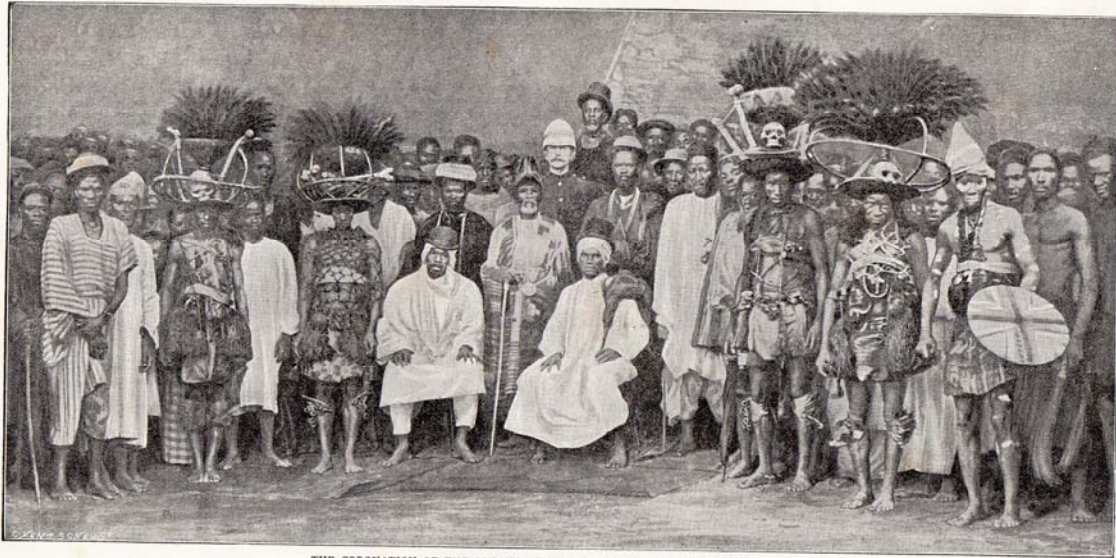


**SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE  
OUTREACH AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE**



THE CORONATION OF THE SOKONG AT IMPERRI TOWN, IMPERRI LAND, SIERRA LEONE  
THE TASSO MEN OF WEST AFRICA

**PRESS CLIPPINGS**

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

**as at:**

Wednesday, 23 June 2010

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

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## **Charles Taylor's Trial**

### **Taylor Witness Encouraged RUF To Join AFRC**

**A** woman who said she helped the Sierra Leonean rebels during the country's 11-year brutal war yesterday said she also persuaded them to come out of the bush and join disgruntled Sierra Leonean soldiers who had overthrown their government in a military coup in 1997.

Isatu Kallon yesterday told the Special Court for Sierra Leone that when a group of Sierra Leonean soldiers who formed the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) under the leadership of Major Johnny Paul Koroma and overthrew the government of President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah in 1997, the soldiers put her in radio communication with RUF rebels. She said she convinced the rebels to come out of the bush and form a coalition government with the soldiers.

"I spoke to them [RUF rebels], I said to them I am Isatu Kallon, please come out of the bush. Everything is finished," Mrs. Kallon told the court.

When asked to explain why she thought the soldiers, formerly of the Sierra Leone Army (SLA), had asked her to speak with the rebels, Mrs. Kallon responded that "the SLA had been talking to the RUF, maybe it was during those conversations that my name came up."

"They said it was Johnny Paul Koroma who had asked that I help with the peace process," she added.

Prosecutors have alleged that Mr. Taylor was influential in getting the RUF to join the AFRC after the 1997 coup in Sierra Leone but Mr. Taylor has said that he had nothing to do with the RUF's decision to join the soldiers. In her testimony, Mrs. Kallon did not mention Mr. Taylor's name but pointed out that the AFRC soldiers had already established dialogue with the RUF rebels before she spoke with RUF commanders to travel to the country's capital in Freetown to join the junta government. She said that RUF leader, Foday Sankoh, also communicated with the RUF rebels and told them to join the AFRC.

The RUF rebels, the witness said, requested that the AFRC "authorities should send food and vehicles for them.

Asked by Mr. Taylor's defense counsel Morris Anyah whether "the SLA soldiers responded to the request of the RUF," the witness said "yes."

After the 1997 coup, the soldiers were able to have access to Mrs. Kallon because she was already in the country's capital when the coup took place, having been arrested in Guinea when she was there to buy arms and ammunition for the RUF. In her testimony last week, the witness said that she travelled to the Guinean capital, Conakry, in the company of a Guinean army captain to purchase arms and ammunition for the RUF. She did not say whether she obtained the arms and ammunition when the court adjourned on Friday.

The witness said she was arrested by Guinean security forces on her return from Conakry with a truck load of ammunition boxes and 19,000 United States dollars in her possession. She was later transferred to Sierra Leone where she was detained by the then military junta, the National Provisional Ruling Council (NPRC) under the leadership of Captain Valentine Strasser. The witness testified about meeting NPRC officials including the country's then Vice Head of State Brigadier Julius Maada Bio. When Brigadier Bio overthrew Captain Strasser in a palace coup in 1996, the witness said she encouraged Brigadier Bio to reach out to RUF leader Mr. Sankoh for a peaceful end to the conflict in Sierra Leone.

"Now that you have overthrown, maybe you'll be the one to bring peace to this country because maybe the Pa [Sankoh] will talk to you," the witness referenced her discussion with Brigadier Bio in 1996.

"After that, Maada Bio started the process of negotiating with Foday Sankoh over the radio," she said.

These discussions eventually led to the signing of the peace agreement between the government of Sierra Leone and the RUF in the Ivorian capital Abidjan on November 30 1996.

The witness also spoke about efforts she made to settle internal disputes in the RUF during the course of the conflict in the country. When asked why she exercised so much influence over the rebels, the witness said that it was because the rebels had immense respect for her, having supported them as recruits when they underwent training in Liberia.

Mrs. Kallon's testimony continues.  
Credit [charlestaylortrial.org](http://charlestaylortrial.org)

# I Told RUF To Join AFRC

## *- Witness Says*

### Alpha Sesay

A woman who said she helped the Sierra Leonean rebels during the country's 11-year brutal war today

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Contd. Page 4

### From Front Page

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Mrs. Kallon's testimony continues.

# The Spectator

Wednesday, 23 June 2010

## Sierra Leone War in Retrospect: Was The NPRC Different from the RUF

*By Eddie Stanley, Joseph Sherman and Brima Turay*

The Special Court in Sierra Leone, under ex-president Kabbah's regime did well to investigate and prosecute human rights abusers during the civil crisis in Sierra Leone. In the same vein, if peace, reconciliation and unity are to prevail in Sierra Leone, the government of Ernest Koroma should set up a truth and reconciliation commission to investigate members of undemocratic regimes like the NPRC that carried out summary execution of Sierra Leoneans without due process of law and the SLPP's government wanton and summary execution of 24 soldiers in disregard for the sanctity of human life. After all ex-president Kabbah's Special Court was constituted to investigate the AFRC, RUF, Charles Taylor and also the Kamajors that helped to install him in power.

**THE LATE RUF LEADER,  
FODAYSAYBANASANKOH,  
CAUGHT ON CAMERA  
BLESSING AND THANKING  
TOM NYUMA FOR  
SPREADING THE WAR TO  
NORTHERN SIERRA  
LEONE.**

Today we see the perpetrators of these heinous crimes in the likes of Maada Bio, Tom N'yumah Col. Idriss Kamara et al, hypocritically extending an olive branch to President Ernest Koroma as a show of allowing bye-gone- be-bye-gone.

Members of Tom Nyumah's so-called "Ranger Squad" attacked Kambia Town on January 25, 1995 and this attack attracted the International community to intervene because six Catholic Nuns from Kolenten Secondary School were abducted at the time. Currently, Tom Nyumah is the Chairman of the Kenema District Council representing the SLPP Party. It is very difficult if not impossible to separate Tom Nyumah from Foday Sankoh because they both had similar, if not the same, motives and both contributed to the destruction of our beloved Sierra Leone. Tom Nyuma scandalously promoted the war into the suburbs, villages and towns in the Northern Province except Kamabai town in the Biriwa

chiefdom. When Tom Nyuma visited Kamabai to survey the town before attacking it, he was greeted by one Ya Haja who had served as Tom Nyuma's God mother in his wedding in Kenema. Tom Nyuma said, "Ya Haja what are you doing here"? Ya Haja responded, "This is my home town". Based on his relationship with Ya Haja, he pulled out all his soldiers and never attacked Kamabai. Nonetheless, he took his soldiers to Ka Bumba after he abducted one of the Section Chiefs who he made to carry heavy load on his head but released him later after they attacked Ka Bumba.

When the late Lieutenant Soriba Bangura (commonly known in the army as "Yamaun Katie"), a native of Kamakwie town, was actively working round the clock to save towns and villages in the Northern Province from Tom Nyumah's annihilation campaign in the North, his life was cut short by some mysterious circumstances and the incident was labeled as a struggle between he and one of his bodyguards over a piece of diamond. The truth is that Lt. Soriba Bangura was a pain in Tom Nyumah's ass in the

sense that he was leading a very strong defense mechanism using the local people at each village and town to stand against Tom's "SoBels"; an acronym for Soldier-Rebels. The first attack on Lunsar town on January 1st 2005, spear-headed by one of Tom Nyumah's boys, Lieutenant John Minah, was a clear testimony to Tom's activities to spread the war in Northern Sierra Leone.

This attack was followed by attacks on Gberay junction, Port Loko town, Melekure village and Faredugu village under the command of another of Tom's boys, Captain Taluva, who replaced Lieutenant Edmond Quee - a replacement that came as a result of Lieutenant Quee's refusal to participate in destroying Port Loko because he had special interests in the township and its environs. Lieutenant Quee was reassigned and sent to Kambia where he worked hard to protect the town until he was reassigned to another location prior to the attack on Kambia on the date mentioned



above. Why would Tom Nyumah survive all the ambushes and attacks on all the convoys he had led? The answer can be deduced from the intimacy between the two men as one can see in the photograph above. These were two agents of darkness working in concert to destroy the entire country in the name of fighting against the APC. Tom Nyumah attempted to assassinate Earnest Koroma in his hotel room in Kenema during the elections campaign; but for the timely intervention of "Leather Boot" and others, we would have been telling another story today. No wonder why the SLPP is still after "Leather Boot" and calling for his removal from his current role of Personal bodyguard to the president. Tom and his SLPP cohorts know very well that "Leather Boot", though rehabilitated, was one of their kinds and therefore knows every plan and every secret that Tom and the SLPP may be planning against the sitting regime. The "Set a thief to catch a thief" kind of philosophy is actively at work here!

Any political party that encourages Tom Nyuma in politics is endorsing the rebel war or supporting the destruction that the RUF war perpetrated against our beloved Sierra Leone. This should be one of the things that the media should be discussing. Prior to the rebel war, Sierra Leone was already preparing for multi-party general elections that were interrupted by the NPRC coup. All political parties in Sierra Leone should be working in the interest of national development regardless of tribal or regional affiliation. Is it true that a one-time NPRC Minister, Mr. John Benjamin was not allowed easy passage to the United States based on

issues relating to human rights abuses? Meanwhile, many NPRC muggers are in the U.S. who had committed human rights abuses. Maybe they entered the U.S. with different names. NPRC leaders were enemies of human rights who should not be allowed to leave the country that they have ruined and destroyed.

The notion of truth is a complex one. There are at times facts which, however explained or interpreted, need to be acknowledged. People were murdered, maimed, and brutalized for little more than their political views. The relatives of those viciously killed during the NPRC regime; and later by the SLPP government, spearheaded by ex-vice president Berewah are, day in and day out, crying for justice and the rule of law to prevail.

Our concern here is not only the denial of justice to the victims, but its denial to society and future generations. Turning the moral consciousness of the unacceptable into law has and continues to be a driving force of humanistic advocacy, particularly in the face of the multiple atrocities witnessed over the course of the last few years where we see injustice taking the form of law and universal norms. But is some of the misplaced concern with reconciliation pushing both law and justice to retreat along the path of impunity and unaccountability? Forgiveness is not enough because the world is ruled or is supposed to be ruled more by a state of legality than one of morality. Most worrisome, in our day and age, is the apparent retreat of morality by way of the pseudo-reconciliation discourse leaving legality to flounder and become "holier than the Pope".



charlestaylortrial.org

Wednesday, 23 June 2010

### **Witness Never saw or heard of Charles Taylor's support to the RUF, She says**

A witness for Charles Taylor said today that she neither saw nor heard any evidence that the former Liberian president provided support to Sierra Leonean rebels during the country's 11-year civil conflict. The witness also dismissed the evidence of key prosecution witnesses who testified about Mr. Taylor's links to the rebel forces in Sierra Leone as "lies".

Isatu Kallon, a Sierra Leonean business woman who said she gave support to Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels in Sierra Leone, has spent days telling the Special Court for Sierra Leone about the role she played in helping RUF leader Foday Sankoh to recruit fighters in Liberia, and the rebel group's battle for the control of Sierra Leone from 1991 to 2002. She has continuously denied any knowledge of Charles Taylor's involvement with the rebel forces.

"During the entire time that you interacted with Foday Sankoh, did the name Charles Taylor come up, did he ever mention the name Charles Taylor?" Mr. Anyah asked the witness today in a direct question and answer session.

"Never," Mrs. Kallon said.

"While you were in Liberia, did you ever see he and Charles Taylor together?" Mr. Anyah asked the witness.

"Never," the witness said.

"You mentioned efforts made by yourself to purchase arms and ammunition for the RUF...did you hear of any instance when Charles Taylor is said to have given RUF arms?" Mr. Anyah pressed further.

"I never saw that happen. I did not hear about it," answered Mrs. Kallon.

When asked again whether she ever heard anyone say that he was sent to fight in Sierra Leone by Mr. Taylor, the witness said "no."

Prosecutors have alleged that Mr. Taylor bears individual criminal responsibility for the crimes committed by RUF rebels in Sierra Leone because he allegedly instigated and helped to plan the operations of the RUF in their battle for territory of Sierra Leone including the country's diamond fields. Prosecutors say that Mr. Taylor served as the main source of support for the Sierra Leonean rebels before and after the invasion of Sierra Leone in 1991. Mr. Taylor's defense team has been trying to cast doubt on these allegations through the testimony of witnesses such as Mrs. Kallon.

Today Mrs. Kallon also responded directly to the testimonies of prosecution witnesses who testified in 2008 about Mr. Taylor's alleged involvement with the RUF.

In February 2008, a former RUF radio operator Perry Kamara, commonly known as King Perry, testified that Mr. Sankoh sought advice from Mr. Taylor on a regular basis and that any time Mr. Taylor gave such advice, the RUF would launch a major operation.

"Mr. Sankoh was always advised by Mr. Taylor. At anytime Mr. Sankoh received advice from Mr. Taylor, we would undertake a serious attack," King Perry said in February 2008.

He said that such operations based on Mr. Taylor's advice included the RUF attacks on the mining fields in Kono in the Eastern Province, and Sierra Rutile Mines in the Southern Province of Sierra Leone.

"Are you aware of this particular mission that Perry Kamara was talking about?" Mr. Anyah today asked Mrs. Kallon.

"I don't know about this one," the witness said.

The witness also refuted claims by another prosecution witness, Isaac Mongor, who in March 2008 testified that it was Mr. Taylor who sent him to train RUF fighters at Camp Naama in Liberia.

When asked whether Mr. Mongor had ever mentioned to her that he had been sent by Mr. Taylor to conduct the said training at Camp Naama, the witness said "no."

She added, however, that Mr. Mongo told her "that he went to Camp Naama to help Mohamed [another RUF commander] and others to train the boys [RUF fighters]."

According to Mrs. Kallon, Mr. Mongor lied when he testified that he was close to Mr. Sankoh, even before the invasion of Sierra Leone.

"Isaac was just a mere bodyguard to John Kargbo [a rebel commander in Liberia]," Mrs. Kallon said.

Mrs. Kallon's testimony continues on Wednesday.


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

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

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**UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary**  
**22 June 2010**

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

**UN News in Liberia**

UNMIL was not reported in the news today.

**Local News on Liberian issues**

**President Sirleaf to Send Bill to the National Legislature to Make Corruption Non-bailable**

[Heritage, The News, Front Page Africa, Daily Observer, New Democrat, The Analyst, The Inquirer, The Informer]

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf says she will soon send a bill to the Legislature to make corruption a non-bailable offense.
- President Sirleaf said the delay in the establishment of special courts to address corruption cases continue to be a problem in punishing corrupt individuals.
- The Liberian leader said she is disappointed that for the last four years the judiciary has been able to adjudicate only two major corruption cases.
- The President said despite improvements in the working conditions of key players in the court system, the court still remains slow in giving justice to the people.
- President Sirleaf was speaking Monday at the Temple of Justice where she cut the ribbon to the newly renovated Criminal Courts 'A' and 'B'.
- She praised the US government for the work done and stressed that it will help strengthen the rule of law in Liberia.
- The building was renovated by the US Government at a total cost of US\$1.1 million.

**Executive Mansion Rules out Prospect for Interim Government**

[Front Page Africa, The Inquirer, Heritage, The Informer, The News]

- The Executive Mansion has clarified that there will be no interim government or trusteeship in Liberia despite the delay in the passage of the threshold bill.
- The Executive Mansion assured elections will be held in 2011 as planned.
- Presidential Press Secretary Cyrus Badio said there will be compromises to ensure that the threshold bill is passed on time.
- Mr. Badio did not give details of the compromises but said it would involve the Legislature, Judiciary and all other stakeholders.
- The Presidential spokesman said President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf was concerned about the delay in resolving the stalemate over the passage of the bill.

**House National Security Chairman on Liberia's Security, Receives Letter from UNMIL**

[The Independent]

- The Chairman of the House Committee on National Security says he has received communication from the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) about its departure from Liberia.
- Grand Gedeh County Representative Rufus Gbeior told the Budget Committee at the National Legislature that he received the letter from UNMIL, indicating its departure and has requested the holding of a conference on security matters.

- According to the Representative Gbeior, UNMIL suggested a three-day conference slated for 28 - 31 June 2010 to discuss key security matters with the Liberian government before it leaves.
- The Grand Gedeh lawmaker who also thanked UNMIL for efforts made thus far in bringing peace to Liberia, failed to mention the date of the peacekeeper's departure.
- He however called on the Budget Committee to provide more support to the national security agencies in order to take care of challenges when the UNMIL fades away.
- The House Chairman on National security made the disclosure during a budget hearing of the Ministries of National Defense and Justice and the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization.

### **Major Capacity Summit Convenes in Monrovia Today**

[Heritage]

- The Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs is convening a one-day National Capacity Development Summit in post-conflict Liberia.
- The Summit takes place today, Tuesday at the Monrovia City Hall.
- According to a press release, the Summit is aimed at providing an opportunity for stakeholders to validate the findings and proposed investments/actions prioritized in the government's National Capacity Development Strategy (NCDS).
- The Summit will be interactive to facilitate candid exchange of views and the opportunity to reach consensus on how to best advance investments in developing and sustaining capacity in Liberia.
- According to Liberia's Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS), Capacity is cross-cutting, and remains Liberia's weakest link to full recovery and development.

### **China Completes UL Fendell Campus, Turned Keys Over**

[Daily Observer, The Informer]

- The administration of the University of Liberia has received the keys of the new Fendell Campus of the University constructed by the People's Republic of China through Gaungdong Xinguang International Group.
- The Chief Engineer of the Group, Yuan Shengyuang, during the turning over ceremony, described the work done at the campus as challenging but said, the result is marvelous.
- Mr. Yuan said a team of Chinese engineers will remain on the ground for a period of one year to ensure the smooth transition of all maintenance aspects of the facility.
- Receiving the keys to the campus, UL President Dr. Emmet Dennis said the project represents the strong relations between Liberia and China.
- Dr. Dennis said the buildings prove the government's commitment to improving tertiary education and also thanked the Chinese government for the support to Liberia's recovery process.
- He assured the Chinese that the University will do all in its power to fully maintain the campus.

### **Fahnbulleh Remains Firm in the Face of Pressure to Resign Elective Party Post, Slammed Sherman**

[New Vision, Front Page Africa]

- The Secretary General-elect of the new ruling Unity Party Henry Fahnbulleh says he will not bow to any pressure seeking his resignation by the Party's Chairman-elect Varney Sherman.
- Mr. Fahnbulleh at a news conference in Monrovia stressed that he will take all necessary stances and is even willing to offer his life in the cause of his fight back to secure his position as Secretary General of the new UP.
- Mr. Fahnbulleh's statement comes in reaction to UP Chairman-elect, Cllr. Sherman's, call for his resignation on grounds that they are cousins and it would be inappropriate for both of them to serve the hierarchy of the same Party.
- The UP Secretary General-elect said the reason stated by Cllr. Sherman's is unjustified, noting that everyone in Liberia is in one way or the other related and if that is the case no one will occupy any public office.

### **Liberia to Double Electricity Generation within Next Year, Says LEC Boss**

[Heritage, In Profile Daily, Front Page Africa]

- Liberia's electricity generation capacity will be more than double within the next year from 10 megawatts to 23 megawatts, the Cabinet was told on last Friday.
- Addressing the Cabinet on the state of the Liberian power sector, the Acting Managing Director of the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC), Joseph Mayah, said he was confident that an additional 13-megawatt generating capacity would be available within the next 12 months.

- Coupled with improvements to the transmission and distribution system currently underway at Bushrod Island, he said these changes would mean that thousands more Liberians would have access to grid electricity.
- According to Cabinet Director General Momo Roger, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf requested the Cabinet to discuss the country's power and energy sector as the main agenda item.

### **JFK to Embark on a Nationwide Compulsory Preventative Health Care Campaign**

[Heritage, The Independent, The News]

- The Chief Medical Officer of the John F. Kennedy Hospital (JFK), Dr. Winnie McDonald said the hospital will shortly embark on a compulsory preventive health care campaign throughout the country.
- Dr. McDonald said the exercise will also prevent the outbreak of major diseases that can be prevented or treated.
- The JFK Chief Medical officer made the disclosure at the weekend during a tour of the hospital by the House Committee on Health.
- She however spoke of the need for more budgetary support to ensure the smooth operation of the hospital.
- In response, the House Health Committee Chairman Edwin Gaye said the hospital's request will be taken to plenary, the highest decision making body in the House of Representatives.
- He however thanked the hospital for the great effort being made to cater to the sick and pointed out that the JFK's services are immeasurable.

### **Star Radio** *(News monitored today at 09:00 am)*

#### **Executive Mansion Rules out Prospect for Interim Government, Writes US Secretary of State**

*(Also reported Radio Veritas, Sky FM, and ELBC)*

#### **Delinquent Multi-Investment Companies under Scrutiny**

- Four of Liberia's multiple investment companies have come under sharp criticisms from a joint Legislative Investment and Energy Committee.
- The criticisms relate to the failures of the four companies to fully implement their contracts after ratification for over three years now.
- The companies include American-Liberia United Minerals, Foundation for African Development Aid, Buchanan Renewable Energy and ALFA Logging.
- The joint Legislative Committee said the companies have failed to honor their social development agreements in their areas of operations.
- According to the joint Committee, the companies have failed to create jobs, rehabilitate roads, build schools and hospitals in violation of their contracts
- The joint Committee also observed that AMLIB has been operating in Liberia since 2002 under dubious circumstances.
- The observations were made Monday during a hearing on the status of the companies' contracts amidst complaints of defaults in their operations.
- Briefings were also provided by officials of Geebro, EJ & J Logging Companies, National Investment Commission, Agriculture and Lands, Mines and Energy Ministries.

#### **House Begins Review of Bill to Create Coastal Defense Fund for Liberia**

- A review is underway at the House of Representatives of a bill seeking to create Coastal Defense Fund for Liberia.
- The review began Monday with a House Committee on Lands, Mines, Energy, Natural Resources and Environment.
- The Committee Chairman, Grand Cape Mount Representative Matthew Darblo is looking into the merits of creating a Coastal Defense Fund.
- The draft Coastal Defense Fund Act is intended to have a legal framework in place to ensure the generation of money to fight threatening coastal erosions.
- The bill which was earlier submitted by Grand Bassa Representative Gabriel Smith proposes the various levels of taxation to help fight coastal erosion.

#### **Ex-LTA Boss Economic Sabotage Case Transferred to Bomi**

- The economic sabotage case involving former Commissioner Albert Bropleh of the Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA) has been transferred to Bomi County.
- Bropleh's lawyers filed the motion claiming local prejudice and an impartial trial if the case is heard in Montserrado County.
- They argued publications circulated in Monrovia convicted the former LTA Chairman prior to his indictment.

- The court in its ruling said under the law, the defendant needed no other proof except the facts of the alleged local prejudice.
- Criminal Court 'C' has meanwhile ordered its clerk to transmit the case file to the Eleventh Judicial Circuit in Bomi County for trial.
- Albert Bropleh was indicted for economic sabotage, misuse of public property, and theft among others, charges he has since dismissed.

### **Criminal Court 'E' Burglarized**

- Unknown persons over the weekend reportedly broke into the Chambers of Criminal Court 'E' at the Temple of Justice and made away with a set of computer and a printer.
- The men also broke into the office of the court's clerk and stole another set of computer and a printer.
- There are yet no reports on missing documents from the court's chambers which is responsible for trying sexual abuse cases.
- According to court sources, the men entered the offices through the windows.
- Reports say this is the second burglary Criminal Court 'E' has suffered.

*(Also reported Radio Veritas, Sky FM, and ELBC)*

### **Radio Veritas** *(News monitored today at 09:45 am)*

#### **President Sirleaf to Send Bill to the National Legislature to Make Corruption Non-bailable**

#### **LISGIS Confirms Indebtedness to Over 150 Contractors**

- Authorities of the Liberia Institute for Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS) have confirmed reports that the agency has not paid some 150 contractors following the expiration of their contracts.
- LISGIS Director General Dr. Edward Liberty said the agency is working with its international partners to ensure that the contractors are paid at the end of June this month.
- Dr. Liberty said the contractors' money is being delayed because LISGIS has not received a dime from any of its donors.
- The clarification followed an alarm by over 150 enumerators that they have not been paid since their contracts expired more than two months ago.

## **International Clips on Liberia**

### **UN to probe firing incident at CRPF camp in Liberia**

[www.ptinews.com](http://www.ptinews.com)

The United Nations has set up a Board of Enquiry to inquire into the incident of firing on a CRPF camp in Liberia allegedly by a Pakistani Army officer. According to CRPF officials, a Pakistani officer had allegedly fired at a CRPF camp, which is part of the UN Peacekeeping Mission in violence-hit Liberia, on June 8 leaving a civilian seriously injured. The camp has 125 personnel of the paramilitary force. "There was some damage to property. Fortunately, no injuries were sustained by any of our personnel. UN has begun investigation in the matter and a Board of Enquiry has been set up," a statement released by CRPF said. The incident took place in Zwedru, the capital of Grand Gedeh County, one of the 15 counties in the West African country of Liberia.

### **President Sirleaf Wants AG Morlu Out!**

<http://thenewdispensation.wordpress.com>

Liberia's Ambassador to the European Union and Belgium, Hon Commany Wesseh revealed that President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf wants the Auditor General of Liberia, John Morlu out as head of the General Auditing Commission, GAC. Ambassador Wesseh made the disclosure last night when he appeared on Liberia's most popular and prestigious cyber phone-in public forum, "Liberia Speaks." Liberia Speaks is a United States based Liberian cyber forum where Liberians meet and deliberate on issues relevant to their country as well as other significant developments of human interest. The Ambassador made the disclosure last night in response to a question posed by one of the participants who asked why the Liberian government could not fire Auditor General John Morlu from his post as head of the General Auditing Commission if he is actually unqualified and unprofessional as the government and the Ambassador continue to insist he is. Ambassador Wesseh told the forum that the Liberian government finds itself in a predicament where it can not dismiss the Auditor General because of the sensitivity and delicate relevance of the work he does as Auditor General of Liberia.

### **CRPF man killed in Liberia attack, weapon traced to Pak officer**

[www.expressindia.com](http://www.expressindia.com)

A CRPF constable was killed and another injured in firing in their camp in Zwedru in Liberia where they are deployed as part of UNMIL (UN Mission in Liberia). A weapon used in the attack and later found at the spot has been traced to a Lt Murad, posted with a Pakistani contingent. Confirming the incident, CRPF Director General Vikram Srivastava told The Indian Express: "One of our boys expired in the unfortunate incident in which a Pakistani officer posted there was involved. All details of the incident which we got from the Liberia office have been sent in a report to Joint Secretary (UN) in the Ministry of External Affairs." The incident occurred at 4.45 am on June 8 when constables Jeet Singh and Kaptan Singh were on duty at their posts at the CRPF camp. According to reports, an "unidentified" man in fatigues entered the Indian camp and began firing indiscriminately.

**USADF Signs Two Grants with Community Groups in Liberia / Funding Will Generate Higher Incomes, Help Create Jobs**  
**African Press Organization (APO)**

In an effort to improve people's livelihoods, the United States African Development Foundation has signed two grants to benefit grassroots cooperatives in Liberia. The grants will benefit the Gbalin Women Multipurpose Development Cooperative Society, Ltd. (GBMDCS) and Glahkon Bamboo Furniture Company (Glahkon). Commenting about the grants, USADF Chairman Jack Leslie stated, "USADF projects help to raise incomes and create jobs across Africa. These grants will help expand two community groups' capacities so that employees can earn higher wages and more community members can be hired." Located near Kpor Town in Montserrado County, GBMDCS is an organization of women vegetable producers seeking to improve the social and economic well being of its members and host community.

**International Clips on West Africa**

**Guinea**

**Guinea pre-election texting encourages US**  
**DPA**

Guinea's preparations for elections on Sunday have included use of text messaging and mapping platforms, which were greeted by the United States as "innovative" on Monday. "We certainly strongly encourage all parties to join together to ensure a peaceful, fair and free process," said PJ Crowley, spokesman for the US State Department. Crowley said the innovations contributed to "further transparency" for Election Day in the West African country.  
 Ivory Coast

**UNOCI commemorates 2nd anniversary of UN Security Council resolution 1820 in Toumodi**  
**African Press Organization (APO)**  
<http://appablog.wordpress.com>

The United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) celebrated the second anniversary of the UN Security Council Resolution 1820 on 19 June in Toumodi, 200 km north of Abidjan under the theme: "Sexual violence constitutes a threat to international security. Together we say no to perpetrators of sexual violence." The event was organized by UNOCI's Gender Unit led by its acting chief, Eva Dalak, who explained that UNOCI and its national partners, as well as other UN agencies had chosen the town of Toumodi for the anniversary celebration because the women of the town had demonstrated their commitment to fight against sexual violence of which they had been victim, by organizing a protest march that mobilized some one thousand participants in December 2009.

**Sierra Leone**

**Decision to fight thugs cost immigrant Mohamed Jalloh his life**  
**www.nydailynews.com**

An immigrant from Sierra Leone was slain by a machete when he made a fateful decision to fight back against street thugs. When a group of teens chased Mohamed Jalloh, 18, down a Washington Heights street early Sunday, the Bronx man told his cousin, "Let's stop and fight!" Jalloh and his cousin, Amadou Diallo, also 18, exchanged blows with at least nine youngsters. "I got hit with a bottle and two minutes later, I see him on the floor," Diallo said yesterday of his cousin. "I didn't see a knife or anything." Jalloh had been beaten and stabbed with a machete beneath his heart. Cops later busted Andy Henriquez, 16, while he was being treated at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center for a cut on his hand. He told detectives that he punched Jalloh while one of his buddies sliced him with the machete. Henriquez, who has never been arrested, was arraigned yesterday at Manhattan Criminal Court on charges of murder and gang assault.

## Daily Observer (Liberia)

Wednesday, 23 June 2010

### Women Protest for Taylor's Associates

By: Stephen Binda

A cross section of women groups have presented a three-page petition to the government calling for the lifting of the UN travel ban imposed on female associates of former president Charles Taylor during the civil war.

The group included the Women in Peace Building in Liberia (COPPWILL) and the Coalition of Political Parties' Women in Liberia. The petition, with copies sent to President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and the National Legislature, seeks to ensure that travel ban placed on individuals who were branded by the United Nations Security Council as associates of ex-President Charles Taylor is lifted. The UN is believed to have taken the measure as a way of punishing those who used the war to exploit the nation's resources to the detriment of the Liberian people.

Among those who had been banned from travelling by the UN was Jewel Howard Taylor, former wife of Mr. Taylor.

Jewel is currently Senator for Bong County.

The women groups who went to the Capitol Building yesterday, said, they were constrained to raise their voices in an 'unmistakable chorus' against the denial of the accused persons' fundamental rights to travel.

They further considered the continuous imposition of the travel ban against the accused as a complete violation of their fundamental rights.

The women said they were totally against the United Nations Security Council travel ban on Bong County Senator Jewel Howard Taylor and other Liberian women.

Consistent with Article 20 of the 1986 Liberian Constitution which states that: "No person shall be deprived of life, liberty, security of the person, property, privilege or any other rights except as the outcome of a hearing judgment consistent with the provisions laid down in this Constitution and in accordance with due process of law," the women groups said it was drawing the attention of central government to the case involving the imposition and protracted stay of travel ban on Senator Jewel Howard Taylor and others.

Other Liberian women placed on UN travel ban include former Information Minister, Victoria Refell; Agnes Reeves Taylor, believed to be the wife of ex-President Taylor' as well as Tupee Enid Taylor.

The statement read by the head of the executive director of the Women in Peace Building Network (WIPNET) Mrs. Marayah Faryneah said it was an irony to see the United Nations Resolution 1325 seeks the empowerment of women and freedom for women around the world, to key such travel ban on the accused.

They pointed out that the measures by the United Nations Travel ban should be removed.

The group also noted in their petition that they were disturbed over the indefinite 'persecution' of Sen. Taylor and others whose patriotic and peace-loving credentials are further validated by the overwhelming support of the people of Liberia especially Bong county.



The petition, a copy of which is in possession of the Daily Observer quotes the women as saying “injustice anywhere is a threat to Justice everywhere.” The petitioners further besieged President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and the National Legislature to intervene by seeking the removal of the UN travel ban on Senator Taylor and other Liberian Women.

The lifting of the UN travel ban against the accused, according to the angry women groups, is aimed at ensuring the restoration of their rights of freedom, liberty and justice consistent with the vision of the United Nations and as guaranteed by the Liberian Constitution.

Dressed in white T-shirts and other regalia, the women said they, as women, would be unhappy come the 2011 General and Presidential Elections if President Sirleaf fails to intervene into the matter.

“We will not vote come 2011 elections if we are unhappy. We think it is fair that the names of Senator Taylor and others who are some of Liberia's 'distinguished female leaders' be removed from the UN travel ban.

'Enough is enough,' remove her name and other Liberian women in the spirit of peace and reconciliation,”

According to them, Senator Taylor and other Liberian women should be held accountable only for their personal deeds and not someone else's alleged crimes no matter the relationship.

For his part Vice President Joseph Boakai who received the petition lauded the efforts of the women groups describing it as a good venture.

He posited that it was not the desire of Unity Party Government to see its citizens placed under UN travel ban.

The Vice President further described Senator Taylor and other Liberian women on the UN ban as good citizens and wonders why they continued to face the measures from the UN Security Council.

He assured that the petition would be forwarded to President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and other stakeholders for appropriate action.

More than three years ago, the United Nations issued a travel ban against Senator Jewel Howard Taylor and other Liberians for what the UN described as being close associates of former President Taylor, now, standing trial in The Netherland for war crimes, violation of international humanitarian laws among others in the Republic of Sierra Leone.

Taylor has rejected the charges against him, saying they were politically motivated and made at the behest of the United States and United Kingdom.

But the UN said the travel ban was imposed against the individuals for their roles in the illegal exploitation of Liberia's resources including timbers, Diamond and for restoration of peace to Liberia, then at war with itself.

## Hirondelle News Agency

Tuesday, 22 June 2010

### **Judgment of oldest genocide-accused to be delivered on June 30**

The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) revealed Tuesday that it would deliver judgment in the case of the oldest genocide-accused and former Rwandan business man, Yusuf Munyakazi, on June 30, 2010.

The 75 year old Munyakazi pleaded not guilty to genocide or alternatively complicity in genocide and extermination as a crime against humanity.

He is specifically alleged to have led interahamwe militiamen from Bugarama commune, Cyangugu prefecture (south-western Rwanda) where he lived to attack and kill Tutsis who had sought refuge in various churches in the region including those at Nyamasheke, Mibilizi and Shangi parishes.

During the closing arguments in January, the prosecution requested a maximum penalty of life imprisonment be imposed on the accused whereas the defence asked for the acquittal.

Munyakazi's trial started on 22 April, 2009. The prosecutor rested his case on June 4, after having called 12 witnesses and the defence did the same on October 15 after presenting 20 witnesses including the defendant himself.

The defendant was arrested in May 2004 in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) where he lived as an Imam under the name of Mzee Mandevu (literally meaning in Kiswahili language, the bearded old man).

Munyakazi's defence team is led by Tanzanian Professor Jwani Mwaikusa whereas Nigerian Segun Jegede led the prosecution before Trial Chamber I, presided by Judge Florence Rita Arrey from Cameroon.

NI/ER/GF

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## Hirondelle News Agency

Tuesday, 22 June 2010

### **Chamber rejects Gatete's bid to postpone site visit and closing arguments**

Trial Chamber III of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) has refused to postpone the site visit and hearing of closing arguments in the case of ex-Rwandan Director in the Ministry of Family and Women Affairs Jean Baptiste Gatete.

The Chamber set to conduct the site visit to Rwanda between July 11 and 16, 2010, while hearing of closing arguments was scheduled for August 2. The defence sought for postponement of the sessions because of security situation in Rwanda and "tension" arising from "the upcoming presidential election" in August.

However, in its decision dated June 17, 2010, the Trial Chamber said that after the filing of defence request it directed the ICTR Security and Safety Unit in Kigali to evaluate security risk for the proposed dates of the site visit.

"After assessing the current political climate in Rwanda, the Unit considers that it will be safe to undertake the site visit from 11 to 16 July 2010. The chamber, therefore, decline to postpone the site visit and closing arguments," it ruled.

The Chamber directed the registry to make all necessary arrangements to visit the relevant sites and to liaise with the parties and the chamber to facilitate the implementation of its decision.

The prosecution had objected to the postponement of the sessions because the defence failed to show that security situation in Rwanda was so tense such that the Chamber could not exercise its functions there.

Gatete is charged with genocide, conspiracy to commit genocide, incitement to commit genocide and crimes against humanity allegedly committed in the former prefectures of Kibungo, Eastern Rwanda and Byumba in the North-Eastern of Rwanda.

The defence rested its case on March 29, 2010 after fielding 27 witnesses whereas the prosecution concluded the same on November 16, 2009 after presenting 22 witnesses.

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## Commonwealth News and Information Service (London)

Tuesday, 22 June 2010

### **Uganda: International Law Specialist Untangles Complex Web of Issues Surrounding 'the Court of Last Resort'**

*Outcomes of recent review conference on the International Criminal Court explained*

Earlier this month more than 2,000 delegates from all over the world spilled into Uganda's capital, Kampala, to review progress made by the International Criminal Court (ICC).

This conference was the first major review conducted since the Court emerged on the international scene eight years ago.

One of the keynote speakers was Akbar Khan, an international law specialist and the Director of Legal and Constitutional Affairs at the Commonwealth Secretariat.

Speaking to Commonwealth News at the end of the conference, Mr Khan explained some of the most important legal terms and issues associated with international law and the ICC.

#### **What is the International Criminal Court?**

It is the first permanent treaty-based international criminal court, established to prosecute perpetrators of crimes against humanity, war crimes, genocide and the Crime of Aggression. The Review Conference agreed the definition for the Crime of Aggression and the conditions for the exercise of the Court's jurisdiction over this leadership crime. The Court's jurisdiction and how it operates are governed by the Rome Statute, the founding document of the ICC, which came into force on 17 July 2002 after it was ratified by 60 countries.

#### **Is the court biased against African countries?**

No. Some argue that the ICC is biased because the five official investigations it has taken on so far are based in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan, Uganda and, most recently, Kenya. However, three of these situations were referred to the Prosecutor directly by the governments involved; the fourth situation, Darfur, was referred by the United Nations Security Council; and the fifth and last situation, Kenya, was initiated by the Prosecutor's with the support of the Kenyan Government.

#### **Can peace be achieved in a country where there is no justice?**

This was one of the big debates at the conference. In the past this discussion was referred to as 'peace versus justice'. This phrase refers to the discussion over whether or not sustainable peace can only be achieved in a country where there is accountability. While some have argued that this is fundamental, others have said that peace is the most important thing, and justice can come later in a country.

Discussions between these two camps have gone on for years without much movement, but by the end of the conference the debate had shifted forward. It is now recognised that peace and justice are mutually compatible and go hand in hand, as sustainable peace cannot exist without justice.

Following this agreement the debate moved on to what is called 'sequencing'. This refers to the idea that peace should be given priority to take hold in a country, before justice through prosecutions or other non-

judicial mechanisms are introduced. This might apply, for example, in a post-conflict situation, where it is important that prosecutions for war crimes are deferred while peace is still fragile and needs more time to properly establish itself. In such circumstances the use of article 16 of the Rome Statute might be seen as appropriate. Then, as soon as a sustainable peace has been achieved, prosecutions can begin.

History has shown that victims yearn for accountability and that a forced peace without justice is not sustainable in the long term, with many societies reverting to instability. Countries which have gone through post-conflict transition without justice, such as Cambodia, are now seeking justice through prosecutions in order that victims can finally have some degree of closure.

### **Where did the debate focus over strengthening national justice systems?**

There were some at the conference who felt the ICC itself should be doing more to develop the capacity of countries to prosecute crimes at the national level. Others argued that it is a waste of the Court's resources and that this work should continue being done by organisations better placed to build and promote the rule of law nationally, such as the Commonwealth Secretariat, on the basis that the ICC is a judicial body and not a development organisation.

#### **Relevant Links**

One of the buzzwords associated with this theme is 'complementarity'. It refers to the idea that the ICC was set up to act as a 'court of last resort' in order to complement the work of national jurisdictions. Therefore, the ICC does not have jurisdiction to prosecute crimes where a country is willing and able to undertake prosecutions. The phrase 'positive complementarity' is often used to describe the idea of strengthening national jurisdictions so they can cope with the bulk of crimes, leaving the ICC to function in the way it was intended, that of only prosecuting crimes that can't be tried at a national level. Sadly, at the present time, too many countries don't have strong enough domestic capacity, so unnecessary cases are being passed on to the ICC, giving it an unfeasible workload to process.