

**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

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Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
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For di People
Thursday, 23 July 2009

KABBAH THE REBEL EXPOSED AGAIN!



IT IS actually what my friend would call a commonality that the SLPP has always been the trouble causers and actual rebels in the country but they always because of their miseducation give the semblance of best guys on the block but actually a very dangerous species.

by **THANKO
IBRAHIM**

In this country, it is common for the SLPP-based southern party to call for example the temnes the majority in the north as warlike but their warlike attributes in terms of coups or major dis-

turbances are actually far-fetched.

In history, Bai Bureh the loko-temne warrior was known for resisting British tyranny but infact was lauded and respected by the very British colonialists because he fought war to justify a liberation struggle that one cannot pay tax without

representation and for similar reasons that America decided to offload the British colonial yoke of no taxation without representation.

The military tactics he used are described as fulfilling today's requirement of how warfare should be conducted because he ensured that

his men never killed innocent civilians especially krios trading with the northern axis and Bai Bureh was full of remorse after the principal of Fourah Bay College disregarding advice entered into territories and was mistakenly killed by his men. He was full of remorse.

But unlike in the south, over a thousand white missionaries and few colonialists were butchered including countrymen for wearing European shoes or clothes.

Another major episode was the Pieterr strike in the early 60s against the dictatorship of paramount chiefs who subjected their citizenry to slavery and brutality and that strike spilled into Freetown and resulted in a few deaths including some British soldiers.

The next episode of brutality came with self rule in 1961 and already the SLPP was known for violence and even the highly-rated Sir Milton Margai the first prime minister was a gun-wielding doctor during

elections and known to carry a pistol to ensure election victory.

As for his successor younger brother Sir Albert Margai, he was as corrupt as he was a dictator and some even alleged he ate human flesh kept in his refrigerator just as such methods later became rampant during the 1997 interregnum and aftermath in which the eating of human flesh or 'yamotor' was legitimized in the south with northerners in their hundreds chopped or massacred.

But by 1967 when the SLPP was defeated by the APC of Siaka Stevens, Ahmed Tejan Kabba who later changed his name to Ahmad Tejan

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Tejan Kabba who later changed his name to Ahmad Tejan Kabbah masterminded the first coup and with the support of Peter Tucker talked Brigadier David Lansana to execute it in Sierra Leone. Albert started the road to one-party government but as fate would've it, it was Stevens who tabled it in parliament since Margai was determined if he had won the 67 elections to implement it.

Even Siaka Stevens who claim northernism is more a southerner and one can go to Moyamba or the tongue he spoke to tell whether the limba connection is actually deep for one can go to Kamasasa in the Tonko Limba chiefdom to prove the writer right or wrong. So for most of the 24 years of APC misrule under Stevens including Momoh's five years saw violence perpetrated by Shaki whose misdeeds cannot be blamed on the north alone as his allegiance revealed.

Now, it has been revealed though already known that it was Kabbah and other SLPP stalwarts that formented the 11 years rebel war by going through his relative Alie Kabbah a student activist with Libyan ties to go to Libya under the Maathaba movement and plan the coup against the APC government. Monies were collected from southern chiefs which was written in newspapers at the time including the Shaft newspaper and rebel leader Foday Sankoh who has a southern father named Bernard but adopted his mother's surname Sankoh, did his recruitment in Segbwema and other southern enclaves.

Even before the rebel war, there had been attempts to forment national chaos and anarchy as the hindo-hindo, ndorgborwusui etc which led to hundreds of deaths and perhaps apart from the alleged Sorie Fornah, Ibrahim Bash-Taqi coup whose legitimacy is doubted as the Francis Minah coup was but who were all executed or the 1997 admixture of various elements from the army, it cannot be justified that coups are a typical northern phenomenon.

Even the 1992 coup against the Momoh APC regime was masterminded by John Benjamin the present SLPP chairman and other southerners who came to power through the SLPP and who immediately called Kabbah and the man he'd wanted to succeed him Solomon Berewa to become their chief advisers and superintended over the death of about 30 mainly northerners in the extrajudicial NPRC slaughters.

They made sure that the SLPP was brought to power even though John Karefa-Smart won the 1996 elections but because of NPRC connivance and the fact that Karefa-Smart was more inclined for peace accepted the results the international community even recognised as being rigged. On the restoration of Kabbah in 1997 after its overthrow by the AFRC-Ruf for anti-democratic reasons they came back and executed about 24 mostly senior northern military officers while many others escaped the gallows by the whisker including the present Information minister Alhaji IB Kargbo.

If Kabbah who was banned by a court ruling by Justice Beoku Betts never to hold any position

EXPOSES KABBAH

where integrity and honesty are the watchwords for his destructive corruption at the SLPMB when he was a permanent secretary but was condoned by the SLPP who knew about this criminality to rule for another 11 years and again cause so much blood and economic ruin, then everything has come full circle as far as we know to conclude beyond all reasonable doubt that the SLPP is the rebel party of Sierra Leone.

That Kabbah has always been the kingpin for not only the first national unrest in the form of the 1967 coup but for all the subsequent ones including the

rebel war for it was his recruitment of Alie Kabbah that brought onboard Foday Sankoh who recruited almost the 95 percent rebels from the south-east whom they used as canon fodder for all the terrible destruction and inhumanity that has torn our nation apart and pauperized it.

Should Kabbah be let free when he is actually the brain behind the rebel war worse than Charles Taylor who is being tried for war crimes against Sierra Leone when there is more than enough proof of Kabbah's prime complicity?

Sierra Leone Court Monitoring Programme

Extradite al-Bashir: Sierra Leone must uphold its ICC Treaty Obligations

The Sierra Leone Court Monitoring Programme (SLCMP) strongly condemns the Government of Sierra Leone for joining some repressive regimes across Africa in refusing cooperation with the International Criminal Court (ICC) to arrest and extradite the Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir on July 3, 2009 in Libya. President al-Bashir is accused of crimes against humanity and grave war crimes that cannot be ignored by the international community, including the African Union.

If African nations shun their obligations under the Rome Statute, the truth may never come to light and justice for the Sudanese people and for Africans generally, may never be realized. Protecting the dignity of the African people requires that the truth be told.

Today, as we mark International Justice Day, we strongly urge the Government of Sierra Leone to uphold its commitment to the rule of law by undertaking its obligations under the Rome Statute.

“As the government continues to work hard in rebuilding public confidence in its legal system as well as providing justice for all Sierra Leoneans,” said Mohamed Suma, Programme Director of SLCMP, “it must set an example for its own citizens and for the world in general, by acting in accordance with international law which requires Mr. al-Bashir’s extradition.”

Some voices at the recent African Union summit raised concerns that the ICC was unfairly targeting Africans and thus Africans must take a stance to show their unity against international oppression. However, turning a blind eye to mass murder, rape and torture – reportedly perpetrated against Sudanese civilians – is not the way to pro-

mote African solidarity. Rather, African nations must work together to ensure that those allegedly responsible for atrocities, no matter how powerful they are do not escape the reach of justice. It is time for African nations to stand up to protect the rights of the victims and the powerless across the continent.

As the ICC is a Court of last resort; it is important that the AU acts on its own commitments, which include the creation of an African court and the strengthening of its own human rights and accountability infrastructure. It is regrettable to note that the AU’s actions have so far failed to move beyond mere rhetoric in demanding accountability from African leaders, thus creating the unfortunate impression that the AU is sanctioning selective impunity rather than calling for justice for Africa’s citizens.

It must not be forgotten that Sierra Leone has benefited immensely from the international community in its efforts to rebuild its justice sector. Without the active assistance of nations across the world, Charles Taylor would not have been extradited and tried, and other key figures may have escaped punishment for their roles in the bitter and destructive conflict that consumed a decade of our country’s history.

As Sierra Leone enters a new era – one that is forward-looking, hopeful, and peaceful – it must embrace its new place within the community of nations. By publicly condemning the African Union’s recent decision to shield the indicted Sudanese President, the Government of Sierra Leone will demonstrate its commitment to human rights and international justice, not only improving its images, but also protecting the dignity of the people of Africa.

Liberia: Taylor Was Too Busy With Issues In Liberia and Could Not Pay Attention to Events in Sierra Leone

Alpha Sesay

Charles Taylor was occupied with events in Liberia in the early 1990s and could not have had time to support rebel forces and regulate what was happening in Sierra Leone, he told judges today during his testimony at the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

Mr. Taylor said that when rebels attacked Sierra Leone in March 1991, he was busy holding discussions with West African leaders in Senegal geared towards the cessation of hostilities in Liberia and therefore could not have been planning an attack on Sierra Leone.

"At the time of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) invasion of Sierra Leone, I was busy with peace meetings but the prosecution has me busy planning and supporting the RUF in Sierra Leone," Taylor told the judges.

The prosecution has alleged that Mr. Taylor was involved in planning the invasion of Sierra Leone in 1991 and that in subsequent years, he supported the rebels through the supply of arms and ammunition, and that by his acts or omissions, he bears responsibility for crimes committed by the RUF in Sierra Leone.

Mr. Taylor denied allegations of any such support to RUF rebels. "This is total nonsense. I am not interested in Sierra Leone," Mr. Taylor said.

Mr. Taylor has admitted that he had dealings with the RUF between August 1991 to May 1992 when he collaborated with them to fight against another rebel group, United Liberation Movement for Democracy in Liberia (ULIMO) who were attacking NPFL positions in Liberia from Sierra Leone. He has said that he severed all relationship with the RUF in May 1992 when his NPFL rebels guarding the Liberia-Sierra Leone border were attacked by RUF rebels. Asked by his defense counsel Courtenay Griffiths when last he had contact with RUF leader Foday Sankoh, Mr. Taylor responded that "my last dealing with Sankoh was way back in 1992. I really would not have cared about what was going on in Sierra Leone. I was busy. The only time Sierra Leone became an issue for me was in 1996."

Mr. Taylor admitted that while he maintained a relationship with the RUF between 1991 and 1992, there were exchange of arms and ammunition as gifts between his NPFL and Sankoh's RUF, diamonds were never part of those gifts. The prosecution has alleged that diamonds mined in Kono by the RUF were given to Taylor in exchange for arms and ammunition. While denying this allegation, Taylor admitted that there was an exchange of arms and ammunition between the NPFL and the RUF, such as Sankoh's gift to him of a 155 millimeter Houwitza gun, which was captured from enemy forces in Sierra Leone. Mr. Taylor emphasized that these gifts were purely for security purposes in their fight against a common enemy, ULIMO.

Mr. Taylor denied prosecution allegations of his involvement in a 1996 RUF operation to stop elections in Sierra Leone code named Operation Stop Elections. "I did not order the RUF to carry out any such campaign. I could have never ordered such a thing. I did not care about what was going on in Sierra Leone, and don't forget, we are preparing for disarmament in 1996 to begin to put our government into place. People that I have cut off relationship with in 1992, what business is it of mine, how do I do that? I had nothing to do with the RUF after the break-up in 1992," he said.

Mr. Taylor dismissed as nonsense an NPFL command structure chart presented by the prosecution, which put RUF leader Foday Sankoh as Military Adviser to the NPFL leader, Charles Taylor. "Total false. What will Foday Sankoh be doing as Military Adviser to me? What advice can he give me? This is total nonsense," he told the judges. Mr. Taylor presented his own chart of the NPFL command structure, which names current Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf as International Coordinator for the NPFL from 1986 to 1994.

Mr. Taylor's testimony continues tomorrow.

The Liberian Times

Thursday, 23 July 2009

THE HAGUE: Charles Taylor's Tuesday Testimony

Q. Mr Taylor, yesterday during the course of your testimony I asked you to indicate on a map the area of ULIMO incursion. Do you recall that?

A. Yes, I do.

[More:]

Q. And do you recall indicating on a map which unfortunately we couldn't mark the particular area in question?

A. Yes.

MR GRIFFITHS: I now have a blank map of Liberia which I would like to give to the witness and ask him to mark on this map the area in question.

THE WITNESS: Would you like me to start now?

MR GRIFFITHS:

Q. Yes, please.

A. ULIMO entered here around the Mano River Kongo area - I will just put an arrow here - with penetrations here and here. This is the general area of entry into Liberia. They eventually captured Grand Cape Mount County, they captured Bomi County and eventually had this entire section of the country. That lasted for some time while we were still fighting and then they pursued another route here.

Q. Could you use a different colour here, please.

A. Yes.

Q. Because thereafter we can delineate the two areas of occupation in terms of date.

A. There's an important land feature here that I think will be very important. Here I will use this green to show the St Paul River, a very important landmark that had been mentioned here when you have heard witnesses speak about the St Paul River bridge. That expression has been used in testimony before this Court. That's the St Paul River bridge. Now, what ULIMO did, ULIMO then pursued the route from Tubmanburg to the town of Bopolu. That's entering the area of the country we call the Gola forest. This is the beginning of the real rainforest area. They continued from Bopolu and penetrated to this area called Belle Yella as spelled here on the map B-E-L-L-E and the last word is Y-E-L-L-A. It's Bille [phon] Yella. Not Belle, but Bille Yella. That's the very heart of the Gola forest in Liberia, the very heart of the forest. I'm talking about we have not been lucky to have elephants advertised on Animal Planet, but there are many elephants in this part of Liberia. This is very dense, dense forest. They then continued from Belle Yella all the way across to the town of Zorzor. Now, Zorzor is located here on the main highway and for some clear understanding here - we've run out of colours here. It is important for the Court to know that there is this road, just for the sake of the judges - there is one and only one road that comes out of Monrovia. It comes through Kakata, Totota, Gbatala, Gbarnga and then begins to go all the way - this is the road that runs to Voinjama. It comes down to Kolahun here and then it continues on to Foya. Now, when ULIMO cut Zorzor off, and I'll put an X here to mark a cut-off, the NPFL still had forces in - maybe I'll use a smaller line. Okay. In this part of the country I will just use lines across - small lines to demonstrate that we still had soldiers in this part of the country. This cut-off at Zorzor left all of our men in this section of the country virtually in space, cut off from the rest of the troops. This is what I explain on yesterday; that some of them retreated into Guinea, those that had strong connections on the Sierra Leonean side retreated into Sierra Leone, and those real experienced ones that were closer to the Zorzor region - and for even a better explanation for the Court, from Zorzor to Voinjama, from here to here, I would approximate it to be between 75 to 100 miles. I could be a little wrong on the numbers, but it is - I'm sure it's not less than 75 miles. And let's not forget that we are still - this road is really going through the forest. Because right between Zorzor and Voinjama is a major forest area called the - I think it's Koyoma forest.

Q. How do you spell that?

A. I think it's K-O-Y-O-M-A, Koyoma. I think it's the Koyoma forest. But it's a part of this whole forest - this whole rainforest that I describe in this area, but depending on the villages in the area, they may call a section of the forest their own name. Now, I'm mentioning this because the Court will understand how those that are closer to Zorzor at the time of the attack, how they are

able to penetrate and come back and join what we call the mother units. Those that are in Voinjama are too far to track all the way 75 miles back to Zorzor, so some of them find their way into Guinea. Those that are closer to the Foya - and strangely we don't see Foya here but we know the general direction of Foya. Foya - this map strangely doesn't show Foya, but Foya continues along this road here going towards the Sierra Leonean border. Those that are in that region retreat to Sierra Leone. So that's the general situation. So automatically by cutting us off at Zorzor, bringing disarray amongst the troops, ULIMO moves now - well, depending on what we say forward or backward, but for me they moved back into our territory towards Voinjama Kolahun and Foya and consolidate in that entire area. This entire area even where the small lines are drawn are all forest areas. So ULIMO in effect now takes control of Lofa, Grand Cape Mount/Bomi, along the lines and because they are in Zorzor they push forward all the way to the St Paul River bridge and finally ULIMO stops at the St Paul River bridge. So the line now that divides the NPFL forces from the ULIMO forces now stands at the so-called St Paul River bridge, right at this point. That's the situation I was explaining.

Q. Just to assist us at a later date, Mr Taylor, I wonder if you could put a key at the bottom of that map so that firstly the orange arrows, that's the area of initial ULIMO incursion, yes?

A. I know what you're talking about. I have to just - is it okay to just move it aside to write?

Q. Of course.

A. Thank you. Q. And then if we can put that the area bounded in orange is the initial area of ULIMO occupation and if you could put a date when they achieved that objective. Okay, Mr Taylor?

A. Yes, I understand.

Q. You can go around to the back of the map if necessary,

Mr Taylor.

A. Okay.

Q. I wonder if I could have a look at that, please. I think it might be easiest for your Honours to look at this directly, because I'm not so sure it will show up on the overhead.

A. If I can just read what I wrote too, if your Honours don't mind.

PRESIDING JUDGE: Show the Prosecution as well, please.

JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Griffiths, I see a "1" which says "April to around June '91". I'm not sure how that relates to the map.

THE WITNESS: Well I can explain that, your Honour. I'm making reference to "1" as saying at the right-hand side because there was no space I'm trying to describe the dates in question.

MR GRIFFITHS: Is that clear, your Honour?

JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Yes, the incursion, the orange arrows, that date relates to the orange arrows?

THE WITNESS: That is correct, your Honour.

JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Thank you.

THE WITNESS: If your Honours don't - since it is a question as raised by the Justice, I may just need to note that if your Honours don't mind for future purposes someone looking at this may have the same question that the Honourable Justice has.

PRESIDING JUDGE: Do you want that, Mr Griffiths?

MR GRIFFITHS: Yes:

Q. Yes, very well, if you could just clarify that point.

A. Yes, just clarify what that '1' is.

JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Griffiths, I think what is relevant is the time that ULIMO stopped at the St Paul River bridge.

MR GRIFFITHS: Okay: Q. Mr Taylor, could you also indicate on that map, please, the time when ULIMO penetrated as far as the St Paul's River bridge?

PRESIDING JUDGE: Well, that time may well be shown on the map. Has it been given in evidence? Has he given evidence as to that particular time?

MR GRIFFITHS: I think he has.

THE WITNESS: I'm not sure.

PRESIDING JUDGE: Well, I don't recall him giving evidence that --

JUDGE SEBUTINDE: He didn't. That's why I'm asking.

PRESIDING JUDGE: If it's an important fact, that should not be left on a map alone. There should be some sworn evidence about it.

MR GRIFFITHS: Very well.

PRESIDING JUDGE: I'm just a little uncomfortable. I'm not sure what your client is writing on the map, but I repeat I don't want facts alleged on a map that have not been sworn to in evidence. I don't think it's appropriate to allege facts on a map.

MR GRIFFITHS: Very well:

Q. Mr Taylor, help us with this please. By what date did ULIMO penetrate as far as the St Paul's River bridge?

A. I would say that by or about August of 1991 ULIMO has taken control of the St Paul River bridge.

Q. 1991?

A. That's correct.

Q. And for how long do they retain control of the areas you've marked on that map?

A. Oh, ULIMO is in full control of the areas marked on this map until I would say mid-1995 when all of us withdraw and turn those areas over to the ECOMOG forces. Now, I have to clarify that. Withdrawal, but there is still some form of control by the military. We withdraw and ECOMOG is in as the peace process is going, but final and absolute control by ULIMO actually stopped in 1997 after the presidential elections. So it's important to understand one distinction here, because I am sure I am going to be confronted with, "Well, you say ULIMO did not have control as of 1995." 1995 is usual as a date that all of the warring factional leaders moved to Monrovia, including myself, and ECOMOG deploy. Men are still armed and the factional leaders have military command still over their people, but for the sake of peace ECOMOG is deployed and there is the beginning of some movement. So there are two different levels of control: one with ECOMOG assisting, but final control actually comes in 1997 after I'm elected as President.

PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Griffiths, you may have other questions about that map and you may also want to see the map, but I would just say at this stage before we leave the map it will need to be shown to the Prosecution and we would like to see it again. But if you have other questions first, by all means put them.

MR GRIFFITHS: Well can I enquire, Mr President, whether any further clarification is required as to the date?

PRESIDING JUDGE: I never raised the query anyway. I'll ask my learned colleague Justice Sebutinde whether she is now satisfied with that comment.

MR GRIFFITHS:

Q. Mr Taylor, can we go over this again, please, because I want there to be ultimate certainty as to what you are saying. Let's start right at the outset. The orange arrows depict initial ULIMO incursion at what date, please?

A. The orange arrows show the initial incursion by ULIMO between April and May of 1991.

Q. Okay. The area bounded in orange, by what date had ULIMO achieved control of that area?

A. I would say around June. By June they have captured those two counties.

Q. June of which year?

A. 1991.

Q. The thick blue lines indicating the advance of ULIMO green line. That river runs all the way down and ends up into the Atlantic Ocean. Everything to the northwest side of that river is occupied fully by ULIMO. Everything coming what you want to say southwards is then NPFL area.

Q. So from that point in August 1991 did the NPFL have any access to the border between Sierra Leone and Liberia?

A. None whatsoever. We could not even cross the St Paul River, no.

MR GRIFFITHS: I hope that assists. Now can we all be shown the map, please.

THE WITNESS: May I just add one thing in all fairness?

What the President of the Court was speaking about when the issue was raised initially about a date for the St Paul River bridge occupation it was suggested that it be written in, so I began writing in that information. Then the President of the Court said that he did not want anything written on the map that had not been stated in sworn testimony. I want to make that clear that I had begun writing this before the President raised it. I think this is where the confusion came about.

PRESIDING JUDGE: That's clear.

THE WITNESS: Thank you, sir.

MR GRIFFITHS: Could that please be marked for identification MFI-3.

PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes. The black and white map of Liberia marked in various colours by the accused and notated by the accused as well will be marked MFI-3.

MR GRIFFITHS: I'm grateful.

JUDGE SEBUTINDE: I'm just wondering if he could, in line with our practice, perhaps sign the map and date it.

MR GRIFFITHS: I think that would be most helpful:

Q. Perhaps if you can sign it right at the top, Mr Taylor, with a date, 21 July 2009. Thank you.

I think there is one final matter I want to ask you about about that in order to concretise this whole situation. The last answer you gave me was to the effect that from that date, August 1991, the NPFL did not have access to the border. When did you and your forces next have access to the border with Sierra Leone?

A. I would say about - I would put it to August/September of 1997. That is following my election as President and taking the oath in August, we then started the process of getting security and other personnel to begin to work along with ECOMOG that is posted at all of these areas. So I will put it to about August/September of 1997.

Q. And by then, August of '97, was the NPFL still in existence?

A. No. That's what I'm referring to when you say when did I and my people. No. Before elections are held in Liberia, all warring parties are dissolved. They create political parties and actually they cease to exist as warring factions. And this process I would say starts at around the beginning of 1997. On or about, I would say, January, and I may stand corrected on this. I can't be so certain because by this time I'm already - I'm not on the council of state. I'm very busy preparing for elections. But all parties are dissolved in line with certain dates that are set aside by electoral laws and so we cease to exist as the NPFL. I think at most I would say a year and at least not under eight months.

Q. Now, 1992, Mr Taylor, we were dealing with yesterday. Now, in the second half of 1992 can you just give us a rough idea of what the situation was so far as you were concerned and the NPFL?

A. By the second half of 1992, there are quite a few things going on. I would say that we - there is a follow-up to Yamoussoukro and I think a significant thing is what I will want to call Cotonou I.

Q. How do you spell that?

A. C-O-T-O-N-O-U. Cotonou is the capital of the West African country of Benin. We begin the follow-up on the Yamoussoukro discussions pushing for peace. That's one of the important things that I would like to refer to at this time.

Q. And any other major event in the second half of '92?

A. Yes. If my recollection is correct I just want to mention we are talking, but there is conflict. We then have, after we have really, really felt that people were not serious about negotiating and just wanted to prolong this war, to the best of my recollection I think Operation Octopus is launched around that time to the best of my recollection.

Q. What is Operation Octopus?

A. We then decided that we would take the city of Monrovia and end the war.

Q. So what did it involve?

A. Military operations.

Q. And how costly was that operation, Mr Taylor, in terms of casualties?

A. These were - on our side we did have a lot of civilian casualties but we went after the peacekeepers or there to speak, they were not really peacekeepers. Don't let's forget and I know I used that word peacekeepers, maybe I shouldn't have even use it Liberia. So I think to a great extent the show of force that went about in that particular time I think convinced them that they will not, and I mean not push the NPFL out. As the famous general that came, I think it was General Olarin, I think a Nigerian general, O-L-A-R-I-N, and General Olarin said that his mission then was to flush the NPFL out of Liberia. I think they realised that they couldn't do it.

Q. Now you told us yesterday, Mr Taylor, that you on occasions

spoke to the press, including Robin White on BBC Focus on Africa. Do you remember telling us that?

A. Yes, I do.

Q. Now during this time in 1992, did you have any other access to not only the radio but to the print media as well?

A. Oh, yes. Amongst others I spoke extensively to the editor in chief of a magazine called New Africa, along with other journalists that were in and out of our area at the time, but I spoke extensively - the first and maybe the only one that I sat down with to talk to was the New Africa magazine chief editor.

Q. What was his name?

A. I remember the name Baffour. I think it is Baffour. The last name slips me a little, but I remember Baffour. Baffour I think is B-A-F-F-O-U-R, if I'm not - I stand corrected on that - that I spoke to at length in a sit-down interview to really get what was happening.

Q. And where did that conversation take place?

A. That conversation took place to the best of my recollection it had to be in Gbarnga, because - it had to be in Gbarnga. Q. And can you recall now how long that individual remained in Gbarnga?

A. Oh, no. Journalists were coming and going and I'm not too sure, but he had an opportunity to go around several areas of our NPFL control and it could have taken him a week or so. But journalists were in and out all the time and they were treated very fairly, unlike what one of the witnesses that came here and said - and I hate to get into this, but I don't want to pass this since we're dealing with journalists. There's this one man journalist called Stephen Smith that sat before this Court that I know very well, the gentleman that publishes Africa Confidential. I don't know how he managed to publish Africa Confidential, but the point I'm trying to make is that journalists were in there with all harassment. But in the specific case - and I really want to talk about him - the specific case of Mr Stephen Smith, Mr Stephen Smith was picked up by NPFL forces truly as he said on request and it may be good for him to know that today. Stephen Smith became an embarrassment to his intelligence colleagues and we were asked by the United States through its embassy in Abidjan to pick up Stephen Smith for them and have him sent out of the country because he was doing things that were not right. We picked him up and his passport was eventually delivered to our handlers at the embassy in Abidjan. So I'm just - I only brought that in to mention that we were treating journalists very well and Baffour could have stayed there much longer and if we have to talk about Stephen Smith later I'm sure we will.

MR GRIFFITHS: I wonder if the witness could be shown, please, the item - the document behind divider 5 in the documents disclosed for week 29. It's the document which looks like that, your Honours.

MS HOLLIS: Could we ask what the DCT number is?

MR GRIFFITHS: It's - one moment. Sorry, I gave - I misled everyone. It's not for week 29, I'm sorry. It's for week 30 and the DCT number is 108, tab 5. Week 30, DCT-108, behind tab 5. That's not the document. That's the document behind tab -- MS IRURA: Tab 9.

MR GRIFFITHS: I apologise for the confusion, but it's actually behind tab - I need to check that at the break. I see some confusion on the opposite bench. Has the document been found?

MS HOLLIS: We have a document 108 that has this cover. Are we talking about the same one?

MR GRIFFITHS: That is the document. That is the document.

MS HOLLIS: Thank you.

PRESIDING JUDGE: I think we've all got that document that's been catalogued as DCT-108, but I note that it's a copy of a New African whereas I thought the witness was talking about Africa Confidential.

MR GRIFFITHS: No, he was talking about Africa Confidential in relation to Stephen Smith, but initially he spoke about New African:

Q. Do you recall this interview, Mr Taylor?

A. May I now look at the document?

Q. Yes, you can. I think it might be - I think you have the wrong one. Mr Taylor, you should be looking at a document headed "New African" dated October 1992. Thank you. Do you have the document now?

A. Yes, I do.

Q. Do you recall giving this interview?

A. Oh, yes.

Q. Now if we turn over to the second page, please, we can locate when this interview took place. Do you see it says "Baffour Ankomah"? Do you see that in the box at the top?

A. Yes.

Q. Is that the journalist?

A. Yes, that's him. Baffour. Baffour Ankomah.

Q. "...spent a month behind the lines with Charles Taylor and his forces in Liberia. Later he had further interviews with ECOMOG and top ministers of the two governments in the country. He also interviewed top journalists, politicians, civil servants and ordinary people on both sides of the Liberian divide. In this comprehensive report, he tells why Taylor will not lay down his arms as long as he is under attack from ULIMO and why there can be no solution to Liberia's problems and no withdrawal of ECOMOG unless Taylor's position is taken into account." And then I do not intend to take you through this document word-for-word, but if we can just quickly skim some of the details in order to put in context the direct quotes reported from you. Do you see in the first paragraph it details how you chose the tiny village of Butuo for the attack on Christmas Eve, yes?

A. Uh-huh.

Q. And it then sets out the symbolism of Butuo?

A. Yes.

Q. It then in paragraph 3 applauds your intelligence, do you see that?

A. Yes.

Q. And then it says this: "But the war spun so dangerously out of his control that he spent a good deal of last year apologising for the excesses committed by his troops." Is that true?

A. Yes, that is true.

Q. And then it goes on to explain why the apology: "Doe's soldiers, badly humiliated, were in retreat and were burning whole villages and towns in Nimba County as they fled to Monrovia (the capital). Anything Gio or Mano that moved was fair game. Taylor's troops were in hot pursuit. And seeing the atrocities committed against their tribespeople by Doe's soldiers, they vented their spleen on Krahn and Mandingo civilians in a grotesque campaign of human destruction. Human beings were worth less than chickens those days. I was told that some Krahn pregnant women had their stomachs slit open in front of their husbands and their babies thrown into the air and allowed to fall to their deaths in a sickening show of human insensitivity." Is that true, Mr Taylor?

A. Well, this is - this is his account. I have been very open about what happened during the war and I think to put this in some context, because this is a journalist trying to be as objective as he could, just to cap it off remembering what led to the crisis in the first place, the destruction in Nimba County and other counties by Doe that led to people going for training and coming back. Now, the war starts - and I'm not going to misspeak this time about the date - on Christmas Eve of '89 and while the soldiers are retreating there is mayhem. In fact, I could probably --

Q. Mr Taylor, I really don't want to cut you off, but I did ask a very simple question. Did things like those described in that paragraph occur in fact?

A. Well, but that's the whole point. A "Yes" or a "No" here would have to be put into context. The excesses on the part of the Doe soldiers led to some excesses on the part of the - of the soldiers - the NPFL soldiers - that were pursuing them. And so there were these kinds of problems that it is true that I apologised for, but there were some excesses and that I admit here, yes.

Q. And was it because you had lost control of your troops?

A. No. That I disagree with. I disagree. There was not a loss of control. There were some bad apples that were trying to carry out this revenge and I would not have any of it. Let's go back and this is why these yes and nos can't work, especially for a politician like me. I'm pursuing Prince Johnson because of excesses that he started already in Nimba, okay. Now, that's not losing control but I had to take action and that's why Prince Johnson is fleeing. So we have excesses now being carried out by our people and as we are finding out we are taking action and that's what led to a lot of - what has come before the Court is only a small amount of the disciplinary actions that were taken by the leadership of the NPFL. So I disagree totally that we lost control.

Q. Now let's continue, Mr Taylor: "Small boy soldiers. Some as young as nine and ten years old would put a knife to the throat of some elderly Krahn man and tell him, 'Popee, don't worry, it won't hurt you'. In another minute his head would not be his." Those things were going on, weren't they?

A. Yes, but I don't - I don't agree with - he is describing them as soldiers. These are individuals that are going along with their brothers, that have had their families killed and there is this revenge attitude going on. Some of this did go on where Krahns and Mandingos were killed along the way, yes.

Q. Let's continue and see how the report unfolds: "Some teenage soldiers, both boys and girls, told me in separate interviews that they just wanted to seek revenge for the atrocities committed against their parents whose dismembered bodies were left to rot in the open by Doe soldiers. One boy, who is now 14 years old, told me in a disarmament camp at Kwedim near Tappita, 'I returned to our village from school in Monrovia to find I had no mother, no father. They had been slaughtered like goats by Doe's men. What did you want me to do? Sit down and cry? I joined President Taylor's army and sought revenge. More of such orphans, now put together in a Small Boys Unit, joined Taylor's forces. Not only them. Villagers, men women, boys and girls, who saw their lives threatened by Doe's retreating soldiers hopped over to Taylor's side. They were given some weeks training before joining the war. Some though may have been forced into Taylor's army but they no longer admit it.'" Let's deal with that last sentence. Were people forced into your army, Mr Taylor?

A. No. No. People were not forced - were not forced into my army, but force could also mean something else. I do not know what the journalist meant by we were forced into the army. I can say I was forced to do something and it did not have to be somebody maybe holding a gun or knife to me. By force it could be - an internal urge can be described as - I don't know what the journalist meant when he said - when this person says, "I was forced to join", force here - he would have to explain this, but I can see force being used in two separate ways. That one, by virtue of circumstances I must do something. That's self force. So I don't know what he meant.

Q. But, Mr Taylor, do you accept that children, yes some orphans, did become members of the NPFL?

A. Well, quite frankly I will tell you, if a child joined or went along with a unit, for me and the leadership of the NPFL, we did not encourage or recruit or train children. But I have said in this Court that children went along with their relatives to combat. They stopped at certain points and from my position that was not acceptable.

Q. But, Mr Taylor, you see the use of that phrase Small Boys Unit. Is it a phrase you are familiar with?

A. I've heard it used a lot, yes.

Q. Was that a phrase used at this time by the NPFL?

A. It was not a phrase used by the NPFL. It was a phrase that was used in NPFL area at the time. People used the word Small Boys. I've heard that, yes.

Q. It goes on: "The courage, enthusiasm and fighting spirit shown by these Liberian civilians as they pursued Doe's disgraced soldiers was so overwhelming that Taylor, who had started the war with a few hundred Liberian commanders trained and armed by Libya, he also drew support from a number of dissident soldiers from other West African countries, soon found that he could not control the venom of his now oversized army." Do you agree with that?

A. Well, there is some truth to that. And I think that we, just reading a journalist's own opinion of a situation, have to be very, very - must - I mean, I have to put this in context of - because this is a journalist's view. And the Court must understand the context of this when I say there is some truth to that, because the reason why we did not and no one has been able to come up with a roster for the so-called NPFL is that there - thousands of people came and joined the NPFL. Some - using that word NPFL during that particular time, anywhere in that place there could have been units going on that the leadership of the NPFL would have never known about. We had grown to about what, 40, 50,000 people. Some individuals, some districts may have just put their own people together, get their hunting guns. Without training they had become NPFL and were going after other people. So there is a great deal of truth to the fact that there was a period that things really got really shaky. I mean, where groups and, you know, were carrying on so we had to try to begin to rein it in. But there's some truth to this that because of the sheer size of ordinary people that just took off and started doing things under the banner of NPFL, I can say there's a lot of truth to this.

Q. Shaky or out of control, Mr Taylor?

A. Well, to a great extent I give some credence to out of control. I would not say 100 per cent, but I give some credence to things did get out of control at some point, yes.

Q. Now, where it says, "He also drew support from a number of dissident soldiers from other West African countries," is that true?

A. Yes.

Q. And which African countries are we talking about here, Mr Taylor?

A. I'm sure he's speaking about the Gambians that he saw there. I'm sure he is talking about the Gambians. He is probably talking about some Nigerians that had served. In fact some people that had come to Liberia served with ECOMOG, left and came back and joined the movement. So there were some West African soldiers and I'm sure that's what he is talking about.

Q. Let's continue with the narrative, please: "Taylor says he could have easily taken Monrovia had the Americans not stopped him. He says the UN Assistant Secretary of State For African Affairs, Herman Cohen, flew from Washington to the Ivorian capital Abidjan and came by road inside Liberia during the war. Fearing further bloodshed and destruction, Cohen asked Taylor not to attack Monrovia and also to leave the road to Sierra Leone open to enable Monrovia to flee to Sierra Leone."

Is that true?

A. That is true. That is true. In fact these accounts - these very accounts are given in Secretary Cohen's book Intervening in Africa. Specifically chapter 5 of that book deals exclusively with the subject matter of his meeting with me. The title of his book is Intervening in Africa. Yes, Intervening in Africa. But it is covered at most in chapter 5 of that book. He narrates the entire situation.

Q. It continues: "Taylor's reward would be the Americans putting pressure on Doe to leave Monrovia once Taylor captured the main airport, Roberts International, near Monrovia. He agreed and Herman Cohen left for Washington." Was there such a deal, Mr Taylor?

A. Yes.

Q. "Roberts International did fall to Taylor. Doe took it back. Taylor recaptured it. Doe took it back again. Taylor finally recaptured it after fierce fighting. Today the mangled remains of the main passenger terminal and the adjacent VIP lounge look like a freshly dug out construction site. The 70 room hotel nearby now stands as a white elephant on the banks of the huge and beautiful Famington River, stripped of all its furniture and fittings by the fighters. After the final fall of Roberts International Airport, the Americans asked Doe to leave. He wouldn't. Taylor's troops then encircled Monrovia and actually sat on the campus of the University of Liberia for more than two months. There was just a street dividing them from Doe's executive mansion. 'We could have taken the mansion any moment but we had a promise to keep', Taylor told me."

Is that true?

A. That is very true and that's what I meant by lost opportunities by the United States. This is 100 per cent factual.

Q. So tell me, at what stage was it that your soldiers were actually on the campus of the University of Liberia? By what date?

A. We are talking about close to the last quarter of 1990.

Q. Then it continues: "But Doe would not go. According to an independent source the mansion was under heavy attack from Johnson's INPFL and Doe would not leave without all his soldiers, but the Americans turned him down. Doe stuck to his guns until Prince Johnson finally captured him under the noses of the ECOWAS peacekeepers, ECOMOG, and tortured him to death. ECOMOG later bombed Taylor's army out of Monrovia." Is all of that true?

A. Oh, yes, yes.

Q. [Overlapping speakers].

A. Yes, yes.

Q. And it continues:

"Taylor now regrets taking Herman Cohen at his word. 'I made a terrible mistake. Terrible mistake. Very, very bad mistake. But my concern at the time was also to avoid additional massive loss of life had we launched a major artillery assault on Monrovia. And if you check all the records, my soldiers never entered Monrovia proper. There was no fighting by our soldiers in Monrovia'."

Did you say that, Mr Taylor?

A. Yes, I did.

Q. And when you said it, did you mean it?

A. I think I've used the expression bittersweet here before this Court. You know, 20/20 hindsight is another - it's another whole matter. I am glad that I took the decision not to bomb Monrovia and overrun the city because of the large numbers of civilians that would have died. There were close to I would say a million people in the city. And so on that count I have no real regrets. But then if you look right on the other side, because of that the war lasted another five, six years with machinations on the part of these people I have described, deceit and all of this, and, yes, they started a whole campaign and actually bombed us out of Monrovia and killed a lot of people. So it's the type of situation from a legal perspective you can say yes and no, but for me it's a bittersweet situation. If we had taken Monrovia, there would have been loss of life, the war would have ended in 1990. We made the right decision by not attacking the city with a million people. I think it was another good decision, so it's a bittersweet situation quite frankly.

Q. It continues: "If ever there was a real people's army, Taylor had and still has one. Fathers, mothers, sons and daughters all fought as units in the war and still have their weapons tucked away in their huts in the small villages dotting the countryside and they are prepared, they tell me, to go into the bush again and fight if need be. Taylor now has about 12,000 men, women, boys and girls in uniform, his regular army, but he says he can call up over 85,000 reservists in a twinkle of an eye. And I believe him." Could you?

A. Oh, yes. I know we want to go through this, but if we just rush through this we'll have a problem. Now, let's put this into context because this is a journalist writing and I think the judges need to understand. There are thousands of people that come fight and because we are not running a regular paid army, the way this worked, some people come and fight, they may fight for a month or two and the guy is gone maybe back to his village to go and take care of his farm. So this total of 85,000, I'm saying there's just thousands of people that if we were to do an emergency call in because of a major problem and say all of those that fought before please come back, they will come back. But this is not any conventional army where you've got people ready and willing. It was always a situation where people could come and go. And I want to point out when you touch the Herman Cohen situation and I mentioned his book, we've got to be very careful during this period as people are writing. Children and boys,

girls, Secretary Cohen in his book in chapter 5 states that he is surprised to see a lot of young men - I think he says young men and women of the age 15 and 16 are holding guns. Well, we have to be very careful with that because that's Secretary Cohen's own explanation as to young people that he is seeing. But the question comes why doesn't - why can't they be 17 and 18? Or, for that matter, why can't they be 14 and 15? How can Secretary Cohen write and say he saw young men 15 and 16? So this has got to do also with perception. And after Herman Cohen - and in fact I think I did mention it because you know he did some work for me later after he left the State Department for the government. I mean, this is a period where people are coming up with statements and some of them really you can't - they can't be factual. An estimated 13,000 people, some say over 20,000, including other West African citizens were slaughtered by the three warring factions as they pushed towards Monrovia. Talking to the ordinary people in the street you begin to understand why there was such common hatred of Doe and his soldiers. Liberia, size 111,400 square kilometres stretched over 13 counties with 579 kilometres of coastline, an estimated population of three million, had been misruled and kept sickeningly backward for 133 years by 18 Americo-Liberian Presidents before Doe's seized power in a coup d'etat in 1980. To this day much of Liberia is still rainforest. What they call cities in the country are dilapidated large downs that do not in all sincerity deserve the name of cities. To this day there is just one major highway asphalted from Monrovia to Ganta about 145 miles away. Apart from two other minor tar roads, one built free of charge for Doe by Nigerian President Ibrahim Babangida in Cape Mount County going to the Sierra Leone border, and another built by the American Firestone rubber company from Ganta from Gate 15, on the main Monrovia-Ganta Highway, to Buchanan - there is nothing more in the country deserving the name of a road. And this is in a nation that achieved independence 145 years ago." Pause there. That last paragraph describing the transport infrastructure in 1992, Mr Taylor, is that correct?

A. It's correct, including today.

Q. So in terms of vehicular traffic from, say, Monrovia to Lofa and the border with Kailahun, was there an asphalted road running all the way which trucks could use?

A. Not then; not now.

Q. Thus when Doe finally overthrew the Americo-Liberian oligarchy in 1980, native Liberians had hoped it was the time to redress the ills of 133 years of Americo-Liberian misrule. Doe, a semi-illiterate who himself was a fruit of the Americo-Liberian neglect of the natives, actually did well initially according to some Liberian historians. Doe initially surrounded himself with the cream of the Liberian political elite. Togba-Nah Tipoteh was his planning minister. Amos Sawyer, the current Interim President of Liberia, was his special visor. Boima Fahnbulleh was his educational minister. Gabriel Baccus Matthews was his foreign minister. George Boley was his presidential affairs minister. And Charles Taylor himself was Doe's director general of the state-owned General Services Agency. Because of Taylor's contribution to the consolidation of Doe's government in the early days, Doe gave him the rank of major, a 25 member bodyguard and a place in the cabinet even though he was not a minister.

But this broad, tolerant government lasted for only a while. Doe suddenly changed his tack and began promoting his small Krahn tribe to the disgust of the other tribes in the country. This, I was told, was largely due to bad advice from certain influential Krahn elites. Suddenly the Krahn's became the privileged people who lived dangerously above the law and when Doe started persecuting the other tribes using his Krahn soldiers, his tribe, naturally, became a people living on borrowed time. Taylor said that by 1983 when Doe's government began to rot from the head, he, General Quiwonkpa, Mohammed Wimpey and others planned a coup to oust him. News leaked out. Wimpey and others were arrested. Taylor and Quiwonkpa escaped and Doe, fearful of what the Taylor/Quiwonkpa duo could do to his government from abroad, framed Taylor, accusing him of embezzling \$900,000 which led to his arrest in the US on extradition charges. He spent 18 months in prison before escaping to Ghana. Thus, thoroughly bitter about the way Doe's government had treated them for nearly ten years, the people of Liberia, at least the two million or so who live in Greater Liberia, saw in Charles Taylor, who himself is half Americo-Liberian and half native, a saviour who had come to liberate them from Doe's tyranny. This is why, contrary to earlier press reports, there was such massive support for Taylor during the war and why Doe's soldiers were easily routed.

Today the scars of the war are all too visible to ignore. But compared to other war-destroyed African countries, especially Somalia, Liberia came out of the war looking quite good. Much of the infrastructure is still intact, perhaps because there wasn't much in Liberia to destroy anyway. Even the capital Monrovia, despite the exaggerated press reports of destruction in the city, does not look too bad. There are still bullet marks on a number of houses in the northern suburb of Paynesville and the charred remains of a few houses could still be seen in other suburbs. But much of the city is intact, though water and electricity are scarce. The real miracle of Liberia is that after the war there has been no famine and outbreaks of disease in the country as in Somalia or Mozambique. The people are well fed, strong and beautiful as if there has been no war - and there are people who have work for two years or more in Taylor's area without pay." Pause there. Is that true, working without pay?

A. Well, it depends on who he is talking about here. The military was not paid. But civilians were paid.

Q. And it continues: "They get a bag of rice each month and an allowance every Independence Day, 26 July." And then it goes on to deal with the celebrations and then it carries on: "What is striking is the enthusiasm and dedication shown by these unpaid

people in Greater Liberia towards their jobs. Taylor's minister for health and social welfare, Dr Kou Nehway" - pronounce that last word for me, Mr Taylor.

A. That is pronounced Gbokolo.

Q. "...Gbokolo, a very enterprising young woman, says, 'It's a joy. Liberians know they were working for themselves. Pay or no pay we know that there is a great future we must work for.'" Now in describing these events in Greater Liberia, what was the entity known as Greater Liberia?

A. The entire country minus the borough of Monrovia.

Q. "Thus if the leaders of the country could sort out their political differences in a fair manner, Liberia could quickly put the horrors of the war behind it and look to the future with hope, but this is not so. Today there are two governments running the country, each pursuing different agendas. Amos Sawyer, one of the leading lights of Liberian politics, heads one of the governments called the Interim Government of National Unity (IGNU), which controls only the city of Monrovia and its suburbs. Sawyer does not even control the whole of Monrovia. He shares the control of the city with Prince Johnson's INPFL which broke away from Taylor's NPFL during the war. Johnson's stronghold of Caldwell is one of the suburbs of Monrovia where Sawyer's laws do not apply. For example, when Sawyer printed a new currency last year and outlawed the old Liberian dollar bills throughout the whole of Liberia, Prince Johnson, like Taylor, refused to allow the new currency to circulate in Caldwell. The new currency is therefore circulating in only about four-fifths of Monrovia, and thus its value against the old outlawed currency has been spinning dangerously out of control. It was exchanging for nearly two to one by mid August." Can we skip the next few paragraphs, please, and jump to the third paragraph from the bottom in the next column: "The other government, the National Patriotic Reconstruction Assembly Government (NPRAG), which controls all of Liberia except the one city of Monrovia, is headed by Charles Taylor. Though the West Africa Economic Community (ECOWAS) and Sawyer's IGNU do not recognise the NPRAG, Taylor nonetheless is running a functioning government at Gbarnga complete with ministries and ministers." Can we pause again, please. Is that true, Mr Taylor?

A. That is true. I have explained to the Court that we kept a civilian structure into place and I think the Court can recall that I mentioned that by the middle of 1991 it moved to Gbarnga. The assembly is sitting at Cuttington University College and there is order. Courts are in existence. Schools are open. The children are going to school and not fighting war.

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 22 July 2009

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

International Clips on Liberia

Taylor Worked With Rebels inside Sierra Leone to Protect from Attacks in Liberia

Jul 22, 2009 (CharlesTaylorTrial.org/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- Charles Taylor did not support Sierra Leonean rebels in the early 1990s, but worked with them inside Sierra Leone to fend off attacks from a rival armed group in Liberia, he told judges today at the Special Court for Sierra Leone. Taylor began working with the Sierra Leonean rebel group, the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) between August 1991 and May 1992, after a Liberian armed group started attacking Taylor's forces, he told the court today. The rival group, the United Liberation Movement for Democracy in Liberia (ULIMO), was supported by the Sierra Leonean government, Taylor said but this did not mean he wanted to helping the RUF rebel leader, Foday Sankoh, to attack Sierra Leone in the early 1990s. "My relationship with Foday Sankoh was for security purposes to fight ULIMO in Sierra Leone so as to prevent fighting them in Liberia," Taylor said today while giving testimony in his own defense.

All Set for July 26 Independence Celebrations

Jul 22, 2009 (Liberia Government/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- Members of the Press: All is now set for the observance of the 162nd Independence anniversary of Liberia, being hosted by the people of Bong County. The celebrations kick off in Monrovia on Wednesday July 22, with an investiture ceremony hosted by the President, HE Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. The ceremony will take place at the Cecil Dennis Auditorium beginning at 4:00 O'clock in the afternoon. Among those to be honored include a market woman, a youth, a journalists an educator, social worker. On Monday, July 27th, the President will also confer distinctions on Paramount Chief, Flomo Togbah Barworor - this year's national orator; and the President of the Economic Community of West African States Commission, Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas. The distinction of Knight Grand Commander in the Humane Order of African Redemption will be conferred on the two personalities. The President will also confer on the visiting President of Equatorial Guinea, HE Teodora Oviang Nguema Mbasogo, the distinction of Grand Cordon in the most Order of the Pioneers.

International Clips on West Africa

New Partnership Jumpstarts Development in Sierra Leone and Liberia

NEW YORK, July 22 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- BRAC is leading a \$15 million initiative to rebuild war-torn communities in West Africa, four organizations supporting the effort announced today. The Soros Economic Development Fund, Open Society Initiative for West Africa, Omidyar Network, and Humanity United are funding this groundbreaking initiative to support families and prevent renewed conflict. "This investment in the people of West Africa comes at a critical time," said Stewart Paperin, president of the Soros Economic Development Fund. "With their countries emerging from devastating civil wars, this support gives people the tools to rebuild." BRAC, one of the world's largest anti-poverty groups, is providing microfinance, health, and agricultural support in Sierra Leone and Liberia. It anticipates that over 500,000 people will benefit from these programs. "In the face of overwhelming need, BRAC's work has real potential to create opportunities for hundreds of

thousands of families to stabilize their lives and build for the future," said Matt Bannick, managing partner of Omidyar Network. "Our investment will help catalyze this economic and social impact." Since March, BRAC has opened 20 new microfinance branches in Sierra Leone and Liberia and will add 20 more by the end of the year.

Local Media – Newspaper

President Sirleaf Re-nominates Counselor Gongloe as Labour Minister- Designate

(Daily Observer, The News, The Analyst, Heritage, Public Agenda)

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has re-nominated Counselor Tiawon Gongloe as Labour Minister-Designate following two failed attempts to have him confirmed to the post.
- Last month, President Sirleaf nominated Counselor Gongloe to the position of Labor Minister but he was denied confirmation on two occasions for what some Senator called his "dismal" performance when he served as Solicitor General.
- During his tenure as Solicitor General, Government lost a number of high profiled cases including the a murder case involving Senator Roland Kaine of Margibi and an economic sabotage case in which Senator Richard Devine was implicated.
- Meanwhile, the confirmation of Police Inspector General-Designate, Marc Amblard and several other nominees was yesterday deferred to today, Thursday.
- The Senate last week set Tuesday to take final decision on the confirmation or rejection of Marc Amblard as Police Inspector General but failed to do so yesterday.
- Mr. Amblard confirmation has been facing series of setbacks at the Senate after he admitted having no security knowledge. He has since denied the report.

Agriculture Minister-Designate Apologizes for 1979 Rice Riot

(Heritage, New Vision)

- Agriculture Minister-Designate, Florence Chenoweth has apologized for the effects of the 1979 Rice riot.
- Appearing before the Senate for confirmation on Tuesday, Madam Chenoweth who served as Minister of Agriculture at the time expressed regrets that she could not do anything at the time to prevent the loss of lives and destruction of properties which resulted from the riot.
- She dismissed perceptions that she instigated the rice riot by insisting on an increment in the price of rice to support Agriculture development.

Former President Taylor Denies Knowledge of RUF Establishment

(The Informer, Daily Observer, Heritage)

- Former President Charles Taylor said has denied planning the rebel invasion of Sierra Leone in March 1991 saying he had no knowledge of the existence of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) that started the war in that country.
- Continuing his testimony in The Hague, the former Liberian President however admitted working with the RUF inside Sierra Leone to fend off attacks from a rival armed group in Liberia, the United Liberation Movement for Democracy in Liberia (ULIMO).

UN Envoy says Unemployment a Major Challenge to Sustaining Peace in Liberia

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

- The Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General in Liberia, Henrietta Mensa-Bonsu has urged Government to create employment opportunities for the youths of the country.
- Speaking during the formal close of the Disarmament Demobilization, Rehabilitation and Reintegration (DDRR) Programme on Tuesday, DSRSG Mensa-Bonsu said unemployment was a major challenge to sustain the peace Liberia now enjoys.
- Earlier, President Sirleaf formally closed the prosaid the successful end of the programme signals a new beginning to peace, reconciliation and development.

Concessionaires Identify Critical Issues and Bottlenecks to Improve Sector

(The Informer, Daily Observer, Liberian Express)

- A two-day workshop to review the current status of the Mineral, Energy and Forest sectors of the economy ends in Monrovia today.
- The forum which brought together at least 100 representatives from concession companies discussed and identified critical issues, bottlenecks and proposed institutional guidelines to assist improve the sector.
- The two-day World Bank/UNDP sponsored discussion was held under the auspices of the Bureau of Concession of the Ministry of Finance.

World Bank, IMF Back Audit of Supreme Court

(Liberian Express)

- World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) officials are reportedly mounting pressure for the Liberian Government to order and audit of the Supreme Court.
- The move comes two days after four Supreme Court Justices challenged Chief Justice Johnnie Lewis demanding information on some US\$20 million in excess budgetary funds.

Local Media – Truth F.M. (*monitored today at 09:00 am*)

Senate to Decide the Fate of Police Inspector General-Designate Today

- The confirmation of Police Inspector General-Designate, Marc Amblard and several other nominees was yesterday deferred to today, Thursday.
- Speaking to reporters following a closed-door session, President Pro-tempore, Cletus Wotorson said vote on the nominations could not be taken as the Senate was pressed with consultations on key national issues.
- The Senate last week set Tuesday to take final decision on the confirmation or rejection of Marc Amblard as Police Inspector General but failed to do so yesterday.
- Mr. Amblard confirmation has been facing series of setbacks at the Senate after he admitted having no security knowledge. He has since denied the report.
- Meanwhile, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has re-nominated Counsellor Tiawon Gongloe as Labour Minister-Designate following two failed attempts to have him confirmed to the post.

(Also reported on Sky F.M. and ELBC)

Agriculture Minister-Designate Apologizes for 1979 Rice Riot

(Also reported on Sky F.M and ELBC)

Summit on Liberia Extractive Industry Convenes Today

- A summit of University Students convenes today in Monrovia under the theme: Liberia Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative, Its Prospects and Challenges on the Poverty Reduction Strategy".
- Participants of the summit are drawn from the six major Universities in the country.

E.L.B.C. (*News monitored today at 9:00 am*)

VP Boakai Says DDRR Programme Intended to Create National Recovery and Development

- Vice President Joseph Boakai said the Disarmament, Demobilization, Rehabilitation and Reintegration (DDRR) Programme was intended to engender national recovery and development.
- Speaking at the official close of the DDRR programme, Vice President Boakai said more than 100,000 ex-combatants were disarmed and an estimated 97,000 seized reintegration opportunities.
- Earlier, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf said the successful end of the programme signals a new beginning to peace reconciliation and development.
- Also speaking at the programme, the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General in Liberia, Henrietta Mensa-Bonsu urged Government to create employment opportunities for the youths of the country.

Vice President Boakai Holds Bilateral Talks with Egyptian Envoy

- The new Egyptian Ambassador to Liberia Ahmed Fadel Yakoub on Monday paid a courtesy call on Vice President Joseph N. Boakai at his Capitol Building Office.
- Speaking during the meeting, Vice President Boakai lauded Egypt's continued support to Liberia in its reconstruction and development effort.
- In remarks, Ambassador Yakoub pledged his country's continued support to Liberia's reconstruction and development initiatives.

Radio Netherlands Worldwide

Thursday, 23 July 2009

Czech Republic ratifies ICC's Rome Statute

By International Justice Desk



Prague, Czech Republic

The US has famously refused to ratify the 1998 Statute. Other major powers that are still not party to the Statute are India, China and Russia. And from the Arab League, so far only one

member - Jordan - has ratified the treaty.

Other regions show a more positive trend. Chile formally joined the ICC earlier this summer. With Chile's ratification, each of the 13 countries in South America is now a member of the Hague Court. And in Central America, there is only a small number of countries - including Cuba - that are yet to join the court.

The Rome Statute came into force once sixty countries had ratified it, on 1 July 2002. But even with 110 state parties, the Court still faces major challenges. It has found it almost impossible to bring some of the indicted war criminals to trial.

African member states of the ICC - which make up the largest regional group - have condemned the indictment of Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir. They continue to call for a one-year suspension of the indictment under Article 16 of the Statute.