

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



A hand-coloured postcard of Kroo Bay from the early part of the last century.

**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:**

Friday, 24 August 2007

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.  
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact  
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Standard Times  
Friday, 24 August 2007

# Finance Minister, others lobby CDF convicts at Special Court



*John Benjamin... a desperate man*

It was a big surprise to both Moinama Fofanah and Aliou Kondowa at the Special Court detention when news reached them that three people have come to pay them a visit. Security officers at

the Special Court were equally informed about the visitors and they stood alert when not too long, at around 5PM they saw John Benjamin, the current Minister of Finance, Dr. John Karimu,

head of the National Revenue Authority and Sierra Leone's Ambassador to Liberia, Mr. Foyah dressed in casual attires and entered the gates of the Special Court yesterday, 23rd August, 2007.

They were accompanied by officials of the court to the detention centres of the CDF convicts who are now waiting for sentences

*CONTINUED BACK PAGE*

## Finance Minister, others lobby CDF convicts at Special Court

*FROM PAGE 1*

For the past days, it would be recalled that John Benjamin and his team was touring the provincial towns of Bo, Kenema, Kailahun and Moyamba preaching the tribal card as a way of convincing the electorate not to vote for the APC, but the SLPP their party.

From their provincial trips, they went to the Special Court under the pretext that they have good tidings for the convicts from their families. According to the secu-

rity officers who were manning the centres of the convicts, the visitors spent over thirty minutes trying to convince the former CDF members to give them written messages, supporting the SLPP that they could take to their family members.

After their visit, Moinama Fofanah was reportedly not happy with them and was quoted to have whispered to one of the security officers saying "It is only now these people are coming to visit us because they want political power, leaving us to suffer while they continue to enjoy"

New Vision  
Friday, 24 August 2007

# Ernest, Margai Plan To Deceive Kamajohs

*Reliable information from APC head office in Freetown states that in their desperation to win the run-off presidential elections, Ernest Bai Koroma and Charles Margai have planned several joint up-country visits to deceive Kamajohs so as to put them up against the SLPP.*

It is believed that one of the messages they hope to preach is that when the APC wins



power and forms the next government, Ernest Koroma will free Allieu Kondowai and



Moininah Fofana (two top ranking Kamajoh  
*Contd. Page 10*

### **Ernest, Margai Plan To Deceive Kamajohs**

Commanders indicted by the Special Court).

Additionally, they plan to promise severance pay for all Kamajoh fighters in the country with pensions and gratuity to the commanders. With this message, Charles Margai believes he will get the Kamajoh votes for Ernest Koroma.

Commenting on this new revelation, one senior Kamajoh high priest noted that Kamajohs must not forget that Charles Margai was a Minister in the SLPP government when the court was established. He did nothing for us; instead he worked for the Special Court and made lots of dollars, part of which he used to finance his campaign and support his extravagant life style. Now he wants to fool us.

Another Kamajoh fighter from Base Zero indicated that their vote for the PMDC at the August 11 elections was more to register a protest to the SLPP, rather than a belief in Charles Margai, therefore Charles cannot tell them where to go or who to vote for. Margai, he said, was President of the Bar Association and if he wanted to fight on our behalf, he would have pushed for Sierra Leonean lawyers to boycott the court and there

would have been no trial, but what he did was to bring in Ansu Lansana and Aro John Bockarie to help the court operate.

Equally, Ernest Bai Koroma was a Member of Parliament as Leader of the opposition APC and Minority Leader of the House who together with Mr. Margai did nothing to help them in their hour of need except now. The Chairman of the Legislative Committee in Parliament was APC Eddie Turay and they were all in Parliament when the bill for the establishment of the Special Court was been discussed. Why did they not act on our interest if they are so concerned about our welfare, he questioned?

A reliable source within APC headquarters informed this press that when Ernest Koroma raised the issue of the damning broadcasts about the Kamajohs (especially his description of them as SLPP thugs) from Radio We Yone, Margai boasted that the Kamajohs are easy for him to handle so Ernest must not worry.

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UNData.com

The Internet

Thank you

SLPP Unity  
Thursday, 23 August 2007

## ***As Conspiracy To Defraud Sierra Leoneans Mounts...***

# **CARLOS VALENTIA EXPOSED!!!**

*By Soko N'goboi*

Fellow Sierra Leoneans let us praise ourselves for the manner in which we conducted ourselves during and after the just concluded general elections. All the praises we have received from the international community are just confirmation of how serious these people take our commitment to peace in our beloved country. However, what the international community does not know is the magnitude of our commitment to guard our hard won peace against any internal/external manipulations. I say this because all attempts by them to have a Regime Change by clandestinely undertaking nefarious actions against the SLPP government have failed to steer popular uprising that would have plunged this country into anarchy.

I am sure as you read this piece you might be tempted to allude that "here is another propaganda by an SLPP zealot", but alas countrymen! this piece is far from that. It is an attempt to show you the average Sierra Leonean how vicious the international community could be when they are pursuing an agenda of having puppet regimes in post conflict countries or emerging democracies like Sierra

Leone.

This article is the first in a series that is aimed at exposing the international community's role in undermining the SLPP government. I shall in future series look into how the Special Court has been manipulated to influence the results of the general elections by (a) giving verdict on the eve of elections and (b) present moves to pass judgement before the run-off elec-

tions; the advice of IMATT in the "restructuring" of the military by asking for a 2,500 redundancy in the military just three weeks to elections; stoppage of budgetary support to the government since January 2007; and the planting of a notorious "election-fixer" in the person of CARLOS VALENTIA, as CHIEF TECHNICAL ADVISER, Electoral Advisory Team at the

National Electoral Commission.

After all subterfuge measures to bring down the SLPP government have failed, certain unscrupulous members of the international community, including the almighty Victor Angelo, believe that the only option left in their hands was to "fix" our election results in favour of the candidate of their choice as they had done elsewhere.

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[SLPP Unity is the official newspaper of the Sierra Leone People's Party.]

# CARLOS VALENTIA EXPOSED!!!

## From front page

This could only be achieved with a person who has a wealth of experience in the circumstance Sierra Leone finds itself. The name that came up after much consultation in and outside the West Africa sub-region was CARLOS VALENTIA. This recommendation was done by Jacque Cline, the former SRSG in Liberia, who had worked with Carlos in different UN missions and trusts his confidence and loyalty.

Carlos Valentia, you may want to know, had worked in Afghanistan, Iraq, East Timor, and Liberia where he performed "excellently" to the peril of the people of these countries. I cannot, because of time, tell you what the people of these countries are going through even after the so-called democratic elections that were conducted. Iraq? Hundreds of people are being killed on a daily basis. Afghanistan? Ask the British what they are facing there. East Timor, just listen to your radio and you'll know exactly what this impish Carlos is capable of doing.

Fellow Sierra Leoneans, as I write this piece, the so called 'good wishers' are making frantic moves in aborting our democracy by negotiating with some unscrupulous politicians for a "National Unity Government" on the pretext of saving money!!! What a shame to you Victor Angelo!!! And to you Andrea Reidy of the Brit-

ish High Commission, is that why on Monday 13 August you surreptitiously found yourself at the APC Communication Room to advise as to what message should be aired out to the people of Sierra Leone?

Information reaching us has shown that it was during your tour of work in Iraq that you met Carlos where you both work closely to fix that country's election. And you Mr World Bank Douglas Addison, is that why as early as this year you changed putting up at Cape Sierra Hotel for Cabenda Hotel owned by the PMDC Treasurer, Femi Hebron? We are very much aware of your active role in strangling this government by advising against budgetary support in order to foment popular uprising against the government after the latter would have not been able to pay salaries to workers. But to your dismay the government continued till now. Thanks to the hard work of our own NRA, Sierra Leonean led and managed. Shame on you!!!

I am very sorry for straying away from the subject of this piece, "Mr Fix-it" Carlos Valentia. This man, I want you all to know, is now set for the run-off, which has been part of the big game plan for the regime change. He is set to manipulate the data entry and processing system at the NEC HQ as he did in Liberia. Let me warn you Carlos, Sierra Leone is neither Afghanistan nor Iraq where you have your Sponsors having thousands of troops

on the ground to protect their protégés. I must also assure you that Sierra Leoneans are not stupid but very intelligent notwithstanding what we are going through. We SHALL overcome all the hurdles you put on our way, but not with your prescription!!!

To you Victor Angelo, if Sierra Leone successfully had a run-off election in 1996 when we were uncertain of peace, why should we not have one now that the people are ready to speak out? Mind you, our memories are still afresh about that bogus report you sent to the Security Council and when you were challenged, you claimed oversight in reading its contents before being dispatched!! You were spared by the Government then, but we the people of Sierra Leone will neither forgive nor forget you if you continue to meddle into our domestic politics. Angelo, we are aware also that your arrival in Sierra Leone has killed UNDP as the only job it now does is managing the Elections Basket Fund. You have extended the contracts of UN-TST District staff to support your covert manipulation of the elections. We are also aware of you remote controlling of Madam Chair of NEC, working with her to split the commission which hardly works in harmony, yes, this is the Almighty Victor Angelo. We know, and you know that you want to leave a puppet regime behind when you retire in December to return in January 2008 as Political Advisor.

It will not happen. Not in Sierra Leone.

## Eflux Media

Monday, 20 August 2007

### **Trial of Former Liberian Leader Delayed Until January**

**by Diane Smith**

Former Liberian president Charles Taylor will appear in front of magistrates next year in January, after his newly-appointed lawyer requested more time to prepare the defence.

Courtenay Griffith said he didn't have enough time to set up the defence after being appointed in July. The Hague tribunal approved his request and Taylor is due to appear before the international court on January 7.



Taylor would be the first African leader to be indicted for war crimes and other aggravating charges. He is accused of no more than 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity following his actions during the Sierra Leone civil war between 1991-2002, when he allegedly aided rebels.

His trial began on June 4, current year, but Taylor refused to attend the first two sessions and face charges because he was afraid of an inequitable trial, sparking the anger of Liberians who accused him of mocking international justice and groundlessly delaying his trial.

According to the investigations, Taylor supported the notorious Revolutionary United Front rebel group which used children as soldiers to pillage, mutilate and murder thousands in Sierra Leone after 1996.

Taylor, who sustains is innocent, reportedly had strong ties with Foday Sankoh, the RUF leader who initiated the campaign in Sierra Leone that eventually turned into a bloody civil war.

The UN held Taylor in a Freetown prison before being extradited to the Netherlands in June 2006, where he is supposed to stand trial. The trial was postponed for August 20 after Taylor fired his lawyer and requested more time to hire another one that could properly represent his interests.



Commentarymagazine.com

Thursday, 23 August 2007

Opinion

<http://www.commentarymagazine.com/contentions/index.php/kirchick/831>

## **Dollars for Dictators**

James Kirchick - 8.23.2007 - 5:30PM

Charles Taylor was a particularly loathsome African dictator, which is saying a lot. The former president of Liberia sowed misery and destruction throughout West Africa in the 1990's, abetting civil wars in his own country and Sierra Leone, where he was notorious for his practice of lopping off the limbs of innocent people, and where a special court is trying him for crimes against humanity under the auspices of The Hague. Taylor's crimes extend beyond the typical; he also stands accused of harboring al Qaeda suspects wanted for the bombings of two American embassies in 1998.

Taylor's trial is being postponed until January, and according to this Guardian report, the Special Court for Sierra Leone (a joint operation of the United Nations and the government of Sierra Leone) is paying \$100,000 per month so that Taylor "can hire a top legal team for his defense." This means that the United States government and its citizens are paying no small part of Taylor's legal expenses. Taylor, I might add, according to a UN panel, accrues about \$100 million annually through unfrozen financial assets that he accumulated through his outright theft while in office.

For too long, the UN court has tolerated Taylor's shenanigans. In June, he refused to appear for the start of his trial at The Hague, claiming that his court-appointed attorney was insufficient. Here is a proposal that the court ought to make to Mr. Taylor: pay for your own legal counsel with some of the hundreds of millions of dollars you have stashed away, or forgo your right to trial and spend the rest of your life in prison.

Of course, there is no good reason why Taylor should not be hanged or shot, a la Saddam Hussein or the Ceaușescu. Since his trial is being held under the auspices of a United Nations panel, the likelihood of this happening seems downright impossible.

## Institute for War and Peace Reporting

Thursday, 23 August 2007

### **Taylor Judge Says International Justice Must Apply in Uganda**

Ugandan judge Julia Sebutinde insists that Lord Resistance Army leaders must go before an international tribunal rather than informal local courts.

By Samuel Okiror Egadu in The Hague (AR No. 127, 23-Aug-07)

A senior Ugandan judge working for the Sierra Leone tribunal has delivered a strong call for international justice principles to be upheld in her own country.

Julia Sebutinde, who is sitting in the case of former Liberian leader Charles Taylor, accused of war crimes at the Special Court for Sierra Leone, talked to IWPR about the prospect that leaders of the Ugandan rebel Lord Resistance Army, LRA, will one day be put on trial.

In an exclusive interview on August 20, Judge Sebutinde insisted that the serious nature of the allegations against LRA leader Joseph Kony, his deputy Vincent Otti, and commanders Okot Odiambo and Domenic Ongwen means they should be tried by a formal international court rather than simply going through informal tribal ceremonies designed to achieve reconciliation.

The four LRA leaders are indicted by the Hague-based International Criminal Court, ICC, on charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity which include, abductions, sexual enslavement, mutilation, the killing of innocent civilians, rape and forcibly using children as guerrilla fighters.

“War crimes and crimes against humanity [charges] which LRA top commanders are facing cannot be tried using the local traditional justice system like the Acholi Mato Oput,” said Sebutinde. “The perpetrators of war crimes and crimes against humanity in northern Uganda, in all fairness, must appear before an impartial and independent tribunal to answer the charges.

Only a tribunal of this kind, she said, would “adequately address” the kind of crimes that Kony and his commanders are charged with.

Sebutinde speaks on Ugandan and international justice matters with some authority, both as a judge at the Sierra Leone tribunal and from her past experience chairing judicial commissions of enquiry in Uganda, one into the police and the other into the government’s revenue authority.

Her remarks come as the Ugandan authorities appear to be shifting ground on the ICC indictments. Although it was the Kampala government which in 2003 asked the ICC to investigate the situation in northern Uganda, it has subsequently indicated that it might ask the tribunal to drop the charges if the LRA concludes a peace deal in the ongoing negotiating process conducted in neighbouring Sudan.

On June 29, government and LRA delegations at the peace talks signed a crucial draft protocol that would allow rebels to be tried under traditional tribal justice systems, such as the “Mato Oput” ritual mentioned by Sebutinde.

Mato Oput is a process used in traditional Acholi society by which offenders are reintegrated into the community after confessing their guilt and begging forgiveness. While it might provide some closure to people involved in the long-running conflict, this method – and analogous rites practiced by other ethnic groups in northern Uganda – does not impose formal sanctions. For that reason, its detractors say, it is ill-suited as a mechanism for addressing crimes of the magnitude seen in this bloody guerrilla war.

The government delegation to the peace talks, led by Ruhakana Rugunda, who is also Ugandan interior minister, are currently visiting the north of the country to consult with victims of the conflict and others on how to implement the protocol agreement, titled “accountability and reconciliation”.

The LRA has taken the position that there can be no lasting peace unless the ICC indictments are dropped. Otti, the rebel’s second-in-command and a frequent spokesman, recently told IWPR that even if a final peace deal is agreed in Juba, where the talks are taking place, LRA combatants will remain in the bush unless the ICC indictments are scrapped.

Speaking by satellite phone from the rebels' main base in the Garamba National Park, in the northeast of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Otti said, “The ICC remains a big stumbling block to peace in Uganda. If ICC indictments are not lifted, we shall not come out. It’s simple. No.”

In a previous interview with IWPR, Otti said he would surrender to the ICC only if the court charged the Ugandan army on similar counts of war crimes.

"If the UPDF [Ugandan People's Defence Force] are included on the list of indicted commanders, I will definitely go to The Hague. Short of that, I will never go," he said.

In that interview, Otti described as "very one-sided" the ICC's decision to indict only members of the LRA. “It’s not only the LRA who committed atrocities in northern Uganda," he said. "It’s both the LRA and the UPDF. Why did ICC indict us alone?” asked Otti.

Sebutinde counters such arguments, saying the decision to indict the LRA was based entirely on investigations carried out by ICC prosecutors.

“Let him [Otti] come and defend himself. They [the rebels] must come and defend their innocence,” she said. “The decision to indict LRA commanders is entirely of the prosecutor, depending and based on his investigations. The indicted can’t tell the prosecutor who to be indicted or tell the prosecutor what to do.”

Sebutinde takes the view that people in northern Uganda will not truly have peace until justice is properly served.

“You can’t have peace without justice. The victims who were maimed, mutilated and raped must have justice. Nobody has asked them for their views. The perpetrators must have their day in court,” she said.

The LRA rebellion has driven more than 1.7 million people into internal refugee camps in northern Uganda. Some 100,000 people have died and as many as 38,000 children have been abducted and forced to join the insurgents.

ICC chief prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo has consistently said that the arrest warrants will not be lifted unless either the Ugandan government or the LRA brings a legal challenge to ICC judges, or to the United Nations Security Council.

Although the Special Court for Sierra Leone sits in that country's capital Freetown, Judge Sebutinde and her colleagues in the Taylor trial are in The Hague, where they use the premises of the ICC. The trial is being held here because of fears that if it took place in the region, Taylor's residual support-base could generate instability in Sierra Leone, over the border in Liberia and even beyond.

Taylor is charged with 11 counts of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other serious violations of international humanitarian law, including mass murder, mutilation, rape, sexual slavery and the use of child soldiers.

On August 20, Judge Sebutinde ruled that the start date for Taylor's trial should be adjourned until January 7 next year, to allow a new defence team time to prepare its case. The trial had been scheduled to begin in June, but was delayed when Taylor fired his then legal team, saying they had not had the time or resources to mount a proper defence.

*Samuel Okiror Egadu is an IWPR contributor in Uganda currently reporting on international justice issues in The Hague*

## International Enforcement Law Reporter

September 2007

### **New Defense Counsel Appointed for Charles Taylor**

Jason McClurg

Despite a tumultuous start to the war crimes trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor, things appear to have normalized as Taylor's replacement counsel has been appointed, and trial is set to resume as scheduled on August 20, 2007.

Taylor's trial before the Special Court for Sierra Leone began on June 4, 2007. However, before the Prosecution commenced its opening statements, Taylor's previous counsel, Karim Khan, read a letter to the Court written by Taylor claiming that Taylor had been denied proper resources and time to prepare an adequate defense. n1 The letter complained that his single defense attorney was heavily outgunned by the nine-member prosecution team, and that he had not been given the proper office space and support staff. Taylor concluded that he "cannot participate in a charade that does injustice to the people of Sierra Leone." n2 After Khan finished reading the letter, he informed the Court that Taylor had fired him, and that Taylor intended to represent himself in the future. n3

Despite orders from Presiding Judge Julia Sebutinde to remain, Khan packed up his papers and left the courtroom. Judge Sebutinde then assigned duty counsel Charles Jalloh, a representative of the Special Court's Principal Defender's Office, to represent Taylor for the remainder of the day. n4 Chief Prosecutor Stephen Rapp presented the Prosecution's opening statements, outlining atrocities committed by rebels that will supposedly be directly linked to Taylor through Prosecution witnesses. n5

After opening statements concluded, Judge Sebutinde indicated that she was concerned about whether Taylor's rights to a fair trial were being violated. Judge Sebutinde then delivered Orders granting Taylor's request to meet with the Principal Defender, and ordering the Registry to ensure that Taylor had adequate facilities and resources in accordance with Article 7 of the Special Court Statute without further delay. The trial was then adjourned until June 25, 2007, when the Prosecution was supposed to present its first witness.

However, Taylor refused to attend the proceedings on June 25, 2007, and rather than proceeding as previously planned, the Court was forced to address whether Taylor could represent himself in light of his refusal to appear. The Court ultimately decided that Taylor's failure to appear was tantamount to a boycott of the proceedings and that Taylor, therefore, could not be permitted to represent himself. n6

On July 3, 2007, the Court postponed the trial until August 20, 2007, and ordered Principal Defender, Vincent O. Nmehielle, to immediately appoint new counsel to assume control of Taylor's defense while the Registry worked to ensure that a new defense team acceptable to the Court was put into place. The Order required that the new defense team to be composed of one lead counsel, two co-counsel, and one senior investigator. n7

On July 6, 2007, Acting Registrar, Herman von Hebel, announced at a press briefing that the Registry would provide one additional legal assistant for the Taylor defense team for the duration of the trial, as well as two additional legal assistants for the first three months of the trial in order to allow new legal counsel to familiarize themselves as quickly as possible with the case. n8

In addition, von Hebel announced that the budget for Taylor's defense team would be expanded to approximately \$ 70,000 USD per month; roughly three times the budget for most defense teams before the Special Court, and two times the budget for most defense teams of the International

Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia ("ICTY"). n9 According to Von Hebel, the increased budget does not include additional funds allocated for the senior investigator or office space that will be provided by the Registry. With those allocations included, the budget for Taylor's defense team amounts to approximately \$ 100,000 per month. n10 Chief Prosecutor Stephen Rapp supported the Registrar's increased budget for the Taylor defense team and stated, "it is important that justice be done and be seen to be done." n11

In a submission to the Court dated July 17, 2007, Principal Defender Vincent Nmehielle informed the Court that new counsel had been assigned to Taylor. Taylor's newly appointed team includes lead counsel Courtney Griffiths, as well as co-counsel Andrew Cayley and Terry Nunyard. n12 According to Griffiths's biography, "his criminal practice ranges from fraud to terrorism, murder and serious public order to drugs." n13 Griffiths is a Jamaican-born attorney, educated and trained in England, and has achieved the rank of Queen's Counsel. Cayley served as Senior Prosecuting Counsel to the Office of the Prosecutor at the International Criminal Court ("ICC") and the ICTY. Nunyard practices civil and criminal law, concentrating on public order and political activist cases. n14

Taylor's trial is scheduled to proceed as planned on August 20, 2007, but it remains to be seen whether the new defense team will seek additional time.

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n1 Mike Corder, Taylor Boycotts His War Crimes Trial, ABC News, June 6, 2007.

n2 Id.

n3 Marlise Simons and Graham Bowley, Charles Taylor Dismisses Lawyer at War Crimes Trial, INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE, June 4, 2007.

n4 Dramatic Start to First Day of Taylor Trial (June 4, 2007) <<http://charlestaylortrial.org/>>.

n5 Stephen Rapp and Mohamed Bangura, Prosecution v. Charles Gankay Taylor: Prosecution Opening Statement (June 3, 2007) <<http://charlestaylortrial.org/>>.

n6 Taylor's Adequacy of Representation Issues Delay Trial Until August 20 (June 28, 2007) <<http://charlestaylortrial.org/>>.

n7 Taylor Appears in Court, Trial Formally Postponed Until August 20 (July 3, 2007) <<http://charlestaylortrial.org/>>.

n8 Acting Registrar Agrees to Increase Funding for Taylor Trial (July 6, 2007) <<http://charlestaylortrial.org/>>.

n9 Id.

n10 Id.

n11 Id.

n12 Principal Defender Assigns Taylor New Counsel (July 18, 2007) <<http://charlestaylortrial.org/>>.

n13 Taylor's New Defense Team Includes Prominent QC (July 23, 2007) <<http://charlestaylortrial.org/>>.

n14 Id.

## Sowetan

24 August 2007

<http://www.sowetan.co.za/Columnists/JusticeMalala/>

### **Friends can't be protected forever**

The sight of a former president of any country – African, Asian, American or European – on the run, is not pretty.

The indignity, the fear of detection, the furtive, suspicious look at every stranger, the heart palpitations whenever the stranger appears to recognise you.

It's not an unnatural emotion to feel sorry for such a person. Admittedly, if you were a victim of this former leader's wrath, you might need to believe in the Bible, Mai Chaza, the Koran, the Talmud, the Buddha – all put together – or any number of saints or departed Do-gooders, to forgive him or her.

Charles Taylor, formerly of Liberia, but now of no fixed abode, is giving his prosecutors a hell of a time.

It's not surprising that he wants his trial postponed and postponed again and again until it probably can't be postponed any more.

Slobodan Milosevic tried that, until this Great Someone decided to take matters into His own hands. Milosevic didn't live to have a chance to see the matter to its logical conclusion. He just wasn't there any more.

Taylor was caught only after a friend of his, the former Nigerian president, Olusegun Obasanjo, decided he couldn't shelter him any more.

People thought Obasanjo didn't want Taylor to be handed over to answer for his ... actions – it's a polite word than "crimes". Not being a lawyer you might be sued, not by Taylor, but by his supporters.

Obasanjo must have known his friend was not innocent, but friendship can play tricks. The Gentlemen of The South who gathered in Lusaka this month ought to remember that: you can't protect your friend from all their enemies all the time.

Personally, I would forgive anyone who accused me of taking a macabre delight in recounting the number of African leaders who have ended their lives ingloriously.

If I were asked to pay the price for any sins of omission or commission, I too would probably plead for my life. I too would complain that there was no justice in the world, where an innocent person could be hanged for crimes he did not commit.

Still, that admission does not prevent me from taking delight – call it morbid, ghoulish or whatever – in warning all who love power for its own sake, that a nasty end awaits them.

Many leaders claim their every act is committed on behalf of their people, as a Mafioso claims his (or her?) every hit is executed on behalf of The Family.

Those who subsequently flee their own countries have never been heard to confess that they fled because they knew they were as guilty as sin and knew that “my people wanted to kill me for what I did to them”.

The men in Lusaka last week (will there ever be a woman leader in this region?) may have had their differences over Zimbabwe, but in the end they preferred to stick with their friend, President Robert Mugabe.

Fortunately, history tells us a fair world judges people by their actions and rewards them accordingly.

Why do the sceptics believe it was sheer coincidence that Mobutu Sese Seko and Idi Amin died in inglorious exile? It can't be coincidence that both men had fled their countries in shame.

Two men I saw in Lusaka reminded me how beautiful it is to get out while you still have your dignity intact: Kenneth Kaunda and Frederick Chiluba, both former presidents of Zambia.

If they hadn't got out when they did, we would be counting them among our “Charles Taylors”.

Bill Saidi is the deputy editor at The Standard in Zimbabwe. His column appears every Friday.



United Nations  Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

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## UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 23 August 2007

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

### International Clips on Liberia

VOA 23 August 2007

#### **Liberia's President Sirleaf Makes Key Cabinet Changes**

By James Butty, Washington, D.C.

In Liberia, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has begun her much anticipated cabinet changes with the reshuffle of two key cabinet posts and the appointment of some deputy ministers. In the reshuffle, which took place late Wednesday night, Justice Minister Frances Johnson-Morris was removed and sent to the Commerce Ministry while Commerce Minister Olubanke King-Akerele was named the new foreign minister. The new justice minister is Counselor Phillip Banks, who served in the same post during Amos Sawyer's interim government of National Unity in the early 1990s. Critics see the transfer of Justice Minister Johnson Morris to commerce as a demotion and wonder how these changes would make the Sirleaf government more effective.

#### **Preparations Underway to Honor Africa's First Elected Female Head of State at 2007 Africare Dinner**

Washington, D.C., Aug 23, 2007 (Africare/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- This coming fall, more than 2,000 international, government, and corporate leaders will gather at the Hilton Washington Hotel on the evening of Thursday, October 18, 2007, for the largest annual event for Africa in the United States. The Bishop John T. Walker Memorial Dinner, hosted by international nonprofit organization Africare, pays tribute to the contributions of individuals working to improve the quality of life for the people in Africa. Her Excellency Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of the Republic of **Liberia**, Africa's first elected female Head of State, will be presented with the Bishop John T. Walker Distinguished Humanitarian Service Award at the event. The 2007 dinner will salute "women empowerment Africa-Wide" and highlight the vital role of women on the continent.

BBC Last Updated: Wednesday, 22 August 2007, 15:41 GMT 16:41 UK

#### **'Curse' of Liberia's resources**

By Mark Doyle

A few miles outside Monrovia, capital of the West African state of Liberia, the humid scrubland gives way to seemingly endless vistas of tall, geometrically spaced rubber trees. This is one of the largest rubber plantations in the world. Drive on, and after a few hours you will find yourself in deep virgin forest full of tropical hardwoods. It is the largest remaining portion of the once-great Upper Guinea Forest, which used to spread across West Africa. Look carefully through the forest cover and you will find miners panning for gold and diamonds.

New York, Aug 22 2007

## **BAN KI-MOON APPOINTS DEPUTY ENVOYS FOR IRAQ, LIBERIA**

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has selected David Shearer of New Zealand and Henrietta Joy Abean Nyarko Mensa-Bonsu of Ghana to serve as his deputy envoys in Iraq and Liberia, respectively, a United Nations spokesperson announced today. Mr. Shearer will succeed Jean-Marie Fakhouri of Lebanon as Mr. Ban's Deputy Special Representative for Iraq focusing on humanitarian, reconstruction and development issues, and will also serve as the UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator in the strife-torn country, spokesperson Michele Montas told reporters in New York.

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

#### **Police worry over security ahead of Sierra Leone election run-off**

FREETOWN, Aug 22, 2007 (AFP) - **Sierra Leone's** police chief on Wednesday expressed security concerns ahead of a second round of presidential elections due early next month in a country only six years clear of a brutal civil war. "There is concern about the security of the state" during the lead up to a new round of voting, said Inspector-General of Police Brima Acha Kamara, after an inconclusive outcome to the second presidential polls since the conflict.

#### **FEATURE-Returning Diaspora help rebuild battered Sierra Leone**

By Katrina Manson

FREETOWN, Aug 22 (Reuters) - Kofie Macauley knew it wouldn't be easy when he gave up a successful property career in Britain to join a trickle of Sierra Leonean businessmen returning to rebuild their war-scarred homeland. On the dilapidated streets of the hilly, coastal capital Freetown crowded with hawkers and unemployed young men, the returnees stand out. Their smart clothes and foreign accents give them away, and wily locals take advantage of the ignorance of the "JCs" -- local Krio dialect for "Just Comes".

#### **Democracy and Sovereignty Means Having a Mind of One's Own [editorial]**

Aug 22, 2007 (FOROYAA Newspaper/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- After going through a violent conflict whose atrocities defied human understanding, **Sierra Leone** is going through a period of democratic transition, the extent of which defies human expectation and imaginations. The two most significant developments in **Sierra Leone** is the remarkable institutionalization of democracy. Freedom of expression is enlarged by opposition parties owning radio stations. In The Gambia, Citizen FM which was open to both the ruling party and the opposition is off the air. The TV and Radio Station appear to be the property of the APRC. Broadcasters even send congratulatory messages to the party leader of the APRC in commemoration of the coup d'etat.

Local Media – Newspaper**President Sirleaf Reshuffles Cabinet***(Heritage, The News and Daily Observer)*

- President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf on Wednesday effected her long awaited reshuffle in government. According to a release from the Executive Mansion, Commerce Minister Olubanke King-Akerele is now Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Minister George Wallace becomes Presidential Advisor on Foreign Affairs.
- Accordingly, Counselor Philip A.Z. Banks becomes Liberia's new Justice Minister while Counsellor Francis Johnson-Morris who earlier served as Justice Minister goes to Commerce as Minister.
- Others appointed are Madam Pearine David-Parkerson, Deputy Minister for Administration, Ministry of State for Presidential Affairs; Vivian Cherue, Deputy Minister of Health for Administration, Joseph Geebro, Deputy Minister of Health for Social Welfare and Peter Zayzay, Deputy Minister for Administration, Ministry of National Security.
- At the Liberia National Police, the President named Mr. Darlington George, Commissioner for Operations, Charles Kowou Gbawou, Commissioner and appointed Kabina Komar, Commissioner, Criminal Intelligence Unit. The statement added that James Hallowanger is now Commissioner and Commandant of the National Police Academy, replacing Colonel Peter Zayzay who was appointed as a deputy minister.

**Liberty Party Says GRC is Unconstitutional***(The Inquirer, The News and Daily Observer)*

- The opposition Liberty Party has requested the National Legislature to reject the enactment of the proposed Governance Commission bill submitted by the Executive Mansion.
- Speaking at a news conference, the head of party's Legislative Caucus, Representative Vinicious Hodges said the establishment of another public commission would be a violation of the constitution, which the party said has already created three commissions.
- Mr. Hodges said the constitution does not empower the Legislature to create an additional autonomous public commission. "The constitution authorizes the Legislature to create other agencies, not autonomous public commission as may be necessary for the effective operation of government". The Liberty party called on President Sirleaf to instead create a task force or commission and not Public Commission with perpetual lifespan. Mr. Hodges said Liberty Party lawmakers would lobby with their colleagues not to pass the Governance Commission Act.

Local Media – Radio Veritas *(News monitored today at 9:45 am)***President Sirleaf Reshuffles Government***(Also reported on Star and ELBC Radio)***Opposition Party Says Governance Commission Unconstitutional***(Also reported on Star and ELBC Radio)*

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