawa from 1991 to 1995, ignored orders by Rwanda's post-genocide government in March 1995 to return home, almost one year after the bloody massacre.

Instead, he and his family made successful refugee claims in 1996, and quietly settled in Montreal.

He would later be ordered deported, after Ottawa in April 1998 declared Rwanda's governments in power prior to and during the 1994 genocide had "engaged in gross human rights violation, genocide, war crimes or crimes against humanity."

In rejecting Segasayo's bid for a judicial review of the case, Federal Court Judge Sean Harrington said Canada's Immigration Division of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Board "had found him inadmissible to Canada on grounds of violating human or international rights."

Segasayo "was therefore not entitled to a hearing where he could present evidence that he did not participate in the war crimes and genocide committed by the Rwandan governments he represented."

The judge added that it was premature for a review of the case, as Segasayo still has several options available to him to try to avoid deportation.

Segasayo had previously sought a ministerial exemption, claiming "he was in no way complicit in the atrocities of the Rwandan governments, and had no influence over them," according to court documents.

He had also submitted to an immigration panel "that as a member of the Hutu intelligentsia and as ambassador to Canada appointed by the former government he feared persecution and reprisal by the new Tutsi government."



## Radio Netherlands Worldwide

Thursday, 18 February 2010

### Goldhagen's Worse than War - is genocide a political act?

By International Justice Desk



*Amsterdam, Netherlands*

Are genocides an inevitable feature of human societies? If not, why do they continue to happen, long after we've all agreed "Never again"?

According to historian Daniel Jonah Goldhagen, it's because some political

leaders see them as a way to achieve political goals.

"We must stop detaching mass elimination and its mass-murder variant from our understanding of politics. Eliminationist politics, like the politics of war, is a politics of purposive acts to achieve political outcomes, often of ultimate ends and often of desired power redistribution." Daniel Jonah Goldhagen, *Worse than War: Genocide, Eliminationism and the Ongoing Assault on Humanity*

Contrary to much of the received wisdom about genocide, Goldhagen argues that it's never the result of irrational, frenzied bloodlust emerging from natural social tensions. In his view, genocides are planned and reasoned decisions: conscious political choices, with clear political ends. "Mass murder is a political act," he says, and any serious attempts to prevent it must take this into account. If genocide is indeed the rational, calculated action of political leaders, we need to make sure that leaders don't benefit from atrocities. "It's a political game....[and]...if people involved knew at the end of the day they'd be the losers, they would not play the game," says one of Goldhagen's interviewees.

You can read more about Daniel Jonah Goldhagen's views on genocide in this article from The New Republic:

<http://www.tnr.com/article/world/ending-our-age-suffering>

Let us know what you think? Do you agree with Goldhagen's description of mass killing? Is it always a calculated "top down" political action, or can genocide be sparked by natural societal tensions - ethnic, economic, religious, etc? What does that tell us about how to stop it from happening?

# Special Court Supplement

## Mongolian Guard Force Rotation Ceremony

Saturday, 20 February





