

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



**PRESS CLIPPINGS**

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

**as at:**

Wednesday, 23 January 2008

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

### Local News

Human Rights Commission Warns the Public / <i>The News</i>	Page 3
“I Hate Children’s Hearts”, Ex-Rebel Says / <i>For di People</i>	Page 4

### International News

(Untitled) / <i>BBC World Service Trust</i>	Pages 5-6
(Untitled) / <i>BBC World Service Trust</i>	Page 7
Taylor Sent Us to Fight in Congo, SLeone”...Gen Debleh Discloses / <i>The News</i>	Pages 8-9
Press Conference by Prosecutor of Special Court for Sierra Leone / <i>UN News Centre</i>	Pages 10-12
Taylor Trial at UN-Backed Court ‘Historic’ in Ending Impunity, Says Prosecutor / <i>UN News Centre</i>	Page 13
Buyers of Blood Diamonds from Charles Taylor Won't Face Justice... / <i>Inner City Press</i>	Page 14
Prosecution witness Abu Keita says Taylor sent him to work with the RUF / <i>charlestaylortrial.org</i>	Pages 15-18
UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries / <i>UNMIL</i>	Pages 19-20
Monkomana Wanted Bucket of Blood / <i>The Analyst (Monrovia)</i>	Pages 21-22
Ex-Gen. Recounts Death of Dogolea, Vaye, Yormie / <i>The News (Liberia)</i>	Page 23

The News

Wednesday, 23 January 2008

---

# Human Rights Commission warns the public

The Human Rights Commission Sierra Leone (HRCSL) has warned the public to avoid speculations, to respect the pending court proceedings and to refrain from statements and conduct that might prejudice the outcome of the investigations by the Coroner on Alima Sheriff Kamara's death.

A press release from the Commission states "The public will recall that on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2007 there were violent public reactions, including attacks on the lives and properties of individuals following reports of the alleged suspicious circumstances surrounding the death of Alima Sheriff Kamara and the status of police investigations into her death.

The Human Rights Commission Sierra Leone (HRCSL) promptly initiated a dialogue with the Police on the same day with a view to restoring order, to enquire about the status of police investigations and to emphasize public interest in the matter. In addition, the HRCSL in a radio interview appealed to the general populace not to take matters into their hands but to allow the rule of law to prevail.

As a result of reports and complaints HRCSL received on the issue, it duly informed the Police of its intention to investigate the allegations and solicited their cooperation. The HRCSL was also of the view that the alleged circumstances of the death of Alima Sheriff Kamara was a proper case for investigation by a Coroner and recommended that a Coroner's Inquest be held in accordance with section 7 of the Coroners Act Chapter 9 of the Laws of Sierra Leone.

In response to the HRCSL's recommendation, HRCSL's assistance was solicited by the Law Officer's Department following a court order to obtain the services of a pathologist and forensic analyst to conduct a second postmortem examination of the body of the deceased to ascertain the probable cause of death.

The HRCSL identified a suitably qualified and experienced pathologist and through the assistance of the United Nations Peace Building Fund facilitated a second postmortem examination. HRCSL wishes to confirm that a team of pathologists have performed the second postmortem examination and are currently undertaking further laboratory tests after which a report on their findings will be presented to the Coroner at the Coroner's Inquest.

The HRCSL therefore calls on everyone to avoid speculations, to respect the pending court proceedings and to refrain from statements and conduct that might prejudice the outcome of the investigations by the Coroner".

---

## For di People

Wednesday, 23 January 2008

### “I Hate Children’s Hearts”, Ex-Rebel Says

**MILTON BLAHYI, a former feared rebel commander in Liberia’s brutal civil war, has admitted to taking part in human sacrifices as part of traditional ceremonies intended to ensure victory in battle.**

He said the sacrifices “included the killing of an innocent child and plucking out the heart, which was divided into pieces for us to eat.”

There had been numerous rumours of human sacrifices during the 1979-93 conflict but this is the first time anyone has admitted publicly to the practice.

Mr Blahyi, 37, is better known in Liberia as “General Butt Naked” because he went into combat with no clothes on, to scare the enemy.

He is now an Evangelist preacher, who prefers to use the name Joshua.

He was speaking to the BBC, after telling Liberia’s Truth Commission that his forces had killed 20,000 people.

Mr Blahyi said he had first become exposed to killings in 1982 when, at the age of 11, he was ordained “the traditional priest of my tribe.”

He explained that when a rebellion broke out against President Samuel Doe, he had to go to war on behalf of the president, as they were from the same Krahn ethnic group.

He fought against the militia of Charles Taylor, currently on trial for war crimes in The Hague.

As the traditional priest, he says he persuaded the “hesitant” political leaders of his faction to make a human sacrifice before going into battle.

“They asked me to do it in secret; but some of the sacrifices are supposed to be as a ceremony; so my boys and I made some of the sacrifices in the open.”

Mr Blahyi did not say where they had found the children to be killed.

He said he thought that confessing to what he had done and asking for forgiveness could help heal the country’s wounds.

“I have been looking for an opportunity to tell the true story about my life; and every time I tell people my story, I feel relieved,” he said, drinking a bottle of tomato juice in the capital, Monrovia.

He stopped fighting in 1996, saying God appeared to him as he was charging naked into battle and told him he was doing Satan’s work.

He is now often seen preaching on street corners and churches in Monrovia.

“I now preach against murder and making human sacrifices,” he said.

“Some people see me and congratulate me.

“Others see me and say I should not be walking down the streets of Monrovia posing proud. But I continue to tell such people I am not proud, I am ashamed.”

Between the time he was ordained a “traditional priest” and the time he stopped fighting, he said, “more than 20,000 people fell victim - they were killed.”

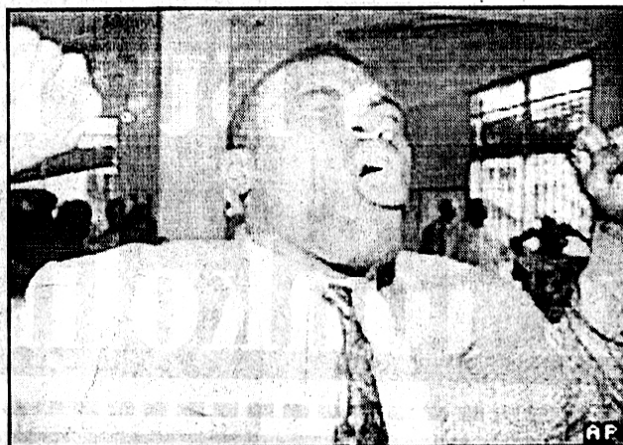
The commission, modelled on South Africa’s post-apartheid Truth and Reconciliation Commission, began earlier this month.

Some, however, say Liberia’s Truth Commission is too weak and argue that a war crimes court should be established - Mr Taylor is being accused by a court set up to investigate the conflict in neighbouring Sierra Leone.

“If you have an individual admitting that he and his group killed over 20,000 people, certainly there should be a mechanism put in place for such people to face jus-

tice,” said Mulbah Morlue, who heads the Forum for the Establishment of a War Crimes Court in Liberia.

The war is now over but thousands of UN peacekeepers remain in the country.



**Milton Blahyi is now an evangelical preacher**

While asking for forgiveness, Mr Blahyi says he’s ready for whatever the truth commission will decide to do to him.

“I could be electrocuted. I could be hanged,” he said. “But I think forgiveness and reconciliation is the right way to go.”

He also urged other former fighters to confess their doings because “wherever they go there is a stigma on them”.

But another former warlord, Prince Johnson, says he will not appear before the commission unless he is compelled to do so.

Mr Johnson, now a senator, led the forces who tortured and killed then President Doe in 1990. The video of this brutal killing is still on sale in Liberia.

He says that he has already made his peace with the Doe family but would testify at the truth hearings if they lodged a formal complaint.

## BBC World Service Trust

Tuesday, 22 January 2008

Joseph Cheeseman at The Hague

CHEESEMAN: The Prosecution seventh witness in the trial of Charles Taylor has testified to atrocities allegedly committed in Sierra Leone by Liberians.

The Senior Researcher of the African Division of Human Rights Watch, Corinne Dufka, told the Court pregnant women were mutilated, civilians burned alive, and women shot between their legs. She also said massacres were committed both in churches and in mosques and property massively looted. She testified that most of these atrocities were committed by the RUF.

The Human Rights Watch Senior Researcher testified that most of these atrocities were committed in two separate operations code named Operation Pay Yourself and Operation No Living Thing.

Madam Dufka said the information about these atrocities was obtained through research conducted by Human Rights Watch. When asked whether the Liberian government under Charles Taylor was informed about these atrocities, Madam Dufka said responses from some Liberian government officials indicated that the government was knowledgeable.

DUFKA: There were a number of wire service reports from Reuters, Associated Press and Agence France-Presse which reflect the statements of Liberian officials, including Reginald Goodridge, and in one case I believe Charles Taylor as well, and Monie Captan as well, Minister of Foreign Affairs...They didn't concur with our findings as indicated by their statements in these press releases.

CHEESEMAN: She said Human Rights Watch discovered evidence of the alleged involvement of Liberians in the Sierra Leone conflicts through interviews conducted.

DUFKA: Witnesses who I interviewed in relation to the January 6th offensive noted the presence of Liberians among their attackers. They believed that they were Liberians, in some cases because the individuals identified themselves as Liberians; other times because they spoke with a Liberian accent. The alleged Liberians were women, men and children, primarily men, male combatants above the age of 18. And the crimes that they were involved in a massacre of seven civilians on January 9th, the burning alive of a four year old girl and an 87-year old woman in Kissy on January 20th, and the killings which took place in the Rogballan Mosque on January 22nd. And then three separate incidents of limb amputation on January 21st, 25th and February 1st.

CHEESEMAN: The Prosecution exhibited a video clip about atrocities committed by the rebels in Sierra Leone. The clip was played in open court.

NARRATOR, AND BACKGROUND MUSIC: In 1996 the war in Sierra Leone had entered its sixth year. [Unheard] diamonds had helped sustain a conflict that might otherwise have ended quickly. VOICE: The amount of Sierra Leone is between \$50 and \$125 million per annum during the time period that they had control over the diamond fields. NARRATOR: With rebels well armed and funded, the war's remaining years would be marked by RUF brutality that defied comprehension. In response to the 1996 election of President Tejan Kabbah, amputation became a rebel tactic of intimidation and revenge. SECOND VOICE: Residents were often asked, 'would you like to have short sleeves or long sleeves'? which was code for 'do you want to have your hand chopped off at the wrist or at the elbow'?

CHEESEMAN: The former Liberian President is being tried for allegedly bearing the greatest responsibility for human rights abuses committed in Sierra Leone between November 30, 1996 and January 18, 2002. Sexual slavery and the recruitment of child soldiers weigh heavily on the 11 count charges against Charles Taylor.

This is Joseph Cheeseman reporting for the BBC World Service Trust and Search for Common Ground, from The Hague.

## BBC World Service Trust

Tuesday, 22 January 2008

Abdul Rashid, at The Hague

RASHID: The Prosecution's seventh witness in the trial of Charles Taylor has testified to atrocities committed in both Liberia and Sierra Leone. The Senior Researcher of the Africa Division of Human Rights Watch, Corinne Dufka, told the Court pregnant women were mutilated, civilians burnt alive and women shot between their legs, massacre in both churches and mosques and property massively looted. She testified that most of these atrocities were committed by the RUF.

DUFKA: This report documented abuses by both warring sides. The vast majority, as has been noted, were committed by the AFRC/RUF, which I will note just now.

RASHID: The Human Rights Watch Senior Researcher testified that most of these atrocities were committed in two separate operations code named Operation Pay Yourself and Operation No Living Thing. Madam Dufka said the information about these atrocities was obtained through research conducted by Human Rights Watch. When asked whether the Liberian government under Charles Taylor was informed about these atrocities, Madam Dufka said responses from some Liberian government officials indicated that the government was knowledgeable. She said Human Rights Watch discovered evidence of the alleged involvement of Liberians in Sierra Leone from interviews conducted.

DUFKA: These included nine victims and witnesses whom I interviewed in relation to the January 6 offensive. Noted the presence of Liberians among their attackers. They believed that they were Liberians, in some cases because the individuals identified themselves as Liberians; other times because they spoke with a Liberian accent. The alleged Liberians were women, men and children, primarily men, male combatants above the age of 18. And the crimes that they were involved in included a massacre of seven civilians on January 9th, the burning alive of a four year old girl and an 87-year old woman in Kissy on January 20th, and the killings which took place in the Rogballan Mosque on January 22nd. And then three separate incidents of limb amputation on January 21st, 25th and February 1st.

The former Liberian President is being tried for allegedly bearing the greatest responsibility for human rights abuses committed in Sierra Leone between 30<sup>th</sup> November 1996 and 18 January 2002. Sexual slavery and the recruitment of child soldiers are among the 11 charges against Charles Taylor.

Abdul Rashid for Search for Common Ground and BBC World Service Trust, at The Hague.

The News (Liberia)  
Wednesday, 23 January 2008

## "Taylor Sent Us To Fight In Congo, S/Leone"

### ...Gen. Debleh Discloses

By Alloyicious David



Former Liberian President Charles G. Taylor

As the trial of former Liberian President Charles G. Taylor continues in The Hague for crimes allegedly committed during Sierra Leone's civil conflict, a well-known former NPFL General Monday disclosed that Mr. Taylor sent him and some fighters to Sierra Leone and DR Congo at different times to fight alongside rebel forces there.



Former General Benjamin Yeaten

Former Battlefield Gen. Alfred Suah Debleh, popularly known as Suah Debleh, who was recruited into the NPFL in 1990 as a child soldier told the TRC public hearing at the Centennial Pavilion that NPFL forces were ordered to move into Sierra Leone by Charles Taylor to assist Foday Sankor and his RUF rebels.

He indicated that the troops of NPFL fighters that entered Sierra Leone were headed by Gen. Oliver Varney, a brother of the late Gen. Samuel Varney.

Gen. Suah Debleh recalled that they fought in Bo and other towns in Sierra Leone and that they were considered Special Forces.

He further revealed that Taylor sent some of his fighters including himself to assist the late Laurent Kabila during his rebel incursion in DR Congo.

Some Generals who were sent to fight in DR Congo included 'Marcus High Grade,' 'BM-40,' Foday Johnson, 'Michael Jackson' and two others identified as Amos and Action.

Gen. Debleh: "Taylor's Defense Minister, Daniel Chea and Kadiatu D. Findley escorted us at the Roberts International Airport and distributed envelopes containing money among us before boarding the plane for Congo."

He indicated that former President Taylor also ordered them to assist Ivory Coast rebel

leader Robert Gye fight in the Ivory Coast.

The ex-general further explained that prior to the mission to the Ivory Coast, they were briefed at the ELWA Junction by Minister Chea about the scope of the operation.

Elaborating further, the former militia general linked Gen. Coco Dennis to atrocities including summary executions.

Describing Coco Dennis as "All Color Chief of Staff," Debleh disclosed that Coco Dennis was law unto himself, adding that "he did anything without a question."

In an attempt to catalog the number of innocent persons Coco Dennis allegedly killed, Gen. Debleh said he killed more than 10 persons in my presence.

He recalled that as Chief of Staff, Coco Dennis instructed Generals in Lofa County not to keep any prisoner of war (POW).

He also recalled that in 1990 it was Coco Dennis who introduced Sabebo Base in Grand Bassa County, meaning "death is better than life."

Gen. Debleh further alleged that Coco

Cont'd on page 3



## EX-GEN. RECOUNTS

mand over the fighters-as-requested by the US Ambassador.

He indicated that on the contrary, Chief 50 went on the radio and asked the citizens to remain calm and that Mr. Taylor was returning to the country.

"Chief 50 briefed the former president while he was in Ghana about the discussion between him and Vice President Moses Blah," Debleh added.

"When Taylor arrived he ordered the arrest of the three officials and instructed Chief 50 that he did not want to see Vaye and Yormie again," he noted.

Ex-Gen. Debleh also explained that the men were placed on a pick-up and taken to an unknown destination, "but the fighters returned with fresh human hearts."

He recounted that Vice President Blah who was later rescued by Mr. Taylor was folded in a mattress and was severely flogged by Chief 50 and his men in Congo Town.

Prior to the account of how the three men were killed, Debleh indicated that Blah was a strong NPFL commander who controlled Grand Gedeh County during the insurgency in the 90s.

"Col. Moses Blah was a strong fighter. As my commander in 1990, the NPFL Special Forces and I set up and laid down in several armed bushes in Grand Gedeh County," Debleh concluded.

Enoch Dogolea, 48, the vice president of Liberia, died June 24, 2000 in a hospital in Abidjan, Ivory Coast. The Liberian government ordered an autopsy to allay speculation of foul play.

Officials of Mr. Taylor said Mr. Dogolea died after going into a coma. He was flown to the Abidjan hospital after falling sick in Liberia last week.

One official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Mr. Dogolea suffered a stroke, though that could not be independently confirmed.

The state radio station said the warlord-turned-president of Liberia, Charles Taylor, ordered an autopsy in order to rebut speculation the vice president had been either "poisoned or beaten to death by presidential guards.

# United Nations News Centre

Tuesday, 22 January 2008

Press Conference

22 January 2008



## Press Conference

Department of Public Information • News and Media Division • New York

### Press Conference by Prosecutor of Special Court for Sierra Leone

Excellent progress had been made in the trial of former Liberian president Charles Taylor, and the Special Court for Sierra Leone was “well on track” to concluding the presentation of prosecution and defence evidence within a 12-to-18-month time frame, Prosecutor Steven Rapp said at a Headquarters press conference today.

Briefing on the Special Court’s proceedings, Mr. Rapp said prosecutorial evidence had been brought on 7 January and seven witnesses had appeared in the trial thus far, including a key “insider” who had testified to the former Liberian leader’s links to crimes committed in neighbouring Sierra Leone. Mr. Taylor is charged with 11 counts of crimes against humanity and war crimes, notably, organizing militias known for slicing off people’s limbs during Sierra Leone’s civil war, which ended in 2003.

Citing an article in the online e-journal International Justice Tribune, he said Mr. Taylor’s trial “provides a model at The Hague”. The case was of historic importance in signalling an end to impunity of individuals at the highest level. The challenges included ensuring that the trial was conducted expeditiously, that justice was done and that it was seen to be done, a critically important matter, given Mr. Taylor’s transfer to The Hague from West Africa.

Efforts by the Office of the Prosecutor to expand outreach on the trial’s progress throughout the subregion included more than 2,000 meetings held in Sierra Leone last year. Moreover, the case was being streamed live on the Special Court’s website ([www.sc-sl.org](http://www.sc-sl.org)), and summary reports could be found at [www.charlestaylortrial.org](http://www.charlestaylortrial.org), a project sponsored by the Open Society Justice Initiative, which employed volunteer lawyers from the global law firm Clifford Chance. Several Liberian newspapers, including the 11 January issue of the New Democrat, had printed those accounts verbatim. Journalists from Liberia and Sierra Leone had been sent to The Hague under the auspices of both the BBC World Service Trust and the Search for Common Ground.

“Everything will be done to make sure people know what’s happening in this case,” the Prosecutor said, detailing several historic trials stemming from Sierra Leone’s war, including the trial of the three surviving leaders of the rebel Revolutionary United Front, the group found by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to have committed the most extensive atrocities. The trial of the three accused is expected to conclude in the coming months.

Mr. Rapp said he was in the United States this week to meet with the Special Court’s Management Committee and get involved in its fundraising efforts. The Canadian Government had announced today a \$5 million contribution, more than three times any previous annual contribution from that country. In

addition, the United States Congress had passed an omnibus budget bill signed by the President on 26 December, which included a \$12.5 million contribution. Hopefully it would be possible to conclude the Court's work by 2009.

Asked about the effect of the trial's length on Sierra Leoneans and the media, he said attention to date was greater in Liberia, judging from press accounts in both countries. Both the prosecution and defence recognized that the outreach programme was very important for the Court's success, and the public viewed it as a success, though prosecutions had been limited to those charged with the greatest responsibility. An independent poll of 10,000 Sierra Leone residents last year showed that 90 per cent of them had heard about the Court's work and 80 per cent believed it was a force for stability and peace. Furthermore, newly elected President Ernest Bai Koroma and Justice Minister Abdul Serry Kamal understood the role that the Court had played in the peaceful transition of power in Sierra Leone.

Regarding the concerns of witnesses and victims, he said the usual protective measures permitted a witness to testify under a pseudonym, but the accused and his defence team knew the name of the witness and needed that information at least 42 days before the testimony in order to do an effective job in challenging evidence. That raised concerns that individuals associated with the accused could commit aggressions against the witness. Such circumstances had required in-country relocation and about 15 relocations outside Sierra Leone.

The problem was most intense with insider witnesses, who could be subjected to a vendetta extending far beyond their testimony, the Prosecutor said. There were several such situations in the Taylor case, which required more intense efforts for safe relocation, including some outside the region, in order to ensure witness safety. While relocations must be disclosed to the other side in the litigation, "we watch these things very, very carefully", he stressed.

On whether Mr. Taylor's trial should receive more attention in the United States, given the country's position on the International Criminal Court, he said it was important that the trial receive a lot of attention, as it showed that international institutions could responsibly conduct their work, and that the accused were entitled to effective representation. "This is the kind of process that no country that upholds the rule of law can really fear." The willingness of the United States to have the case tried at the venue of the International Criminal Court, and its decision not to veto the referral of the Darfur situation to The Hague, indicated a rapprochement between the United States and the International Criminal Court that was expected to continue in the future.

Asked what he hoped would result from the trial, he said: "Justice." The Office of the Prosecutor hoped to show -- through the presentation of evidence supporting the 11 counts of crimes against humanity, war crimes, and the overarching crime of terrorism -- that Mr. Taylor had been engaged in a campaign of terror against civilians. Specific crimes included murder, extermination, collective punishment, rape, sexual slavery, mutilation, amputation, pillage, the recruitment of children under the age of 15 and their use in active hostilities. The case was an historic one and to tie Mr. Taylor to such crimes was a great challenge to surmount, but the Prosecutor's Office sought to do that nonetheless.

As for when a decision might be rendered, Mr. Rapp said the judges had indicated they would have a judgement at first instance by January 2010, presuming that evidence was concluded by July 2009. Both sides had the right of appeal and the appellate court would need six months after final judgement to render a decision on any appeal.

Regarding the significance of testimony by an expert on blood diamonds, and the possibility of corporate interests being prosecuted for complicity, he said his Office viewed diamonds as an important motivation for the continuation of the war and atrocities in Sierra Leone. Witnesses would testify that Mr. Taylor had

given orders in 1998 to seize and hold the Kono diamond fields, and documents described the delivery of 1,800 diamonds to him on one occasion, 200-300 of which had then been used to purchase materiel. Whether diamonds were the primary motivation for the start of the war in 1991 was subject to debate, but they had become a major motivation for its continuation, as well as a means to prolong it. Taking the diamonds from Sierra Leone was pillage of civilian property, he added.

Asked whether people in Antwerp, for example, could be held accountable for purchasing such diamonds, he said it was very challenging to prove that someone not directly involved on the ground was responsible. It required proving that actual knowledge had been obtained, and that with it, action had been taken to increase the flow of diamonds mined through slave labour, for example.

There were prospects at the national level for prosecuting those involved in the economics of Liberia and the conflict, he said. A Dutchman had famously been prosecuted for allegedly receiving concessionary rights to half the timber and hardwoods in Liberia from Mr. Taylor, with money paid to the Government going straight to Mr. Taylor or being used in the purchase of arms. The Prosecutor's Office was willing to share evidence with any national prosecution.

Asked about the prosecution of those responsible for mass amputations, he said the Special Court had a limited mandate, crafted after the experience of the International Criminal Tribunals for the Former Yugoslavia and Rwanda. The Special Court's mandate was to go after those with the greatest responsibility, and thus, it had not prosecuted mid-level commanders responsible for hundreds of deaths. The Prosecutor's Office was prepared to assist Sierra Leone in national prosecutions, but none had taken place, due in part to an amnesty given in 1999. Given that Sierra Leone was the first country to have an internationalized court, as well as a Truth and Reconciliation Commission, there was a perception that lower-level people would be dealt with in the Commission process.

On whether diamonds had triggered the war or were a means to perpetuate it, the Prosecutor said there was evidence that Mr. Taylor had intended to invade Sierra Leone out of a desire to control its diamond resources. That evidence was strengthened by the fact that diamonds had been instrumental in the war, and that keeping the diamond fields had become a key factor in continuing the conflict.

Asked if precedents involving child soldiers and the enslavement of girls had become part of national or international law, he said they had become part of both national and international law. The Yugoslavia and Rwanda tribunals had constantly cited each other's decisions, which had a highly persuasive effect. One of the greatest legacies of such institutions was in building a body of jurisprudence, defining terms for instruments that had not been given enforcement effect.

With respect to a change in how people perceived such levels of criminality, and if Mr. Taylor's prosecution would deter leaders of countries with similar problems, he said President Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal had asked at the June 2006 African Union Summit where a trial of former Chadian ruler Hissène Habré could be held. That a trial should take place had never been an issue. The debate had occurred three months after Mr. Taylor's transfer from Nigeria to Liberia and on to Sierra Leone, which indicated the impact of his case on the establishment of a legal framework for prosecutions.

## United Nations News Centre

Tuesday, 22 January 2008

### **Taylor trial at UN-backed court ‘historic’ in ending impunity, says prosecutor**

22 January 2008 – The Chief Prosecutor of the United Nations-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) today stressed the “historic” importance of the war crimes trial of former Liberian leader Charles Taylor in signalling an end to impunity, even at the highest level.

Mr. Taylor is facing 11 counts of war crimes, crimes against humanity and other serious violations of international humanitarian law – including mass murder, mutilations, rape, sexual slavery and the use of child soldiers – for his role in the decade-long civil war that engulfed Sierra Leone, which borders Liberia. He has pleaded not guilty to all charges against him.

Chief Prosecutor Stephen Rapp said the arrest and transfer of Mr. Taylor “after he had been permitted to go into what was anticipated to be a safe and comfortable exile was precedent shattering in several respects.

“I think it has awakened many in the world to the possibility that individuals who might commit or be alleged to have committed similar crimes will in the end face a day of justice,” he said at a press briefing in New York.

Indeed, “the case is one of historic importance in signalling an end to impunity of individuals, even at the highest level.”

He added that “the challenge that remains for those of us that are involved in this process is to make sure that when you do try an individual at that level, that you are able to do it expeditiously, that justice be done and be seen to be done.”

That is particularly important in the case of the Taylor trial, he noted, because of its transfer to The Hague in the Netherlands – some 5,000 kilometres from the seat of the Special Court in Sierra Leone’s capital, Freetown.

In 2006, the Security Council authorized the staging of Mr. Taylor’s trial at The Hague, citing reasons of security and expediency. Although the trial will be held at the premises of the International Criminal Court (ICC), it will remain under the exclusive jurisdiction of the SCSL.

Mr. Rapp said the Court is continuing its outreach programme so that people know what is going on with the case even though it is taking place far away from the “scene of the crime.”

Given the “excellent progress” being made in the trial, he said the case could be concluded within 12 to 18 months. The Court’s judges have indicated that they will have a judgment at first instance by January 2010, presuming that the evidence is concluded by the end of July 2009.

The Special Court, established in January 2002 by an agreement between the Sierra Leonean Government and the UN, is mandated to try “those who bear greatest responsibility” for war crimes and crimes against community committed in the country after 30 November 1996.

Last July, it reached an agreement with the British Government whereby Mr. Taylor will serve out his sentence in the United Kingdom if he is convicted.

## Inner City Press

Tuesday, 22 January 2008

<http://www.innercitypress.com/un2diamonds012208.html>

### **Buyers of Blood Diamonds from Charles Taylor Won't Face Justice from UN's Sierra Leone Court**

Byline: Matthew Russell Lee of Inner City Press at the UN: News Analysis

UNITED NATIONS, January 22 -- Charles Taylor directed slave labor to mine diamonds in Sierra Leone and kept and sold more than one thousand diamonds, his prosecutor Charles Rapp told reporters on Tuesday. Inner City Press asked, what about holding those who bought the diamonds accountable? It has been reported that throughout the 1990s, the volume of diamonds purchased from Liberia was twenty-four times that nation's known output. Just where did the purchasers think the carats were coming from?

Rapp said such prosecutions are difficult, requiring a showing of "actual knowledge and affirmative acts." He pointed to the conviction for economic but not war crimes of Guus Kouwenhoven, who was Taylor's timber-man, controlling half of the hardwood in Liberia. Rapp said that on appeal, the Dutch prosecutors can put in more evidence and will. But apparently, the Special Court for Sierra Leone will not be indicting any corporations or corporate interests. For them, impunity continues.

Digging for diamonds, accountability not shown

Rapp says he will prove that in 1998, Taylor gave an order to "take and hold" diamond fields in Sierra Leone. He said it was unimportant whether the motive to start the war was diamonds, or if their importance only because known later. He said there are documents of a transfer of 1700 diamonds to Taylor, two to three hundred of which went into buying war materiel, the rest that Taylor kept for himself. For this, he said, Taylor can be charged with pillage. It would be a "challenge," Rapp said, to "locate his resources." In fact, Taylor's legal costs are being paid.

Rapp announced that Canada had earlier in the day pledged five million dollars to the Special Court. In other UN-affiliated court funding news, while multiple assurances have been given that France has physically paid the funds it committed to the court to try those charged with killing Rafiq Hariri in Lebanon, on Tuesday a French official said if the money has not been paid, it is not a technicality, a matter of "pipes." We'll see.

Charlestaylor.org

Wednesday, 23 January 2008

### **Prosecution witness Abu Keita says Taylor sent him to work with the RUF**

Posted by Webmaster on January 23, 2008

Court is back in session. Prosecutor Nick Koumjian continues his direct examination of prosecution witness Abu Keita:

Through a series of questions, Abu Keita continues to give evidence as follows:

Wit: In the government of Ruth Perry, I was Assistant Superintendent for Lofa County. My duty was to encourage refugees in Guinea to return to Lofa County for resettlement in their native villages. I was also to repair damaged bridges. I had a paper appointing me, which I've given to the prosecution. (Prosecution requests that the witness be shown the document, and he confirms that this was his letter of appointment from January 29, 1997, signed by Ruth Sando Perry.)

Judge Doherty says that parts of the second paragraph is very difficult to read, and asks the prosecution to read it into the record.

#### **The witness continues his account:**

Wit: There were election during the transitional government. I voted in them. I did not work for any candidate. The elections were in 1997. The candidates were Charles Taylor, Alhaji Kromah, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, and Tubana Tipotea (ph) . Those are a few of the candidates I remember. I remember Taylor's campaign. At his last rally, his slogan was "You killed my mother. You killed my father. I will vote for you." Taylor won the elections.

All armed forces of Liberia (AFL) were recalled for army restructuring. As a past member of the AFL, I reported to the BTC Barracks, at Camp Suffering, where the restructuring was taking place. I was appointed as Major. I was assigned at BTC headquarters in Monrovia. Fighting broke out on Camp Johnson Road because Roosevelt Johnson was appointed to a position in Taylor's government. When he came back from sick leave, he saw Joe Wally, a former bodyguard for Samuel Doe. Johnson was ordered arrested. The SSU, a special unit formed by Taylor that was responsible at the Mansion, fought. Chuckie Taylor, the son of Charles Taylor, was responsible for it. Momoh Gibba was there. And the SSS under Benjamin Yeaten fought. Roosevelt Johnson escaped arrest and went to the US embassy. One bodyguard for the SSU, called PYJ, arrested me and put me in detention. The SSU and SSS fought against Roosevelt Johnson to arrest him. When I was arrested, I was on the street around a cinema. I was not involved in the fighting but they said I had a meeting with Roosevelt Johnson. I did meet with him. Roosevelt Johnson called former ULIMO-J and former ULIMO-K to have a ceremony together because we'd fought against each other and killed each other. He said we should be one because the war was over. This was before the fighting. That's why I was arrested, because they saw me there. I was taken to Saw Beach Prison, at the back of the BTC Barracks in Monrovia. I was kept there for one week, and I was not charged. I was just in detention. Later I was freed by one SSS director for operations, Varmuya Sherif. He came only with his bodyguards. He took me to Musa Cisse's residence at Congo Town. Cisse said we're both Mandingos. The war is over. He said if you don't want to see Taylor's government, you're doing that for yourself. He said it's better for me to cooperate with them. At Cisse's house, Benjamin Yeaten, the SSS director, came. Yeaten said "Keita, Pa Musa has already spoken about you. You have to

cooperate.” I said “I have no problem with that.” Papa Kuyateh and Pa Morrie, the brother of Musa Cisse, were also present. They spoke to me and said I’ve now become a free man. From there I was taken back to my house. At that time, Musa Cisse was the protocol officer of Charles Taylor. His operations name was Gangay (ph) Charo. Cisse is a Mandingo. At that time Benjamin Yeaten was SSS Director.

A week later, I saw Marzaher, Sampson and Jungle. Marzaher’s nickname was “Zigzag”. He was SS, special security, assigned to the mansion of Charles Taylor. They were close to the president. Sampson and Jungle were bodyguards to Benjamin Yeaten, who was in charge of Taylor’s close protection. They said we should go to Musa Cisse’s house. We drove there, and from there we taken to Yeaten’s residence behind Charles Taylor’s residence. There was a meeting there, where I saw Sam Bockarie of the RUF, Eddie Kanneh, the war council leader of the RUF called SB Rogers, and the Adjutant of the RUF who was Rashid, and Yeaten himself. Yeaten asked me to join the RUF in Sierra Leone. I said “no problem, sir. As long as that’s an instruction from you, I will go.” Montgomery and Varmunya Sherif were also there. Benjamin Yeaten was in charge of that meeting. He said he wanted a standby force to be in Sierra Leone, and that I would be the commander of that troop, to be based in Sierra Leone. He said the troop would be called the Scorpion Unit, and that I’d be the commander, to be based with Sam Bockarie in Sierra Leone. He did not give me any details of the operation plans. He said we should be based in Buedu, Kailahun District. Yeaten said the boss, Charles Taylor, had given him the instruction to send me to Sierra Leone. Eddie Kanneh is a Sierra Leonean who was with the Sierra Leone Army. At that time the AFRC had overthrown the government, and the RUF and SLA combined were the People’s Army. When ECOMOG pushed them, that was how I met him and Sam Bockarie at Yeaten’s house. At this meeting in Yeaten’s house, Eddie Kanneh said he would be the liaison officer between Sierra Leone and Liberia for the diamond business of the RUF. Dennis Mingo, called “Superman” was mentioned by Sam Bockarie. Bockarie said Mingo didn’t want to take instructions from him, and was giving him problems within the command. Yeaten said he would address that issue and talk with Mingo.

Bockarie had a black satellite phone in a handbag, as big as the computer screen in front of me, and it would fold out. Bockarie told me that Yeaten had given the phone to him.

After the meeting, we drove to the Boulevard Hotel in Monrovia, by Sinkor. We went upstairs, to the third floor, where we met General Ibrahim Bah. It was the first time I met Ibrahim Bah. Bah is a short, fat man. He had a Gambian accent. They called him a General and said he was a former fighter of the NPFL. The discussion was how best Bah could find a buyer for the RUF diamonds, and also that Bah should help get radio communication for the RUF - an FM radio station to use for propaganda. In the room were Bah, Kanneh, Bockarie, Yeaten, SB Roger, Rashid, and General Ibrahim’s bodyguard whom they called CR. And myself. That’s where I saw the first diamond with Sam Bockarie. I saw Bockarie show diamond to Ibrahim Bah. I did not see him give the diamond to Bah. There were more than ten diamonds.

After that meeting in the Boulevard Hotel, we went to the Kadija Hotel, where Bockarie was staying. I was there all through the day. I left them in the afternoon and returned to my house. At night, when Bockarie was returning to Sierra Leone, Benjamin Yeaten, Sam Bockarie, Yeaten, SB Rogers, Kanneh and I drove from the hotel to White Flower, where Charles Taylor was at his house. They opened the security gate, and stepped down on the left side, through a door. In the hallway of Taylor’s house, there was a red carpet and large cushioned chairs. Yeaten asked us to wait there. Taylor appeared in a brown suit and we all rose. I had never seen him before, because I knew it was him because it was his residence and I’d seen pictures of him. Then Taylor told us to sit down. Bockarie said “I’m on my way going, sir. I’ve come to pay my respects.” Taylor asked Bockarie to maintain and take care of the RUF. Bockarie said he’d do everything possible. Taylor said if there were any problems, Yeaten and Cisse should be immediately contacted. From there we walked out of the building and Bockarie left. We went to



Benjamin Yeaten's house, down the hill, because he lived behind Taylor's house. Yeaten's house was only separated by a street.

At Yeaten's house, Bockarie's bodyguards were there. He took the bodyguards and left. All of us drove to Red Light, where I got off the pick-up, where Marzahar, Jungle and Sampson were. I went to my house in Monrovia. I had family there. My mother was still alive, I had a wife and children. After I got to my house, I got called back again. Mazahar, Sampson and Jungle came in a green Land Cruiser pick-up, and said Yeaten said I should go to Sierra Leone. I said, "no problem". I went and told my wife I was leaving for Sierra Leone. I was issued an AK-47 and a silent pistol with eight rounds. I was issued 10 boxes of ammunition to move to Sierra Leone. They were issued to me by Yeaten, at his house. Yeaten also gave me a Yesue radio and three bodyguards with rifles. A Yesue radio uses batteries and has an antennae that can be pushed up for communication. The radio broadcasts as far as wherever another Yesue radio was. A box of ammunition was a wooden box, with two long boxes like a sardine plate, containing ammunition. Each sardine plate held ammunition packets. Each packet had 20 rounds. I don't know how many packets were in each tin. The metal was about 14cm high, and a little longer than the computer screen. I didn't know the bodyguards I was issued. There were Liberians who belonged to the former NPFL.

I was given an escort by Mazahar, Jungle, Sampson and a bodyguard of Cisse called Mike Lama, a Kpelle guy- also another bodyguard called Yellow Man. Mike Lama is a Liberian, a Kpelle with the police. We drove in one SS pick-up to Voinjama and met with the police commander of Lofa County, Colonel Toma. Toma informed us that Bockarie was coming to Voinjama, and Mazahar and Sampson should wait for him. We waited in Toma's house until Bockarie came. Then Bockarie, SB Rogers, Eddie Kanneh, Rashid drove back to Monrovia. Bockarie said he was going to meet with Charles Taylor. I was given the car Bockarie had driven in, for me to drive to Sierra Leone. The ammunition was transferred into that vehicle. Toma gave us a police escort to meet the other commander in Foya, Col. Stanley. When I got to Foya, I met Issa Sesay in Foya. He complained he was waiting so long. I said the road was bad and that I wasn't the driver, so he had to bear with us, because he knew the road was so bad.

I drove with Sesay to Buedu. We passed three checkpoints. When you leave Foya, there was a first checkpoint, then a second at Foya Tinga, then a last checkpoint at the border before you cross over to Dawa. At the border, there was security. The AFL, Liberian police and customs were on the Liberian side. The RUF was in charge on the Sierra Leonean side. The three bodyguards assigned to me until we entered Buedu. Sesay instructed the military commander, Kaisoko, to make an apartment available to me, close to him and Sam Bockarie. There is a junction in Buedu, and a road to Koindu, one to Kailahun, one to Dawa. From Buedu, it's about 7 miles to the Liberian border. I saw construction in Buedu. Sesay took me to a site where they were building an airstrip. There was a caterpillar and manpower to dig the hill and level the ground. The length was about 3 miles. They said they expected supply planes there. While they were building, a jet bombarded the caterpillar at the airstrip. So we used to work in the evening on the airstrip. A caterpillar is a machine that has a bulldozer to push. The people working on the airstrip were civilians with the RUF. The MP commander, Kaisoko, was responsible to collect civilians to come to do the work. Nobody was paid. When I was with the RUF, they called me General Keita. In Buedu I normally ate with Issa Sesay. Mosquito's wife, Hawa, also provided food for me.

It took a couple of weeks before Bockarie returned. Mazahar, Sampson and Jungle came first. They brought fuel, medicine, and ammunition to Sesay, then they went back. (Prosecution shows the witness and the court two photos, one color and one black-and-white: the color photo shows three individuals in front of a hut.) At left is Mazahar, the middle man is Jungle, and the one on the right is myself. The picture is in Kono, Sierra Leone.

Court is now adjourning for the mid-morning break. The session will resume at 11:30. Our account resumes at 12:00.

Day 13 of witness testimony

Posted by Webmaster on January 23, 2008

The trial of Charles Taylor before Trial Chamber II of the Special Court for Sierra Leone resumes today, as prosecutor Nick Koumjian is expected to continue his questioning of prosecution linkage witness Abu Keita. The session began at 9:30. With the half-hour delay of video and audio to the media center, our rolling summary will begin at 10:00 (9:00 in Sierra Leone and Liberia). This is not a transcript and we cannot guarantee completeness or accuracy, although we attempt to be as complete and accurate as possible.

United Nations  Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

---

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

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

**Newspaper Summary**

**National Census not to Discriminate against Foreigners**

*(The News and The Informer)*

- Speaking during the launch of the media campaign of the 2008 National Population and Housing Census in Liberia, the Director General of the Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services, Dr. Edward Liberty says the 2008 National Census which is expected to begin by March this year will not discriminate foreign nationals residing in the country.

**Kimberly Process Workers Demand Just-pay**

*(The Informer)*

- The Kimberly Process that authenticates the legitimacy for diamond trade in the country may soon run into problems as the twenty regional officers from the Ministry of Lands Mines and Energy who are responsible to evaluate and register the precious stones before their sale have closed their respective offices. The regional officers said they are on a “go-slow” in demand of their just pay and allowances as they have been trained as people who can register and valued diamonds before they are sold.

**Firestone to Commence Rubber Wood Processing**

*(Daily Observer, The News and The Informer)*

- Speaking on Monday at his regular press briefing, Presidential Press Secretary Cyrus W. Badio says the Firestone Rubber Plantation will soon commence the processing of rubber wood in the country. Rubber-wood is a form of manufacturing or processing rubber trees into furniture after they refuse to produce latex.

**Radio Summary**

**Government Responds to Claims it Illegally Unseated Trial Judges**

*(Also reported on Star Radio, Truth FM, SKY FM and ELBS)*

**Firestone Upbeat for a new concession Agreement with Government**

*(Also reported on Star Radio, Truth FM, SKY FM and ELBS)*

- In an interview, the Press Secretary to President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Mr. Cyrus Badio said that the President acted in line with the Liberian Constitution by joggling court judges. The opposition Congress for Democratic Change and the Liberty Party had threatened to file a bill of impeachment against the President if she failed to reverse her decision to replace sitting Debt Court Judge James Jones.

*(Also reported on Star Radio, Truth FM, SKY FM and ELBS)*

**Senator Calls for Salary Increments for Teachers in the Southeast**

- Maryland County Senator Gloria Musu Scott called on the Government to the increase the salaries of teachers and health workers in rural Liberia to enable them provide good services to people in those areas.

- Speaking to reporters yesterday, she lamented that teachers and health workers in rural areas were working under strenuous conditions to impart knowledge to students and treat the ill.
- Senator Scott assured that in the next budget year, she would lobby hard with her colleagues at the House of Senate to ensure that rural teachers and health workers get better salaries and incentives. This, she added, will reduce the migration by youths and citizens to get good health and educational services.

*(Also reported on Star Radio, Truth FM, SKY FM and ELBS)*

\*\*\*\*

## The Analyst (Monrovia)

Tuesday, 22 January 2008

### Monkomana Wanted Bucket of Blood

Staggering confessions continue to emerge at the public hearings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) in Monrovia. Ghastly horrible testimonies are reverberating from victims and perpetrators of the 14-year crises.

The 8th day sitting of the TRC yesterday heard detailed testimony of the Duport Road Massacre in 1992, a heinous bloodletting drama during which nearly 30 hapless Liberians were butchered in cold blood.

But the idea scored of that testimony, which kept all hearers besides TRC commissioners edgy, was the disclosure that the former Speaker of the Legislature during the Taylor era, Nyundueh Monkomana was one of those who instigated the massacre.

As J. Edwood Dennis reports, a former NPFL General who said he participated in the killing, Alfred Suah Debleh, has divulged that Mr. Monkomana demanded for one bucket of fresh human blood of the victims.

#### The rude facts

"What, Jesus Christ!" That was the words Doris Patterson yelled when Mustapha Allen Nicolas revealed that it was the making and execution of the defunct National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) to kill nearly 30 innocent civilians at Cowfield, Duport Road, about ten miles west of Monrovia in 1992.

Nicolas, 32, told the on going TRC hearing at the Centennial Pavilion in Monrovia that he participated in the gruesome murder of the civilians but attributed it to what the NPFL called "Operation Grasshopper".

His disclosure shocked members of the public who were at the hearing process, and it also kept the Commissioner quiet but pensively attentive to hear every word of Nicolas' confession.

According to Nicolas the mastermind of the Duport Road massacre was former President Charles Taylor, who reportedly passed the order to the late NPFL general Cascious Jacobs who then instructed former "NPFL Marine" Commander Melvin Sogbandi to ensure the execution of the Operation Grasshopper dastardly attack on civilians in Monrovia.

He said the exercise was geared toward discrediting ECOMOG (the peacekeeping force that disarmed warring faction in 1996) security prowess and leave a stain on the Armed Forces of Liberia.

"I and others were posted at 15th Gate to divert ECOMOG forces while our men led by Mark "Jack The Rebel" Dwana (the late) to carry out the massacre," Nicolas told the TRC.

It can be recalled that when the massacre took place civilians put the nearly 30 dead bodies, some mutilated and others charred and without heads, into a pickup and drove around Monrovia in a demonstration fashion to protest the inability of ECOMOG to protect civilians in Monrovia.

#### Shocking Details

Hardly had the shock of Nicolas' confession faded when on the 8th day of Public Hearings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) yesterday another former NPFL general who said he participated directly in the massacre revealing the name former Speaker of National Legislature, Nyundueh Monkomana as one of the instigators of the gruesome killing of the civilians.

Monkomana is a founding member of the NPFL and one of power men who helped commanded the NPFL war against regime of the slain Liberian President Samuel K. Doe in the 1990s.

Alfred Suah Debleh, 34, alias "Gen. Something De Cause", who claimed to have been a part of the operation as the third man in command, told the hearing witnessed by tens of unsuspecting Liberians that the NPFL did not initially plan to massacre residents but to attack a group of men that were allegedly in the home of Alhaji G.V. Kromah.

According to him while in the planning stage of execution of the attack on Monrovia, it was Nyundueh Monkomana, who demanded that the NPFL fighters brought him a bucket of blood for a sacrifice.

It was not only Nyundueh Monkomana alone, a zoe from Bong County named David Quah told us to bring ten babies for the sacrifice that Mr. Monkomana wanted to make," former Gen. Debleh said.

At the time, the perpetrator said Monkomana demanded for the bucket of blood and the ten babies in his alleged capacity of a zoe representing the Southeastern region working to ensure that NPFL conquer its enemies at all cost.

The witness said former Speaker Monkomana and David Quah of Bong County were collaborating in their alleged demonic approach of NPFL's quest to capture Monrovia or render ECOMOG impotent to protect the civilians in its controlled areas.

Testifying further, witness Debleh disclosed that the former President of Liberia Col. Moses Z. Blah personally supervised the execution of the NPFL grasshopper operation in Duport Road.

After we were briefed about the Duport road operation by Col. Moses Z. Blah, who then supervised the Duport road operation, Nyundueh Monkomana and David Quah told us to bring them the bucket of blood and the ten babies.

"We did what they told us to do and we gave them the blood and babies at the Iron gate in Gbarnga, Bong, which was the headquarters of the National Patriotic Reconstruction Assembly Government (NPRAG)".

Gen. Debleh further disclosed that Monkomana and Quah took the ten babies and the bucket of blood to a place called Weinzu for a sacrifice. The NPFL former General said he could not say exactly what how the ritual was performed by the two men, but beat his chest to defending his allegation in the presence of the two men.

Debleh corroborated Nicolas statement that Duport Rd. operation was under the command of Mark Dwana, alias Jack the Rebel, Christopher "Gen. Mosquito" Vambo who divided the group into three to attack from three fronts.

"After the shooting we began a house to house search at which time we captured 65 persons and burned in a building.

Meanwhile the former NPFL General who said he accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior last year through the spiritual intervention of Former Gen. Butt Naked and baptized last Sunday, has pleaded for forgiveness.

The News (Liberia)  
Wednesday, 23 February 2008

# EX-GEN. RECOUNTS DEATH OF DOGOLEA, VAYE, YORMIE

By Alloyious David

An ex-general of former President Charles Taylor's defunct NPFL has been explaining circumstances leading to the murder of Vice President Enoch Dogolea, Deputy Public Works Minister Isaac Vaye and National Security Minister John Yormie.

In a testimony provided at the TRC public hearing Monday, Gen. Alfred Suah Debieh said the murder of the three Nimba County citizens was sanctioned by former President Charles Taylor and executed by their kinsman, Special Security Service (SSS) Director Benjamin Yeaten, alias 'Chief 50'. Although he did not explain what prompted Mr. Taylor to order the killing of Vice President Dogolea, the ex-general who claimed to have witnessed the incident narrated that Dogolea was flogged upon the orders of Mr. Taylor.

He noted that the late Dogolea had gone to honor the former president's invitation at



Former NPFL Gen. Alfred Suah Debieh

his private farm in Bong County, but surprisingly, Mr. Taylor allegedly said he did not want to see him and ordered his execution.

General Debieh who alleged joining the

NPFL in 1990 at age, 15, indicated that Mr. Dogolea was smacked at the back of his neck by an object upon the orders of Mr. Taylor.

He narrated that Mr. Taylor immediately

contacted a doctor in the Ivory Coast and promised to give him half a million dollar.

"A flight was immediately arranged to fly Mr. Dogolea to the Ivory Coast where he was pronounced dead with the doctor saying that "he died from cancer."

General Debieh also narrated that Isaac Vaye, John Yormie and Vice President Moses Blah were arrested by Benjamin Yeaten upon the orders of former President Taylor for attempting to overthrow him while he was in Ghana attending the all Liberia peace conference in June 2003.

He said Mr. Blah told 'Chief 50' that he and two men (Vaye and Yormie) were invited at the US Embassy where the US Ambassador allegedly informed them that Mr. Taylor would not return to Liberia.

The former general quoted Mr. Blah as telling Chief 50 to announce him as President owing to the fact that he had com-

Cont'd on page 3

[Continuation not provided]