# SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE OUTREACH AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE



# PRESS CLIPPINGS

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

**as at:** Wednesday, 24 February 2010

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

Local News	
Sierra Leonean Becomes Special Court Registrar / Concord Times	Page 3
Special Court Promotes Mrs. Binta Mansaray / Global Times	Page 4
UN Names Sierra Leone's Tribunal Prosecutor Brenda / For di People	Page 5
Taylor and Two Others Planned the War / The Spectator	Page 6
Charles Taylor Did Not Plan to Destabilize West Africa / Premier News	Page 7
International News	
Report From The Hague / BBC World Service Trust	Page 8
UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary / UNMIL	Pages 9-13

#### Sierra Leonean Becomes Special Court Registrar

Secretary-General of the United Nations has named Sierra Leoneanborn Binta Mansaray as Registrar of the Special Court. Ms. Mansaray, who was appointed Deputy Registrar in July 2007, has served as Acting Registrar since June 2009.

She joined the Special Court for Sierra Leone in 2003 as Outreach Coordinator. where she designed the Court's acclaimed grassroots programme to keep the people of Sierra Leone, and later Liberia, informed about the Court and the trials. Prior to joining the Court, she was a human rights advocate for victims and ex-combatants with a number of organizations.

She held the post of Country Representative for the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children in Sierra Leone, worked with the Campaign for Good Governance, and served as consultant with the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) and a number of civil society organizations.

During her time as Acting Registrar, Ms. Mansaray has overseen the end of trials in Freetown and the transfer of convicted persons to serve their sentences, as well as the downsizing of the Court and consideration of residual issues. She has also continued to focus on the legacy of the Special Court and the continuing trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor in The Hague.

The Special Court is an independent tribunal established jointly by the United Nations and the Government of Sierra Leone with the mandate to bring to justice those who bear the greatest responsibility for atrocities committed in Sierra Leone after 30 November 1996.

Meanwhile, a United States attorney, who leads the prosecution against former Liberian president Charles Taylor. has also been named by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon as the new Prosecutor of the Special Court.

Since 2007, Brenda Joyce Hollis has served as a principal trial attorney in the Office of the Prosecutor, where she heads up the legal team prosecuting Mr. Taylor, who is under indictment for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Prior to that, she was an expert legal consultant on international law and criminal procedure, training judges, prosecutors and investigators at courts and international tribunals in Indonesia, Iraq and Cambodia.

Ms. Hollis has helped victims of international crimes in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Colombia prepare submissions requesting investigations by the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague.

She was also senior trial attorney at the International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia (ICTY) from 1994-2001, serving as lead counsel in preparing the case against former Serbian president Slobodan Milosevic as well as cases in which rape was charged as torture.

The newly-appointed prosecutor paid tribute to Deputy Prosecutor Joseph Kamara, who has served as Acting Prosecutor since Stephen Rapp left the post last September.

# Global Times Wednesday, 24 February 2010



For di People Wednesday, 24 February 2010



A UNITED States attorney, who leads the prosecution against former Liberian president Charles Taylor, has been named by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon as the new Prosecutor of the United Nations-backed tribunal trying the worst acts committed during the decade-long brutal civil war in Sierra Leone.

Since 2007. Brenda Joyce Hollis has served as a principal trial attorney in the Office of the Prosecutor in the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL), where she heads up the legal team prosecuting Mr Taylor, who is under indictmen. for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

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The newly-appointed prosecutor paid tribute to Deputy Prosecutor Joseph Kamara, who has served as Acting Prosecutor since Stephen Rapp left the post last September.

Also today, Mr Ban Binta named Mansaray, a Sierra Leonean national, as the Special Court's Registrar. Appointed as Deputy

Registrar in 2007, she hasserved as Acting Registrar since last June.

Ms Mansaray first joined the SCSL as an Outreach Coordinator, where she designed its acclaimed grassroots programme to inform the people of Sierra Leone and Liberia about the Special Court and its trials.

Prior to joining the SCSL, she worked as a human rights advocate for victims and ex-combatants.

independent tribunal established jointly by Sierra Leone's Government and the UN in 2002. It is mandated to try those who bear the greatest responsibility for atrocities committed in Sierra Leone after 32 November 1996.

Last September, the eight prisoners convicted

and held by the SCSL were transferred to Rwanda to serve their sentences The Special Court is an since no prison in Sierra Leone meets the required international standards. The remaining trial, involving Mr Taylor, is continuing at The Hague. where it was

5

moved for security reasons.

The Spectator Wednesday, 24 February 2010



Charles Taylor did not formulate a plan to destabilize Wes: Africa, according to the former Liberian president's first witness who said he trained with Mr. Taylor's rebels in Libya in the 1980s.

Mr. Yanks Smythe, a Gambian, today said that he was part of the Gambian dissident group which underwent revolutionary training at a Libyan military training camp called Tajura along with Mr. Taylor's rebel groups. But while leaders of the Liberian, Sierra Leonean and Gambian rebel groups all stayed at the same guesthouse during this time, and their fighters trained in the same camp, they did not have any plans to collaborate in attacking their respective countries.

Prosecutors have alleged that Mr. Taylor met Revolutionary United Front leader, Foday Sankoh, and Gambian dissident Dr. Kukua Sambasanja (known as Dr. Mani) in Libya in the 1980s and that the three men formulated a common plan to destabilize the West African sub-region, starting with Liberia. Mr. Taylor has denied these allegations, saying he never met Mr. Sankoh in Libya - only Dr. Mani and Allie Kabbah, a Sierra Leonean student leader who led a Sierra Leonean rebel group that was undertaking revolutionary training in Libya at the same time. Today's witness also said that Mr. Taylor did not meet Mr. Sankoh at the training camp.

Asked by Mr. Taylor's defense counsel, Morris Anyah, whether he "knew of any meeting that took place at the Mataba where there was a discussion amongst these three leaders [Mr. Taylor, Mr. Kabbah and Dr. Mani], regarding an invasion of Liberia." the witness said "no, no, no."

"Do you know of any meetings that were held during the time you were at Tajura - I'm referring to meetings held at the Mataba or at Tajura - between Foday Sankoh and Charles Taylor during which they discussed the invasion of Liberia?" Mr. Anyah asked the witness.

"No." the witness responded.

Mr. Anyah further asked the witness whether he knew "of any such meet-



ings held between Foday Sankoh and Charles Taylor either at the Mataba or Camp Tajura during the period when you were there when they discussed the invasion of Sierra Leone?"

The witness responded with another resounding "No."

"Do you know whether Mr. Taylor held such meetings at either location with Allie Kabbah discussing the invasion of Sierra Leone?" Mr. Anyah asked again.For the fourth time, the witness said "no."

The witness also denied prosecution allegations that Dr. Mani provided Gambian fighters to joined Mr. Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) rebel group when it attacked Liberia in 1989. The witness said no Gambian fighters were involved in the attack on Liberia when the West African country's civil conflict started in 1989, but that Gambians later went to Liberia in 1990 to provide security to Mr. Taylor.

"Dr. Mani asked Mr. Taylor if he could send some of us, some of his men into Liberia to help provide security for him, since Prince Johnson has broken away." Mr. Smythe said. "I know the situation, you know, became volatile. Mr. Taylor at the initial stage didn't agree for us to go in...Mr. Taylor agreed later on."

The witness' account of Gambian fighters providing security for Mr. Taylor corroborates Mr. Taylor's testimony that when some members of the NPFL broke-away in 1990, he had to rely on Dr. Mani's Gambian fighters to provide security for him.

Mr. Taylor, who is on trial for his alleged support to RUF rebels in neighboring Sierra Leone, concluded his testimony as a witness in his own defense last week. The former president's lawyers started leading his other defense witness in evidence yesterday.

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#### From page 2

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Mr. Smythe's testimony continues tomorrow.

Credit www.charlestaylortrial.org

# **BBC** WORLD SERVICE TRUST

group that invaded Sierra Leone in March 1991.

Monday, 22 February 2010

By John Kollie

### NEWS ITEM

Defence Witness, Yanks Smythe has refuted the testimonies of a Prosecution Gambian Witness that two Gambians assigned by Charles Taylor to the Revolutionary United Front, assisted with the invasion of Sierra Leone in 1991. Mr. Smythe also denied that Mr. Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia, the NPFL used child soldiers in combat. And why did Yanks Smythe a Gambian serve as Liberian Ambassador? John Kollie transcribes The Hague reports.

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The Defence Witness dismissed the claim of a Prosecution Gambian Witness that two Gambians participated in the invasion of Sierra Leone on the orders of Charles Taylor. Prosecution witness Suwandi Camara told the court last year that Lamin Campaore and Ibrahim Bah were assigned to the RUF by Mr. Taylor in 1991. Suwandi had said the two Gambians were members of first

But Mr. Smythe testifying in Mr. Taylor's defence denied the allegation of the Prosecution witness. Defence Lawyer, Morris Anyah questioned the witness about the assignment of the two Gambians.

The Prosecution during its case accused Charles Taylor who formerly controlled a rebel movement of recruiting child soldiers into his defunct rebel group, the NPFL. The Prosecution had alleged that Mr. Taylor recruited children less than 15 years into units called Small Boys Unit, SBU, and Small Girls Unit, SGU. Mr. Smythe on Tuesday identified the Command Structure of the NPFL and said the rebel group did not use children in combat.

Mr. Yanks Smythe formerly known in Gambia as Yamkubah Samateh said he was granted Liberian Citizenship. He told the court he was later appointed Liberian Ambassador to Libya and Tunisia during the administration of Charles Taylor.

Former Liberian President, Moses Blah testified for the Prosecution last year and told the court that Mr. Smythe's appointment as Liberian Ambassador was illegal. Mr. Smythe disagreed arguing that he is a naturalized Liberian and had a right to such appointment.

# **B B C** WORLD SERVICE TRUST



United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

### UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 23 February 2010

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

### International Clips on Liberia

# UN chief urges Liberia to build up national security architecture

Source: People's Daily Online

February 23, 2010

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki- moon on Monday urged the Liberian government to adopt measures to institutionalize national security architecture to cope with challenges as it moves toward reconciliation. In a report to the Security Council on the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), Ban said that Liberia faces significant challenges in the development of security and legal institutions. He stressed the need to ensure that the Liberian National Police are independently operational and that Liberia redoubles its efforts in the area of rule of law. "I urge the government to also take steps to adopt legislation to institutionalize the national security architecture," Ban said.

# Liberia ex-fighters told government cannot pay college fees as promised, forcing drop-outs

February 23, 2010

MONROVIA, Liberia (AP) — Nearly 1,000 former fighters have dropped out of Liberian universities because the cash-strapped government stopped paying their fees as promised, ex-fighters' representatives said, threatening a society trying to recover from a bloody civil war. Education minister Joseph Korto said the government cannot pay tuition for some 1,600 ex-combatants because of unspecified "budgetary constraints." Earlier this month, he sent a letter to universities asking them to allow the ex-fighters to continue studying. The letter said the government would pay the universities back later. Advocates for former fighters say the government stopped footing the tuition bill in 2008 and has failed to account for some \$77 million worth of donations given since 2004 to the U.N. Development Program to assist with tuition and various multi-million-dollar donations from other nations. Korto did not explain the source of the budgetary constraints or account for the donations. The fighters advocacy group, the Reintegration Movement for the Social Empowerment of Former Combatants, has written to Liberia's auditor general calling for an investigation into how money sent for ex-combatants' reintegration in Liberia was spent.

# Former Liberian Warring Faction Leader Goes Before a U.S. Judge Wednesday

Source: VOA

23 February 2010

The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) said it will not allow the United States to be a safe haven for those trying to evade prosecution and punishment for crimes committed in their homelands. The warning comes as former Liberian warring faction leader George Boley goes before an

immigration judge tomorrow (Wednesday) in Buffalo, New York. Boley, leader of the former Liberian Peace Council, one of the factions in Liberia's civil war, was arrested in mid-January and charged with being in the United States without valid legal documentation and committing extra-judicial killings in Liberia. Lev Kubiak, special agent in charge at the ICE office of investigation in Buffalo, New York said ICE is prepared for Wednesday's hearings but would welcome any additional information on the Liberian Peace Council and Mr. Boley's role.

## International Clips on West Africa Guinea

## **GUINEA CONTACT GROUP PRESSES FOR JUNE ELECTIONS**

CONAKRY, Feb 23, 2010 (AFP) - The international contact group for Guinea on Monday urged all parties to work for the holding of a presidential election in June, as proposed by the national independent electoral commission. "We rejoice in the proposal to hold the elections in June and encourage all parties involved to do their utmost to respect the given timetable," said the president of the commission of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Mohamed Ibn Chambas, in the name of the contact group. The electoral commission on Sunday proposed to hold a presidential poll on June 27, with a run-off round if needed on July 18. These dates need to be submitted to the west African country's transitional authorities, who will take the final decision. Ibn Chambas urged the military and the politicians to "make commitments for the respect of this date in the month of June, in order to put an end to this critical situation and set the country on the road to development." "We must act and act fast because time is pressing. We ask Prime Minister Jean-Marie Dore to go straight to the essential matters and to devote himself to the priority tasks, in line with the mandate he has received from the president of the transition," General Sekouba Konate, added Ibn Chambas.

# Ivory Coast

# I vorian protests to go on until poll commission formed

Abidjan, Ivory Coast, February 23 (Reuters) Ivory Coast's opposition parties vowed on Tuesday that protests in which at least seven have been killed by security forces would continue until President Laurent Gbagbo reinstated the electoral commission. Demonstrations erupted in the world's biggest cocoa producer after Gbagbo dissolved the government and electoral commission on February 12 in a row over the voter register, again delaying a poll due in March but already four and a half years late. "Pending the effective establishment of the Independent Electoral Commission (CEI), the (opposition) maintain their calls for mobilisation until we see in practice the ... beginning of its work," Alphonse Djedje Mady, spokesman of the main opposition coalition, told a news conference. But Mady also softened the opposition's position by saying that they would accept a new president and four new vice presidents at the CEI so long as the rest of the body remained intact. The compromise was worked out on Monday in talks mediated by Burkina Faso President Blaise Compaore, he said.

### New government to be set up in Ivory Coast; 2 protesters dead

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast --Ivory Coast's prime minister said he will announce the composition of the country's new government Wednesday, a move that could bring an end to violent protests sparked by the president's dissolution of the former government. After a day of marathon meetings between the two sides, Prime Minister Guillaume Soro said yesterday that the country's "political players" had come to an agreement and that he planned to announce the details of the new government Wednesday morning. At least two more protesters died yesterday when an opposition demonstration

turned violent, deepening the political crisis that has gripped this nation of 20 million since President Laurent Gbagbo summarily disbanded its government this month.

#### Local Media – Newspaper

#### Former British Prime Minister Vows To Help Liberia Meet Its Development Goals

(The News, The Analyst, New Democrat, The Inquirer, Daily Observer, The Informer, New Vision, In Profile Daily, Liberia Journal and Front Page)

- Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair has promised to help Liberia meet its development agenda.
- Speaking at a joint news conference with President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf yesterday, Mr. Blair who was in the country to launch a new project between his Africa Governance Initiative and Government hoped his institution can play a part in making sure that there are effective mechanisms of delivery.
- The project which follows a request from the President will see a small team from the Initiative, under Mr. Blair's guidance working side by side with counterparts in the Liberian Government to build the capacity at the centre of the Liberian Administration to deliver poverty reduction as a national priority.
- Earlier President Sirleaf thanked Mr. Blair for the visit, describing him as a man who highlights the plight of Africa.

#### State-Owned University of Liberia to Revoke Several Degrees

(Daily Observer and New Democrat)

- Reports say the state-owned University of Liberia (UL) is poised to revoke the degrees of some graduates who "fraudulently" obtained their credentials from the University last December.
- The UL's Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Shelton Beedoe said the affected students did not complete their courses in accordance with the institution's academic standard.
- He vowed to investigate them saying if they are found to have acquired their degrees by dubious means they will be punished appropriately.
- Meanwhile, some news reports say 30 graduates have been targeted for the investigation, while others however quote the University's administration as saying that there were 14 graduates under probe.

#### Defendants Move To Suppress Evidence In former PPCC Chairman's Murder Case

(The News and The Inquirer)

- Defense lawyers in the chairperson of the Public Procurement and Concession Commission, Keith Jubah murder trial have filed a 17-count motion requesting the presiding Judge of Criminal Court "A", Sikajipor Wolo to suppress all evidence presented to the court by state prosecutors against their clients which led to the drawing up of an indictment.
- The suspects are being prosecuted for three different charges including murder, criminal conspiracy and criminal mischief.
- In the motion the defense lawyers claimed that all the evidences achieved by the State wee gathered through illegal means in that suspects were coerced. Threatened and tortured under police interrogation in order to obtain confession for their subsequent prosecution.

#### FIBANK Launches Probes into Concocted Voucher

(The News and The Analyst)

- The First International Bank (FiBANK) says it has launched an investigation into the circulation of an alleged "concocted payment voucher bearing the name of the bank and instructing the payment of US\$400 to some labour inspectors from the Ministry of Labour.
- FiBANK management said it launched the investigation to ascertain the mastermind of the concocted voucher.

- Speaking to journalists in Monrovia yesterday, the bank's Public Relations Manager, Ambulah Mamey said the situation was first brought to the bank's attention by a student of the AME University who went to the institution to establish the authenticity of the voucher.
- According to Mr. Mamey the document does not resemble vouchers used by the bank to raise
  payment for goods and services, noting that such scheme was intended to dent the bank's
  image and undermine efforts to expand and assist the Liberian government in its drive to
  reduce poverty and revitalize the economy.

#### Another Civil Society Group Wants Criminal Tribunal For Liberia

(The Inquirer)

- A Liberian civil society group, the Human Rights Protection Forum Monday launched Liberia Working Group.
- The Liberia Working Group is the campaigner for the establishment of a criminal tribunal in Liberia.
- An official of the group said, the Liberia Working Group has been developing the legal framework for a justice mechanism for victims of the war.
- Mr. Adama Dempster said his group has developed what he called a map of conflict and a list of people who bear the greatest responsibility for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

#### Word of Words at State-owned Liberia Broadcasting System

(FrontPage)

- The nation's sole national broadcaster, the Liberia Broadcasting System (LBS) is currently wrapped in a war of words with the system's management on the one hand refuting reports implicating it for marginalizing four editors recently demoted by the entity.
- The affected journalists on the other hand have described the system as being characterized by what they termed as incompetence.
- The four editors have now filed a formal complaint to the National Legislature regarding the appalling state of affairs at the Liberia Broadcasting System (LBS).
- The two-page complaint is seeking the intervention of the National Legislature over what they called the disrespect of the merit system by the Charles Snetter management.
- They also complained that Mr. Snetter has led a campaign to suppress the views of opposition politicians at LBS.

#### Lawmakers Set to Override President's Veto

(The News)

- Credible reports emanating from the National Legislature say more than 21 members of the House of Representatives have signed a resolution seeking to override President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's veto of the threshold bill.
- The reports say overriding of the President's veto on the threshold bill was on top of the House's agenda for Today's session.

## "I Saw Hans Williams Kissing Angel Togba" Says Prosecution 2<sup>nd</sup> Rebuttal Witness

(The Inquirer, the Informer)

- Prosecution's second rebuttal witness, David Kpadeh, says he watched defendant Hans Williams kissing the late Angel Togba.
- He testified that he did not know that defendant Williams was the father of the late Angel because he had seen them at strange places on three occasions making him to conclude that defendant Williams was having an affair with the deceased.

#### **<u>Star Radio</u>** (News monitored today at 09:00 am)

Former British Prime Minister Vows To Help Liberia Meet Its Development Goals (Also reported on Radio Veritas, Truth FM, Sky FM, and ELBC)

#### Four Journalists File Complaint With National Legislature

#### (Also reported on Radio Veritas, Truth Fm, Sky FM, and ELBC)

#### **Charles Taylor's First Witness Dismisses Prosecution Claims**

- A former Gambian opposition now Liberian citizen has taken the witness's stand in The Hague in defense of former Liberian President Charles Taylor.
- Mr. Yap Smart, a Foreign Service officer in Liberia denied prosecution allegation that Mr. Taylor had a plan to destabilize the West African sub region.
- He also dismissed the prosecution's claim that Taylor along with former Gambian dissident leader Dr. Mannie and RUF leader Foday Sankoh had a common plan.
- According to him the prosecution claim has no evidence that Taylor along with Dr. Mannie and Sankoh planned to cause unrest in their respective countries.
- Mr. Smart said he was part of a Gambian dissident group trained at the Libyan military camp called Targeria.
- The defense witness denied that Charles Taylor and Foday Sankoh met in Libya as claimed by the former prosecutor of the Special Court, Stephen Rapp.

#### ICTJ Decries Senate's Action Over Confirmation of Human Rights Commissioners

- The ICTJ says the delay by the Senate to confirm nominees of the Independent National Human Rights Commission (INHRC) is a major setback to the protection and promotion of human rights in Liberia.
- ICTJ is the International Centre for Transitional Justice working to prevent the most severe violations of human rights.
- Last week, the Senate for the second time rejected all nominees of the INHRC.
- The ICTJ argues the delay sends a discouraging message about the government commitment to begin the review of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission recommendations.
- According to the ICTJ, the failure by the Senate to confirm the nominees also amounts to a setback in moving the country's transitional agenda forward.

#### Civil Society Group Wants Criminal Tribunal For Liberia

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

#### For Harassment, Wroto Town Residents Accuse ERU Personnel, But...

- [SIC] Personnel of the Emergency Response Unit (ERU) of the Liberia National Police have been accused of harassing residents of the Wroto Town community, but the ERU high command has rubbished the claim.
- Some residents of the area have complained of harassment in the hands of the ERU officers where their personal belongings were taken.
- But a senior ERU officer said the allegation by the residents was strange and challenged them to cite any incident where people were harassed and their belongings taken by ERU officers.
- The senior ERU officer said any resident who claimed that they have been harassed should complain to the Professional Standard Division of the LNP.

#### UL Authorities Admit Error In Recent Graduation

#### Former Liberian Warlord Goes Before A US Judge Tomorrow

- The US Immigration and Customs Enforcement say the US will not be a safe haven for those who committed crimes in their home countries.
- The warning comes as former rebel leader George Boley appears in court tomorrow in New York.
- Mr. Boley was recently arrested in the US for illegally living in the United States.

13