

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



Antennas at the top of Leicester Peak.

**PRESS CLIPPINGS**

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

**as at:**

Tuesday, 24 April 2007

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

### Local News

The Transfer of Charles Taylor to The Hague: A Case to Rethink / <i>Standard Times</i>	Pages 3-5
Witness IDs in Taylor's Trial To Be Secret / <i>Independent Observer</i>	Page 6
Rwanda Takes France to UN Court / <i>Independent Observer</i>	Page 7
ICRC Crowns FBC / <i>The News</i>	Page 8

### International News

'I Was Never Kidnapped' / <i>The Inquirer (Monrovia)</i>	Page 9
"Jungle James" Surfaces / <i>Liberian Observer</i>	Page 10
UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary / <i>UNMIL</i>	Pages 11-13
Resettled Liberians Invited to Recount Suffering / <i>The Atlanta Journal-Constitution</i>	Pages 14-15
LRA Leaders Must Be Brought to Justice, Says A Former Chief Prosecutor / <i>Voice of America</i>	Pages 16-17
Criminal Court Says Uganda's LRA Rebels Are Rearming / <i>Voice of America</i>	Page 18

## Standard Times

Tuesday, 24 April 2007

### The Transfer of Charles Taylor to The Hague: A Case to Rethink

**C**harles Taylor, the former President of Liberia, became the first former African head of state to be arraigned before a treaty based international criminal tribunal that was jointly set up by the United Nations and the Government of Sierra Leone, for alleged commission of crimes against humanity, war crimes and other serious violations of international humanitarian law contrary to Articles 2, 3 and 4 of the statute of the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL).

According to the allegations in the amended Indictment (11 instead of the initial 17 count) filed by the former Prosecutor, Desmond de Silva. Mr. Taylor by his acts or omissions, is criminally responsible under article 6 of the statute of the court for those three serious crimes witnessed in Sierra Leone between 30th November 1996 to 18th January, 2002.

Mr. Taylor made his debut appearance in a packed courtroom on Monday 3rd April 2006 before the then presiding judge of trial Chamber 11 Richard Lussick five days after he was transferred to Freetown via Monrovia, following his arrest on the Nigeria/Cameroon border on Wednesday 29th March 2006 while allegedly trying to escape from Nigeria. After the charges were read Mr. Taylor questioned the jurisdiction of the court over him as ex-president and also raised concerns about the legality of his transfer to the court's seat in Freetown. He was however advised by the presiding judge to enter a plea which could give him the *locus standi* to take up whatever issues he may have through motions before the Trial Chamber.

Accordingly, Mr. Taylor passionately responded by saying "most definitely, your honor, I did not and could not have committed these acts against the sister republic of Sierra Leone. I think that this is an attempt to continue to divide and rule the people of Liberia and Sierra Leone so most definitely I am not guilty"

However the euphoria that accompanied Charles Taylor's arrest, transfer and subsequent arraignment before a crammed but quiet Chamber dissipated few days later. A day after Mr. Taylor's transfer to the special court in Freetown, former president of the court, judge Ragan Fernando sent a letter to both the government of the Kingdom of The Netherlands

and the president of the International Criminal Court asking them to facilitate the trial of Charles Taylor in the Hague.

According to the press release issued by the court, Judge Fernando's decision was taken in light of the seeming security risks created by Mr. Taylor's detention in Freetown, which prompted the initiation of diplomatic steps to establish whether or not Mr. Taylor's trial could be held outside of the sub region. The facility of the ICC in The Hague was identified as a possible avenue.

Agreement between the United Nations and the government of Sierra Leone on the establishment of a Special Court provides that: "The Special Court shall have its seat in Sierra Leone. The court may meet away from its seat if it considers it necessary for the efficient exercise of its functions and may be relocated outside Sierra Leone..." in addition, rule 4 of the Special Court rules of procedure and evidence explicitly provides for a sitting away from the seat of the court. It states that "a chamber or a

the defense being heard on such an important issue. According to the motion, it had not been judicially ascertained that such a proposed change of venue was required in the interest of justice. It therefore asked for the president of the court to withdraw the request he had made to (1) The government of the Kingdom and the Netherlands to permit that the trial of Charles Ghankay Taylor be conducted on its territory and (11) to the president of the ICC Building and facilities in The Netherlands during

**The president of the court, however, dismissed the Defence motion in its entirety on the basis that the rules do not provide the applicant an avenue for "reconsideration" or review and that present motion was improperly placed before him having regard to the rules**

The Dutch Government agreed to host the trial of Charles Taylor after a security Council resolution had supported the request. It however insisted that a third country be found to take Taylor in whether or not he is found guilty. Thus on the 19th June 2006 the president of the SCSL ordered that the pre-trial proceedings and any appeal of Mr. Taylor be conducted in The Hague.

#### **CHARGES OF TRIAL VENUE**

According to article 10 of the

judge may exercise the functions away from the seat of the special court if so authorized by the president"

However, before the president of the court made the official pronouncement of the Charles Taylor case to be conducted in the Hague, Taylor's Defence counsel Karim A A Khan's on 7th April 2006 filed an urgent defence motion before trial chamber 11 for an order that no change of venue from the seat of the court in Freetown be ordered without

the proposed trial of Charles Taylor until after arguments from parties that such a change of venue was absolutely necessary.

In spite of defence motions, the government of Sierra Leone, war victims as well as civil society advocated for the trial of Charles Taylor to be conducted in Freetown, the president of the court while exercising the power of security council resolution 1688 (adopted on 16 June 2006), ruled for the trial of Charles

**...the Deputy Registrar of the court responded to the application by the various civil society groups for an amicus curia brief that the decision of the president dismissing the Defence motion, taken in his administrative capacity and issued on 12 March instant, rendered the need for an amicus curia brief on the matter irrelevant**

Taylor to be done in the Hague.

**RECONSIDER A  
CHANGE OF VENUE**

On the 22nd February 2007, Defence Counsel for Mr. Taylor filed another motion to the president of the court, Hon. Justice George Gelaga King, to reconsider a change of venue of proceedings in his clients case. According to the motion, the Defence requested that the president of the court reconsider his order of a change in venue of proceedings of 19th June 2006 invite representatives from the Sierra Leonean and Liberian governments The African Union, Civil society groups and other interested parties on the issue of venue on an expedited basis ordered that the trial of Charles Taylor be held at the special court premises in Freetown and make such other consequential orders as are deemed necessary on the grounds that "there has been a significant change in circumstances" and that the accuser's "fair trial rights will be violated or made significantly more difficult to guarantee if the trial proceeds in the Hague".

Further, some civil society organizations jointly wrote an application to the president of the court, requesting his permission, pursuant to rule 74 of the special court rules of procedure and evidence, to file an amicus curia brief in response to that pending Defence changing venue of proceedings.

The president of the court, however, dismissed the Defence motion in its entirety on the basis that the rules do not provide the applicant an avenue for "reconsideration" or review and that present motion was improperly placed before him having regard to the rules. More so, the Deputy Registrar of the court responded to the application by the various civil society groups for an amicus curia brief that the decision of the president dismissing the Defence motion, taken in his administrative capacity and issued on 12 March instant, rendered the need for an amicus curia brief on the matter irrelevant.

To be continued

Independent Observer  
 Tuesday, 24 April 2007

## Witness IDs in Taylor trial to be secret

**THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)** The identity of most witnesses who testify against Charles Taylor at his war crimes trial will be kept secret and some may have to move to new homes to escape retribution from the former Liberian president's supporters, the lead prosecutor said Wednesday.

Trial witnesses include former "insiders" once close to Taylor, said Stephen Rapp, chief prosecutor for the Special Court for Sierra Leone. "People are fearful," Rapp told The Associated Press.

As a result, up to 95 percent of prosecution witnesses will likely be granted protective measures, including the right to use pseudonyms while testifying in court, he said.

After the trial, some may have to move to new homes to stay safe, he said.

"All witnesses could be at risk after testimony, but insiders particularly can be viewed as traitors who deserve punishment for their treason," Rapp said. "We have to deal with the potential for relocation of individuals."

Taylor, 59, is to go on trial June 4 on 11 charges, including terrorism, murder, rape, sexual slavery, mutilation and recruiting child soldiers. He has pleaded innocent and faces a maximum sentence of life imprisonment if convicted.

Taylor was flown to the Netherlands in June

amid fears that staging the trial in Sierra Leone, where the Special Court usually sits, could trigger fresh unrest in the war-scarred African nation.

The case, being heard in a courtroom rented from the International Criminal Court, is expected to last about 18 months.

Due to the complexity of convicting Taylor for masterminding atrocities carried out by rebels in the chaotic and bloody conflict in Sierra Leone, the prosecution planned to call witnesses to try to establish a clear link between Taylor and the rebels, Rapp said.

"At the end of the day, we think Taylor planned and knew exactly what was going on," said Rapp, an American lawyer who previously was chief prosecutor at the U.N. war crimes tribunal for Rwanda. In 1993-2001, Rapp was a U.S. attorney for the northern district of Iowa.

Prosecutors said in a pretrial brief outlining their case that after Taylor became Liberia's president in 1997, rebels carrying out atrocities in Sierra Leone were in almost daily contact with "White Flower," Taylor's residence in the Liberian capital, Monrovia.

In exchange for diamonds smuggled out of Sierra Leone, Taylor provided rebels with arms, ammunition, communication equipment, as well as alcohol, drugs and cigarettes, prosecutors allege.

Rapp said prosecutors would rely on transcripts of witness testimony at previous trials in Sierra Leone to prove atrocities such as rapes, mutilations and hacking off limbs.

But some victims would be brought to The Hague to testify, he said.

"There will be crime victims - amputees, others who were involved," Rapp said.

Sierra Leone's conflict was notorious for child soldiers hacking off the limbs of civilians.

Prosecutors say Taylor's proxies in Sierra Leone deliberately recruited children because they obeyed orders so well, and rebels set up "Small Boy Units" and "Small Girl Units," which Taylor allegedly used for his personal security.

They were also used as guards in Sierra Leone's Kenema and Kono districts - where hundreds of villagers were rounded up and forced to work at gun point in diamond mines operated by the rebels, prosecutors say.

The conflict in Sierra Leone also was characterized by widespread rape and sexual enslavement.

In Kono district, hundreds of women and girls were raped and beaten. Some were taken to camps where they were "distributed among the forces and used as sexual slaves and forced labor," prosecutors allege.

Defense attorneys are due to file a pretrial brief outlining their defense later this month.

# Rwanda takes France to UN court

Rwanda has asked the International Court of Justice to quash French arrest warrants issued against nine associates of President Paul Kagame.

The government cannot function properly, as officials like the army chief-of-staff are unable to travel abroad, says Rwanda's justice minister.

The warrants were issued in November after a French judge implicated Mr Kagame in his predecessor's killing.

Former President Juvenal Habyarimana's death sparked the 1994 genocide.

More than 800,000 people died in the 100-day massacres of Tutsis and mod-

erate Hutus.

## ARREST WARRANTS ISSUED

James Kabarebe, military chief-of-staff

Charles Kayonga, army chief-of-staff

Faustin Nyamwasa-Kayumba, ambassador to India

Jackson Nkurunziza, working for presidential guard  
 Samuel Kanyamera, RPF deputy

Jacob Tumwime, army officer

Franck Nziza, presidential

guard officer

Eric Hakizimana, intelligence officer

Rose Kabuye, director general of state protocol

Mr Kagame, who under French law has immunity as head of state, has denied involvement in the shooting down of Habyarimana's plane, but has said he does not regret the death.

French Judge Jean-Louis Brugiere is investigating the case because the crew of the plane were French and their families filed a case in France in 1998.

Those he wants to arrest

include armed forces chief James Kabarebe and army chief-of-staff Charles Kayonga.

Judge Brugiere has said that only Mr Kagame's Tutsi-dominated Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) forces had missiles capable of downing President Habyarimana's plane.

He said the attack was carefully planned by the RPF.

The genocide came to an end when Mr Kagame's then rebel RPF seized power 100 days after the killing began.

## ICRC crowns FBC

**T**he International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2007 completed the third National Moot Court Competition on the International Humanitarian Law (IHL) in one of the trial Chambers of the Special Court for Sierra Leone in Freetown.

*Cont. page 2*

## ICRC crowns FBC

*From front page*

There were six institutions in the competition, which are Fourah Bay College (FBC), Njala University (NU), Milton Margai College of Education and Technology (MMCE/T), Institute of Islamic Studies, Eastern Polytechnic, Kenema and Northern Polytechnic. After going through two rounds, MMCE/T and FBC met in the grand final.

Milton Margai stood in the persecuting council indicting three accused persons for terrorizing civilians, unlawful killing, physical violence and the use of child soldiers during the war. Milton Margai was represented by Lamin Sheriff, George B. Koroma and Mohamed Kanneh. After submitting their case to the judges, FBC student Michael Imran Kanu, Emmanuel T. Koroma and Abdul Osman Timbo stood in

defending the accused persons as innocent.

After several arguments laid before Justice George Gelaga King President of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, Lt. Colonel I.M. Koroma Legal Advisory Ministry of Defence, Sulaiman Bah state counsel, Cosmotina Jarret and the Head of delegation IRRC, FBC emerged as winner of the 2007 third National Moot Court competition on IHL.

Certificates were given to all the participants by Justice King and trophy handed over to FBC. Michael Kanu was crowned best participant of the competition.

According to Mr. Montani this competition will serve to encourage students to know more about the IHL and also to promote it. He thanked the participants and called on more students to take part next year. He added that the moot court has created a link

between the Special Court and the universities.

Montani disclosed that very soon Sierra Leone will have IHL Judges who are expert to seat in The Hague. The winner will represent Sierra Leone at the Pan African IHL competition.



## The Inquirer (Monrovia)

Monday, 23 April 2007

### 'I Was Never Kidnapped'

By Morrison O.g. Sayon

Barely three days following reports that he was kidnapped by operatives of the Special Court in Sierra Leone, Daniel James, alias Jungle James, has surfaced in Virginia, outside Monrovia.

Recently, Grand Cape mount County Senior Senator, Abel Massalley, alarmed that Jungle James was kidnapped by some unknown men at his Lofa Bridge residence and taken to Sierra Leone to testify against former President, Charles Ghankay Taylor who is now in The Hague awaiting court trial.

Jungle James, a one-time chief diamond agent for the former Liberian leader and a well-known diamond broker in the country mysteriously disappeared from his Lofa Bridge home on March second. Following his absence for several weeks without the consent of his immediate family, an alarm was raised thus, claiming the attention of members of the Grand Cape Mount County Legislative Caucus who through its Chairman informed the world about his disappearance.

The Grand Cape Mount County Senator reported that the alleged kidnapping of Mr. James is a clever machination by the special court to covertly create tutors and to program witnesses in the pending trial of the former Liberian President.

But Jungle James who surfaced at the Unity Conference Center over the weekend where the lawmakers are meeting told journalists that he was neither kidnapped nor asked to testify against Mr. Taylor by the Special Court in Sierra Leone.

Mr. James said he has just returned from Geneva, Switzerland where he has been on a business expedition. When asked further about his trip abroad, Mr. James declined to give details about his travel but simply retorted that he will speak to the press at an appropriate time at which time he will give detail information about his business trip to Geneva.

When contacted last evening, Senator Masseur could not say whether he can maintain his earlier stand but expressed happiness that the objective he was seeking for the release of a fellow Liberian has been fulfilled.

The public has meanwhile greeted the reappearance of Jungle James with mixed reactions especially just three days following an alarm by Senator Massaley. Many are of the belief that his immediate return to the country creates suspicion especially so when the court was accused of carrying out covert operations intended to create secret witnesses against Mr. Taylor, though authorities of the Special Court have since denied the allegation.

## Liberian Observer

Monday, 23 April 2007

### **“Jungle James” Surfaces Denies 'Kidnap' Claim**

The man, who Cape Mount County senator Abel Massalay, former warlord Charles Taylor's supporter, claimed was recently kidnapped in western Liberia to testify against the indicted former president during trial on war crime charges, has strongly denied the claims.



Daniel James: "I went to Switzerland on business trip"

## **UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 23 April 2007**

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

### **International Clips on Liberia**

#### **Re-inventing Telecom Technology in Liberia**

Atlanta, Apr 20, 2007 (Georgia Tech University/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) --President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia, the first woman ever elected head of an African state, will unveil the new National Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Policy for Liberia to leaders from industry, non-profit organizations, and academia at the "E-Liberia Vision 2010" conference on April 23-27 in Monrovia, Liberia. Sponsored by the Government of Liberia, the event will include participation from Microsoft, Cisco Systems, the Soros Foundation's Open Society Initiative for West Africa, the World Bank, the International Financial Corporation, USAID, and the Georgia Institute of Technology. Participants from Liberia, the region, and the international community will explore how best to revitalize and rebuild Liberia's ICT capacity, and consider how these technologies can reinforce Liberia's poverty reduction strategy.

#### **Sirleaf Writes Representative Patrick J. Kennedy**

Apr 22, 2007 (Liberia Government/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) --Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has written U.S. Representative Patrick J. Kennedy, offering her administration's support of a legislature being sponsored by the lawmaker to grant permanent residence status to Liberians living in the United States. In the letter, the President recalled her address to a joint session of the U.S. Congress last year and a meeting earlier this year with the House Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee, in which she informed the lawmakers that Liberia was on the path to a remarkable recovery, but stressed the difficult path and a considerable amount of time needed to achieve total success. Liberia, the President reminded the US lawmaker needs time to rebuild and recover and can not absorb and provide for an influx of returnees from the United States and elsewhere.

### **International Clips on West Africa**

#### **Traders set fire to Guinea police station**

CONAKRY, April 23, 2007 (AFP) - Several hundred traders ransacked and set fire to a police station in central Guinea on Monday in reaction to alleged police brutality, witnesses said. Several witnesses said the traders attacked the station at Kindia, some 130 kilometres (80.6 miles) east of Conakry, with sticks and stones before setting it ablaze. Officers stationed at the building fled before the attack. Soldiers were called in to disperse the mob and restore order.

## **Local Media – Newspaper**

### **Lawmakers Begin Public Hearing on Key Mining Agreement**

*(New Democrat, The News, The Informer, Daily Observer, The Inquirer, Public Agenda, The Analyst, Liberian Express, Heritage)*

- The House of Representatives has invited several experts from the Government and the civil society to provide legal and expert opinions on the mining agreement signed between the Liberian Government and the Mittal Steel Company.
- Lawmakers have for the last three months seemingly delayed ratifying the Mittal Steel Agreement on the grounds that there were some sticky issues in the revised deal that needed to be clarified before ratification.
- The public hearing followed pressure from the population and the Executive Branch of Government on the need to ratify the Agreement in order to create jobs for Liberians.
- The Liberian Government in November renegotiated improved terms in favour of Liberia because the previous agreement signed with the erstwhile transitional government gave the company exclusive ownership over port facilities and the railways connected to the mining sites.
- Mittal Steel, under the new agreement, said it would increase its investment in the country from US\$900m to more than US\$1bn (*760 million euros*) and create about 3,500 regular jobs for Liberians.

### **Taylor's Confidant Says He was never Kidnapped**

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

- Mr. Daniel James [*alias Jungle James*], a confidant of former Liberian President Charles Taylor, has reappeared in Monrovia, negating media reports that he was kidnapped by representatives of the Special Court for Sierra Leone.
- "I have never been kidnapped by agents of the Special Court in Sierra Leone. I was never kidnapped, nor have I ever come in contact with any member of the Sierra Leone Court in my life," Mr. James told journalists in Monrovia over the weekend.
- It can be recalled that Grand Cape Mount County Senator Abel Massaley alleged last week that Mr. James was kidnapped by agents of the UN-backed Court and taken to Sierra Leone to testify against former President Taylor, an allegation the Court denied.

### **Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Dilemma**

*(Public Agenda)*

- [sic:] Members of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and the international community, especially the International Contact Group on Liberia (ICGL), are said to be locked up in what seems to be a battle for control of the TRC. The Commission is supposed to be a Liberian-run institution, but it appears that some members of the ICGL are not resting until they have the TRC placed under the control of a non-Liberian.

**Local Media – Radio Veritas** *(News monitored today at 9:45 am)*

### **Sierra Leonean Special Court Seeks Audience with Legislature**

- In a letter addressed to the National Legislature, the Sierra Leonean special court has requested audience with lawmakers to explain the mandate of the court and issues concerning former President Charles Taylor pending trial.
- The lawmakers at a special session yesterday mandated the leadership of the house to grant the request of the special court.
- Last week, Grand Cape Mount County Senator, Abel Massaley accused the Special Court of abducting a confidante of former President Charles Taylor to testify against him.

- Meanwhile, Mr. Daniel James has denied that he was kidnapped by agents of the Special Court as alleged by the senator.

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

### **First International ICT Policy Conference Opens in Monrovia Today**

- An Executive Mansion statement issued in Monrovia yesterday said the first Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) conference in Liberia to draw up a national policy opens today in Monrovia.
- The head of the presidential committee on ICT, Mr. Amara Conneh said the draft policy document on ICT has already been developed through a public-private partnership and would be opened for discussion by stakeholders.
- Mr. Conneh said if adopted, the policy will support the government initiatives on the poverty reduction strategy program using ICT and focusing on the government's four main pillars of developments.

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

### **Supreme Court to Hear Prohibition Case involving Former Chairman Bryant**

- The Supreme Court will today hear arguments in the prohibition filed by lawyers representing former transitional Chairman, Gyude Bryant.
- Lawyers for Mr. Bryant are asking the court not to grant the writ of prohibition against the government not to prosecute Mr. Bryant for alleged corruption.
- Mr. Bryant has been indicted for embezzling over USD\$1 million but Former Chairman Bryant has since denied the allegation.

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

### **U.S. Billionaire Promises to Lobby for more Assistance to Liberia**

- Speaking to journalists, American Billionaire, Robert Johnson who is in the country said his group will help lobby for more assistance for Liberia in the U. S. and for increased aid and attention for the country
- Mr. Johnson said his visit will also help build relations between the people of Liberia and blacks in the United States and said the country would benefit a lot if he meets with government officials and business people who want to get in business.
- He is expected to meet President Johnson-Sirleaf today.

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

\*\*\*\*

## The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Tuesday, 24 April 2007

<http://www.ajc.com/metro/content/metro/stories/2007/04/24/0424metliberian.html>

### Resettled Liberians invited to recount suffering

By SHELIA M. POOLE

The victims of global conflicts are sometimes forgotten, particularly when they have resettled thousands of miles from home.

But the Liberian Truth and Reconciliation Commission wants to make sure the victims of that country's civil war are heard. The commission is taking statements from Liberians who were displaced during the 14-year war and previous periods of unrest and are now living elsewhere, including Georgia.



Kimberly Smith/AJC

**Emmanuel Doe**, at home in Stone Mountain with daughters **Samantha**, 18 months, and **Kasinda**, 7, looks forward to testifying to the Liberian Truth and Reconciliation Commission as one of the survivors of his former country's civil war.

"This is a new trend in transitional justice," said Massa A. Washington, a member of Liberia's Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The idea "is to create a forum where all Liberians in the diaspora have an opportunity for discussion and dialogue. "

Washington was in Atlanta recently to meet with members of the Liberian community and representatives of possible local partners in the process, including the Carter Center, the Sam Nunn School of International Affairs at Georgia Tech and the Initiative in Religion, Conflict and Peacebuilding at Emory University.

Volunteers will be trained to take statements from victims and eyewitnesses of civil war atrocities. That information would then be sent to Liberia and included in the commission's report to the government.

The process of taking statements in Georgia could begin within a few months. According to the U.S. Census, nearly 2,800 Georgia residents were born in Liberia; those in the community believe there is more. It's unclear how many Liberians here could give statements. Atlanta has a relatively mature Liberian community with some residents having lived here for decades. Others came within the last few years.

Emmanuel O.T. Doe is among them.

Although many refugees are reluctant to open past wounds, the Stone Mountain electrical technician said he plans to make a statement.

"I can't keep this story in; I have to let it out," said Doe, a father of four. "I want this new generation in Liberia to know what happened was wicked and people should never go through this again."

Back home, Doe said his last name, which is the same as the late President Samuel Doe, made him a target even though they aren't related and are from different ethnic groups. To avoid problems, Doe said he got rid of any identifying information. But doing so nearly cost him his life.

One time he was stopped at a roadblock manned by rebels. When he couldn't produce an ID, a rebel told him to wait there because he had run out of bullets. When the rebel left to get more ammunition, a woman warned Doe to run.

"There is no group or facet of Liberian society that was not affected by the civil war," Washington said.

The nine-member Truth and Reconciliation Commission grew out of the 2003 peace agreement that ended Liberia's civil war, which began when Charles Taylor launched a rebellion against the government of Samuel Doe, who was later executed. There was a short period of relative peace and Taylor was elected president, but major fighting broke out again between various factions.

Taylor has been accused of war crimes and will be tried in The Hague.

The war was especially brutal and women and girls, in particular, suffered much violence. More than 250,000 people died in the war and many more were displaced.

Part of the commission's purpose is to investigate human rights abuses that occurred during a 24-year period of conflict from 1979 until 2003 and to begin the process of contrition and forgiveness. According to information on the Liberian Embassy Web site, this TRC will also recommend reparation or compensation for victims.

President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf faces the formidable task of rebuilding a nation with catastrophic damage to its infrastructure and education and economic systems after the war.

She has said that a big part of putting the nation, originally established by freed slaves from the United States, on the road forward will be to address the scars of war on the national psyche. Truth commissions have traditionally been formed during political transitions or after violent conflicts have ended.

The commission already has begun to gather statements in Minnesota, which has one of the largest Liberian communities. More than 300 people have either given statements or signed up to do so, said Robin Phillips, executive director of Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights, the major partner for the diaspora project. She said volunteers, mostly students and attorneys working pro bono, are taking statements.

Wilfred Harris, who moved to Cobb County from Minnesota, said he supports the work of the commission outside the country's borders. Harris moved to this country in 1986.

During the fighting, two of his family members were beheaded. A cousin died when he couldn't get medical care.

"Some sad songs will never end," he said. "Some tears will never dry, but it's good to identify those things that are hurting you. It's a form of therapy to talk about these things and move on. [The commission] is the protein in the blood to heal."

## Voice of America

Tuesday, 24 April 2007

### LRA Leaders Must Be Brought to Justice, Says A Former Chief Prosecutor

By Joe De Capua  
Washington

The former chief prosecutor for the Special Court in Sierra Leone says it would be a mistake not to prosecute LRA rebel leaders accused of war crimes. David Crane says the rule of law must not be abandoned in efforts to bring peace to northern Uganda.

The LRA, or Lord's Resistance Army, says before a peace agreement can be signed, International Criminal Court indictments against its leaders must be dropped or at least suspended. LRA leader Joseph Kony and three others are accused of war crimes.



**David Crane, former chief prosecutor for Sierra Leone Special Court**

Professor Crane says in northern Uganda, after more than 20 years of war, the displacement of millions of people and the killing of thousands, it's easy to see why it's a peace versus justice issue.

"Certainly people want peace and it needs to be respected. Certainly people want justice and it equally needs to be respected. The situation in Uganda with the Lord's Resistance Army and the indictment by the ICC has in fact forced that issue to the forefront that needs to be discussed and considered. But certainly at the end of the day, despite all of the tugs and pulls on both sides as to whether it should be peace or justice, in my mind, despite the politics of it all, politicians and diplomats still must at the end of the day comport their conduct to the rule of law," he says.

Crane says that was the position taken by Louise Arbour, when she led the International Tribunal on Yugoslavia and prosecuted Slobodan Milosevic. Arbour is now the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights.

"It was a comment and a very pointed request and suggestion to me when I indicted. And the politicians and diplomats, particularly during the peace accords that were just beginning in Ghana, were saying that there should be peace and then justice. In a generic sense, that is probably a proper argument. At the end of the day though, we still have to uphold the rule of law against those who commit mass murder and terrorize a whole region of the world," he says.

Crane says it's not a decision made often or lightly.

"There have only been two chief prosecutors in the past 15 years that have actually had to make that decision, peace versus justice, against a head of state. Louise Arbour, as I've said, and myself. It is a sobering decision. It is a decision that has to be made carefully. The peace that may be at hand may be illusory. You have to have both truth and justice to have a sustainable peace. And if one of those is missing then it will just be a temporary peace," he says.

He says part of the reason he signed the indictment against Taylor, the former Liberian leader, was "to unveil to the world the horrors he had done and humble him before his peers, the various presidents of other African nations."



He adds, “And to let the people of Africa know that the rule of law is more powerful than the rule of the gun. And at the stroke of my pen signing the indictment, I brought down the most powerful warlord in Africa.”

The former prosecutor for the Special Court in Sierra Leone says time has proven it was the right decision.

Prosecutors could decide whether there are any mitigating circumstances that could affect the cases against the LRA leaders. Another proposal is that the ICC indictments be dropped in favor of using the traditional Ugandan justice system. But David Crane warns those decisions should not be based on political expediency and says efforts to bypass the ICC indictments could be an attempt to downplay the seriousness of the charges.

## Voice of America

Tuesday, 24 April 2007

### **Criminal Court Says Uganda's LRA Rebels Are Rearming**

By Peter Clotney  
Washington, D.C.

The Hague-based International Criminal Court (ICC) says Uganda's rebel Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) is rearming, regrouping and still holding abducted children. ICC Chief Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo says pursuing arrest warrants against the rebels' top leadership will help sustain the peace process and offer justice to the victims of war crimes the rebels have allegedly committed. But the LRA dismissed the chief prosecutor's pronouncements and accused him of backing the Ugandan government.

David Matsanga is technical advisor for the rebels on ICC matters. From the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, he tells the Voice of America that the chief prosecutor's pronouncement is unfortunate.

"That is absolutely nonsense. The whole international community, including (former Mozambican) President Chissano, knows that we are committed to the peace process. And since we got committed to the peace process, there has not been any recruitment, any re-arming, any re-grouping, and any supplies that have come from anywhere. That is absolutely rubbish, and it is something that should be condemned by all people who want peace in Uganda," Matsanga said.

He accused the chief prosecutor of taking sides in the conflict.

"We are negotiating for peace and the prosecutor is becoming a political tool and confusing the peace talks against the will of the people of Uganda," he pointed out.

Matsanga questioned the credibility of the ICC's Chief prosecutor.

"I think the prosecutor has lost his one method of analysis of the northern Uganda conflict. Two, methodology of investigation is flawed, and almost everything that the prosecutor has done in northern Uganda is questionable," he said.

Matsanga dismissed suggestions that for peace and justice to be achieved, the arrest warrants against the top LRA leadership should be pursued.

"Justice cannot be offered by taking in commanders and leaving the troops in the field. That is wrong justice. The problem we have is with imperialism. The people of Uganda have said there is a traditional method of justice, which heals all the wounds, which has been used in Africa for many centuries before the white person arrived in this continent," he noted.

Matsanga questioned the rationale of why a traditional form of justice is not being applied to heal the wounds of the victims of the LRA insurrection.

"Why are we trying to say we should actually follow the one that is in the Hague, where a prosecutor is very against the LRA? He always talks about the LRA. Why doesn't he talk about the UPDF (Uganda Peoples Defence Force), which is still killing the people of northern Uganda, when the LRA has left the field, and they are one thousand, two thousand miles away from Uganda? That is a political persecution, which the prosecutor himself and his office are trying to allege against the LRA," he said.

Matsanga dismissed the prosecutor's allegations even further, calling them untruths.

"It is ridiculous, and it is sardonic, prudish, and it should be discarded by the international community," he said.