

## **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:**

**Thursday, 21 August 2008**

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

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Concord Times  
Thursday, 21 August 2008

# Taylor re-appears in court

By Olusegun Ogundeji

After being delayed for the past two days since the Special Court for Sierra Leone resumed from its annual judicial recess in The Hague, former Liberian president, Charles Taylor appeared in court yesterday.

Dressed in white gown with a cap to match, Taylor's presence in court signaled the commencement of the trial proper.

On Monday, Taylor's lead defense counsel Courtenay Griffiths informed the Court sitting before presiding judge Doherty that Taylor had last Friday expressed his concerns about a raised level of security during his transportation to court.

According to charlestaylortrials.org, Taylor objected to 'being chained around his waist, leading him to feel like a leashed animal, which he finds particularly degrading' and certain measures which he says cause sensory deprivation for him.

Taylor chose not to go to court as long as these two measures are in place even though Lead Prosecutor, Brenda Hollis' argued that Taylor waived his right to go to court so the proceedings should not be held hostage to his will.

Following day, Taylor was not in court as he still expressed concerns over the two extra security measures. Griffiths said since the Dutch authority is not ready to lift these measures and Taylor is anxious for the court proceedings to discontinue, he decided to submit

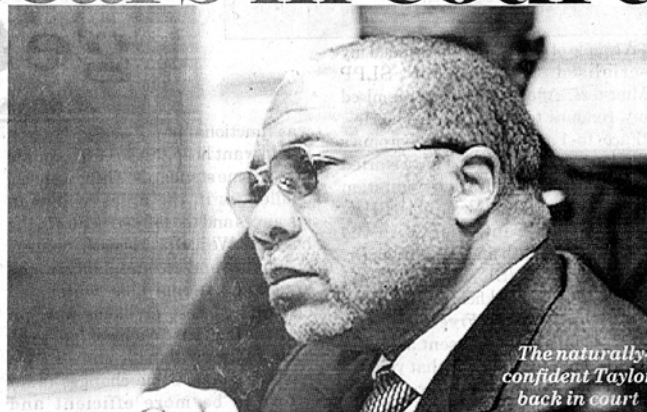
himself to these extra security measures and will be in court the next day.

Afterwards, Presiding Judge Doherty informed the court that the trial chamber is not satisfied with the reasons why Mr. Taylor is submitted to this kind of security measures and thinks this will lead to a serious disruption of the trial so it directed the Registrar to find a speedy resolution and report back to the court.

Since last week the level of security has been raised to the maximum level. This applies not only to the accused in this trial, but also to one ICC detainee and to one ICTY detainee. It is not due to any misconduct of Charles Taylor.

Yesterday's entire court session was devoted to testimony by one witness identified as TF1-367 for security reasons. He was an RUF with close links to the men in command. He gave the first part of his testimony in closed session.

In open session, the witness recalled an attack on the city of Kakata in Liberia in 1990, executed by Charles Taylor's NPFL rebels; how he changed his name and joined the rebels; how he was introduced to Foday Sankoh to fight with him in Sierra Leone; and how some of his co-trainees such as Sam Bockarie, Mike Lamin and Issa Sesay became high commanders in the RUF. The witness also answered different questions about his assignments in different towns in Sierra Leone.



The naturally confident Taylor back in court

The prosecution encountered strong resistance from defence counsel and the court upon their request to have the witness identify signatures on documents. On two occasions, the court denied the documents to be shown to the witness, ruling that insufficient foundation in relation to those documents had been established even though the prosecution made attempts to do so. However, a third document, already submitted as evidence, was shown to the witness at the end of the session and he identified the signature as that of Djaba.

The prosecution moved to show the witness a document, but the defence objected and asked for the correct procedure to be followed. The court allowed the objection, asking the prosecution for more foundation in

respect of the document to be presented.

The prosecution proceeded to ask the witness questions in relation to the document, such as what a "tin" of AK runs means and the witness explained that there were two tins in a box, and what a G3 is which the witness said is one of the heavy weapons they used (stronger than an AK).

The prosecution then requested the document to be shown to the witness but the defence and the court still requested more foundation. To address this objection, the prosecution asked the witness if records of ammunitions were kept. The witness stated that an adjutant would keep records of ammunitions. The court ruled that no proper foundation was laid for the document and that it could not be shown to the witness.

The Trumpet  
Thursday, 21 August 2008

# Taylor Workshop For Journalists ends

By Joseph Turay

A three day workshop for journalist on Charles Taylor trial has ended in Freetown. The workshop was focused mainly on reporting the Charles Taylor trial in the Hague and was organised by the Sierra Leone Court Monitoring Programme in col-

laboration with a group called the Over 20 journalists country attended the were basic skills in tice system and the role of journalists in  
WWW.charlestaylor.org from the print and elec- workshop. Key issues court reporting, inter- national criminal jus-  
discussed at the trial

Contd page 2

## Taylor workshop For Journalists ends

From front page

reporting on international tribunals. In his opening remarks, head of the Sierra Leone Court Monitoring Programme (SLCMP) Mohamed Suma said the aim of the workshop is to create public awareness about the Taylor trial and strengthen skills of journalists in reporting court matters. He said the role played by the media is important in raising public awareness about the Taylor's

trial in The Hague and the activities of the Special courts for Sierra Leone. He added that his organisation has been making a lot of efforts in shaping the justices system in the country. Mr. Suma further said that his organisation has been working with other national and international organisation in raising awareness about the work of the Special court and has also been advocating for the right of the accused persons

at the court. In his presentation, Mr. Alpha Sesay, project coordinator of [WWW.charlestaylor.org](http://WWW.charlestaylor.org) gave brief remark about the work of his project which he said deals mainly with the Taylor trial in The Hague. He dilated on matters that have taken place in the proceedings and explained how useful the website is to journalists. Mr. Sesay also spoke on the role of the media in reporting on trials and the benefit the public

would derive from such reports. He encouraged journalists to continue their task of following the activities of the Special court and other international tribunals. Media consultant Mr. Tonya Musa also made a vivid presentation on media court monitoring techniques and basic skills and guideline in court matters. Trial attorney for the prosecution at the Special court Mohamed Bangura also made presentation regarding the work of the prosecution.



Awoko

Thursday, 21 August 2008

## ***As Salone image threatens investment*** **Plans to Ban Blood Diamond film**

The Chief Executive Officer of the Sierra Leone Investment and Export Promotion Agency SLIPA Adeyormie Rodney Sandy has said that his agency is planning to work out the necessary modalities with partners for the instant banning of the Blood Diamond film that depicts the negative part of Sierra Leone to the world.

This was disclosed to journalists in Freetown during an induction and orientation program of the agency which started operations on May 15, 2008 after taking over from the former Sierra Leone Export and Development Investment Corporation SLEDIC that was dissolved due to poor performance.

Promotion of export and investment to an international market is one of the top most priority of the agency along with re-branding the dented image of the country for credible investors to come in to the country.

"This blood diamond film is sending bad signals to the world about Sierra Leone" Sandy stressed.

The agency is also planning to design a website address, that will highlight potential investment opportunities and development of information brochures is also underway.

Development of partnership and a corporate logo will be developed to identify the agency with the good sides of Sierra Leone Mr. Sandy noted.

He maintained that the agency will coordinate and facilitate public and private sector partnership and implementation of the national tourism policy and the formation of a national export association that will be linked to other development partners who are involved in export for the identification of value added projects.

He added that (SLIEPA) is presently undertaking the ratification of investment and policy review, compilation of investment incentives, development of entrepreneurship and bankable projects with special emphasis on Agricultural production for food self sufficiency.

Mr. Sandy expressed his commitment and determination to promote credible investments that are committed to improving the lives of the people by building their capacity and also implementing corporate responsibilities of investors in

developing communities or improving social facilities in the country.

He noted that, the agency will serve as a bridge between Government and investment partners as they will take a leading role in building the image of Sierra Leone and providing information about potential market for investors to explore.

He however called on Government and stake holders to facilitate investment that will complement government effort in enhancing rapid development, through shared vision and political will, with the support from the public and private sector to make the agency a one stop shop for massive investment.

Cotton Tree News  
 Tuesday, 19 August 2008

## Students in Sierra Leone commemorate August 18 Massacre

Written by Edward Kargbo



Students in Sierra Leone commemorated Monday August 18th, a day that several students were killed by the then AFRC military junta in 1997.

It could be recalled, that the National Union of Sierra Leone (NUSS) organized a pro-democracy demonstration in Freetown and other parts of the country against the military junta. NUSS commemorated the eleventh anniversary, with a symposium at the British Council Hall in Freetown. The theme was 'The Role of Students in Nation Building'. Dauda Laingay Bangura, Public Relations Officer,

NUSS, said the students' sacrificed their lives for the democracy the country was now enjoying. The symposium discussed the role of students in nation building, the issue of students' solidarity and their role in the attitudinal change campaign.

The News (Liberia)  
Thursday, 21 August 2008

# 'TAYLOR CORD NOT CHAINED'

## Court Clarifies

The war crimes court has clarified that ex-Liberian President Charles Taylor was cord' and not 'chained,' and that he has not been blindfolded or hooded.

However, Mr. Taylor complained to his lawyer and objected to a cord being passed

around his waist, the end of which is held by a security officer at some distance behind him.

The court explained that on July 12, a security breach took place at The Hague, which involved a detainee of another in-



Ex-Liberian President Charles Taylor international tribunal, but which did not have anything to do with Mr. Taylor.

As a consequence, Dutch authorities increased the security level and put in place certain additional security measures to contain the situation.

According to Peter C. Andersen, Chief of Outreach and Public Affairs of the special court, a number of security measures were relaxed in respect of Mr. Taylor.

According reports, lawyers defending Mr. Taylor have raised the issues with judges of the court concerning the latest security measures that he (Taylor) had to undergo in order to attend court proceedings.

Mr. Taylor is said to have reiterated his objection to a cord being passed around his waist, the end of which is held by a security officer at some distance behind him while en route to court or from court.

Cont'd on page 6

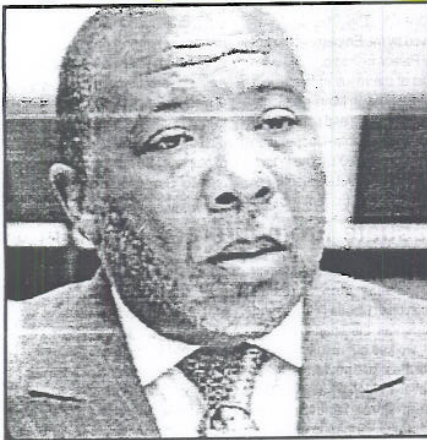
## TAYLOR CORD

Taylor's lead Defense counsel, Courtenay Griffiths, informed the judges that Dutch securities have adopted a complete lack of flexibility due to stringent measures that have been put into place.

Meantime, Judges of the Court have expressed concern about the issue raised by Mr. Taylor's lawyers and ordered the Registrar to "continue to investigate" a speedy resolution of the situation and ensure that a report is made on 25 August.



# Special Court Clarifies Reports On Taylor's Trial



Mr. Charles Ghankay Taylor

The Special Court for Sierra Leone sitting in The Hague has made some clarifications regarding the trial of former President Charles Taylor facing charges of War Crimes and Crimes against humanity.

The court said Mr. Taylor has not been "chained" as reported.

The Court: "On July 12 a security breach took place at The Hague which involved a detainee of another international tribunal, but which did not have anything to do with Mr. Taylor. As a consequence, the Dutch authorities have increased the security level and put in place certain additional security

measures.

"A number of these were relaxed in respect of Mr. Taylor. He has, however, objected to a cord being passed around his waist, the end of which is held by a security officer at some distance behind him."

According to a dispatch from The

Hague, the Judges have expressed concern and have ordered the Registrar to "to continue to investigate a speedy resolution of the situation and direct that he reports to us by 9.30 a.m. on 25 August that is Monday, on what he has achieved."

It also says Mr. Taylor has not been blindfolded or hooded.

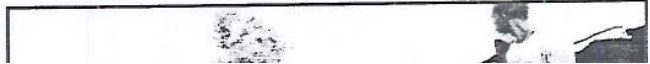
## Appalling Road Torments Bardnersville Residents

### Citizens Want Gov't Action

By D Kaihenneh Sengbeh  
Thousands of residents in Bardnersville Township and

to the war - causing damages to vehicles that attempt plying it.

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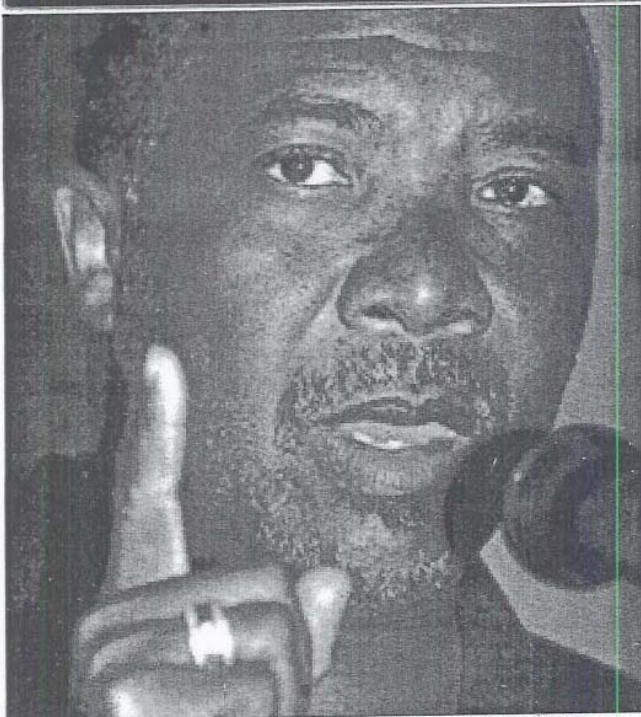




Heritage (Liberia)  
Thursday, 21 August 2008

# Charles Taylor Has Not Been "Chained"

...Special court provides clarifications



Former Liberian President - Dakpannah Dr. Charles Ghankay McArthur Taylor

**T**HE CHIEF OF OUTREACH AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS, SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE, Mr. Peter C. Anderson, has made a couple of clarifications regarding the Taylor trial this week. In a letter posted on the Website: <http://www.sc-sl.org>, Mr. Anderson said: Dear All:

1. Mr. Taylor has not been "chained." On July 12 a security breach took place at The Hague which involved a detainee of another international tribunal, but which did not have anything to do with Mr. Taylor. As a consequence, the Dutch authorities have increased the security level and put in place certain additional security measures. A number of

these were relaxed in respect of Mr. Taylor. He has, however, objected to a cord being passed around his waist, the end of which is held by a security officer at some distance behind him. The Judges have expressed concern and have ordered the Registrar to "to continue to investigate a speedy resolution of the situation and direct that he

reports to us by 9.30 a.m. on 25 August that is Monday, on what he has achieved."

2. Mr. Taylor has not been blindfolded or hooded.

3. Mr. Gregory Townsend is not the Registrar of the Special Court. The Registrar is Herman von Hebel. Mr. Townsend is the head of The Hague sub-office of the Special Court.

## Supreme Court Places Stay Order On Isaac Nyenabo's Suspension

...Summons Senate For Conference

**T**HE SUPREME COURT OF LIBERIA via Associate Justice Presiding in Chambers, Her Honor Jamesetta Howard Wolokolle, has mandated the Liberian Senate to stay all further proceedings regarding

See Page 6



## BBC World Service Trust

Wednesday, 20 August 2008

At long last detained former Liberian President Charles Taylor appeared in court today without the two new security measures instituted by the Dutch Government rescinded. Taylor, according to his lawyers, had submitted to the two objectionable measures with the hope that the measures would be removed soon. The appearance of Charles Taylor in court led to the full resumption of the trial. Mariama Khai Fornah reports.

FORNAH: For the first time since the trial resumed after its summer break, Charles Taylor himself appeared in court, even though the argument over new security measures, to which he objects, have not been resolved. For once, Mr Taylor was not dressed in a western-style suit but a white three-piece gown and white hat. He listened as a former RUF fighter from Sierra Leone answered questions about his recruitment by Foday Sankoh, the leader of the RUF rebels, who the Prosecution allege were supported by Charles Taylor. The witness, whose identity can't be disclosed for security reasons, said he was recruited in Kakata in Liberia, and trained at the Camp Naama military barracks. The witness is testifying in the Krio Language, so he's being interpreted.

WITNESS: Camp Naama is a barracks, and it was divided into two. One the one side were Charles Taylor's men, and Foday Sankoh's men were on the other side.

PROSECUTOR: Can you name some of the people that you recall that were trainers?

WITNESS: Yes. On the Liberian side, Isaac Mongor was one, and there was another called "P.I." They were two on the Liberian side. And on the Sierra Leonean side there was Mohamed Tarawallie, Rashid Mansaray, and they were backed by Mike Lamin who gave ideology training.

FORNAH: The witness said that it was the Liberian rebel force, the NPFL, headed by Charles Taylor, which launched the first attack into Sierra Leone at Koidu, and not the RUF. He said RUF fighters were later taken to Sierra Leone after the NPFL had captured the town.

The witness said before the attack, he went to a meeting addressed by Foday Sankoh.

WITNESS: He said he would enter Sierra Leone from two fronts, one in the Kailahun District and two, in Pujehun District. And the war that he would wage on Sierra Leone would be supported by Charles Taylor fully. It was Charles Taylor whom he said – because we did not any other person except Charles Taylor with whom he was – he said he would support fully, and we too who were at the training base used to see it. The food we ate, whatever we used at the base, was coming from Charles Taylor.

FORNAH: Earlier he had described in graphic detail, atrocities that he said had been carried out by Charles Taylor rebel force in Liberia in 1990. He said the decapitated heads of members of the Mandingo tribe had been planted on poles at checkpoints manned by the NPFL.

For the BBC World Service Trust, this is Mariama Khai Fornah in The Hague.

## Star Radio (Liberia)

Wednesday, 20 August 2008

### **Taylor's Trial: Presiding Judge concerns about new security measures**

Written by Wellington Geevon Smith

The Trial Chamber hearing the case of detained former President Charles Taylor has expressed concern about the new security measures announced Monday.

Prison authorities in the Dutch prison said the detained former Liberian President would now be chained as he comes to court.

Taylor's lawyers objected to the measure, stating that it is degrading and is as treating the detained former President as an animal.

The Presiding Judge questioned the basis or justification for Mr. Taylor being subjected to the increased security measures.

Judge Teresa Doherty said the court has registered its concern that if this situation is not resolved, it could result in serious disruption of the trial.

Mr. Taylor earlier told his lawyer that he was prepared to undergo the constraints to appear in court Wednesday, if there was indication that the measure would shortly be relaxed.

The Presiding Judge directed the Registrar to continue to investigate a speedy resolution of the situation and report to the court on August 25.

This means as the Presiding Judge awaits the outcome of the investigation, Mr. Taylor will be escorted to the court in chain.



## The Inquirer (Liberia)

Tuesday, 19 August 2008

### Sam Jackson Frowns On Taylor's Humiliation

C. Winnie Saywah & Janjay F. Campbell

The founding Chairman of the obsolete Progressive Alliance of Liberia (PAL), Samuel Jackson says Liberia has set a precedence of allowing a duly elected president being taken off its shores in handcuffs.

Mr. Jackson, 55, a member of the defunct National Patriotic Party of Liberia (NPFL) told the TRC Thematic and Institutional Public Hearings yesterday that it was better to have former President Charles Taylor here in Liberia than to be placed in handcuffs on the roads in Freetown, Sierra Leone and or taken before a foreign jurisdiction.

He said sternly that as a friend of the exiled former president, he was instrumental in making a decision on Taylor's departure because, "I did not want Ellen to inherit the power of turning Taylor in," Mr. Jackson revealed.

He accused David Crane, former chief prosecutor of the Special Court sitting in The Hague to prosecute Mr. Taylor on charges of war crimes levied against him, of interfering in the politics of Liberia noting that in it all Taylor had to accept the bargain and offer himself as a sacrificial lamb.

"Liberians will continue to be poor because they are stupid," Mr. Jackson said in his testimony before the commissioners. He further disclosed that there are forces which teleguided the processes in the past and there are yet still forces teleguiding this process, even under a democratic leadership.

Speaking on issues about the PRC under the Samuel Doe regime, Mr. Jackson said that it came to power based on a faulty premise and that PAL and MOJA which did not have the power to effect change only took orders from the power at that time.

Mr. Jackson speaking about the issue of rice price hike in the country said among other things that no government has the ability to control the price of rice.

"We should not hold government hostage for the price control of rice especially when we are not producing same in the country. Rice is not our staple food; we can live without rice," he pronounced.

Mr. Jackson clarified that the "April 14 Rice Crisis" was not only about the increase in the price of rice but that it was also about the rights of the people.

"We did not force anyone to go on the streets; it was a conscientious decision. We had only assembled when we were attacked."

Mr. Jackson, who spoke on his business as an economist and how he is capable of handling some domestic businesses that are now placed in the hands of foreigners, said that no government should infringe on the rights of its citizens constitutionally.

He said that the names behind the rice parade were just to connect history for which the TRC has been established adding that it was destiny that placed them behind such events though they had to pay dearly for their actions.

Admitting that he supported the rice parade, Mr. Jackson said that he was not present when it took place. He said that because he knew about the planned parade, he left Monrovia and went to Mano River County because his mother told him to leave.

Mr. Jackson told the hearing that he was then arrested on April 17, 1979 and his father was relieved of his job because of his (Sam) involvement in politics which he believed was his constructional rights to partake in.

Offering no remorse for his role played in the rice parade or other events in the country, Mr. Jackson said that being a part of a movement such as PAL that brought about democratic change; he was doing the right thing because if you believe in something stand up for it, noting, " I'm proud of my role."

Mr. Jackson who was also a former Minister of States for Economic Affairs during the Taylor's regime reiterated that Liberians are poor because they have problem with truth telling and honesty.

He said, "Even now, our country's natural resources and access to them are being controlled by foreigners." According to him, Liberia has become a 'gold dish' where foreigners come and take away its natural resources.

He said that it is about time that the country creates a social exchange clinic because according to him the DDRR process was a complete failure in Liberia.

"The children's future was taken away due to greed. Politicians raised money abroad to sponsor children to war whereas their own remained and got educated."

Mr. Jackson frowned on those considering themselves as the better Liberians who are continuously playing with the future of children and pretending that they can eat the cake and have it and that they are the clean ones.

He said such attitude on the part of those "clean politicians is dated back in Liberia's history and such behavior is mounted on hypocrisy pointing out that "they are now playing on hypocrisy, if you believe on something stand up for it!"

Buttressing portions from former Information Minister Emmanuel Bowier's testimonies, Mr. Jackson said that Liberians should begin making social contacts with those destitute children who were used as instruments for war and chaos in the country or else in the soonest possible time they would revolt.

He said that those children were at tender age when they were innocently hypnotized into using strange instruments and perpetrating hate under the banner of being revolutionaries; now that they are left unattended to and or placed under the so-called DDRR program, it should be a warning that if nothing is done to have them placed rightfully in society, in demand for their rights, they would cause another problem that would mark another turning point in the fragile peace process.

## Inter-Press Service (South Africa)

Wednesday, 20 August 2008

### Proving Ground For International Criminal Court?

Miriam Mannak

**CAPE TOWN, Aug 20 (IPS) - The International Criminal Court (ICC) is using Africa as a guinea pig, and is too selective when it comes to arresting, indicting and prosecuting perpetrators of war crimes and crimes against humanity. This was one of the opinions raised during a recent seminar in Cape Town organised by the Centre for Conflict Resolution (CCR).**

The CCR is a South Africa-based organization that aims to promote peace, justice and conflict resolution in Africa through training, policy development, research, and capacity building.

"It seems that the court is using Africa as a test case, to determine in what way international law can obtain more legitimacy on the ground in Africa," said Charles Villa-Vicencio.

"The ICC focuses on economically weak and politically vulnerable countries, and on nations that are not able or willing to try perpetrators of crimes against humanity. Many African countries fulfill these criteria."

Vlila-Vicencio, former executive director of the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation which aims to promote reconciliation, transitional justice, and democracy across the continent, said it is necessary to think critically not just about the purpose of ICC as an institution of justice, but also about the implications of the way it operates.

"We need to ask ourselves whether retribution is a sufficient deterrent to those who violate human rights. Is intervention by the ICC enough to stop crimes against humanity and war crimes in Africa and elsewhere in the world?"

The ICC was established in 1998 by the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. The tribunal, which is based in the Dutch capital, The Hague, opened in July 2002 after the ratification of the document by 60 countries. The ICC currently has 106 members, including 30 African countries.

Presently the ICC is dealing with various African cases presented to the court by Uganda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Central African Republic -- all signatories to the Rome Statute. Additionally, the Security Council of the United Nations has referred the situation in Darfur, though Sudan is not a member state.

Vincent Nmehielle, former Principal Defender of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, added that the ICC has a political agenda. "The court should hold all tyrants accountable, but this is not happening. So far, most of the indictees are African. The powerful -- the United States instance -- will never be put on trial," he says, referring to the fact that the U.S. government does not recognise the court. "Russia will probably not be tried for what is happening in Georgia. And the same counts for China."

Villa-Vicencio asserted that the indictment of tyrants is not necessarily the best course of action. The



Credit: Miriam Mannak/IPS

Charles Villa-Vicencio questions the ICC's deterrent effect on human rights violations.



international community must think about the possible consequences of arresting perpetrators of crimes against humanity, he said.

"Should we prosecute Mugabe, despite (the possibility) this could increase the chance of further deterioration of the situation in Zimbabwe, or should we give him the chance to walk off if this would contribute a more stable peace situation?" he said. "I am not too much against the former if this will bring peace and stability to Zimbabwe."

Claudia Perdomo -- acting spokesperson of the ICC -- told IPS that the court is not using Africa as a guinea pig. "The ICC is not an experiment. The court is permanent, and is here to stay and does not treat any part of the world as a test case.

"The fact is that Africa played an incredible role in the establishment of the court," Perdomo added.

"The situations the ICC is investigating at the moment were put forward by the party states themselves, except for Darfur which was referred to the ICC by the UN's security council. It is therefore untrue that the court is only targeting Africa as the Office of the Prosecutor has publicly announced that his office is monitoring situations in other parts of the world, in Colombia for instance and Afghanistan."

According to Perdomo it is a misconception that individuals from countries that do not recognise the ICC, such as the United States, cannot be indicted. "If someone from a non-party state commits crimes against humanity within the territory of a party state, this person might be tried. It is possible."

**United Nations**  **Nations Unies**

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

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**UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries**  
**20 August 2008**

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

**Newspaper Summary**

**Senate Selects Acting Pro-Tempore**

(The Analyst, Daily Observer, Heritage, The News, National Chronicle, New Democrat, The Inquirer)

- The media reports that the Liberian Senate on Tuesday unanimously selected Bomi County Senior Senator, Lahai B. Lassana as acting President Pro-Tempore. Senator Lassana temporarily replaces Isaac Nyenabo who is serving a six-month suspension for what his colleagues described as "gross administrative ineptitude."
- On Tuesday, a three-man delegation from the Liberian Council of Churches went to the Capitol to prevail on the senators to abandon the selection of an acting Pro-Tempore, but the delegation was ignored.
- The LCC delegation which included Methodist Bishop, John Innis, Lutheran Bishop Sumowood Harris and Don Stewart Christ Pentecostal Bishop W. Nah Dixon called on the senators to abandon their plan in the spirit of peace and reconciliation.
- Meanwhile, the acting Pro-Tempore resumes official duty today. Senators Lassana and Nyenabo are members of the National Democratic Party of Liberia.

**UN Earmarks US\$48,000 for Justice Ministry**

(The News)

- The United Nations Peace Building Support Office in New York has earmarked US\$48,000 for the Ministry of Justice. According to the National Coordinating Officer of UNMIL, Wilfred Gray-Johnson, the money is intended to provide logistics and facilitate the process in resolving land crisis in Maryland and Margibi Counties.
- Mr. Gray-Johnson made the disclosure when he spoke to members of the Joint Committee on Peace and Reconciliation at the National Legislature on activities of the UN Peace Building in Liberia. He said the fast track fund allotted for the project is geared towards resolving the crisis as soon as possible so as to avoid recurrence of land crisis.
- He pledged his organization's continuous support to peace initiative in Liberia. The President of the Better Future Foundation, (BFF), Rev. Augustine S. Akoi said his organization was also undertaking a survey to identify issues that would enhance good relations among Liberians.

**Money Laundering Threatens Financial Systems - GIABA Boss Discloses**

(The News)

- The Director General of the Inter-Governmental Action Group against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA) says money laundering and terrorist financing pose a real threat to the stability of financial systems in West Africa. Delivering a keynote address at the start of a two-day sensitization workshop at a local hotel in Monrovia, Dr. Abdullahi Shehu said money laundering and terrorist financing can destroy economic development efforts.
- Dr. Shehu observed that large-scale money laundering in West African financial systems may result in a systematic banking threat to the international financial system.
- He called on the Liberian government to develop a framework that would control cash transactions in a bid to deal with money laundering and terrorist financing. The workshop is being held under the theme: "Enlisting the Support of the Liberian Media, Civil Society Organizations and Professional Groups for GIABA's Strategic Action Plan to Combat Money

Laundering and Terrorist Financing in Liberia.”

### **Japan to Provide US\$7.1M for Food Aid**

(The Inquirer, Daily Observer, Heritage, The News, The Analyst)

- The Governments of Japan and Liberia Monday signed an agreement for the provision of US\$7.1 million food aid to Liberia. According to a release, the signing ceremony was held in Accra, Ghana, between Liberian Foreign Minister Olubanke King Akerelle and the Japanese Ambassador to Liberia, Masamichi Ishikawa.
- The decision for Japan to provide food aid to Liberia was made in response to a request by Liberian government to assist with the current food situation in the country.
- The release said Japanese International Cooperation Service (JICS) would be the agent that would facilitate the procurement of rice. It can be recalled that on April 25, 2008, Japan announced that it would implement emergency food aid of approximately US\$100 million in the next three months in response to increasing food crisis. Also on July 4, 2008, the release said, Japan announced it would implement food aid of approximately US\$50 million by October of this year.

### **TRC Investigators Accused of “Unprofessional Act” - Witness Brown Raises Issues**

(The Inquirer, Daily Observer, New Democrat, The News)

- The News newspaper reports that a witness at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Thematic and Institutional hearing has accused investigators about their involvement in ‘unprofessional behaviors’. National Security Advisor to former President Charles Taylor, Mr. Lewis Brown said the TRC investigators secretly recorded him during his recent meeting with them at his residence.
- Mr. Brown’s revelation comes in the wake of concerns raised by Cllr. Jerome Verdier. Following, witness Brown’s general testimony which dwelled on the history of Liberia rather than his involvement in the war, Chairman Verdier said the TRC was under obligation to question him about his participation in the war because he (Brown) served as Taylor’s security advisor, a founding member of the National Patriotic Party and the NPFL rebel group.
- Meanwhile, the Daily Observer reports that the former National Security Advisor to ex-President Taylor, got infuriated yesterday upon listening to his Curriculum Vitae (CV), depicting positions he is believed to have held from the era of the de facto National Patriotic Reconstruction Assembly Government (NPRAG) of the then armed rebel group, up to the resignation of Charles Taylor as President of Liberia in 2003.

### **World Bank Donates to National Traditional Council**

(Heritage, The Analyst)

- The World Bank through the Liberia Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (LEITI) has donated a four-door Mitsubishi pick-up to the National Traditional Council of Liberia.
- The Resident Representative of the World Bank in Liberia, Ohene Owusu Nyanin said to have the chiefs monitor the extractions of resources in the country, logistics were necessary to the process.
- Mr. Nyanin said the vehicle would be used to reach out to the locals to explain the extractive industries transparency initiative. Receiving the vehicle, the head of the traditional council, Chief Zazan Karwah thanked the World Bank for the donation.

### **Presiding Judge in Taylor’s Trial Concern over New Security Measures**

(New Democrat, Heritage)

- The Trial Chamber hearing the case of detained former President Charles Taylor has expressed concern about the new security measures announced Monday. Following the announcement that Mr. Taylor would now be chained to be brought to court, Mr. Taylor and his lawyers objected the new measure saying it was degrading and equated it to being treated like an animal.



- The Presiding Judge, Teresa Doherty questioned the basis or justification for Mr. Taylor being subjected to the increased security measures. Meanwhile, Mr. Taylor has told his lawyer that he was prepared to undergo the constraints to appear in court today, if there were indications that the measure would shortly be relaxed.

## Radio Summary

### **Star Radio** *(News culled today from website at 8:45 am)*

#### **UNMIL Records Decline in Cases of SEA involving its personnel**

- Radio newscasts converged around the release of a new report by the UN Mission in Liberia indicating a significant decline in cases of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) involving its personnel.
- The report covering the period January to June 2008 says only five (5) allegations of SEA were reported during the period compared to nine cases involving UNMIL personnel in the period from July-December 2007. UNMIL takes SEA seriously and has reiterated its commitment to punishing misconduct involving its personnel.
- In the report released Wednesday, out of two allegations, one was not substantiated, while investigation into the other is ongoing. The third reported allegation led to repatriation on administrative grounds of the personnel prior to completion of investigation by UNMIL. Of the remaining two allegations, one staff member resigned for unrelated reasons prior to the onset of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) investigation.
- The personnel connected with the last SEA allegation is under investigation by OIOS. The final investigation report is awaited. The OIOS is an independent office that assists the UN Secretary-General in fulfilling his internal oversight responsibilities in respect of the resources and staff of the Organization through monitoring, internal audit, inspection, evaluation and investigation.

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

#### **Liberia, Sweden Sign MOU on Defense Staff**

- A Defense Ministry release issued in Monrovia said Liberia and Sweden on Tuesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding for training of civilian staff of the Ministry.
- Under the MOU, civilian staff would be trained in financial management, civil military coordination and other functional areas.
- Defense Minister Brownie Samukai signed for the government while the head of the Swedish delegation, Per Brostrom, signed for his government.
- Speaking during the signing ceremony, Minister Samukai thanked the Swedish government for its support to Liberia's capacity building effort.
- In response, Mr. Brostrom described his country's intervention as a significant beginning of improving the security sector in Liberia and pledged his government's commitment to support Liberia's post-war recovery process.

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

#### **'Concern' Liberians Write TRC, Oppose to President Sirleaf's Open Testimony**

- A group of Liberians has written the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) opposing the public appearance of President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.
- In a release, the group said Article 61 of the Constitution gives the President immunity from arrest, suit, actions or proceedings, judicial or otherwise.
- The citizens group said considering the TRC as a judicial authority, the group wants the President to give a written account or testify in-camera before the truth commission.
- On Monday, the Executive Mansion said it was not part of the call and whichever way the TRC wanted the President to appear would be accepted.

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

#### **Judge Raises Concerns over new Security Measures in Taylor's Trial**

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

#### **World Bank Gives Vehicle to National Traditional Council**

**Disable Commission Cries Foul, Wants Higher Education For Members**

- In an interview, the National Commission on Disabilities says it is deeply troubled by constant delays in the admission of blind people to the state-owned, University of Liberia.
- The Executive Director of the Commission, Mr. Robert Williams said blind people have the rights to higher education and denying them such rights would mean marginalizing or discriminating against them.
- Mr. Williams said for over a decade, visually handicapped people have advocated acquiring higher education through the University of Liberia but to no avail.

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