

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



Taylor Defence Team Outreach at YWCA. For more pictures from the Outreach, see 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:

Wednesday, 23 April 2008

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

Local News

RUF Trial Continues / *Cotton Tree News* Page 3

The local newspapers were not delivered today.

International News

Dark Cloud Hangs Over Taylor's Associates / *National Chronicle* Page 4

Go To The Security Council / *The Inquirer* Pages 5-6

Speaker Lobbies for Banned Officials / *New Democrat* Page 7

Diamonds for Weapons / *New Democrat* Pages 8-9

RUF Terrorist Army Created by Taylor - Prosecution / *BBC World Service Trust* Pages 10-11

Taylor Trial: Former Vice President Blah Fails to Turn Up / *Patriotic Vanguard* Pages 12-13

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UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries / *UNMIL* Page 16-17

Transitional Justice Group Worries About Confusion at TRC / *Star Radio* Page 18

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Cotton Tree News
Saturday, 19 April 2008

RUF trial continues

Written by Ndeamoh Mansaray

RUF second accused Morris Kallon continues his defence testimony. Kallon was questioned by Prosecutor Vincent Wagona about his awareness of AFRC decrees in 1997. The witness said he was not a member of the council at that time. He said even when he became a member, decrees were not made in meetings he attended. Prosecutor Wagona asked the witness about RUF and AFRC activities in Kono and other areas. He questioned the accused about child combatants in Superman Ground in Kono, mining and looting by combatants. Kallon denied knowledge of some of those things. Mr. Wagona put it to the witness that he called and addressed a muster parade while in Superman Ground. The accused again denied the allegation. Superman was the Commander, no one could do anything without his instruction, Kallon added.

National Chronicle (Liberia)
Wednesday, 23 April 2008

DARK CLOUD HANGS OVER TAYLOR'S ASSOCIATES

-As Special Court Summon Several Individuals

The Special Court sitting in the Hague, Netherlands, has summoned several individuals believed to be associates of former President Charles Taylor, currently facing trial at the court.

Although chief prosecutor of

the Special Court, Stephen Rapp, did not disclose the names of those summoned, he said more prominent figures have been summoned to testify against their former boss at The Hague.

"There are other individuals associated with Taylor who have been summoned by the Special Court," the chief prosecutor asserted.

He said these individuals will be protected by the court following their testimony against

Taylor.

Stephen Rapp said although these there individuals will be testifying in public, their actual identities will not be exposed.

Already the former vice
Cont'd on Page 6



Charles Taylor



Cyril Ross

DARK

President to President Taylor has been summoned by the court to testify against his former boss. Moses Blah also former President, said he will be going to the Hague not to testify in favor or against Taylor but to say the truth and nothing but the truth. Following his acceptance to testify against his former boss, Blah has allegedly been receiving several telephone calls from individuals believed to be associates of Taylor, issuing threats on his life.

The Inquirer (Liberia)
Wednesday, 23 April 2008

GO TO The Security Council

**-UN Sec. Gen. Tells Travel Ban Victims;
But Speaker Tyler Calls For Due Process**

By: Patrick K. Wrokpoh
The Secretary General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-Moon has reacted to calls in some quarters for the world to lift the travel ban imposed on some Liberians by the United Nations Security Council, most of whom are former officials of the Charles Taylor's government.

For the past few days especially when it was announced that the United Nations Secretary General was coming to the country for an official visit, calls for the world body to lift the travel ban on grounds that the condition for which the ban was imposed no longer exists especially when the world body has in its custody the former President.

Cont'd on page 14



*Travel Ban Victim,
Sen. Jewel Howard Taylor*



*Travel Ban Victim,
Rep. Edwin Snowe*



*Travel Ban Victim,
Mr. Benoni Urey*



*Travel Ban Victim,
Mr. Cyril Allen*

“UNMIL Draw Down Plan Will Be Done Gradually”

By: Patrick K. Wrokpoh
The Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-Moon says the UN Mission in the country has

embarked on the first phase of its draw down from the country in compliance with the Security Council Resolution 1777.

However, he noted that in September of this year, the Security Council would decide on the next phase of the draw down

plan of the mission after reviewing the progress made by the Liberian government.

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Cont'd from front Page

But in his reaction to the issue when journalists asked him, what he made of a call by the Speaker of the House, Alex Tyler, who presided over the joint session of the National Legislature when the UN boss addressed that August body yesterday, said the decision against these groups of Liberians is being taken by the Security Council of the world body under the supervision of a special committee.

The UN Secretary General, who addressed himself to the issue, after being asked by journalists what he made of the Speaker's call to review the travel ban with the hope of having it lifted, responded that there is a special committee of the Security Council that is dealing with the issue.

He then suggested that those affected by the ban should come up with their

grievances or complaints before the committee, at which time their concerns would be reviewed and studied for action.

Mr. Ban Ki-Moon recounted that this is what happened in the case of some others who were affected by the ban and the end result of that process, was that after the concerns of these individuals were studied, it was resolved that the sanction be relaxed on them.

Prior to his comments, House Speaker, Alex Tyler called on the United Nations Security Council to review its travel ban on some Liberians and give due process to the victims.

Speaking yesterday when the United Nations Secretary Ban Ki-Moon addressed the joint session of the 52nd National Legislature, Speaker Tyler said the travel ban of these Liberians must be reviewed and those placed on the ban be given due process to afford them the opportunity to defend themselves individually.

New Democrat (Liberia)
Wednesday, 23 April 2008

Speaker Lobbies For Banned Officials


"It's His Own Opinion, Not Ours..."



The Speaker of the House of Representatives Tuesday stunned many Representatives when he openly asked visiting UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon to review the travel ban of several officials of the Charles Taylor regime.

The UN Security Council identified several officials of the defunct Taylor regime and other international figures as impediments to peace, and placed them on a travel ban. Some have been removed from the list after individuals review of their cases, but the bulk remain on the ban.

Speaker Alex Tyler, claimed "the Liberian people" have never understood the rationale for the Security Council banning the officials, and suggested they should be given due process in a court of law.

But Montserado Representative Dusty Wolokolie, asked if the Speaker's plea represented the opinion of the body, told this  Page I

New Democrat (Liberia)
Tuesday, 22 April 2008


Witness Claims

Diamonds For Weapons

Additional Criminal Evidence Contested

A witness currently testifying against Mr Charles Taylor says the former President traded diamonds for weapons in his dealings with the RUF.

Meanwhile, lawyers representing Mr Taylor have protested the admission of what they consider "additional crimes" that RUF rebel committed into evidence against their client, but they were overruled by chamber judges on grounds that the additional pieces of evidence are relevant to the charges in the indictment.

Defence lawyers' objection were interred when the current prosecution witness, Alimamy Sesay, dwelled into descriptions of atrocities he said were committed when he was an executive of the Armed Forces revolution.  Page 11



TAYLOR (L) FACING TRIAL IN THE HAGUE

C K

Diamonds For Weapons

olutionary Council (AFRC), allies of the RUF.

At this point, Defense counsel objected to the evidence, saying they would like to make a continuous objection about admitting this evidence of additional crimes.

Prosecution responds: Pursuant to Rule 66, evidence of other crimes, were contained in prior testimony and disclosed to the defense. This case is unlike other cases that the Court has heard. The evidence we seek to attempt outside indicate relevant for number of reasons. 1. charges against humanity required a widespread and systematic attack against humanity. It is relevant to these charges. 2. because of accused position must show he had notice of these instances going on. The evidence shows that the atrocities were so widespread during indictment and prior to indictment, that through out the indictment, Taylor was aware of these atrocities by the RUF. It is our case that the RUF and later ARFC, that this was created by and controlled by Taylor. All of this is relevant to the intent that these atrocities be carried on in Sierra Leone. The probative value of this evidence is great. This evidence can only be considered to the relevant charges.

But Taylor's lawyers argued that, "with respect to crimes against humanity, putting Taylor on notice, it is displaced. Any allegations must be limited to these areas. This is large enough to place anyone on notice. Why do they need to go these other areas. Everyone around the world knew what was going on, including our client. Why do they need to include areas beyond those agreed to?"

The judge, after conferring, ruled: "We

considered this evidence that is relevant to widespread and systematic attacks on civilians and we allow the question..."

In his testimony continuing, the witness said Taylor traded diamonds for weapons with the RUF.

Pros: Can you give us a timeframe?

Wit: Around June 1998

Pros: Can you tell us where you went after the operation?

Wit: I went to 55 spots. Mosquito wanted to work out some logistics and do some mining.

Pros: What kind of mining?

Wit: Diamond mining

Pros: Who was doing the actual mining?

Wit: civilians

Pros: Why were the civilians doing the mining?

Wit: They were captured and forced under gunpoint.

Pros: Do you know which commander controlled this mining?

Wit: Superman but he had orders from above

Pros: Do you know who the "above" was?

Wit: Mosquito

Pros: Let's go back to Mongor Dongor (sp?), after this meeting what happened?

Wit: We received a lot of pressure from ECOMOG forces

Pros: What information did you receive?

Wit: As I said earlier, as ECOMOG forces were rapidly advancing on Koimodu we began to prepare to stop them.

Pros: What happened after this?

Wit: We tactically withdrew by shooting at them then withdrawing and we repeated this process.

BBC World Service Trust

Tuesday, 22 April 2008

RUF terrorist army created by Taylor - prosecution

By Alphonso Zeon

A prosecution lawyer in the trial of former Liberian leader Charles Taylor has referred to the RUF as a "terrorist army". Speaking in court at The Hague on Monday at the trial of Mr Taylor Nicholas Koumjiam said the RUF was created "exactly in the image of the National Patriotic Front of Liberia which Mr Taylor headed.

It comes as lawyers representing the former Liberian President Charles Taylor at the Special Court for Sierra Leone have lost a key motion.

The lawyers wanted to block new evidence of atrocities committed in Sierra Leone allegedly by the RUF and the AFRC rebels and blamed on Mr Taylor.

Defence lawyer, Morris Anyah's objection to admitting new evidence of atrocities in Koinadugu District as contained in the testimony of the 23rd Prosecution witness Alimamy Bobson Sesay, was overruled Monday.

According to Sesay, RUF fighters and their AFRC allies burned down a village in the northern district and burned alive a Sierra Leonean government soldier captured in battle.

"According to what I saw, [the captured soldier] screamed to death" after he had been hung head down and a hood over his head set on fire and left to burn to death.

Taylor's lawyer, Anyah argued the new revelations were not part of the initial charges against his client and should not be admitted in the middle of the trial.

He continued: "With respect to crimes against humanity... to say that this evidence is relevant to notice, placing our client on notice vis-a-vis the widespread or systematic nature of the attacks in Sierra Leone is misplaced. They have charged Kono District, they have charged Koinadugu District, they have charged the entire area around Freetown. All we are proposing is that any allegations of atrocities, as far as notice is concerned, be limited to those areas. The amount of atrocities and evidence they have adduced so far is large enough to place anybody on the face of the earth on notice. Why do they need to now go to Koinadugu District?"

Responding to this, Prosecution lawyer Nicholas Koumjiam argues that these atrocities were related to allegations against Taylor and it was up to the Judges to use their discretion to admit in evidence.

Koumjiam went on that "All of these crimes are relevant to that fundamental element to all of these charges... Furthermore, because of the accused's position it's very important, it's a critical element in our case, to prove that the accused had notice of the atrocities that were going on and it is...It is our case that in fact the evidence shows that the atrocities that were going on in Sierra Leone were so widespread during the time of the indictment and also, critically for our case, prior to the indictment period, that throughout the indictment period the accused, Charles Taylor, was aware of atrocities occurring by the RUF."

The defence lawyer added that "...the RUF, which later allied itself with the AFRC, was a terrorist army created by Charles Taylor, controlled by Charles Taylor, created exactly in the image of his forces in Liberia which committed a pattern of terrorists acts and that all of this is relevant to the fundamental element of the intent of the accused, his notice of the crimes and his, in fact, intent that atrocities and terror be carried out in Sierra Leone."

The Court agreed with the Prosecution lawyer and presiding Judge Theresa Doherty said though the atrocities were not initially included in the indictment against Taylor, they were pertinent to the trial.

The Patriotic Vanguard website

Tuesday, 22 April 2008

Taylor trial: Former Vice President Blah fails to turn up

By Alphonso Zeon at The Hague.

Despite assurances that he would testify at the Special Court for Sierra Leone which subpoenaed him early this month, former Liberian president, Moses Blah failed to show up last week at the trial of his former boss Charles Taylor at The Hague.



Special Court's Chief Prosecutor Stephen Rapp told this reporter that he had been in touch with Mr Blah who had asked for more time because of medical considerations and his wife being out of Liberia. "...we want to make sure the situation with his security, the situation with his family and his health are well in hand before he travels," Mr Rapp said, adding that they were following what he had been saying to the press one of which was that he was willing to be a witness in the Taylor trial.

Mr Rapp quoted Mr Blah as saying that he was neither for nor against anyone but that he was going to say "the truth". The truth, Mr Rapp said, would "serve the interest of justice".

The prosecution are offering Mr Blah as a witness "to prove our case and he's given us statements in the past and because we think that his testimony will be helpful to the Prosecution", according to the chief prosecutor.

The former Liberian vice president who became president after the resignation of Mr Taylor, faces a jail term if he fails to show up in court.

This report is courtesy of the BBC World Service Trust and Search for Common Ground.

Profile of Moses Blah

By Jonathan Paye-Layleh

BBC, Monrovia

If you did not know Moses Blah before, yet wanted to track him down by simply relying on the ambience and glamour that are normally associated with high-profile African political leaders, you would risk disappointment.

This is a very simple man.

He likes to drive himself around, especially when on private business, and at times goes without a single bodyguard.

When Liberian President Charles Taylor lost his Vice President Enoch Dogolea in June 2000, and the public were speculating about who could possibly replace him many people - including myself - did not think of Moses Blah.

Frankly, he was the furthest person from our minds.

His name first came to prominence nearly 14 years ago, when Charles Taylor began the biggest armed insurrection in the country's history in order to unseat the regime of the late Samuel Doe.

Mr Blah was a part of all this.

He was born on April 18, 1947 in Toweh Town, a Gio-speaking hamlet in north-eastern Nimba County, close to the border with the Ivory Coast.

He completed his secondary education at Tappeta Public school in 1967.

His further education included stints in Hamburg, Germany and at a military college in Tajura, Libya, from 1985 to 1989.

At the end of that year, he joined a few hundred exiled Liberians led by Mr Taylor to wage the war against the Doe government.

When Mr Taylor's National Patriotic Front had succeeded in taking control of the whole of Liberia except Monrovia, Mr Blah served in the Front in several capacities, including inspector general, adjutant general and Mr Taylor's special envoy.

Before he was appointed vice president in July 2000, Mr Blah had been Liberia's ambassador to Libya and Tunisia for three years.

A rather unusual friction broke out between Mr Blah and Mr Taylor in June this year(2003), over an allegation that the former had intended to take state power through the influence of the United States embassy here.

It was an allegation which Mr Blah vehemently denied.

Photo: Charles Taylor and Moses Blah in happier times.

The News (Liberia)

Tuesday, 22 April 2008

Int'l Media Training Kicks Off This Week

Monrovia

The Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism Dr. Lawrence K. Bropleh is expected to deliver the formal opening address of the three-day International Media Training Program for senior editors and reporters of Liberia and Sierra Leone which will begin Thursday in Monrovia.

The training will build the capacity of journalists to use the information available from a range of sources to provide objective, balanced and fair reporting, expressing views and providing information within an accurate, factual and legal framework, takes place at the Krystal Oceanview Hotel located at the Diplomatic enclave of Mamba Point.

The training geared towards widening journalists' knowledge, improving their reportage skills and equipping them with requisite techniques on international criminal proceedings in general, the Proceedings of the Charles Taylor Trial in The Hague in particular.

Participants would benefit greatly from Dr Bropleh presentation which the organizer believe would help participants focus on the significance of the forthcoming training and the critical role of the press in Sierra Leone and Liberia's continuing progress towards a future of accountability and respect for human rights, as a strong foundation of prospective economic growth and social development.

According to the organizer, thirty-five print, electronic, radio and community media journalists from Liberia, and 15 from Sierra Leone, are convening in Monrovia to participate in this intensive 3-day training focused on the trial of Charles Taylor. The exercises run from April 24 -26.

In particular, the training will cover international and hybrid tribunals and international criminal law, the role of the Prosecution and Defence in international criminal proceedings and the rights of the accused to a fair trial, the Special Court and the Charles Taylor trial from a legal and journalistic perspective, the impact of the trial on the current political and justice situation in Liberia, and equipping journalists with tools to better manage public expectations surrounding the trial.

The objectives of the training exercise is to provide basic training on international tribunals and international criminal law in general; to foster a better understanding of international proceedings, including the purpose of the Taylor trial, the role of the Prosecution and Defence, and the rights of the accused to a fair trial and the presumption of innocence and to provide detailed training on the Special Court and the conduct of the Charles Taylor trial in The Hague.

Also to discuss and address the principle concerns about, and objections to the trial including the impact on the current political and justice situation in Liberia and future processes, as well as to equip journalists with tools to better manage public expectations surrounding the trial and to create a network so that in future sources of information provided for example by fellowships in The Hague can be effectively shared by the media ensuring accurate up-to-date information.

The training is being conducted by a panel of distinguished lawyers and journalism trainers while the facilitators include a lawyer from the Office of the Prosecutor; a lawyer who has acted as Defence Counsel at the Special Court; an academic expert with experience teaching on international criminal trials

and the Special Court, Open Society Justice Initiative, expert from UK Legal Community and Advocates for International Development ("A4ID") and renowned Liberian lawyer and journalist, with impeccable international acclaimed records

The trainers also including Wayne Jordash, senior counsel at the Sierra Leone Special Court, Cynthia O'Donoghue, Prosecutor at the International Criminal Court, Jonathan Williams, Professor of International Law and Liberian counsel, and Weade Kobbah, lecturer in journalism at the University of Liberia, and Ana Arana, media trainer, among others distinguished trainers.

The exercise is organized by the United Kingdom Legal Community Charity, Advocates for International Development (A4ID), in collaboration with a West Africa media right group, International Centre for Media Studies and Development (INCEMSADWA), with funding from the Open Society Justice Initiative (OSJI), the Soros Foundation Network Media Program (NMP) based in London.

United Nations  **Nations Unies**

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

**UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries
22 April 2008**

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

Newspaper Summary

U.N. Secretary-General Arrives in Liberia as Drawdown Progresses

(The Inquirer, New Democrat, The Analyst, Heritage, Daily Observer)

- The United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon is in the country for a two-day visit. The visit comes at a time the UN's peacekeeping mission in the country is moving ahead with its drawdown plan. In an interview following his arrival yesterday, Mr. Ban said he was in Liberia to support the country as a mark of admiration and respect for the people. Earlier today, the U.N. Boss met with UN officials and addressed a joint session of the National Legislature.
- Speaking to journalists in Monrovia, he said the UN will continue to assist government in meeting its humanitarian and development objectives and said he was encouraged with the government's achievement in peace consolidation and the reform process to enhance good governance in the country. Meanwhile, the Executive Mansion has dismissed reports of the President "snubbing" the Secretary General's visit in an apparent reaction to concerns of the Liberian leader absence from the country. Presidential Press Secretary, Cyrus Badio noted that it was "merely a conflict in the scheduling of the President".

Eyewitness Recounts How Six Senegalese Peacekeepers Were Killed

(The News)

- [sic:] A registrar at the Vahun Public School, Brimah Vanday who claimed to have witnessed a hullabaloo between fighters of the defunct National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) and a contingent of Senegalese ECOMOG soldiers, which led to the gruesome killings of six Senegalese soldiers has recalled what transpired. Taking the stand at the on-going TRC public hearing in Voinjama, Lofa County recently, Madam Vanday recollected that the six Senegalese ECOMOG Soldiers were arrested at the Vahun general market where they had gone to shop. Vanday, a business woman at the time of the incident, said the peacekeepers went to the market to buy vegetables when an ex-NPFL rebel identified as Sylvester Stallion demanded that they be disarmed. She noted that the ECOMOG soldier's refusal to disarm led to a serious confusion between the fighters and the Senegalese who were later overpowered and taken to the NPFL base.

In Treason Case - Defense Witness says he was offered US\$1,500 to lie

(The Informer, Daily Observer, The Parrot)

- The 11-month old treason trial of retired Chief of Staff of the dissolved Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL), Lt/Gen. Charles G. Julu Sr., and co-defendant, retired Col. Andrew D. Dorbor, is taking an unprecedented turn as defense's third witness, Ephraim Gaye has claimed that his brother, Junior Gaye, offered him US\$1,500 to lie on the accused. The Parrot newspaper reports that the presiding Judge hearing the case, Peter Gbenewelleh expressed impatience due to what he called delays in the litigation.

Citizens Form Anti-Armed Robbery Force

(The Inquirer, The Analyst)

- Hundreds of residents of Monrovia and its environs have ended a two-day strategic meeting intended to help government curb the high wave of armed robbery in the city. The meeting comes in the wake of an upsurge in armed robbery in Monrovia and its environs.
- Over the weekend, representatives from 21 localities in Monrovia and surrounding communities met at the Monrovia City Hall to discuss the alarming situation that is said to have claimed the lives of some residents in various parts of Monrovia. In the meeting chaired by Grand Kru County Representative, Gbenimah Slopadoe, the residents set up what they called Community Neighborhood Watch Team Task Force to help government curb the increasing wave of armed robbery in the city.

Regional Media Training for Monrovia

(The News, New Vision, The Inquirer)

- A three-day International Media Training Programme is expected to open in Monrovia on Thursday. The training programme would bring together 50 journalists from Liberia and Sierra Leone to widen their skills in International criminal proceedings with the aim to equip the reporters on the trial proceedings of detained former President Charles Taylor in The Hague.
- The forum is organized by the UK-based Advocates for International Development in collaboration with the Media Studies and Development with funding from the Open Society Justice Initiative and the Soros Foundation Network Media Program based in London.

Radio Summary

Star Radio *(News culled from website today at 09:00 am)*

U.N. Secretary General Arrives in Liberia as Drawdown Progresses

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

Transitional Justice Working Group alarms over Confusion at TRC

- The Transitional Justice Working Group has warned that the intermittent disruption of the TRC hearings does not augur well for the process of reconciliation.
- The group mentioned the suspension of Commissioner Pearl Brown-Bull and her outright defiance as worrisome.
- In an interview, the Programme Coordinator of the group, Alfred Quayjandi said unless the stand-off is speedily addressed, the TRC process could be heading for trouble.

Regional Media Training for Monrovia

Health Minister calls for Social Welfare Policy

- Speaking at a one-day Social Welfare Policy Stakeholder Validation Forum, Health Minister, Dr. Walter Gwenigale stressed the importance of a Social Welfare Policy for Liberia.
- Dr. Gwenigale said the policy would afford government the opportunity to adequately address the social welfare of the citizens.

Star Radio (Liberia)

Monday, 21 April 2008

Transitional Justice Group worries about confusion at TRC

Written by Matthias Daffah

The Transitional Justice Working Group has warned that the intermittent disruption of the TRC hearings will not augur well for the process of reconciliation.

The group mentioned the suspension of Commissioner Pearl Brown-Bull and her outright defiance of the suspension.

The Program Coordinator of the group further warned that the stand-off between Cllr. Bull and TRC Chairman Jerome Verdier was worrisome.

Mr. Alfred Quayjandi told Star Radio unless the stand-off is speedily addressed, the TRC process could be heading for trouble.

Mr. Quayjandi called on the Executive Mansion, Civil Society and religious groups to intervene and save the TRC from public ridicule.

Cllr. Pearl Brown-Bull was suspended from the TRC after it was noticed that she was in the employ of the Public Procurement Commission.

She has since challenged the suspension and attended the hearings held in Voinjama, Lofa but Chairman Verdier reportedly walked out in protest.

Meanwhile, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission has begun public hearings in Gbarpulo County.

The first witness to take the stand says she was raped by four of Charles Taylor rebels in 1990.

Madam Annie Blama said she is presently suffering from a serious stomach pain as the result of the rape.

Witness Blama said her uncle and two other relatives were killed by the NPFL fighters and bodies thrown in the Mahe River in Bomi County.

Speaking earlier, the Superintendent of Gbarpulo County called on the people of the county to openly speak out their minds.

Mrs. Gertrude Lamin said she is aware the war brought some shame on the people and encouraged them to speak the ills of the civil war.

The superintendent assured the people that no one would harm them for explaining what happened to them.

The Chairman of the truth commission, Cllr. Jerome Verdier urged all witnesses to openly speak out their ordeal.

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Taylor Defence Outreach at YWCA
Wednesday, 23 April 2008



