

SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
PRESS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

PRESS CLIPPINGS

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

Wednesday, 23 November 2005

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.
If you are aware of omissions or have any comments or suggestions please contact
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Exclusive

23 November 2005

Why Taylor Killed 'Maskita' The True Story

By Samuel Kargbo in Monrovia

While the Exclusive was covering the Liberian elections, our correspondents took up time to dig up old stories like the whereabouts of fugitive Johnny Paul Koroma and the circumstances surrounding the demise of Sam Bockarie 'Maskita' the former ruthless and blood thirsty RUF commander.

Sam Bockarie, whose corpse was conveyed to the Connaught Hospital in Freetown for postmortem, was murdered on the orders of the former Liberian President and war crimes indictee, Charles Taylor for insubordination, authoritative sources revealed.

Taylor forces, he was ordered by Mr Taylor, to launch a full scale attack on the LURD rebels, who by then were closing in on Monrovia, an order which Maskita was alleged to have flouted.

Unprepared for any eventuality, Taylor was alleged to have ordered some fighter in his the Anti-Terrorist Unit who he paid a fee of one thousand dollars each to kill Maskita. He was shot three shots on his legs and two point blank shots in the head. "His thirteen bodyguards – comprising RUF fighters and NPFL commandoes were also killed," an active participant in the attack confirmed to The Exclusive.

Why Taylor Killed 'Maskita'

From front page

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Prosecution closes case in AFRC accused trial

The Chief Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, Desmond de Silva QC, was on Monday officially concluded the Prosecution's case in the trial against the Armed Forces

Revolutionary Council (AFRC) accused, Alex Tamba Brima, Brima Bazzy Kamara and Santigie Borbor Kanu. The three defendants each was faced with a 14-count indictment for war crimes, crimes against hu-

manity, and other serious violations of international humanitarian law. Following a Court ruling on the admissibility of certain documents, Mr. de Silva QC concluded the

Prosecution's case after 97 days. In his final statement he told the Judges that "subject to any matter upon which the Court may seek the assistance of the Prosecution,

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Prosecution closes case in AFRC accused trial

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I close the case for the Prosecution against the AFRC".

The AFRC trial began on 7 March 2005, shortly after the swearing-in of the Judges of Trial Chamber II. Alex

Tamba Brima and Brima Bazzy Kamara were indicted on 7 March 2003. Santigie Borbor Kanu was indicted on 15 September 2003.

In all, 59 witnesses, including three experts, gave evidence for the Pros-

ecution.

The Chamber has directed that the Defence must submit any Motions for Judgment of Acquittal to the Court in writing by 12 December. Prosecution will then have three weeks to respond to the motions and Defence will be given five days to reply.

Should the motions fail, the Defence will proceed to present their case early next year.

This is the second of the three ongoing trials in which the Prosecution has completed its case. Prosecutors completed their case in the Civil Defence Forces (CDF) trial on 14 July 2005. Defence Counsel for the CDF accused are scheduled to open their case on 17 January 2006.



UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 22 Nov. 2005

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

International Clips on Liberia

22 November 2005

UN Mission in Liberia warns would-be protestors

Monrovia (dpa) - The head of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) warned against any street demonstrations following Wednesday's announcement of final results in the country's November 8 presidential run-off, radio reports said Tuesday morning.

The Catholic-run Veritas radio quoted Ambassador Alan Doss as saying the mission's threat to deal "robustly" with trouble-makers before and after the elections was still in place.

The U.N. Secretary General's special representative, who was addressing journalists late Monday following a meeting with president-elect Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, said his warning came in the wake of rumours that a "certain group" of people was planning to stage street protests.

LIBERIA: Scramble for goodies ahead of political handover

MONROVIA, 21 November (IRIN) - The US was angry and Liberians grumbled on street corners on Monday after members of parliament moved to grab a share of booty before a new government is sworn in.

With Liberia's peace-sealing elections just over, the transitional government that was put into place following a peace deal two years ago will make way for an elected assembly on 16 January. But the 76 out-going parliamentarians are so attached to their government issued Grand Cherokee Jeeps that on Friday they passed a "binding resolution" to keep them beyond the end of their term.

The Washington Times 21 November 2005

Liberia is Africa's success story

Editorial

The recent presidential election in Liberia is Africa's success story. In 2003, when Liberia was riven by warlords' battles, many observers called for a robust U.S. force to establish order. It was a West African military and political group, ECOWAS that sent the bulk of the forces to Liberia, assisted logistically by a U.S. presence. The ECOWAS force of 3,600 pressured former president and war criminal Charles Taylor to flee to Nigeria and put a stop to much of the violence and eased the subsequent entry of U.N. forces. ECOWAS also brought rival factions together to sign a peace agreement and accept a two-year transitional government that oversaw the successful elections. Both ECOWAS and the United Nations still have peacekeepers in Liberia.

Rights groups call for former Chad, Liberia leaders to be extradited

BANJUL, Nov 21 (AFP) - Human rights groups meeting in the Gambian capital Banjul called Monday for the former presidents of Chad and Liberia to be extradited and put on trial.

About 20 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) attending a meeting of the African Commission of Human and Peoples' Rights (CADHP) said Hissein Habre of Chad and Charles Taylor of **Liberia** were guilty of "genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity and should be brought to trial."

Local Media – Newspapers

More CDC Witnesses Testify in Run-Off Election Fraud Case

(Daily Observer, The News, The Inquirer and The Forum)

- At the run-off fraud hearing yesterday, Charles Sumo and Andrew Flomo, poll watchers for the Congress for Democratic Change (CDC), testified that they saw more than 10 ballot papers in the ballot box before the start of voting at the E.J. Yancy voting place in Bong County.
- Mr. Sumo added that the National Elections Commission (NEC) officer presiding over the center coerced him to sign the tally sheet ahead of the counting of ballots.
- Witnesses Abel Richards and Sam MacDonald also exhibited 20 ballot papers at the hearings.

CDC Apologizes to Press Union

(Daily Observer and The Forum)

- In a press statement issued yesterday, the CDC said it was apologizing to the PUL for the assault of journalists at the party's headquarters during the presidential runoff.

UNICEF Calls for Laws to Protect Women and Children

(The News and Daily Observer)

- At a program for police officers detailed at the women and children section of the Liberian National Police, UNICEF Country Representative Angela Kearney called for a judicial system that would support women and children by duly prosecuting sexual crimes.

Ghanaian Expert on Public Administration Arrives

(The News)

- According to a press release issued yesterday, the Deputy Director of the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA), Yao Agyemah Badu, has arrived in the country to help build the capacity of the Liberia Institute of Public Administration (LIPA).
- LIPA said that Dr. Badu would recruit Liberians to attend a one-year Masters program in public sector management at GIMPA beginning January 2006. The release added that GIMPA would assist Liberia for the next four years to construct a new institute for public administration and provide institutional materials.

Elections Commission to Declare New Liberian President Tomorrow

(Daily Observer, The News, The Analyst and New Vision)

- The National Elections Commission will tomorrow declare the winner of the run-off presidential election in keeping with the Elections Law requiring the Commission to officially declare winners two weeks after elections have been held.

- Sources said that Unity Party's Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf who was declared winner during the preliminary run-off result would be pronounced the President-elect of Liberia tomorrow. In its editorial, *New Vision* newspaper admonished the new president to create disincentives for political and military confrontations that have ravaged the country.

"Armed Gang" Regroups at Paynesville, Suburb of Monrovia

(Daily Observer)

- In an interview with reporters, Sugar Hill Development Association Block Leader Anthony Freeman said that the suspected criminals earlier dislodged from their hideouts in the Paynesville suburb of Monrovia have regrouped in the remote areas and continue to cause hardship for residents, suggesting that lights be installed at Sugar Hill to prevent the criminals from robbing commuters.

Liberian Refugees in Ghana Stage Mob Action

(The Analyst)

- According to *The Analyst* newspaper correspondents in Ghana, Liberians at the Krisan Refugee Camp recently staged a mob action against the poor sanitary condition in which they allegedly live in the refugee camp.

Local Media – Radio Veritas *(News monitored yesterday at 18:45 pm)*

Women's Media Group Holds Workshop on Women's Rights

- Speaking at the opening session of a workshop to train the Liberian Women Media Action Committee to sensitize women on their rights in society, Assistant Gender Minister Wilma Paye encouraged women to be agents of possible change.

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

More CDC Witnesses Testify in Run-Off Election Fraud Case

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

CDC Apologizes to Press Union

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

Ghanaian Expert on Public Administration Arrives

ELBS Radio *(News Monitored yesterday at 19:00 pm)*

CDC Denies Power Sharing Talks with Unity Party Standard Bearer

- In an interview, CDC political advisor Orishall Gould refuted news reports that the party had failed in its power-sharing negotiations with officials of the Unity Party.
- He said that the *New Democrat* newspaper story of yesterday was untrue, adding that the party wanted to address the uneasiness among supporters of the two groups. The article said that Mr. Gould and CDC Chairman Cole Bangalu met with UNP officials to ask for jobs.

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

UNICEF Calls for Laws to Protect Women and Children

Complete versions of the UNMIL International Press Clips, UNMIL Daily Liberian Radio Summary and UNMIL Liberian Newspapers Summary are posted each day on the UNMIL Bulletin Board. If you are unable to access the UNMIL Bulletin Board or would like further information on the content of the summaries, please contact Mr. Jeddi Armah at armahj@un.org.