

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



**PRESS CLIPPINGS**

**Enclosed are clippings of local and international press on the Special Court and related issues obtained by the Outreach and Public Affairs Office**

**as at:**

Wednesday, 22 October 2008

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.  
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact  
Martin Royston-Wright  
Ext 7217

**Local News**

Prosecutor Accuses Taylor Defence... / <i>Awoko</i>	Page 3
Special Court is Misusing Money / <i>The Spark</i>	Pages 4-5

**International News**

Report from The Hague / <i>BBC World Service Trust</i>	Pages 6-7
UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries / <i>UNMIL</i>	Pages 8-10
Legal Limbo for DR Congo Warlord / <i>BBC Online</i>	Page 11

Awoko

Wednesday, 22 October 2008

# Prosecutor accuses Taylor defence of causing hardship for victim witnesses

Special Court Prosecutor Stephen Rapp has accused Charles Taylor's Defence lawyers of causing hardship for victim witnesses by requiring the witnesses' presence in court when their evidence is not in dispute.

The Prosecutor's remarks come after Taylor's Lead Counsel, Courtenay Griffiths, said last week that the Prosecution was responsible for misusing the Special Court's money by bringing unnecessary witnesses from West Africa to The Hague for testimony in Taylor's trial.

"Victims of the atrocities are being forced to relive their horrors on the stand for one reason only-because, contrary to their public statements, the Defence is unwilling to agree that these crimes happened," responded Prosecutor Stephen Rapp.

At issue is the presentation of evidence of Sierra Leoneans who personally suffered atrocities, who are legally described as "crime base" witnesses.

Taylor is on trial on an 11-count indictment charging him

with responsibility for Crimes Against Humanity and War Crimes committed during the civil war in Sierra Leone. The crimes include murder, mutilation, rape, sexual slavery, forced labor, pillage, the use of child soldiers, and acts of terror and collective punishment.

To secure convictions, the Prosecution must link Taylor to the rebel groups in Sierra Leone. But the Prosecution must also prove that the rebel groups committed these crimes in each of the places alleged in the indictment and document the seriousness of the crimes.

That means presenting evidence of victims who suffered the crimes.

To save these victims from having to travel and testify, the Prosecution sought to submit the evidence of most in the form of sworn statements or testimony from prior trials, as is permitted by the rules of the Special Court.

"For months, the Defence has been saying publicly they did not dispute that these terrible crimes took place, only that their client was not responsible," said Rapp.

"They claimed they were quite happy for the statements of the victims to be submitted as evidence without any challenge. But in Court they've done just the opposite."

To date, the Prosecution applied to admit the evidence of 22 witnesses in writing. The Defence objected to them all.

The Trial Chamber has ruled that the Defence can require these witnesses' presence in court to submit to questioning. As a result, they have all been brought to The Hague and are in the process of giving their testimony.

The Prosecutor said that there about 20 additional witnesses whose evidence is necessary who will probably also have to come to The Hague, given the consistent demands of the

Defence.

"Rape victims, amputees, former child soldiers and other victims are being made to travel from West Africa to The Hague to be questioned by the Defence," said Rapp.

"The Defence lawyers challenged one woman on her description of being raped by rebels and seeing her friends and relatives' limbs chopped off. Had they not insisted on questioning her directly, she could have been spared this ordeal."

Rapp was also sharply critical of Defence Counsel Griffiths for describing the evidence of Prosecution witnesses as "rubbish," and for suggesting that it would not be offered by "proper lawyers."

"This statement shows a profound lack of understanding of the kind of

evidence that arises when there are massive violations of humanitarian law involving the murder, wounding, and displacement of large parts of the population, and the destruction of communities and institutions," said Rapp.

"It also shows a lack of respect due to prosecution lawyers who are some of the most experienced in the world in presenting evidence of mass atrocity."

The Prosecution originally sought to call 72 witnesses to the stand and submit 72 witnesses in writing.

After the Defence demanded to question each of the crime base witnesses, the Prosecution has reduced the number of both

"linkage" and "crime base" witnesses in order to ensure that the trial is concluded within the available time and resources.

The total number of Prosecution witnesses now expected to take the stand is about 95. So far 64 have testified.

"Many of them should not have had to come to The Hague, but they have done so and have testified to the horrors that they suffered with great courage."

"They deserve appreciation and compassion, as well as renewed international efforts to provide them with reparation for their injuries."

Rapp predicted that at the present rate of witness presentation, it would be possible to conclude testimony of all Prosecution witnesses before the Special Court's judicial recess begins on 12 December 2008.

The Spark  
Wednesday, 22 October 2008

# "Special Court is misusing Money"

*...Courteney Griffiths*

BY KOMBA FILLIE  
Charles Taylor's lead counsel,  
Courteney Griffiths has stated  
that the prosecution was re-

sponsible for misusing the Spe-  
cial Court's money by taking  
unnecessary witnesses from  
West Africa to The Hague for

testimony in Taylor's trial.

The Special Court Prosecutor Stephen  
Rapp had earlier accused Charles  
Taylor's defence lawyers of causing

hardship for victim  
witnesses by requiring  
the witnesses presence  
in court when their evi-  
dence is not in dispute.  
Charles Taylor is on  
trial on an 11-count  
indictment charging  
him with responsibility  
for Crimes against Hu-  
manity and War  
Crimes committed  
during the civil war in  
Sierra Leone.

The crimes include  
murder, mutilation,  
rape, sexual slavery,  
forced labour, pillage,

the use of child soldiers, and  
acts of terror and collective  
punishment.

To secure convictions, the  
Prosecution must link Taylor to  
the rebel groups in Sierra  
Leone. The Prosecution must  
also prove that the rebel  
groups committed these crimes  
in each of the places alleged in  
the indictment and document  
the seriousness of the crimes.

'Victims of the atrocities are  
being forced to relive their hor-  
rors on the stand for one rea-

**continued page 8**

# "Special Court is misusing Money"

**FROM PAGE 1**

son only- because, contrary to their public statements, the Defence is unwilling to agree that these crimes happened stated Prosecutor Stephen Rapp'.

At issue is the presentation of evidence of Sierra Leoneans who personally suffered atrocities, who are legally described as "crime base" witnesses.

To save these victims from having to travel and testify, the Prosecution sought to admit the evidence of most in the form of sworn statements or testimony from prior trials, as is permitted by the rules of the Special Court.

"For months, the Defence has been saying publicly they did not dispute that these terrible crimes took place, only that their

client was not responsible," said Mr.Rapp.

"They claimed they were quite happy for the statements of the victims to be submitted as evidence without any challenge, but in Court they've done just the opposite".

Mr. Rapp also stated that to date, the prosecution applied to admit the evidence of 22 witnesses in writing. The Trial Chamber has ruled that the Defence can require these witnesses; presence in court to submit to questioning.

As a result, they have all been brought to The Hague and are in the process of giving their testimony.

The Prosecutor said that there are about 20 additional witnesses whose evidence is nec-

essary and who will probably also have to go to The Hague, given the consistent demands of the defence.

'Rape victims, amputees, former child soldiers and other victims are being made to travel from West Africa to The Hague to be questioned by the defence', Rapp said.

The total number of Prosecution witnesses now expected to take the stand is about 95. So far 64 have testified.

Rapp predicted that at the present rate of witness presentation, it would be possible to conclude testimony of all the prosecution witnesses before the Special Court's judicial recess begins on 12 December, 2008.

## BBC World Service Trust

Tuesday, 21 October 2008

### Report from The Hague

For almost twenty-eight minutes when the Court resumed on Tuesday morning, both Defence and Prosecution were trying to defend a motion filed in by the Prosecution for the protection of the Witness TF1-158 in court against being seen by the public. The witness, according to a July 5, 2005 decision of Trial Chamber I in Freetown, Witness TF1-158 was entitled to protective measures such as voice and facial distortions. But the Defence Team of Charles Taylor objected to the Prosecution's motion.

The court was forced to go for a temporal adjournment to allow both parties to come to terms.

The Defence team in its objection said the protective measures of July 2004 were necessary at the time because the witness was a child. Defence lawyer Terry Munyard told the Court the protective measures were no longer applicable to this witness because the witness has reached 21 years of age.

The Prosecution in its response to the defence application said the July 5, 2004 decision of the court did not mention any age limitation so the measures were still applicable. The Prosecution also indicated the Defence motion was not timely.

After the Court recessed for five minutes to allow the parties to reach a solution, the Court session resumed, Prosecution Nicholas Koumjiam told the court the Defence and Prosecution had reached a solution to maintain part of the witness' protective measures.

KOUMJIAM: Your Honour, I have discussed this matter with Mr. Munyard and with the witness. There is an agreement the witness would testify with pseudonym. I've explained to the witness we would take his name in a private session and that his name or the name of any family members would not be mentioned in the Court in open session. And he is, on the basis of that, prepared to testify. He's anxious to return home.

PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you for that indication and I gather your parties are at (indistinct) with this.

MUNYARD: Certainly, Madam President. We took instructions first of all from Mr. Taylor and the compromise solution we've come up with I think meets the concerns of both.

After the whole debate, the witness took the stand.

The 67th prosecution witness, a former child soldier only identified as TFI -158, testified to the killing by the rebels.

The witness was captured at age 10 while in the mosque for his usual Muslim morning prayer in his village at Bonoya, northern Sierra Leone. The witness told the court the rebels committed untold atrocities in Bonoya village in 1998.

WITNESS: While we were in the mosque, two men were arguing over a pregnant woman. One said "this pregnant woman must have a boy child" and the other one said "no, she must have a girl child." And they slit open the pregnant woman's stomach and they took out the foetus and put it close to her. From there, they went to my father's elder brother's house, and when they met him there they saw two small children sleeping on the mattress and they were wrapped in the mattress and the mattress was set on fire.

FORNAH: He also testified about his father's death. He said the rebels used cutlass to kill his father. The witness explained to the Court how a lady belonging to the rebel group ordered his father's final death.

WITNESS: When I saw my father attempting to come by the mosque wanting to escape, and Adama Cuthand saw him, and she said "look at that pa going there. Go and finish him off." And two men went and he as mutilated and he fell down. All of us were now crying in the mosque.

FORNAH: The former child soldier testified to the court he was cut below his left eye and the rebels placed cocaine powder there. He said the rebels gave them the drugs so that they will be brave and fear nothing when they are on their mission.

The witness was cross-examined by Defence lawyer Terry Munyard

Meanwhile, the Defence team has made what it called an observation about the bench of the Special Court not sitting in full over the last few days. Presiding Judge Teresa Doherty was absent from Court last week for three days. She was in the United States delivering papers to some American universities. On Monday this week, the Presiding Judge announced that Justice Julia Sebutinde was attending a seminar at the request of the President of the Special Court. Here is Mr. Griffiths with his observation.

GRIFFITHS: We're somewhat concerned that in recent times we've been lacking the expertise and experience of all four Judges being applied to the proceedings. We take into account and note that we are dealing with a complex factual situation here, and we have noted with respect and admiration the obvious attention paid to the detail of this case by all four Judges and indeed the necessary and we think important interaction between you all during the course of the proceedings. And we are anxious that that be maintained for the duration of the trial. Priority should be these proceedings.

FORNAH: Presiding Judge Doherty promised to convey the Defence team's observation to the President of the Special Court.

For the BBC WST, this is Mariama Khai Fornah reporting from The Hague.

United Nations  Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

---

**UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries  
21 October 2008**

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

**Newspaper Summary**

**12 Police Officers Off to London for Six-Week Training**

(The Inquirer, Heritage, The Informer)

- Twelve officers of the Liberia National Police (LNP) left the country yesterday for a six-week training programme at the Bramshill Police College in London. An LNP release said the training of the officers is part of the strategic plan of the Liberian National Police, UNMIL and UNPOL.
- The training is in continuation of a series of international training programmes earmarked by the LNP in collaboration with the UN Mission in Liberia and is being sponsored by the British Government.
- Officers who have left the country to participate in the training are Deputy Commissioners, Levi Goflee and John G. Kemoh; Assistant Commissioners, McCrity Chelerk, Thomas Kwein, Thompson K. Yawalka and Amelia Itoka. Others are Chief Superintendents Nelson Freeman, Victor Gboyah, McClean W. Tarpah and Superintendent Jerome Jallayu.

**Liberian Journalist Wants Forum on Corruption - as Anti-Graft campaigners Launch Website**

(The Inquirer)

- The Managing Editor for The INQUIRER Newspaper, Philip Wesseh has proposed the holding of a forum to discuss the wave of corruption in the society, especially in the public sector. Mr. Wesseh said this forum was necessary to be able to determine what was really responsible for this cancer in the society, saying "everyday there are reports of corruption; everyday there are reports of dismissal or suspension, but still this disease continues.
- Therefore, there is a need for a forum to discuss a way out." Speaking yesterday during the launch of an anti-graft website by the Center for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia (CENTAL) in Monrovia, the INQUIRER Boss said the issue of corruption should be done holistically. He commended the centre for the initiative and called on media institutions to write about corrupt practices in the society and also expose corrupt officials in the country.

**Innovative Waste Management Training for Former Liberian Combatants Launched**

(The Informer)

- UN Deputy Envoy, Mr. Jordan Ryan and German Ambassador Ilse Linderman-Macha joined Vice President Joseph Boakai to launch an innovative waste management programme in the Liberian capital, Monrovia. Former combatants will be trained to manage Monrovia's waste and at the same time turn it into non-chemical fertilizers for food production.
- The 200 ex-combatants benefiting from the programme, funded by the Federal Republic of Germany and implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), will learn the fundamentals of waste management, and also learn to manufacture simple composting devices for converting waste into organic manure. Speaking at the formal launch of the programme in Monrovia, Vice President Boakai commended IOM for the project and said it would not only make Liberia clean, but also boost food production in the country. Mr. Jordan Ryan described the waste management training programme as a laudable initiative, saying a "clean environment is the foundation for a healthy nation."



## **Doctors Shortage Hits Redemption Hospital**

(The Inquirer)

- One of the biggest health centres in the country, the Redemption Hospital, which caters to patients from five of Liberia's fifteen counties - Montserrado, Cape Mount, Bomi, Garpolu and Lofa - is faced with the shortage of doctors, the Medical Director at the Hospital has said.
- Dr. Massabory A. M. Kamara said at the moment, there are only seven doctors working with the hospital and a total amount of 250 patients mainly women and children assemble at the hospital daily to get medication.
- Briefing a team from the Malaria Control Division of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare who made a brief stop-over at the hospital to present insecticide malaria nets to some of the patients, Dr. Kamara, said a total of 5,235 patients were being catered to on a monthly basis by the few doctors and the physician assistants assigned at the hospital. He said the hospital also lacks surgeons as he was the only recognized surgeon at the hospital.

## **"The Government is too centralized" – Senator Blamo Nelson Observes**

(The News, The Inquirer, National Chronicle, Heritage)

- The media reports that a prominent Liberian politician Blamo Nelson says that if government remains centralized there will be no peace. Appearing before the thematic and institutional hearings of the Liberian Truth and Reconciliation Commission Monday, Grand Kru Senator, Blamo Nelson said as a matter of procedure even democracy is up side down in Liberia.
- Senator Nelson said that the "ground" needs to be restructured. He said "if the system is not restructured, it will not be possible to hold elections in Liberia."
- Senator Nelson blamed the problem facing the country on the failure of national government to listen to the concerns of the people it governs. He observed that until the government can begin listening to the people and stop behaving like masters to the people, the country many problems will not stop squarely placing the pain Liberians are feeling today on government playing death ears to the call of the people.

## **Radio Summary**

**Star Radio** *(News culled today from website at 9:00 pm)*

### **Senator Nelson wants Dokie's murder investigated**

- Grand Kru Senator Blamo Nelson has called for an investigation into the death of Samuel Dokie, an opposition politician during the Charles Taylor regime.
- Senator Nelson said government must order the investigation to establish the killers of Dokie and family.
- Senator Nelson said as a former key figure in the Taylor's regime, he has no idea as to who ordered the murder of Dokie's.
- He spoke Monday while testifying before the ongoing TRC thematic and institutional hearings in Monrovia. The government of Taylor in 1997 announced the death of Dokie along with his wife and others under mysterious circumstances.
- Meanwhile, Senator Nelson says the government of Doe had reasons to indict Charles Taylor of corruption while at the GSA.
- According to him, while serving as Principal Deputy to Taylor at the GSA, he observed that Taylor deviated from the purchasing of some equipment.

*(Also reported on Radio Veritas, Truth F.M. and ELBC)*

### **Gbarpolu Superintendent complains of bad roads in three districts**

- Gbarpolu County Superintendent, Getrude Larmin has complained of bad road condition in three of the six districts in the county.
- Superintendent Larmin said the affected districts include Gbukumu, Dingkola and Belleh.
- The Superintendent said due to the deplorable condition of the road, the inhabitants are finding it difficult to transport their produce to the county seat.

- She also expressed gratitude to central government and the international community for the construction of the administration building in the county.
- Madam Larmin spoke to Star Radio at the end of a capacity building workshop for county officials in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County.

#### **Opposition politician comments on suspension of Local Government Official**

- A U.S.-based opposition Liberian politician has commended President Sirleaf for what he described as a bold step taken in Bong County.
- President Sirleaf recently suspended the county's Superintendent Renny Jackson and ordered the prosecution of a company given a road rehabilitation contract.
- Mr. Jackson was suspended for alleged misapplication of public funds and the company allegedly failed to implement a contract for which it received funds.
- Dr. Joseph Woah-Tee said the bold step and harsh treatment from President Sirleaf would stamp out what he called the nation's embarrassing disease, corruption.
- Dr. Woah-Tee who is a son of Bong County said this bold step would send a signal out to officials with corrupt nature that such practice will not be tolerated any longer.
- According to Dr. Woah-Tee, he advised President Sirleaf against appointing Mr. Jackson as Superintendent but said he is pleased because the reality explains his advice.

#### **County Attorney Says Law enforcement is weak in Sinoe**

- Sinoe County Attorney John Gabriel says law enforcement in the south-eastern county is weak.
- Attorney Gabriel blamed the weakness on the absence of Police officers in several districts in the county.
- He told Star radio criminal activities are on the increase in the county due to the absence adequate law enforcement officers.
- The County Attorney called on Police authorities in Monrovia to deploy more Police officers in the county.

\*\*\*\*\*

**BBC**

Tuesday, 21 October 2008

### **Legal limbo for DR Congo warlord**

Thomas Lubanga denies ordering atrocities during DR Congo's conflict

War crimes tribunal judges have ruled that Congolese warlord Thomas Lubanga should not be freed but say his trial remains suspended.

Correspondents say the International Criminal Court (ICC) ruling leaves Mr Lubanga in legal limbo.

Mr Lubanga was arrested in 2006, accused of recruiting and using child soldiers during DR Congo's brutal five-year conflict that ended in 2003.

His case would be the first ever to come to trial before the ICC.

The judges dismissed a prosecution appeal against the decision to halt the trial in June but said a further hearing was needed to decide whether he should be released.

"The trial chamber was wrong in finding that the inevitable consequence of the decision to stay the proceedings was his unconditional and immediate release," said presiding judge Sang-Hyun Song.

The case was halted in June, just a week before the trial was due to start, after judges accused the prosecution of withholding evidence from the defence.

Some 200 documents had not been handed over and the judges said this meant a fair trial was not possible.

### **'Killing order'**

Four million people are estimated to have died during the conflict in the DR Congo.

The child soldiers were later instructed "to kill all Lendu including men, women and children", the prosecution statement said, based on testimony from six children.

Mr Lubanga denied any wrongdoing. His lawyers said he was trying to end the conflict and is being punished by the international community for refusing to give mining concessions in areas he controlled to foreign firms.

The ICC, based in The Hague, was set up in 2002 as the world's first permanent war crimes court.

It was designed to end the need for various ad hoc war crimes courts - including the chambers created to deal with war crimes committed in the former Yugoslavia and the genocide in Rwanda.