

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



Court interpreters received certificates on Wednesday, July 19 after completing training.

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:

Monday, 24 July 2006

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

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Concord Times
Monday, 24 July 2006

Local News

Charles Taylor's defense Council, Karim Khan has criticized staff shortages at the U.N.-run detention center at The Hague meant Taylor was locked in his cell for up to 16 hours a day and was unable to make the same number of phone

calls he could while being detained in Sierra Leone. He also called the food being served to Taylor "Eurocentric." Khan further criticized the detention system in The Hague saying it is "far more draconian ... than what operates in Freetown."

Taylor appeared before a war crimes tribunal in the Netherlands for the first time Friday, with his lawyer complaining about the deposed leader's limited access to telephones and "Eurocentric" prison food. In a related development, Secretary General of the

United Nations Kofi Annan was also criticized by Karim Khan for comments he made during a visit earlier this month to the court in Sierra Leone.

Khan criticized Annan for referring to war crimes suspects like Taylor as criminals, saying that under-

mined their right to be presumed innocent.

He described Annan's comment as "not just unseemly; it is repugnant to justice."

However, presiding judge Richard Lussick assured Khan that judges would ignore Annan's comments.

"We are totally uninfluenced by what peo-

ple might say outside the courtroom," he said.

Herman von Hebel, deputy registrar for the Special Court, described the problems as "startup issues" and said he would visit Taylor next week to ensure they are ironed out.

Taylor, wearing a gray pinstripe double-breasted

Charles Taylor locked up 16 hours daily

Taylor, wearing a gray pinstripe, double-breasted suit and tie, sat flanked by two U.N. guards in a courtroom of the International Criminal Court that is being rented by the Special Court for Sierra Leone. He did not speak during the 50-minute hearing, which was meant to clear the way for his trial.

Prosecutors had hoped to start the trial early next year, but Khan said that was unlikely to be possible.

"For a case of this size and magnitude, particularly given the geographical displacement of this court from Sierra Leone ... I do think that the earliest this trial can properly start is around July of next year," Khan said.

Prosecutor Brenda Hollis said she may have to call more than 100 witnesses during the case and said some could be asked to testify via video links between the courtroom and Sierra Leone.

However, Khan said he would object to such a move, arguing it would amount to "conducting this trial by remote control" and would deprive him and the judges of the opportunity to watch a witness' demeanor while testifying.

Taylor faces 11 charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity for allegedly overseeing the murder, rape and mutilation of thousands of people during neighboring Sierra Leone's 10-year civil war. The former warlord has pleaded not guilty. He faces life in prison if convicted.

Taylor is being detained in a wing of the same maximum security prison in The Hague where former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic died in March while on trial for genocide and war crimes. Taylor was flown to the Netherlands in June amid fears that staging his trial in Sierra Leone could trigger fresh unrest in the war-scarred African nation.

Concord Times
Monday, 24 July 2006

Special Court Returns Bonthe Island Facility to Gov't.

The Special Court today returned its detention facility on Bonthe Island to the Sierra Leone Prison Service. The building, which formerly housed a minor offences prison for the Sierra Leone Prison Service, had been provided to the Special Court by the Government of Sierra Leone to house detainees and for judicial proceedings while the New

England complex was under construction.

Between March and August 2003, Special Court Judges presided over nine initial appearances of accused persons in Bonthe.

In a brief ceremony on Thursday, Special Court Registrar Lovemore Munlo, SC (pictured left) handed over the keys to Moses Showers, Deputy Director of Prisons for the Republic of Sierra Leone Prison Service.

Mr Munlo thanked the Prison Service for its cooperation with the Court. "You know, certain days were rather tough and challenging," he said. "But you came forward.

We did not find you wanting. You gave us whatever assistance we wanted."

Mr Showers noted that the Special Court had renovated the facility, "for your own purposes initially, but I just say we are the greater beneficiary of that exercise". He noted that the Prison Service has officers serving on secondment at the Special Court.

"We want to thank you, and we want to assure you of our continued cooperation at all times for the director and all the members of staff of the prison service," Mr Showers said. "I want to assure you that that good will, and that cooperation will continue".

The Exclusive
Monday, 24 July 2006

At The Hague...

Taylor Cries Foul

By Keith Benjamin



Charles Taylor

Former Liberian President Charles Taylor, currently detained at the Hague's War Crimes Court detention centre has made his first appearance before the court, on an eleven count charge of war crime and crimes

against humanity, committed in the course of the decade long turmoil in Sierra Leone.

The former Liberian President informed his defence lawyer that he was very unhappy with his detention

Contd. page 2

Taylor Cries Foul

From front page

conditions in the ICC as well as the quality of the food given to him. Mr. Taylor complained

that he has no access to phone calls, and the much stiffer lock up conditions under which he is kept.

The trial of the former Liberian president Charles Taylor will commence proper, in February.

Independent Observer
Monday, 24 July 2006

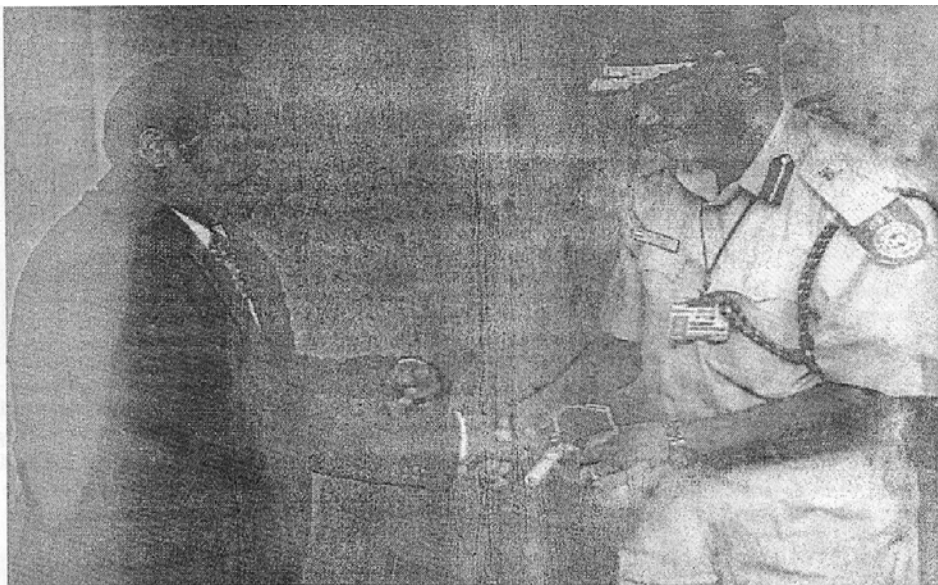
Charles Taylor with his lawyer in court last Friday



Mr Charles Taylor complained through his lawyer last Friday when he made his first court appearance in The Hague that the food provided him is too eurocentric and that he is being locked up for longer periods in his cell. It was the normal status conference of the court to discuss an indictee welfare

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Standard Times
Monday, 24 July 2006

Taylor spends 16 hours in jail per day

*- Lawyer says "its draconian,
not many phone calls"*

Former Liberian President Charles Taylor has said he is unhappy with "draconian" conditions in the Dutch prison where he is awaiting trial.

Mr Taylor's lawyer made the complaint during his first appearance before a special UN-backed war crimes tribunal. · CONTINUED PAGE 11



Charles Taylor

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FROM PAGE 1

Mr Taylor faces 11 war crimes charges after allegedly backing rebels in the decade-long Sierra Leone civil war.

He was arrested in Nigeria this year and detained in Sierra Leone before being moved to The Hague for security.

Attorney Karim Asad Ahmad Khan described The Hague jail regime as "far more draconian... than operates in Freetown", the capital of Sierra Leone.

He said Mr Taylor was locked in his cell for up to 16 hours a day and could not make as many phone calls as he was allowed in Sierra Leone.

He also complained that his client was forced to eat "Eurocentric" food.

Mr Khan also objected to comments made by United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan during a visit earlier this month to the Special Court for Sierra Leone in Freetown.

Mr Khan said Mr Annan had referred to war crimes suspects such as Mr Taylor as criminals, undermining their right to be presumed innocent - something that was "repugnant to justice".

Although the Special Court for Sierra Leone is situated in Sierra Leone itself, Mr Taylor is being tried in the Netherlands for fear that his presence in Sierra Leone might lead to unrest.

The Dutch government agreed to host Mr Taylor's trial, as long as he was imprisoned in another country if he was convicted.

The United Kingdom has agreed to jail Mr Taylor in the event he is convicted.

Both Sierra Leone and Liberia are recovering from years of conflict, in which Mr Taylor played a central role.

Sierra Leone's Revolutionary United Front rebels were notorious for mutilating civilians, by hacking off their arms or legs with machetes.

BBC Online

Monday, 24 July 2006

Taylor complains about Hague jail

Former Liberian President Charles Taylor has said he is unhappy with "draconian" conditions in the Dutch prison where he is awaiting trial.

Mr Taylor's lawyer made the complaint during his first appearance before a special UN-backed war crimes tribunal.

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'Repugnant to justice'

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Charles Taylor has pleaded not guilty to charges of war crimes

TAYLOR TIMELINE

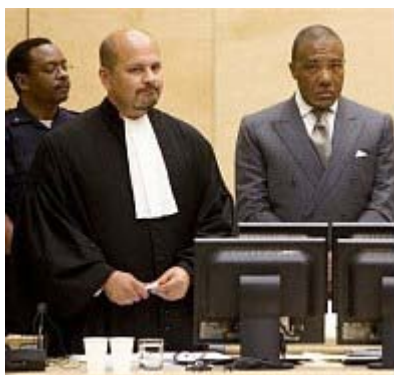
1989: Launches rebellion
1991: RUF rebellion starts in Sierra Leone
1995: Peace deal signed
1997: Elected president
1999: Lurd starts rebellion to oust Taylor
June 2003: Arrest warrant issued
August 2003: Steps down, goes into exile in Nigeria
March 2006: Arrested, sent to Sierra Leone

Voice of America

Friday, 21 July 2006

Ex-Liberian President Makes First Appearance at War Crimes Tribunal

Former Liberian president and notorious warlord Charles Taylor has appeared in a Hague courtroom for the first time since he was flown to the Netherlands for his war crimes trial. Taylor's lawyers used to the opportunity to complain about the conditions of his detention.



AP Photo

Charles Taylor did not speak throughout the 50-minute hearing held in the International Criminal Court on Friday.

Instead, his lawyer Karim Asad Ahmad Khan objected to the conditions of Taylor's imprisonment. He called the food Taylor was being served Eurocentric, and said he was often kept locked up in his cell for 16 hours a day.

Court registrar Herman von Hebel called the problems start-up issues, which he would help overcome next week.

Former Liberian President Charles Taylor, right, makes his first appearance at the courtroom of the Special Court for Sierra Leone

Taylor is facing eleven counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity for his role in the war in Sierra Leone from 1991 to 2000 in which many victims had body parts hacked off. In June, the Netherlands agreed to host the trial, after the U.N.-

backed court on Sierra Leone, which is conducting the trial, said it felt it was not safe to try him in Sierra Leone.

Khan also criticized remarks made by U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, which he said described war crimes suspects like Taylor as criminals. The AP news agency quoted Khan as saying these comments were not just unseemly but repugnant to justice.

Presiding judge Richard Lussick said judges would ignore Annan's comments and would not be influenced by any other remarks made outside the courtroom.

Taylor made headlines in March when he was captured in Nigeria. He had fled from his exile home in southern Nigeria, when Nigeria agreed to hand him over to Liberia. His was immediately transferred into the custody of the Sierra Leone court.

While prosecutors were hoping to start the trial early next year, Khan said it would take until at least next July to prepare a case of what he called this "size and magnitude."

Index online

Monday, 24 July 2006

<http://www.idexonline.com>

Taylor Pleads Not Guilty at The Hague

Former Liberian President Charles Taylor has pleaded not guilty to 11 charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity. The charges stem from the 10-year long civil war in Sierra Leone, in which weapons purchases were partly funded by diamonds.

Taylor did not speak during the 50-minute hearing during which his lawyer Karim Asad Ahmad Khan complained about the 'Eurocentric' food his client is being served and the limitations on Taylor's phone calls. The lawyer told the court that he was unlikely to be ready for trial before July 2007.

Taylor's use of trading diamonds and lumber for weapons and other supplies to sustain his wars gave rise to the diamond industry's decision to form the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) to end the flow of what became known as "Blood" or "Conflict Diamonds."

Independent Online

Saturday, 22 July 2006

Taylor complains of 'draconian' Hague prison

The Sierra Leone special court moved Taylor to The Hague because of fears a trial in Freetown could spur unrest in Sierra Leone or Liberia. Judge Richard Lussick said he did not want people to have the impression that Freetown was "the Riviera of detention" but said he hoped the court's registrar would address Taylor's concerns.

Herman von Hebel, the Sierra Leone court's deputy registrar, said he had come to the Hague to talk to the International Criminal Commission (ICC) about logistics related to the trial and said he thought Taylor's concerns were mostly easily solved "start-up" issues.

Taylor appeared in Freetown for an initial hearing in April, when he pleaded innocent to 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity for backing rebels who raped and mutilated civilians in Sierra Leone's 1991-2002 civil war.

Prosecutor Brenda Hollis said she hoped the trial could begin in February, but Khan said the earliest the defence could imagine starting would be in July.

Khan said the limits on phone calls were hampering Taylor's efforts to raise funds for his defence and said a case of this magnitude would take more than a year to prepare, especially given the difficulties created by moving the trial.

Judge Lussick said it was too early to estimate a start date now. He set the next procedural hearing for September 29.

Hollis said the prosecution hoped to present evidence from as many as 180 witnesses, either in person, via video link from Freetown or in written testimony. Khan said the defence would object to testimony via video link.

Taylor is being held at a prison near The Hague, where suspects standing trial at the UN tribunal for the former Yugoslavia are housed and where former Yugoslav president Slobodan Milosevic died of a heart attack in March.

Taylor's rise to power in 1989 led to a 14-year, on-and-off civil war in Liberia that spilled across regional borders. He fled into exile in Nigeria in 2003 but was returned to Liberia and transferred to the court in Sierra Leone in March. - Reuters

Diamond intelligence.com

23 July 2006

<http://www.diamondintelligence.com/magazine/magazine.asp?id=4024>

TAYLOR PLEADS NOT GUILTY TO CHARGES OF WAR CRIMES AND CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY

Charles Taylor, the former President of Liberia, has pleaded not guilty to 11 charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity stemming from the conflict in Sierra Leone where diamonds were used to purchase arms, during an appearance in court at The Hague.

Taylor was indicted by the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone in Freetown but was transferred to The Hague last month after Liberians and Sierra Leoneans expressed fears that the region could be destabilized if his trial were held in West Africa. The Special Court retains jurisdiction.

Taylor triggered 14 years of civil war in Liberia when he launched a rebellion from neighboring Cote d'Ivoire in December 1989 to unseat President Samuel Doe, who was later killed.

Taylor went into exile in Nigeria in August 2003 and was transferred to the Special Court after Liberia's new president, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, requested his extradition. Taylor's attorney say that he is unlikely to be ready for trial before July 2007.

Jurist

Friday, 21 July 2006

Taylor makes first war crimes court appearance at The Hague



Former Liberian President Charles Taylor on Friday made his first court appearance in The Hague since leaving Sierra Leone last month. Taylor's lawyer Karim Khan told the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) , sitting at International Criminal Court (ICC) facilities, that Taylor is unhappy with prison conditions at The Hague, calling conditions at the Freetown, Sierra Leone prison that formerly detained Taylor far superior to his current conditions.

Prosecutor Brenda Hollis stated hopes that the trial will begin at the beginning of next year , but Khan countered that the trial will take at least one year to prepare given the difficulties of hosting the trial in the Netherlands.

In March the SCSL said it wanted to move Taylor's trial to The Hague for security reasons, but the Netherlands said that it would only agree to host the trial on its territory if the tribunal found a country willing to imprison Taylor if he is found guilty and a country that will grant him asylum if he is acquitted. Britain offered to take custody of Taylor in June, after several other countries refused. Taylor has been indicted on charges of crimes against humanity and violations of international humanitarian law, including murder, rape and the recruitment and use of child soldiers during the war in Sierra Leone. Taylor will next appear in court on September 29.

Cocorioko Website

Saturday, 22 July 2006

That the Dead may not have Died in Vain

A case for a War Crimes tribunal

By Solomon Vincent

The phone rang at 4:00 am on this fateful morning. The piercing sound of the ringer in the tranquillity of the night was enough to jar me awake. Hello? I gruffed.. It was my sister, Willetta. This had to be important. Whenever my family and relatives called, I would slyly hint that a good time to get me would be 12:00 pm Monrovia time.

We exchanged some banter and she said that Mom was with her. This was 1996 before the advent of cell phones and wireless technology. Liberia was always at War. Mom lived in Paynesville and had travelled to the city to be able to make that call. I was excited with anticipation. My Mom got on the phone. She was audibly shaken trying to compose herself. She said, "they kill Mo". I stupidly asked, who Mo? She said lil Mo, my son. She meant a young man named Moses Varney. I

In the dawn of the morning, tears welled up in my eyes. I was more confused than grief-stricken. We talked for a while and they somehow sidestepped the issue of how he died. I would learn later from someone else the story of his death. Lil Mo grew up and became one of the members in the army of the INPFL. Mo was from the Mano tribe. He was from the same Nimba County as Prince Johnson, one of Mr. Johnson's kinsmen.

A handsome young kid with "open-teeth", Mo was a very happy kid naturally. He was always smiling. We had grown up together in Paynesville. My Mom raised Mo from when he was 3. We slept in the same space, did the chores, planted the garden, went fishing and climbed the mango plum trees during the vacation to make money.

Mo was in the army of Prince Johnson. I was told that he was one of the important people in the Prince Johnson INPLF faction. During the heat of the war, my Mom had more than 200 people living at her place on Duport Road. Through fate, Mo would go back to the home where he grew up. He fed and protected all the people on the property till he was killed by Prince Johnson.

The issue here is not he died or was killed. It is how or why he was killed.

Prince Johnson ordered his men to burst the head of Mo and another individual with two fifty pound hammers. After they were killed, their bodies were dumped off the bridge into the water somewhere on Bushrod Island. It seems that Prince Johnson believed that Mo could not be killed by a gun or a knife. So, Mr. Johnson chose one of the most heinous ways to slaughter another human being.

After I hung up with My Mom and sister, I sat there in the stillness of the morning; thinking and reminiscing of our childhood together. He had attended Paynesville School across from "Joe bar" at the time. It was amazing how this kid knew the terrain of the "old-field". He could take you to all the good fishing holes or where he thought the best growth of mango trees would be for that year.

This was her second son to be killed. Her oldest natural born son, Warrant Officer John Nyema Orea had been killed during the Quowonkpa uprising in 1985. "Nyema" was a 1967 graduate of the US Army Schools at the Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Maryland, USA. His specialty had

been Long Range Artillery and Welding. Orea had been found dead on South Beach with acid thrown in his face and his heart cut out. Mom had to identify him by his birthmark. I suddenly could physically feel her pain and grief.

I was suddenly taken to an era in my younger days. Orea had joined the army at 15. Rumor was that Mom had made him join the Army, least he become one of "those grona boys". I used to sit there and watch him polish his buttons for his Army fete with Braso till they shone. And, polishing his boots was almost a ritual in itself. His finishing task was a round gold sort of badge that the guys wore on their pockets. It read "US Army Schools". Years earlier, before he came to Maryland, I would always be animated to see Orea and "Bill Ray" (sp) and the rest of the Army guys that drove those big Army trucks.

I have a special admiration for the people of Liberia that lived and survived the War. The particular wickedness exhibited in Liberia was as if the jaws of Hell itself had opened and envelope this sacred homeland with grief, death, destruction and misery. If there is no compelling reason for a War Crimes Tribunal, the two I just mentioned would suffice, and that their deaths may not have been in vain.

In the hollow silence of the dawn, I remembered the Russian Ambassador presenting his Letters of Credence to President Tolbert. The Ambassador said "my country would assist any where in the world where people were fighting for independence, freedom and dignity, etc". I can almost still here the words of President Tolbert resonate when he said, The Greatest War going on in Liberia is the War against Ignorance, Poverty and Disease. "Liberia would welcome any assistance.

United Nations



Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 22 July 2006

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

International Clips on Liberia

World Bank president praises Liberia's economic progress, but says much left to do

By JONATHAN PAYE-LAYLEH

Source: AP WorldStream English (all) Date: July 22, 2006

MONROVIA, Liberia_World Bank President Paul Wolfowitz wraps up a visit Saturday to the war-shattered West African nation of Liberia, where he has praised economic progress led by the country's new head of state, but warned there is "a lot of work to do." Wolfowitz arrived in Liberia's capital, Monrovia, on Friday and addressed lawmakers examining the first annual budget proposal submitted by President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's government. It totaled US\$120 (EUR 94.64) million.

LEBANON-LIBERIA: Liberians who fled civil war trapped in Beirut

DAKAR, 21 Jul 2006 (IRIN) - Victoria Dedran fled civil war in Liberia ten years ago and sought refuge in Beirut with her Lebanese husband. Now she's trapped in the embattled city with her family. "We want to leave but we don't know the situation outside if we go," said Dedran, 56. "We are surrounded all over. There is nowhere for us to go." The 10 family members are sheltered in a one-bedroom apartment in downtown Lebanon. "I'm having enough to eat now," said Dedran, "but after some time I don't know if I will have enough to eat."

International Clips on West Africa

Gbagbo allies threaten more trouble over ID scheme

ABIDJAN, July 21, 2006 (AFP) - Hardline supporters of Ivory Coast President Laurent Gbagbo threatened on Friday to paralyse the country's transitional government if the issuing of ID cards -- a key precursor to upcoming elections -- is not stopped within a week. "We ask Prime Minister (Charles Konan Banny) to move quickly, because if within one week, this exercise is not suspended ... the boycott will not only affect the identification process, but all government operations," Pascal Affi Guessan from Gbagbo's FPI party said.

Local Media – STAR RADIO *(News culled from website at 09:00 am)*

World Bank President Addresses National Legislature

- World Bank President Paul Wolfowitz has called on the National Legislature to work with the Executive to improve the lives of the Liberian People who have been living below the poverty line due to the prolonged civil war in the country.
- Addressing a joint session yesterday, Mr. Wolfowitz said it was important for the lawmakers to work alongside the Executive to revive the political, economic and judicial systems of the country.
- He gave assurance that the World Bank and other donors would work tirelessly to ensure a bright future for war-ravaged Liberia.

Ghana's President to Participate In Liberia's Independence Day Celebration

- As part of Liberia's Independence Day celebrations on 26 July, Ghana's President John Kuffuor will symbolically switch on the lights in Monrovia to commence the post-war re-electrification of Liberia, according to Assistant Information Minister Gabriel Williams.
- He said that President Laurent Gbagbo of Ivory Coast and Ahmed Tejan Kabbah of Sierra Leone have also been invited to celebrate with Liberia.
- Mr. Williams also said that several individuals, including Vice President Joseph Boakai and ailing Catholic Archbishop Michael Francis and several members of the Armed Forces of Liberia would be honored for their service to the country.

Defense Minister Warns Against Seizure of Taylor's Properties

- The Minister of National Defense Brownie Samukai has warned that anyone attempting to seize the properties of former President Charles Taylor would be dealt with according to law. Mr. Samukai's warning followed threats by former presidential guards of the Anti Terrorist Unit that they would seize the belongings of the former President if the government does not give them their just compensation.

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

UNMIL Public Information Office
Press Clips 21 July 2006

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

International Clips on Liberia

Taylor defence teams seeks delay on war crimes trial

by Stephanie van den Berg

THE HAGUE, July 21, 2006 (AFP) - Charles Taylor's defence team sought Friday to delay his war crimes trial until at least a year from now, arguing it needed time to prepare to fight claims that he sponsored one of the most savage wars in modern African history.

At a procedural hearing in The Hague, the first meeting of the Special Court for Sierra Leone since it moved out of Freetown for security reasons, the former Liberian president appeared but did not speak in public.

Dressed in a grey pinstripe suit, Taylor followed the proceedings intently but made no comment apart from addressing his lawyer for a short deliberation inaudible to the public.

The so-called status conference in the Taylor case was called in order to allow all parties and the judge, Richard Lussick, to discuss trial preparations and a potential start date.

The prosecution wants the trial to start by February, but Taylor's camp argued that the relocation out of west Africa to the Netherlands has impeded its preparations.

His lawyer, Karim Kahn, said July of next year was the "earliest this trial could properly start", in order to have time to conduct sufficient investigations.

Kahn also vigorously opposed plans to have witnesses testify from Africa via video link, deriding it as trial "by remote control" and arguing that judges needed to see witnesses in person to gauge whether they were telling the truth.

Taylor's trial, the biggest case before the UN-backed court, was moved out of Sierra Leone and to the premises of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in Europe to avoid stirring unrest in strife-prone west Africa.

The former warlord is seen as the single most powerful figure behind a series of civil wars in Liberia and neighbouring Sierra Leone between 1989 and 2003 which left around 400,000 people dead.

He faces a total of 11 charges of crimes against humanity, war crimes and violations of international human rights and is specifically accused of aiding rebel groups which murdered, enslaved and mutilated civilians during the 1991-2001 civil war in Sierra Leone, Liberia's neighbour.

The Special Court, which is still in charge of all proceedings being held in The Hague, on Friday flew Lussick and a prosecutor in from Freetown to handle the hearing.

The judge said it was "premature" to settle on a trial start date and that it could be set "towards the end of the year".

Taylor's defence team also used the hearing Friday to rail against the conditions of his detention at the ICC facility outside the Dutch capital, accusing them of rationing his phone use and serving up only "eurocentric" foods.

They said that because Taylor cannot receive calls as easily as he could in Freetown, it was impeding his efforts to raise money for his defence.

Kahn also pressed the judge for visas for Taylor's family, including his wife who he said was six months pregnant.

"He hasn't had the opportunity to say goodbye to his family when he left Africa and he is keen to see his wife", the lawyer said.

The former Liberian leader, was forced into exile in Nigeria in 2003, ending Liberia's last civil war, was caught in March trying to flee to Cameroon two days after going missing from his villa.

The judge said he would raise the issues with the court's registrar who deals with matters of detention and the well-being of detainees, before adjourning the hearing.

Another status conference in the Taylor case has been set for Friday September 29.

UPDATE 2-Charles Taylor complains of "draconian" Hague jail

By Emma Thomasson

THE HAGUE, July 21 (Reuters) - Charles Taylor is not happy about conditions in the Hague jail he was moved to last month, his lawyer said on Friday as the former Liberian president appeared in court for the first time since he left Sierra Leone.

Defence lawyer Karim Khan told the U.N.-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone, which will try Taylor for war crimes that his client could not make phone calls as freely as he could in Freetown, lockdown hours were "far more draconian" and he was unhappy about the food in the "rather Eurocentric" facility.

"There is still a wide discrepancy between treatment ... in Freetown and that ... here in The Hague," Khan said, adding Taylor was sometimes kept locked in his cell for up to 16 hours.

Taylor, wearing a grey suit to the procedural hearing, also asked the court through his lawyer to speed visas for his family to visit him in The Hague. Taylor's wife is six months pregnant.

The Sierra Leone special court moved Taylor to The Hague because of fears a trial in Freetown could spur unrest in Sierra Leone or Liberia. Proceedings are being held in the premises of the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Judge Richard Lussick said he did not want people to have the impression Freetown was "the Riviera of detention" but said he hoped the court's registrar would address Taylor's concerns.

Herman von Hebel, the Sierra Leone court's deputy registrar, told journalists he had come to the Hague to talk to the ICC about logistics related to the trial and said he thought Taylor's concerns were mostly easily solved "start-up" issues.

TRIAL TO START IN 2007

Taylor appeared in court in Freetown for an initial hearing in April, when he pleaded innocent to 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity for backing rebels who raped and mutilated civilians during Sierra Leone's 1991-2002 civil war.

Prosecutor Brenda Hollis said she hoped the trial could begin in February, but Khan said that was untenable and the earliest the defence could imagine starting would be in July.

Khan said the limits on phone calls were hampering Taylor's efforts to raise funds for his defence and said a case of this magnitude would take more than a year to prepare, especially given the difficulties created by moving the trial to The Hague.

Judge Lussick said it was too early to estimate a start date now. He set the next procedural hearing for Sept. 29.

Hollis said the prosecution hoped to present evidence from as many as 180 witnesses, either in person, via video link from Freetown or in written testimony. Khan said the defence would object to testimony via video link.

Taylor is being held at a prison near The Hague, where suspects standing trial at the U.N. tribunal for the former Yugoslavia are housed and where former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic died of a heart attack in March.

The U.N. Security Council authorised Taylor's transfer in June after Britain said it would jail him if he is found guilty.

Taylor's rise to power in 1989 led to a 14-year, on-and-off civil war in Liberia that spilled across regional borders. He fled into exile in Nigeria in 2003 but was returned to Liberia and transferred to the court in Sierra Leone in March.

Liberia's Taylor makes first court appearance in The Hague

THE HAGUE, July 21, 2006 (AFP) - Former Liberian president Charles Taylor appeared in court Friday as the tribunal prosecuting war crimes from Sierra Leone's decade-long conflict held a first hearing at new quarters in The Hague.

Taylor, dressed in a dark grey pin-stripe suit, followed the proceedings intently but did not speak in court apart from addressing his lawyer for a short deliberation inaudible to the public.

The trial of the ex-warlord, the biggest case before the UN-backed court, was moved out of Freetown and to the premises of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in Europe to avoid stirring unrest in strife-prone west Africa.

The Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL), which is still in charge of all proceedings, on Friday flew in a judge and a prosecutor from Freetown to handle the hearing.

Taylor is seen as the single most powerful figure behind a series of civil wars in Liberia and neighbouring Sierra Leone between 1989 and 2003 which left around 400,000 people dead.

He faces a total of 11 charges of crimes against humanity, war crimes and violations of international human rights and is specifically accused of aiding rebel groups which murdered, enslaved and mutilated civilians during the 1991-2001 civil war in Sierra Leone, Liberia's neighbour.

International Clips on West Africa

Ivory Coast's Gbagbo on lightning religious trip to Ghana

ACCRA, July 20, 2006 (AFP) - Ivory Coast's President Laurent Gbagbo visited neighbouring Ghana overnight for a religious meeting hours after his supporters caused mayhem in Abidjan over a UN-backed exercise to end the political crisis in his country, a Ghana government official said Thursday.

"President Gbagbo came in with his wife (Simone) for a private visit to attend a Christian retreat in the western region of Ghana and he left around lunchtime," a senior Ghanaian foreign affairs ministry official told AFP.

Ghana's western region bordering Ivory Coast is about two hours' drive from the Ivorian commercial capital, Abidjan.

Hardline supporters of Gbagbo had on Wednesday stormed onto the streets, cordoning off main roads across Abidjan and paralysing businesses, in protest at a voter-identification scheme that kicked off early this week.

The barricades were pulled down overnight after Gbagbo issued a statement on television telling them to open up the roads and let the city get back to work.

The two-month identification exercise -- to issue birth certificates and ID cards to the 3.5 million undocumented individuals in this country of 16 million -- is a vital step towards presidential and general elections designed to shore up Ivory Coast's fragile peace process.

UNMIL Daily Newspaper Summary

Friday, 21 July 2006

[The newspaper summary does not necessarily reflect the views of UNMIL.]

Liberian Senate Rules out Investigating Snowe's Diplomatic Letter

(The News, The Inquirer, The Analyst, Daily Observer, Heritage and The Informer)

- Senate Pro-Tempore Isaac Nyenabo on Thursday broke a tie in favour of Speaker Edwin Snowe. This means that the Speaker will not face investigation for secretly committing the Legislature in reestablishing diplomatic ties with Taiwan.
- Members of the House of Senate had voted on Wednesday to investigate the Speaker's action or possibly expel him, but the votes were tied, giving the presiding officer, Senator Nyenabo, the right to break the tie.
- Senator Nyenabo said he took the decision in line with Article 29 of the Liberian Constitution which calls for the separation of powers. "I broke the tie to protect the Constitution and not to support Snowe for his wrongdoing," he said.

Lawmakers Rescind Decision to Suspend Deliberation on Fiscal Budget

(The Inquirer, Heritage and New Democrat)

- Members of the House of Representatives have rescinded a decision to suspend further deliberation on the draft 2006/2007 national budget.
- After carefully examining a motion of reconsideration, the lawmakers on Thursday decided to restart hearings on the draft budget, while at the same time maintaining, their demand that the Executive Branch of government should submit a performance report on how the recast budget was expended.

US\$68,000 Fraud Uncovered At Forestry Development Authority

(The Inquirer)

- Police in Monrovia are investigating several individuals, mostly pit sawyers, for supposedly carrying out financial fraud to the tune of US\$68,000 against the Forestry Development Authority (FDA).
- FDA Communication Officer, Richie Garley Grear, said that the management detected the fraud from the timber revenue in May of this year when the bank statement reflected a lower amount than pit sawyers claimed to have deposited over the period.
- Mr. Grear described the act as "economic sabotage" and said there are indications that people within the FDA aided and abetted the fraudulent process.

Environmental Lawyers Want Information on Concession Agreements

(The News and The Analyst)

- The Association of Environmental Lawyers of Liberia, otherwise known as the Green Advocates, has requested the Liberian government to provide information on exploratory rights, concession agreements, contracts, licenses and permits it granted several companies in the last 15 years.
- In a letter addressed to the relevant government institutions, the group also requested the government to give information on the procedures that were adopted in granting these agreements and the specific locations of claims, rights and concessions as well as their operational areas and the proper addresses of the owners.

World Bank President Visits Liberia Today

(The News and The Inquirer)

- The President of the World Bank, Paul Wolfowitz, arrives in Liberia today as guest of the Liberian government.
- According to Presidential Press Secretary, Cyrus Badio, the World Bank President will embark on high level talks with President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, senior Liberian government officials and meet with development partners, the United Nations and members of civil society.
- Mr. Wolfowitz and President Johnson-Sirleaf will jointly tour several facilities including the damaged and looted Mount Coffee Hydro Dam to see how the Bank could assist Liberia recover from the wreckage of its decade-long civil war.
- While in the country, Mr. Wolfowitz will address a joint session of the National Legislature followed by a news conference.

Liberians Remain Undernourished as Life Expectancy Drops to 47 Years

(The News)

- A study conducted by the Department For International Development in the UK has shown that life expectancy in Liberia has radically reduced to 47 years, while 46 percent of the population is undernourished.
- According to the study, life expectancy in Liberia previously stood at 70 years.

British Government Increases Liberia's Aid to US\$18 Million Annually

(The News, The Analyst and New Democrat)

- British Secretary of State for International Development, Hilary Benn, on Wednesday announced an increase in British aid to Liberia from 5 million pounds to 10 million pounds, approximately US\$18 million annually.
- Mr. Benn made the announcement following a closed door meeting with Liberia's President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf and the President of the African Development Bank, Donald Kaberuka, in Monrovia.

Three Presidential Guards Suspended on Sexual Harassment Charges

(New Democrat)

- President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf has suspended three senior officers of the Special Security Service (SSS) for their alleged involvement in sexual harassment of employees at the Executive Mansion.
- The suspended officers are Ashford Peal, Assistant Director of the SSS for Operation, Darlington George, Senior Aide de' Camp to President Johnson-Sirleaf and Jeremiah Hinneh, Director Aide de' Camp.

UN Report Points to Corruption in Liberia's Judicial System

(The Informer)

- A quarterly human rights report covering February to April 2006 published by the United Nations Mission in Liberia has pointed to corruption in the judicial system of Liberia.
- The report said the malfunctioning and the weakness of the judiciary is posing serious threat to the governance of the rule of law, noting that corrupt practices by judicial officials remained a challenge to guaranteeing equal access to justice and equality under the law.

Special Court Supplement

Dr Donald Harding, Special Court Medical Officer, on “Routine Maintenance for Men”

ROUTINE MAINTENANCE FOR MEN

KEEP YOUR BODY IN GOOD RUNNING ORDER

When it comes to cars, men know when to change the oil, rotate the tyres but you are not as diligent about caring for your body as you are about your car.

The body needs routine maintenance, no matter how many miles you have on it. Some men never have that care and end up breaking down on the road.

Men die at a higher rate than women from the top main causes of death - heart disease, cancer, stroke, diabetes, lung disease etc.

Men also die younger than women. On average women survive men by six years. Men don't go to their Doctors. Most men don't even have a Doctor.

The Problem that men have is not so much a specific disease, but the diseases are the result of lack of health care monitoring in earlier life.

Another problem is on Society in general, which expects boys to be tough and ignore pain. However, as you grow older a little pain may be a signal that something serious is going on in your body.

Get a Doctor, but also a basic maintenance schedule for your health.

Here is a rough schedule for the generally healthy man.

EVERY DAY

* **Fill up with good fuel** : Eat 5 - 8 servings of fruits and vegetables daily. Fatty foods, which leave deposits in your arteries like petrol leaves deposits in your engine, should make only a small part of it.

* **Clean your Grill** : Brush your teeth twice a day with a fluoride tooth paste and floss once a day especially at night.. Good oral hygiene prevents tooth decay and gum disease.

* **Protect yourself** : Use Condoms for obvious reasons.

Weekly

* Don't forget your malaria prophylaxis

MONTHLY

* **Skin Self-exam**

keep a close watch on your skin for moles that could be cancerous. A suspicious mole is one that is uneven, with irregular border, uneven colour and larger than a pencil eraser.

*** Testicular Self-exam**

Gently roll each testicle between your thumb and fingers feeling for any abnormal lumps. If you do feel a lump, talk to your Doctor.

*** SIX MONTHS**

Dental check-up

Visit the Dentist every six months for a cleaning and complete check-up.

ANNUALLY

*** Check your blood pressure**

Keeping your blood pressure within normal range is as important as keeping correct air pressure in your tyres.

Everybody ought to know their blood pressure. A normal blood pressure is systolic pressure (top number) of 120 or 115 and a diastolic pressure (bottom number) of 80 or 75.

*** Prostate Cancer Screening**

All men over the age of 40 should start screening for prostate cancer. Two types of tests - blood test for prostate-specific antigen (PSA) and digital rectal examination.

*** Colon cancer screening**

Begin at age 50. The initial test is simply to check for hidden blood in your stool.

*** Full physical examination**

Necessary to give update on your medical history and receive a thorough all over examination. It wont be bad to check your blood cholesterol level and also your stool for worm infestation.

Don't be fooled by the notion that a real man is a man with no vulnerabilities