

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



Registrar Binta Mansaray unveils a monument to the Special Court during Saturday's Outreach to Talia Yawbeko, the CDF "Base Zero". See photos of the event 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 March 2010

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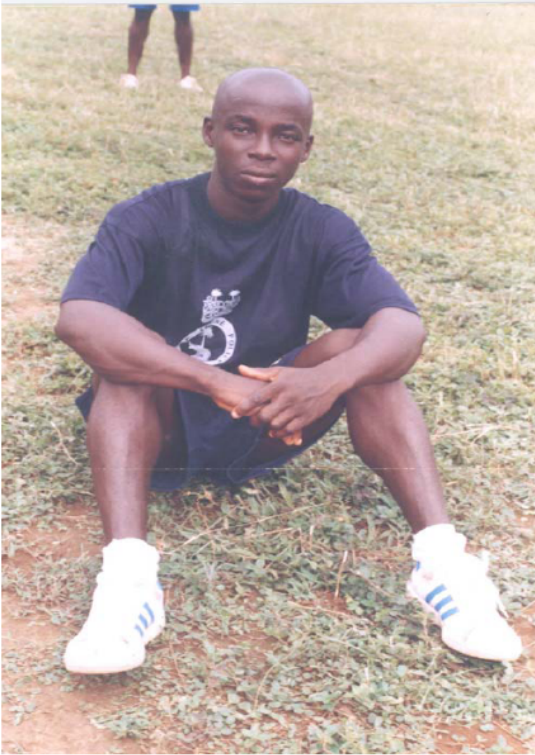
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## ORBITUARY

# **ADIEU**



We regret to announce the death of **PC 10867 LAMIN SESAY** who passed away at the **34 Military Hospital, Wilberforce Barracks**, on **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2010**.

He was born on **6<sup>th</sup> June 1982** and was enlisted into the **Sierra Leone Police** in **May 2005**. Until his death, he was seconded to work at the **SCSL** since **2007**.

**Lamin Sesay** was deployed for protection duties at the residence of the Registrar. He was known by colleagues as dutiful and a good friend.

He was buried at the **Circular Road Cemetery** on **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2010** at about **1600hrs**. He was succeeded by a wife and a son.

Contributions to his family could be made with the **SCSL Security Section Admin Assistant**.

Premier News  
Monday, March 22, 2010

# Liberian Witness Denies RUF Atrocities

**T**he Defence Liberian Witness testifying in Mr. Charles Taylor's case under anonymity has denied a Sierra Leone Truth and Reconciliation Commission report that the RUF committed the highest number of violations ranging from rape to forced labour against civilians in 1991.

*By John Kollie, BBC World Service Trust*

Continuing his cross-examination on Thursday the witness also denied that the RUF used child soldiers.

A Sierra Leonean TRC report read in court Thursday stated that the RUF which Mr. Charles Taylor allegedly supported was the most notorious group among all the factions in the Sierra Leone civil war. Former Liberian President, Charles Taylor is accused of committing sexual

slavery, rape, forced labour among others against the civilian population of Sierra Leone.

The TRC reported that the RUF committed over thousand violations of rape, destructions of property, forced labour, sexual slavery among others in the Sierra Leonean District of Kailahun alone in 1991.

But the Defence witness testified that Former RUF

Leader, Foday Sankoh forewarned the RUF fighters about the crimes mentioned in the TRC report. The recruitment of child soldiers is one of the counts against Former Liberian President, Charles Taylor. The Prosecution stated in its indictment that the RUF which Mr. Taylor allegedly supported, recruited children less than 15 years. But the Liberian witness testifying in defence of Mr. Taylor said none of the RUF fighters were below 17 years. At the time of this report the court had gone into private session to hear evidence that might expose the identity of the witness.

By John Kollie

### NEWS ITEM-Report from The Hague

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*“You have been bribed to testify in defence of Charles Taylor”, Prosecution Lawyer, Nicholas Kumjian told the Defence Gambian Witness testifying under anonymity as he resumed his cross-examination on Friday. The Prosecution Lawyer also said the witness and Mr. Taylor gave contradictory statements about the arrest and detention of West African Nationals by the defunct National Patriotic Front of Liberia, the NPFL in 1990. The cross-examination of this witness was suspended on March 10. John Kollie transcribes reports from The Hague for the BBC World Service Trust...*

The Prosecution indicated to the Judges on Friday that the Defence Gambian Witness was bribed to testify for Mr. Taylor.

The witness has received nearly eleven thousand United States Dollars for daily subsistence allowance, DSA, since he arrived in the Netherlands the Prosecution said. Prosecution Lawyer, Nicholas Kumjian also questioned the witness lodging at one of the best hotels in Holland.

But the witness said the DSA and his accommodation at a decent hotel should not be considered as bribery. Following the witness’s response, Defence Lawyer, Courtenay Griffiths objected to the mode of cross-examination by Mr. Kumjian.

“To the best my knowledge all I’m receiving is for my subsistence whiles I’m here in the Netherlands and it’s not money that has been given to me as a bribe.” The witness argued.

The Prosecution Lawyer also said the witness contradicted Mr. Taylor’s testimonies about the arrest of nationals of contributing countries to the West African Peacekeeping Force, ECOMOG in 1990.

Mr. Taylor testified on July 20, 2009 that Nigerian nationals were picked up after Nigerian ECOMOG took side in the Liberian conflict by bombing NPFL territory.

But the Defence Gambian Witness said no West African Nationals were arrested by NPFL.

“ Now if Taylor is lying you can prove him to be lying but what I’m telling you is the truth and I want you to understand that.”

Meanwhile the court on Friday granted permission to the Defence Gambian Witness to visit Mr. Taylor at the end of his testimonies. The Prosecution interposed no objection to visit but requested that a representative of the detention facility be present at the meeting of the two men.

Charlestaylortrial.org

Saturday, 20 March 2010

## **As defense witness payments are questioned, witnesses deny Charles Taylor supplied rebels with arms, also deny rebels recruited child soldiers or raped**

By Alpha Sesay

This week, a witness for former Liberian president, Charles Taylor denied that Mr. Taylor supplied weapons to Sierra Leonean rebels, backing up information contained in a 1999 military report issued by the rebels. The same witness also rejected the idea that the rebels themselves raped, took “bush wives” or recruited child soldiers during the country’s brutal 11-year conflict (in contradiction to a Special Court for Sierra Leone judgment which found otherwise). Meanwhile, prosecutors raised concerns about payments to a defense witness which they considered excessive.

A Liberian national and former Revolutionary United Front (RUF) member this week denied that Charles Taylor supplied weapons to Sierra Leonean rebels and instead claimed that attacks on enemy forces and purchase from Guinean soldiers were two main sources of obtaining arms and ammunition by the country’s rebel forces. This testimony corroborated information contained in a 1999 Salute Report prepared by RUF commander, Sam Bockarie, for his leader Foday Sankoh upon his release from jail. (In this report, Mr. Bockarie explained how the RUF was run as an organization during Mr. Sankoh’s incarceration. Mr. Bockarie reported that arms and ammunition were captured from enemy forces while some were also bought from Guinean Soldiers. The report did not state anything about the RUF receiving arms and ammunition from Mr. Taylor). The witness’ direct testimony was largely heard in closed session on Wednesday, before prosecutors started his cross-examination in open session.

On Thursday, as prosecutors cross-examined the witness, he told the court that RUF rebel forces did not commit crimes of rape, nor did they recruit and use children for combat purposes as alleged by prosecutors.

The witness denied claims in Sierra Leone’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) report that the RUF was the most notorious group among all warring factions in Sierra Leone’s conflict. According to the TRC report, portions of which were read in court on Thursday, in Kailahun District in eastern Sierra Leone alone, the RUF committed more than 1,000 violations of forced labor, rape, sexual slavery and destruction of civilian property among many others. Mr. Taylor’s defense witness on Thursday dismissed the claims as lies, telling the court that RUF leader, Mr. Sankoh, forewarned the RUF about the commission of the crimes mentioned in the TRC report.

Speaking specifically about allegations of rape by the RUF, the witness told the court that “I said, there was a law concerning raping, that any soldier who raped, the instruction from Foday Sankoh was that any soldier who raped should be executed but I did not see any soldier, nor did I get any report that a soldier raped and be disciplined in my presence. I did not see that,” the witness said.

Prosecution counsel Mohamed Bangura who conducted the witness’s cross-examination, asked the witness about his denial of the RUF taking women as “bush wives” in Sierra Leone

“You also denied that the RUF took women as bush wives, you denied that, didn’t you?” Mr. Bangura put to the witness.

In his response, the witness explained that “I said, most of the men who went to the base to be trained, they had their women but I did not see people forcing women to take them to be their women. I did not see that.”

Mr. Taylor is on trial for allegedly providing support to RUF rebels in Sierra Leone. RUF commanders have already been convicted by the Special Court for Sierra Leone for crimes of rape, sexual slavery, recruitment of child soldiers and terrorizing the civilian population committed in Sierra Leone during the country’s civil conflict. Prosecutors claim that Mr. Taylor, while in Liberia, exercised control over the RUF rebels in Sierra Leone and that he knew or had reason to know that these crimes were committed but failed to prevent those crimes from being committed, nor punished those who committed the crimes. Prosecutors say that Mr. Taylor aided and abetted the

RUF in the commission of these crimes. Prosecution witnesses, comprising RUF insiders and victims of the conflict in Sierra Leone, have testified to the commission of these crimes by the RUF.

Mr. Taylor has consistently denied the allegations, saying that he did not provide any support to the RUF and that he did not know that any such crimes were being committed in Sierra Leone. The former Liberian president's witnesses testifying on his behalf have also dismissed prosecution allegations against him as lies. This witness, an RUF insider, also this week insisted that Mr. Taylor did not support the RUF and that prosecution allegations that the RUF committed crimes in Sierra Leone are false.

Also in his cross-examination on Thursday, the witness denied prosecution allegations that the RUF recruited and used children for combat purposes in Sierra Leone. According to the witness, no fighters in the RUF were below the age of 17 years.

"They told us that it's from 17 upwards before you'll be recruited on the base, so I believe that everybody who was on the base, their ages were above 17, from 17 upwards," the witness said.

Asked by Mr. Bangura to say who told him "that the fighters should be 17 upwards," the witness replied that "it was Foday Sankoh who gave the instruction."

The witness would be surprised, he said, if somebody told the court that there were fighters in the RUF who were below the ages of 15 and 17.

"I did not see children, so it will surprise me because where I was, all the soldiers who carried arms, they were not children," he said.

On Friday, a protected Gambian witness, whose evidence was suspended on March 10, 2010 to give prosecutors more time to prepare for his cross-examination, took the stand again. Prosecution counsel, Nicholas Koumjian, alleged the witness had been paid excessive amounts as an incentive for him to testify for the former president.

The witness, prosecutors said, has received 11,000 USD in total from the Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA) provided to him by the court since he arrived in The Hague to testify for Mr. Taylor. Mr. Koumjian also pointed out that the witness was lodged at one of the best hotels in The Netherlands.

The witness denied the prosecution allegation, saying that his DSA and accommodation should not be looked at as a bribe to testify for Mr. Taylor.

"To my knowledge, all what I am receiving is for my subsistence while I am here in The Netherlands and it is not money that has been given to me as a bribe," the witness said.

Mr. Koumjian also highlighted contradictions in the witness' testimony with that of Mr. Taylor, specifically about the arrest of nationals of contributing countries to the Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) peacekeeping forces in Liberia. In July 2009, Mr. Taylor testified that Nigerian nationals were picked up by his PFL rebel group when ECOMOG forces started bombing NPFL territories in Liberia. The current witness has told the court that no West African nationals were arrested by the NPFL. Mr. Koumjian sought to know who was telling lies between Mr. Taylor and the witness.

"So Mr. Witness, who is the liar: Mr. Taylor when he says he did begin the process of picking up nationals of contributing countries and targeting Nigerians, or you?" Mr. Koumjian asked the witness.

In his response, the witness said that "now, if Taylor is lying, you can prove him to be lying but what I am telling you is the truth and I want you to understand that."

Before court adjourned on Friday, the judges granted permission for the witness to visit Mr. Taylor at his detention facility after the conclusion of his testimony. While prosecutors did not object to the visit, they asked that a detention facility representative be present at the meeting between the two men.

## CharlesTaylorTrial.org (The Hague)

Thursday, 18 March 2010

### **RUF Rebels Did Not Commit Crimes Of Rape, Did Not Recruit Child Soldiers, Witness Says**

Alpha Sesay

Sierra Leonean rebel forces did not commit crimes of rape, nor did they recruit and use children for combat purposes as alleged by prosecutors, Charles Taylor's defense witness told Special Court for Sierra Leone judges today under cross-examination in The Hague.

A Liberian national who was a member of Sierra Leone's Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebel group today disputed prosecution claims that RUF rebels committed heinous crimes such as rape, destruction of civilian property and recruitment of children for combat purposes during Sierra Leone's 11-years civil conflict.

The witness, who has been testifying with protective measures, also denied claims in Sierra Leone's Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) report that the RUF was the most notorious group among all warring factions in Sierra Leone's conflict. According to the TRC report, portions of which were read in court today, in Kailahun District in eastern Sierra Leone alone, the RUF committed more than 1,000 violations of forced labor, rape, sexual slavery and destruction of civilian property among many others. Mr. Taylor's defense witness today dismissed the claims as lies, telling the court that RUF leader, Foday Sankoh, forewarned the RUF about the commission of the crimes mentioned in the TRC report.

Speaking specifically about allegations of rape by the RUF, the witness told the court that "I said, there was a law concerning raping, that any soldier who raped, the instruction from Foday Sankoh was that any soldier who raped should be executed but I did not see any soldier, nor did I get any report that a soldier raped and be disciplined in my presence. I did not see that," the witness said.

Prosecution counsel Mohamed Bangura who conducted the witness's cross-examination, asked the witness about his denial of the RUF taking women as "bush wives" in Sierra Leone

"You also denied that the RUF took women as bush wives, you denied that, didn't you?" Mr. Bangura put to the witness.

In his response, the witness explained that "I said, most of the men who went to the base to be trained, they had their women but I did not see people forcing women to take them to be their women. I did not see that."

Mr. Taylor is on trial for allegedly providing support to RUF rebels in Sierra Leone. RUF commanders have already been convicted by the Special Court for Sierra Leone for crimes of rape, sexual slavery, recruitment of child soldiers and terrorizing the civilian population committed in Sierra Leone during the country's civil conflict. Prosecutors claim that Mr. Taylor, while in Liberia, exercised control over the RUF rebels in Sierra Leone and that he knew or had reason to know that these crimes were committed but failed to prevent those crimes from being committed, nor punished those who committed the crimes. Prosecutors say that Mr. Taylor aided and abetted the RUF in the commission of these crimes. Prosecution witnesses, comprising RUF insiders and victims of the conflict in Sierra Leone, have testified to the commission of these crimes by the RUF.

Mr. Taylor has consistently denied the allegations, saying that he did not provide any support to the RUF and that he did not know that any such crimes were being committed in Sierra Leone. The former Liberian president's witnesses testifying on his behalf have also dismissed prosecution allegations against him as lies. The current witness, an RUF insider, also now insists that Mr. Taylor did not support the RUF and that prosecution allegations that the RUF committed crimes in Sierra Leone are false.

Also in his cross-examination today, the witness denied prosecution allegations that the RUF recruited and used children for combat purposes in Sierra Leone. According to the witness, no fighters in the RUF were below the age of 17 years.



“They told us that it’s from 17 upwards before you’ll be recruited on the base, so I believe that everybody who was on the base, their ages were above 17, from 17 upwards,” the witness said.

Asked by Mr. Bangura to say who told him “that the fighters should be 17 upwards,” the witness replied that “it was Foday Sankoh who gave the instruction.”

The witness would be surprised, he said, if somebody told the court that there were fighters in the RUF who were below the ages of 15 and 17.

“I did not see children, so it will surprise me because where I was, all the soldiers who carried arms, they were not children,” he said.

Certain portions of the witness’s cross-examination today were heard in closed/private session for purposes of protecting the witness’s identity.

The witness’s testimony continues tomorrow.

## Cocorioko

Monday, 22 March 2010

### **Wives of CDF and RUF inmates arrive in Rwanda**

Written by Alfred Munda Sam Foray , Kenema, Sierra Leone

We are pleased to report that the wives of Moinina Fofana, Alieu Musa Kondewa of the CDF and Issa Hassan Sesay of the RUF all arrived safely yesterday at Mpagu Prisons in Southern Rwanda for a two-week visit with their husbands. Fofana and Kondewa are both serving prison sentences of 15 and 20 years, respectively, imposed by the Special Court for Sierra Leone for alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Fofana and Kondewa along with former CDF National Coordinator, Late Chief Sam Hinga Norman, were indicted for twice taking up arms to establish constitutional government in Sierra Leone after Revolutionary United Front (RUF) and soldiers of the Sierra Leone Army rebelled against the government and plunged the country into an eleven-year civil war. Largely as a result of these indictments and the subsequent death in detention of Chief Hinga Norman, political power in Sierra Leone dramatically shifted from the South-East to the North-West following the 2007 general and presidential elections which brought to power Norman's friend and ally, Ernest Bai Koroma, of the All People's Congress (APC). As it is written, "The stone which the builders rejected have become the chief cornerstone."

We regret to inform, however, that the infant son of Mr. Kondewa died late last month from a brief illness. Another son also passed away in January under similar conditions. We are extremely grateful to the Arabella Foray Peace Foundation and representatives of the Bo, Kailahun and Kenema District Branches of the All People's Congress party for their financial and moral support to the Kondewa families during their loss as well as the Hinga Norman family during the third anniversary of the death of Mr. Norman. As always, a friend in need is a friend indeed. We are also sadly informed by Mr. Fofana that his family has been given a short notice of eviction from their rented property on Gerehun Road in Bo.

With respect to the Norman family, we are pleased to report that the gold mining accident in Mbawomahun, Valunia Chiefdom which would have involved several members of the family was false in its entirety. Both government and family sources from Mongere, ten miles from the mines, conclude that no loss of life was occurred there as recently reported by Richard Margao of the BBC Focus on Africa. BBC has subsequently retracted the story and Mr. Margao and some members of KISS-FM station in Bo have reportedly been invited to the CID for their role in filing this bogus and alarming report.

On a partly personal note, I am pleased to report that I have returned safely to my base in Kenema following a one day working visit to Talia, Yawbeko Chiefdom, Bonthe District with the Outreach Branch of the Special Court for Sierra Leone. The delegation which included the entire hierarchy of the court including the Registrar, Defender, Prosecutor and Public Affairs was in Ywabeko at the invitation of the youths of the chiefdom to erect a memorial to the war dead. Talia, Yawbeko was the home of the most famous operational base of the war, Base Zero, home of the Kamajors. Although the delegation was politely received, I was there strictly as an observer and representative of the CDF families.

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

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

**International Clips on Liberia**

**I-80 victim's sister planning on bringing her home to Liberia**

<http://www.wqad.com>

ROCK ISLAND - The victims who were struck and killed on Interstate 80 near Leclair last week couldn't call for help from their cell phone because they had run out of pre-paid minutes. 20-year old Miata Gayflorsee and 19-year old Cyrus Wilson were hit by a car while walking along the interstate March 11th. Her sister, Irene Blackston says they were driving to work, but missed an exit. When they tried to turn their car around, they got stuck in the grassy median, and likely were walking to flag someone down for help, when they were hit. "I'm so angry, but I don't know who to be angry with, because she had her whole life ahead of her", Blackston said. The two were young lovers, happy they had found a job in the Quad Cities, and eager to start a new life here. Both of their families had immigrated from Liberia. Miata's sister flew in from Pennsylvania to bring her body back home to Africa, where their mother still lives. "I haven't told her yet, I'm afraid it will kill her. Because she's so close to her, she's the baby of the family. I think she will die", said I Blackston in an interview with News 8 Thursday. Her nickname was Sonnie. She and her boyfriend Cyrus started working for RR Donnelly. It would have only been her second day on the job, if she had made it to work that night. Her friends said the two had a cell phone, but they couldn't call anyone because it had run out of minutes, and left it in the car, as they went to look for help. A memorial for her Quad City friends will be held at her church in Rock Island Saturday. Cyrus Wilson will be buried in California. Blackston wants to talk to the driver of the car. She wants to know what he remembers. She still can't believe she's gone. "She didn't deserve to die. Not like this".

**International Clips on West Africa**

**Guinea**

**Rio Tinto, Chinalco sign deal to develop Simandou iron ore reserve in West Africa**

<http://www.latimes.com/business/nationworld/wire/sns-ap-as-australia-rio-tinto-chinalco,0,3814103.story>

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Mining giant Rio Tinto Ltd. and China's Chinalco have signed a deal to develop an iron ore reserve in the West African country of **Guinea**. The nonbinding joint venture agreement covers rail and port infrastructure as well as the Simandou mine itself, the Anglo-Australian miner said in a statement Friday. The deal comes after Rio Tinto last year angered Chinalco by scrapping a \$19.5 billion tie-up over Australian fears it would give a foreign company a strategic stake in one of the country's biggest industries. Rio Tinto owns 95 percent of the Simandou project, with the remaining 5 percent owned by the International Finance Corporation, the financing arm of the World Bank. Under the deal, Chinalco will acquire a 47 percent interest in the joint venture by providing \$1.35 billion to fund ongoing development during the next two to three years. At the end of that period, Rio Tinto will own 50.35 percent and Chinalco 44.65 percent, the statement said. "We have long believed that Rio Tinto and Chinalco could work together on major projects for mutual benefit," Rio Tinto CEO Tom Albanese said in the statement. The Guinean government holds an option to buy up to 20 percent of the project, the statement said.

## Côte d'Ivoire

### Côte d'Ivoire / UNOCI trains political actors, community leaders and the civil society in Tehini on human rights and electoral ethics

<http://appablog.wordpress.com/2010/03/19/cote-d%e2%80%99ivoire-unoci-trains-political-actors-community-leaders-and-the-civil-society-in-tehini-on-human-rights-and-electoral-ethics/>

The United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), in partnership with the Local Comity for the Monitoring of Actions for Peace (LCMAP) organized on Tuesday 16 March a training workshop on Human rights and Elections for the political actors, community leaders and the civil society in Tehini, in the region of Bouna, 604 km northeast of Abidjan. Giving the context and the objective of this one-day activity, the chief of delegation, Yetamasso Appolle from the Human Rights Division, explained that this workshop was contributing to the partners' capacity-building regarding human rights in electoral period. "UNOCI wants to make you know human rights and electoral process so that you relay these teachings to your communities, members and activists for the smooth holding of the elections", she said. In this regard, Mrs. Yetamasso appealed to the participants to put actions to establish an electoral environment without violence while respecting opinions and choice of others. "Have a fair-play spirit while respecting with dignity the results from the ballots", she advised. For his part, Mr. Fernand Kouassi from the LCMAP taught citizenship and democracy to the participants. He also sensitized them to political tolerance and electoral ethics. Mr. Aka Malan, from the Public Information Office, explained UNOCI's role in the peace process. He invited the participants to be peace ambassadors everywhere they are so that they contribute efficiently to reinforcing unity and social cohesion, he explained. Mr. Aka appealed for peaceful electoral environment, saying that everyone whatever his social class, ethnic, his religious and political trend, should make effort so that election puts an end to the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire.

#### Local Media – Newspaper

##### **Montserrado Lawmaker Criticizes President Sirleaf's TRC Progress Report**

(The New Republic, In Profile Daily, The Inquirer, The Informer, Heritage, The News, The Analyst)

- A Montserrado County Representative has rubbished the progress report by President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf on the implementation of the Truth Reconciliation Commission (TRC) recommendations.
- Representative Edwin Snowe said the report by President Sirleaf lacks substance and should be considered a letter addressed to the Legislature.
- According to Representative Snowe, the so-called progress report by the President demonstrates her lack of will to implement the TRC recommendations.
- He made the statement following the submission of a four-page document to the House of Representatives as his response to the President's progress report.
- The Montserrado lawmaker argued President Sirleaf was undermining the implementation of crucial portions of the TRC report and blamed her for the rejection of nominees of the Independent National Human Rights Commission.

##### **House Summons Defense Minister For Inflammatory Statement**

(In Profile Daily, The Inquirer, Public Agenda, Heritage, The News, The Analyst, New Democrat)

- The House of Representatives has summoned Defense Minister Brownie Samukai to appear before it Tuesday, March 23 to clarify what it considers his inflammatory statement against it.
- The House claimed Minister Samukai told a local radio that those in government who receive allowances need to divert some of their funds to support the military.
- In its vote Thursday, the House said the statement amounts to inciting the military against government workers especially Legislators.
- The House also said Minister Samukai must clarify a lease agreement the Defense Ministry reached with the GSM companies including Cellcom and Lone Star Cell.

- It said the Defense Minister must state whether he has the authority to enter into a US\$25,000 agreement with the companies outside legislation.

### **Zorzor Citizens Protest Ritualistic Killings**

(The Informer, Heritage, New Democrat)

- Over a hundred citizens of Zorzor District, Lofa County Thursday converged at the Foreign Ministry to protest the wave of ritualistic killings in their District citing the mysterious death of a police officer and Little Vewu Kesselly as cases in point.
- The demonstrators carried placards calling for immediate investigation into the incidents and the perpetrators brought to book.
- They also carried a photograph of the late Korpo Kamara, the schoolgirl whose death sparked violence in Konia last February and spread to Voinjama resulting in deaths of citizens of the area.
- The spokesman of the demonstrators Forkpa Gizi said they feared the Voinjama bloodshed could be repeated in Zorzor if their complaint is not treated with immediacy.

### **Ellen Freezes Senate Account?**

(The Inquirer)

- Reports emanating from the Senate say President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has frozen the account of the Senate.
- Reasons for the freezing of the Senate's account are yet to be known, but some Senators have alarmed over the freezing of their accounts and have taken serious exception to President Sirleaf's decision.
- Montserrado County Senator Joyce Freeman Sumo sees the President's action as interference with the work of the National Legislature.
- She noted that the President is the implementing arm of the government's economy.
- In an interview Thursday, Senator Sumo quoted the President Pro-tempore of the Senate as saying that the President has frozen their account.
- Senator Sumo said the leadership of the Senate has communicated with the President to unfreeze their account something that is yet to be seen.

### **Commerce Plans WIPO Symposium**

(The Inquirer, The Informer, Heritage, Liberian Express)

- The Commerce Ministry, in collaboration with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the Liberia Intellectual Property Office holds a three-day National Symposium on Intellectual Property aimed at educating, training and researching.
- According to a release, the symposium takes place in Monrovia from March 22-24, 2010.
- The symposium is expected to strengthen Intellectual Property as a tool for national development and the Intellectual Property policy.
- The release notes that the symposium will look at the role of patents, trademarks and geographical indications, industrial designs and copyright in promoting innovation and creativity.
- The symposium will address capacity building needs in the Intellectual Property area and responses at the international level.

### **UL To Begin Relocating Students July**

(The Inquirer)

- The University of Liberia (UL) says it would commence relocating some of its students and colleges beginning this July to the Fendall Campus of the University.
- UL President, Dr. Emmett Dennis said the exercise will begin with the teachers College, which he said has the smallest enrolment at the university and will be followed by other colleges such as the College of Social Sciences and Humanities and lastly the Business College, which has the largest enrolment of 8,000 students.

### **ECOWAS Launches Voluntary Programme In Liberia**

(The News, The Analyst)

- The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has begun intensive training for the launch of its voluntary programme in Liberia scheduled for Monday, March 22, 2010.
- The acting manager for the ECOWAS Peace Fund, Dieudonne Nikiema, said the launch would be a case study initiated by the sub regional body.
- Mr. Nikiema said the ECOWAS voluntary programme would be the first of its kind to be undertaken by the sub regional body which has focused exclusively on political and military situations in member countries since its establishment.
- The launching of the programme which is expected to convene at the Samuel K. Doe Sports Complex in Paynesville will be held on the topic "Two decades of peace processes in West Africa: Achievements, Failures, and Lessons Learned."

### **UN Envoy Urges Peacekeepers To Continue Their Efforts To Consolidate Peace**

(The Analyst)

- Kenyan peacekeepers have been awarded UN medals for their contributions to peace in Liberia, which they have made through mentoring Liberia's police, corrections and immigration sectors.
- In a remark to the 22-member contingent, the Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG), Ms. Ellen Margrethe Løj emphasized the need to "entrench reconciliation in the Liberian society."
- She urged them to continue with their efforts to consolidate peace in the country.
- "We must encourage Liberians to resolve disputes through reconciliation and learn to co-exist without resorting to violence," Ms. Løj said.

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

#### **Criminal Court 'B' Delivers Verdict In The Angel Togba Murder Case**

- The verdict in the Angel Togba murder trial has been handed down against defendants Hans Williams and Mardea Paykue.
- The proceeding was held in Criminal Court 'B' at the Temple of Justice in Monrovia.
- Judge Blamo Dixon rendered the guilty verdict against the couple for killing the 13-year old girl condemning them to death by hanging.
- It is however, expected that the defendants will take an appeal.

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

#### **Montserrado Lawmaker Criticizes President Sirleaf's TRC Progress Report**

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

#### **House Summons Defense Minister For Inflammatory Statement**

*(Also reported Radio Veritas, Sky FM, and ELBC)*

#### **Governance Commission To Launch Civil Engagement Dialogue Saturday**

- The Governance Commission (GC) will this weekend launch its nationwide decentralization county-to-county civil engagement dialogue.
- A GC release issued said the National Policy on Decentralization and Local Governance will begin on Saturday and end on Tuesday in Bopolu, Gbarpolu County on March 20th, and continues in Tubmanburg, Bomi County on March 23rd.
- According to the release, sixty delegates from each county are expected to participate in the dialogue.
- The civic engagement dialogue is intended to sensitize local leaders and citizens on the National Policy on Decentralization and Local Governance, a product of about four years of consultations with local leaders and county officials among others.
- The pending dialogue will also solicit inputs from the citizens on the implementation strategy for the decentralization programme in Liberia.

#### **Zorzor Citizens Protest Ritualistic Killings**

#### **Tax Court Delivers Guilty verdict Against SRC, Ordered To Pay Over US\$511,000**

- The Tax Court has handed down a guilty verdict against the Salala Rubber Corporation (SRC) in favour of the Finance Ministry.
- The verdict grew out of the non-payment of two percent turnover tax for the last three years.
- A release quoting the ruling said SRC is liable to pay over US\$511,000 in government revenue.
- Assigned Tax Judge James Jones has meanwhile ordered the clerk of court to prepare a bill of cost to be served on the SRC management.

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

### **Whistleblower Journalist Set Free In Zwedru**

- The Zwedru Magisterial Court in Grand Gedeh County has acquitted Smile FM's former Station Manager Garley Mahn of charges of disorderly conduct.
- Associate Magistrate Victor Kamgblor cleared Mr. Mahn after hearing arguments into a case involving the defense and the state.
- In his ruling, Associate Magistrate Kamgblor said the state could not prove the charge of disorderly conduct brought against Mahn.
- Mahn was arrested while protesting alleged mal-practices by the local administration in Grand Gedeh during the visit of President Sirleaf.

### **Radio Veritas** *(News monitored today at 09:45 am)*

#### **Government Expects US State Department Human Rights Report On Liberia**

- The Government of Liberia has taken serious exception over the report released on the country's human rights record by the US State Department.
- Deputy Information Minister for Public Affairs, Norris Tweah said the government was officially protesting the report due to what he terms as distortion of government achievements.
- He said while government welcomes reports from local and international rights groups, it will not equally accept any report intended to undermine developments in Liberia.
- Minister Tweah further alleged that the US Report fails to highlight what it calls unprecedented achievements made by government in the last four years.
- The US State Department Report on the state of affairs in Liberia among other issues named rampant corruption within the country's judicial system.

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## Aljazeera

Sunday, 21 March

### **Bashir 'must face Darfur charges'**

A senior member of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) has called for the country's president to face war crimes charges at the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Speaking just weeks before the Sudan's first parliamentary elections in 24 years, Edward Lino told Al Jazeera on Sunday that Omar al-Bashir should give himself up to The Hague.

"We didn't agree with him to go and commit those atrocities in Darfur," he told Al Jazeera.

"We can't agree with him ... he is the one being accused of the crimes. He has to go and clear himself first before he is eligible to be elected again."

Lino said that even if al-Bashir continues his attempts to evade the ICC, "they'll apprehend him unless he dies or commits suicide".

### **Defiant al-Bashir**

The ICC indicted al-Bashir for war crimes in Sudan's Darfur region in February 2009, but he rejects the ICC's sovereignty and has told the Netherlands-based court to "dissolve the charge sheet in water and drink it".

The SPLM sits in government with al-Bashir's National Congress Party (NCP) after signing a peace agreement with the former southern rebels in 2005.

However, their alliance remains fragile due to delays in implementing the accord.

Lino, the SPLM's candidate to be governor of Khartoum and its veteran head of intelligence, told Al Jazeera that his party did not "have any way" to force al-Bashir to go for trial, but said "the people will make him by failing him in the forthcoming elections".

"There are many dignitaries who were taken and he is not an exception. For the good of the country, al-Bashir should take leave and then go to [The] Hague."

"We'll tell people ... that he cannot be the man to be elected again after having usurped power and committed so many atrocities countrywide, in Darfur in particular, and this is where we are very concerned," he said.

The UN estimates that about 300,000 people have been killed in the Darfur conflict in western Sudan, but Khartoum disputes the toll and maintains only 10,000 died.

If he ever appears before the court, al-Bashir would be the first sitting president to be tried by the ICC.



The call for al-Bashir to appear before the ICC came as donors met in Cairo to help war-torn Darfur [AFP]



## Donor conference

Lino's remarks came as a major donors conference got under way in Cairo on Sunday, attempting to raise at least \$2bn for the reconstruction of war-ravaged Darfur.

But the meeting, which was organised by the 57-member Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) and co-chaired by Egypt and Turkey, raised just \$841m for projects such as cement plants and roads - less than half of the target.

Abdel Malik al-Naeem, the media adviser for the Sudanese delegation, said: "What is more important is that the international community has pledged support to the Sudanese government in order to achieve peace in Darfur."

The US, Canada, Norway and Britain did not pledge at the meeting, saying the region was not secure enough for the proposed work.

Qatar, which has been mediating peace talks between Darfur rebel factions and the Sudanese government, pledged \$200m.

That pledge follows a \$1bn pledge Qatar made at the recent signing of a ceasefire agreement between Darfur's Justice and Equality Movement (Jem) and the Khartoum government.

## Multi-party polls

Sudan is to hold its first multi-party elections on April 11. Polls will be held for the national presidency and parliament, the south Sudanese presidency, state governorships, the southern parliament and state assemblies.

The SPLM has previously been careful not to provoke al-Bashir's dominant NCP on the sensitive issue of the ICC, hoping to preserve their partnership until a January 2011 southern referendum on secession, guaranteed by the 2005 peace deal.

But in remarks likely to provoke further confrontation, Yasir Arman, the SPLM presidential candidate, on Saturday challenged al-Bashir to stand down from the presidential poll to encourage southerners to vote for unity in the 2011 referendum.

"We call the NCP for a new partnership where Bashir would step down from the candidacy and there would be a national consensus coalition," Arman told reporters in Khartoum.

Al-Bashir is keen to win the presidential vote to legitimise his government in defiance of the ICC warrant.

Arman said the SPLM was the only party able to lead a united Sudan and that a vote for al-Bashir would lead to secession.



Some countries at the meeting made no pledges, saying Darfur was not secure [AFP]

## Radio Netherlands Worldwide

Friday, 19 March 2010

### Genocide prevention: are we “choosing to do nothing”?

By Vessela Evrova



Amsterdam,  
Netherlands

*“This genocide is beyond our ability to understand...The only answer I can give is that it was like being in a fog. I could call it ignorance but it was not ignorance. It was cruelty that overcame us... You hear people dying, cries of agony, and you are thinking you are powerful. It was as if there were no consequences, you thought nothing would happen to you.”*

Those are the words of Elie Ngarambe a Rwandan currently serving a sentence for participating in his country’s 1994 genocide, during which over 800,000 ethnic Tutsis were massacred.

Scholars and politicians still struggle to understand the phenomenon of genocide.

Daniel Goldhagen, author of the book *Worse Than War: Genocide, Eliminationism, and the Ongoing Assault on Humanity*, says any genocide “boils down to a series of choices:”

*“Leaders choose to initiate the killing; ordinary people take a conscious choice to participate; and those with a power to prevent or stop it choose to do nothing.”*

#### **Fantasy of threat**

Groups are targeted by political leaders on the basis of a fantasy of threat, says Ton Zwaan, an associate professor at the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies in Amsterdam:

*“It is the collective fantasy of political elites who feel themselves threatened... mostly wrongly... by certain groups of outsiders.”*

When this happens, all members of a group are seen to pose a threat, including women and small children.

Ultimately, says Zwaan, the perception stems from our own sense of insecurity:

*“People are seldom really assured of their own safety and security.”* Generally, he says, there is a lack of trust between groups of people, between states, and between different regions in the world.

Eventually this uneasy state can prompt some leaders to resort to the mass slaughter of their perceived collective enemy, thinking that it’s the only means of resolving a conflict or retaining power.

## Why genocide again?

But given that we've witnessed, only too often, the horror of genocide, why, after saying 'never again', do we stand on the sidelines and allow it to happen time after time?

According to Zwaan, it's due to the complexity of our international system and the notion of sovereignty:

*"There is this nice word 'the international community' but in fact if you look at efforts to prevent genocide in certain cases like Rwanda,...you discover again that 'the international community' is in fact a collection of separate states with their own central political and economic interest."*

In the documentary *Worse than War*, based on his book, Goldhagen points to the ways in which international organisations have let down those people most in need.

One example documented by the film is when United Nations forces retreated from the conflict zones of Rwanda once the genocide escalated.

"[It] is something that the UN should be able to explain," says Tharcisse Karugarama, Rwanda's Minister of Justice.

"People are supposed to be able to protect people at a time that is so critical."

## Preventing genocide

Once a genocide starts, Karugarama tells Goldhagen, something else takes over:

*"Mass hysteria – it is very difficult to explain. When [people] are involved in mass hysteria, they can no longer be held accountable for their actions...Once people have stepped beyond the first step of actually killing, of throwing a child down and hacking him to death...there is nothing that they couldn't do. At the back of their mind, the radio is telling them, if you don't kill them yourselves, they are coming to finish you."*

From a practical point of view, the problem of prevention is grounded in our inability to see genocides before they start or discern certain patterns of behaviour that could help us trigger an alarm, says Ton Zwaan:

*"We have no effective system of so-called early warning in which you could say, with a few months still to go, this is probably going to happen."*

But even if we could predict an oncoming genocide, Zwaan says, that wouldn't necessarily mean we could stop it:

*"Most political leaders even in democratic societies, do not have the prevention of genocide as [their] political priority, they simply do not care enough."*

Specifically, he says, we often witness states that are not moved by moral arguments but are instead concerned with issues such as "the protection of their vital economic interests or geo-political security."

While Goldhagen agrees with Zwaan's account of what actually happens, he's not content to leave it there. Instead, he proposes a genocide prevention mechanism that rests on a so-called "coalition of the willing" – a group of the most able and willing democratic states gathering a "rapid intervention force" that would quickly intervene in crisis situations.

*"Our problem is that we do little or nothing at all... Timely intervention can stop political leaders from the eliminationist assault...to be effective, intervention must often be forceful. We need an international watchdog organisation made up of democratic nations that will enforce a zero tolerance policy on genocide and eliminationism. Each of the members must have the right to intervene, individually or collectively, to stop campaigns of elimination."*

**Democracy or action**

For Zwaan, however, there's no quick fix.

He says democracy offers the best hope of stopping genocides before they start:

*“Democracy has the lawful, strong constitutional base that groups of people are forced to deal with each other without violence because the constitutional state holds a monopoly on violence. [This implies] that violence is not a normal means of dealing politically with each other.”*

In the longer run, he adds, it comes down to a question of civilization:

*“What we need is a civilizing offensive on a world scale - people just have to learn that it is important to respect the right to life of other people,...to respect the law.”*

**Bdnews24.com**

Monday, March 22, 2010

bdnews24.com

## **Bangladesh ratifies Rome Statute**

Dhaka Mar 22 (bdnews24.com) - The cabinet on Monday ratified the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, which sets international standards for prosecution of individuals who commit crimes against humanity.

"The ratification will prove that Bangladesh is determined to follow international standards to prosecute crimes against humanity, war crimes and genocide" the prime minister's press secretary Abul Kalam Azad said.

Bangladesh signed the Rome Statute on July 17, 1998, the first country to do so in South Asia.

The statute, entering into force on 1 July 2002, is the treaty that established the International Criminal Court (ICC).

The ICC's main purpose is to assist the international community in trying the most heinous international crimes: genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. The official seat of the permanent tribunal is in The Hague, Netherlands, but its proceedings may take place anywhere.

But it remains a "court of last resort", leaving the primary responsibility to exercise jurisdiction over alleged criminals to national legal systems. Under this system of 'complementarity', it will only act when national authorities are unable or unwilling to investigate and prosecute crimes.

Asked whether ratification of the statute by Bangladesh would help in the government's upcoming prosecution of 1971 war crimes trials, law minister Shafique Ahmed earlier this week said ratification was necessary for prosecution of future instances of crimes against humanity.

The ICC can only prosecute crimes committed on or after the date it came into force. However, ratification of the statute calls on countries to adopt a number of actions, including bringing their own laws into line with its provisions.

The law minister last week confirmed that Bangladesh's upcoming 1971 war crimes trials would be held under its recently amended International Crimes (Tribunals) Act 1973.

An expert panel of international lawyers, including a former war crimes prosecutor, submitted a legal opinion to the government last month, however, advising further amendments to ensure the 1973 Act meets international standards.

Among other recommendations, the lawyers advise that sections of the Rome Statute dealing with rights of suspects during investigations must be included in the Act.

As of October 2009, 110 states were party to the Rome Statute, and a further 38 states had signed but not ratified the treaty. The US, Sudan and Israel, once signatories, have 'unsigned' the statute.

bdnews24.com/pc/rah/1544h

**Special Court Supplement**  
**Outreach at Talia Yawbeko “Base Zero” and Dedication of SCSL Monument**  
**Saturday, 20 March 2010**





