

**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:

Monday, 24 May 2010

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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The Exclusive
Monday, 24 May 2010

"PROSECUTION WITNESS WAS A COOK, AND NOT A RADIO OPERATOR"

Mr. Joseph Dehmie, a Former Radio Operator of the NPFL has refuted the testimonies of a Former RUF Radio Operator, Dauda Fonie who had testified for the Prosecution that he was an RUF Radio Operator trained by the NPFL in Tubmanburg, Bomi County. Mr. Dehmie also denied that RUF Fighters took advanced training from NPFL Commanders. John Kollie reports Reports for the BBC World Service....

Continuing his direct examination on Thursday, Mr. Dehmie said Prosecution Witness, Dauda Fonie was not a Radio Operator, but a cook in Tubmanburg, Bomi County in 1991.

Prosecution witness, Dauda Fonie told the court in 2008 that Former RUF Leader, Foday Sankoh assigned him to NPFL

Former Lands, Mines and Energy Minister, Legbeye Degbon as a Radio Operator.

But Defence Witness Dehmie insisted that Dauda Fonie never served as a Radio Operator.

Questioned by Defence Lawyer Morris Anyah, Mr. Dehmie said RUF Fighters were never trained by NPFL Commanders in Bomi County.

The Defence witness later started his cross-examination on a confused note, stumbling over 1992 and 2002, the date he said NPFL Former Lands, Mines and Energy Minister, Legbeye Degbon was assigned to Bomi County by Charles Taylor. He later settled down for 1992.

Mr. Dehmie's cross-examination continues on Friday.

Prosecution Subpoena's Super Model Naomi Campbell

Prosecutors in the trial of Charles Taylor have today filed a motion to call three additional witnesses before Special Court for Sierra Leone Trial Chamber judges as evidence in rebuttal against the former Liberian president, who is on trial for allegedly providing support to Sierra Leonean rebel forces during the country's 11 year civil conflict.

Prosecutors also filed an additional motion for the issuance of a subpoena to a British supermodel, who is alleged to have received a rough diamond from Mr. Taylor while he was on a trip to South Africa in

1997. The "Prosecution Motion to Call Three Additional Witnesses," signed by the court's Chief Prosecutor, Ms. Brenda Hollis, relates to the incident regarding "the Accused's [Charles Taylor] gift of rough diamonds to Ms.

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Naomi Campbell (left) to testify in Taylor's trial (right)

Prosecution Subpoena's Super Model Naomi Campbell

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Naomi Campbell in September 1997 in South Africa while the accused was on a trip to various countries." The three witnesses who the prosecution intends to call are the supermodel who is alleged to have received the diamond from Mr. Taylor, "Ms. Naomi Campbell, Ms. Carole White, and Ms. Mia Farrow." Prosecutors have indicated that the direct-examination of the three witnesses will be done within two hours and this therefore will not cause any undue delay of the court's proceedings.

During the cross-examination of Mr. Taylor in January 2010, prosecutors raised the issue of Mr. Taylor allegedly giving the gift of a rough diamond to Ms. Campbell while the former president was on a visit to South Africa. Prosecutors alleged that Ms. Farrow, a close friend of Ms. Campbell, had informed them that the supermodel (Ms. Campbell) told her that after having dinner with former South African president Nelson Mandela in 1997, Mr. Taylor had sent his men to meet her in her hotel room and offer her a gift of a rough diamond a diamond that prosecutors allege was obtained by Mr. Taylor from the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) military junta that, in partnership with

Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels, ruled Sierra Leone in 1997. Mr. Taylor dismissed the allegation as "nonsense."

The judges refused to allow the admission of evidence relating to this incident because there was no evidence to show that Ms. Farrow had made such statement under oath or by sworn affidavit, the admission of such "fresh evidence" would be prejudicial to the accused, such prejudice outweighing the probative value of the evidence.

Prosecutors now argue in their motion that "the evidence was unknown to the prosecution when it formally closed its case on 27 February 2009." They argue that "it concerns a 'central issue' to the prosecution's case: The Accused's possession of rough diamonds."

"When considered in the totality of the prosecution evidence, the proposed evidence supports prosecution allegations that the Accused used rough diamonds for personal enrichment and arms purchases for Sierra Leone, especially during the AFRC/RUF period in 1997. The proposed evidence also rebuts the Accused testimony that he never possessed rough

diamonds," the prosecution motion states. If judges grant the prosecution request to call these three additional witnesses, the next question will be how do they get Ms. Campbell to come to the court and testify about the alleged incident, after she has already refused to comment on the matter to newsmen. It is in this light that prosecutors have also requested the judges to issue a subpoena to oblige Ms. Campbell to avail herself before the Special Court for Sierra Leone in The Hague.

Relying on the Rules of Procedure and Evidence of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, prosecutors are seeking that the subpoena be issued ordering Ms. Campbell to testify before the court and an order be given to the Registry of the court to serve and enforce the subpoena on Ms. Campbell.

"Ms. Campbell, the actual recipient of the Accused' gift of diamonds, is clearly in a position to provide material evidence about this event," the motion states.

"The prosecution's repeated efforts to interview Ms. Campbell about this event have been

Concord Times
Monday, 24 May 2010

Naomi Campbell May give Evidence in Special Court

LOCAL NEWS

By Arc:in Rashid
Deen

British supermodel, Naomi Campbell could be heading for The Hague, Netherlands, to testify as a witness in the trial of former Liberian leader and warlord, Charles Taylor, if the prosecution gets its way.

Prosecutors at the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone have filed a motion to subpoena Naomi Campbell to testify about a piece of rough diamond that the accused, Charles Taylor, gave her as a gift in September, 1997 in South Africa. Miss Campbell and Taylor were guests at a dinner hosted by then President Nelson Mandela. The prosecution says the gift is relevant to the charges that Mr. Taylor faces, as it stands central to its allegations that the former

warlord was instrumental in the smuggling of rough diamonds from both Sierra Leone and Liberia for "personal enrichment and arms purchases for rebels in neighbouring Sierra Leone." The prosecution has said that Mr. Taylor received diamonds from the AFRC/RUF junta during the indictment period.

The AFRC/RUF junta was a joint force of rebels and rag-tag renegade soldiers that overthrew the democratically elected government of Sierra Leone in 1997. They were also responsible for the killing and maiming of thousands of people during the war. The group was well known for its brutal trademark of amputating its victims.

Miss Campbell has expressed reservations to give evidence in the court for fear of her safety. Prosecution documents,

however, claim that she did not deny receiving the gift when interviewed about it on The Oprah Winfrey Show, aired on May 3, 2010.

A human rights activist, Mia Farrow who was also in South Africa at the time, was first to suggest that Mr. Taylor had given the supermodel a diamond.

The call for Campbell's subpoena came more than a year after the prosecution had formally closed its case. It, however, states that evidence about the alleged diamond had not been received at the time. The prosecution also filed a separate motion to reopen its case after the defense phase of the trial.

Even though the Rules of Procedure Evidence do not afford the prosecution a right to reopen its case, international jurisprudence does allow it in cer-

tain instances. For example, the Trial Chamber of the International Criminal Tribunal of the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) sitting on in the Celebici Case in October 1997 granted an application by the prosecutor for the issuance of subpoenas to six witnesses. This exception is based on Rule 54 of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence, which provides that "at the request of either party, a Judge or a Trial Chamber may issue such orders, summonses, subpoenas, warrants and transfer orders as may be necessary for the purposes of an investigation or for the preparation or conduct of the trial."

The government of Sierra Leone and the United Nations jointly set up the Special Court to try those who allegedly bear the greatest responsibility for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed during the decade-long bloody war in Sierra Leone.

The Court's spokesman at The Hague, Solomon Moriba, says the Trial Chamber will rule on the prosecution motion in the coming days or weeks. However, he stated that if the re-



quest is granted and Miss Campbell agrees to testify, she will only do so after the close of the defense case which is likely to continue into the summer.

It is not known what led Taylor to give Campbell a diamond.

The 39 year old supermodel is not new to lawsuits and criminal cases. In June 2008 she was sentenced to 200 hours of community service after pledging guilty following an incident at Heathrow Airport in London in which she attacked her household employees and two police officers. Prosecutors charged that she cursed, kicked and spat at police in a rage over a missing

luggage.

In 2007 she performed a week of community service, sweeping floors and cleaning toilets in a garbage facility in Manhattan, New York City. The community service was the sentence imposed after pledging guilty to misdemeanor assault for hitting her maid with a cell phone because she couldn't find a pair of jeans.

Miss Campbell in 2000 pleaded guilty to assault charges in Toronto for beating an assistant.

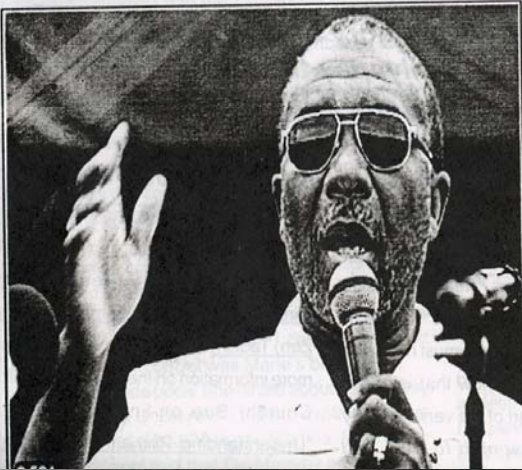
Some former aids of the supermodel and maids also have sued her, accusing her of violent outbursts. Some of the cases have been settled.

Roped By Special Court

War crimes prosecutors want to subpoena supermodel Naomi Campbell over claims that she received a blood diamond as a gift from former Liberian president Charles Taylor, who is currently on trial for crimes against humanity.

It is alleged that the former President gave the diamond to the supermodel on one of her trips to South Africa following a dinner hosted by Nelson Mandela. Naomi, 39, has so far refused to co-operate with the hearing and recently stormed out of a U.S. television interview when she was asked about it. A judge will now decide if a subpoena will be issued forcing her to attend the hearing. 'Ms Campbell's testimony is necessary as there is evidence that she was given rough diamonds by the accused (Taylor) in September 1997,' said a prosecution motion filed with the Special Court for Sierra Leone. Taylor is currently on trial for 11 charges of instigating murder, rape, mutilation, sexual slavery and conscription of child soldiers during wars in Liberia and Sierra Leone in which more than 250,000 people were killed. It is also alleged that

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Naomi Campbell to be prosecuted for receiving blood diamond

Cont from front page

in which more than 250,000 people were killed. It is also alleged that he provided arms and ammunition to brutal rebels during Sierra Leone's civil war in

exchange for diamonds. He denies the allegations. The prosecution is also calling on actress Mia Farrow who said Campbell told her about the former President's elaborate

Prosecutors seek Naomi Campbell testimony in Charles Taylor trial

AMSTERDAM (Reuters) - Prosecutors at the Special Court for Sierra Leone want to hear testimony from model Naomi Campbell about a so-called 'blood diamond' at the war crimes trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor.

The prosecution filed a motion with the court on Thursday seeking to hear testimony from Campbell but the court still needs to rule on whether to subpoena her, a court spokesman said.

On trial in The Hague, Taylor denies all 11 charges of instigating murder, rape, mutilation, sexual slavery and conscription of child soldiers during wars in Liberia and Sierra Leone in which more than 250,000 people were killed.

Prosecutors say Taylor armed and directed Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels to win control of neighboring Sierra Leone's diamond mines and destabilize its government to boost his regional influence during the country's 1991-2002 civil war. In January, prosecutors alleged Taylor gave Campbell a large rough cut diamond during a 1997 trip to South Africa following a dinner hosted by Nelson Mandela, accusing him of taking the diamonds to South Africa to buy weapons.

"That is totally, totally incorrect," Taylor had replied.

In its motion on Thursday, the prosecution said Campbell's evidence concerns a "central issue" in the case and she is in a position to provide "material evidence" to rebut Taylor's claims that he never possessed rough diamonds. *See page 2*

Naomi Campbell to testify

from front page

The prosecution said it has made repeated, but unsuccessful requests to interview Campbell about the event, adding that the British supermodel was "concerned for her safety" and that "judicial intervention" was now necessary to obtain her testimony.

The spokesman for the court could not say when judges would rule on whether to order Campbell to give testimony, but added it could be within the next few days to

a week.

The prosecution is also seeking testimony from modeling agent Carole White and actress Mia Farrow, who it said are both prepared to give testimony.

The prosecution said White heard Taylor say he was going to give Campbell some diamonds and was there when Campbell received them, while Farrow attended the reception where Campbell met Taylor and was told by Campbell about the gift the next morning.

Taylor's trial was transferred in 2006 to The Hague due to concerns that a trial at the Special Court for Sierra Leone in Freetown would have sparked local unrest.

Charlestaylor.org

Friday, 21 May 2010

As Prosecutors Seek Issuance of A Subpoena For Supermodel Naomi Campbell, Defense Witness Says He Did Not Train RUF Radio Operator

By Alpha Sesay

Weekly Summary

Prosecutors in the trial of Charles Taylor this week made an application to Special Court for Sierra Leone judges in The Hague for the issuance of a subpoena to supermodel Naomi Campbell, who is alleged to have received a rough diamond gift from the former Liberian president after a 1997 state dinner with former South African president Nelson Mandela. As proceedings continued in his trial, Mr. Taylor's 12th witness, who previously served as a radio operator for the former president's rebel group, refuted claims by a former Sierra Leonean rebel member who in his testimony for prosecutors said that he was trained as a radio operator by the present witness while in Liberia.

Mr. Taylor's trial took a dramatic twist on Thursday, when prosecutors, who closed their case against the former president in February 2009, made an application to the judges that they be allowed to reopen their case or bring evidence in rebuttal against Mr. Taylor by calling three additional witnesses, namely supermodel "Ms. Naomi Campbell, Ms. Carole White and Ms. Mia Farrow." The application also requested that the judges issue an order to subpoena supermodel Ms. Campbell to testify about a diamond gift she allegedly received from Mr. Taylor in South Africa in 1997.

During the cross-examination of Mr. Taylor in January 2010, prosecutors raised the issue of Mr. Taylor allegedly giving the gift of a rough diamond to Ms. Campbell while the former president was on a visit to South Africa. Prosecutors alleged that Ms. Farrow, a close friend of Ms. Campbell, had informed them that the supermodel (Ms. Campbell) told her that after having dinner with former South African president Nelson Mandela in 1997, Mr. Taylor had sent his men to meet her in her hotel room and offer her a gift of a rough diamond. The prosecutors allege this diamond was obtained by Mr. Taylor from the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) military junta that, in partnership with Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels, ruled Sierra Leone in 1997. Mr. Taylor dismissed the allegation as "nonsense."

The judges refused to allow the admission of evidence relating to this incident because there was no evidence to show that Ms. Farrow had made such statement under oath or by sworn affidavit, and the admission of such "fresh evidence" would be prejudicial to the accused, such prejudice outweighing the probative value of the evidence.

Prosecutors now argue in their motion that "the evidence was unknown to the prosecution when it formally closed its case on 27 February 2009." They argue that "it concerns a 'central issue' to the prosecution's case: The Accused's possession of rough diamonds."

"When considered in the totality of the prosecution evidence, the proposed evidence supports prosecution allegations that the Accused used rough diamonds for personal enrichment and arms purchases for Sierra Leone, especially during the AFRC/RUF period in 1997. The proposed evidence also rebuts the Accused testimony that he never possessed rough diamonds," the prosecution motion states.

If judges grant the prosecution request to call these three additional witnesses, the next question will be how do they get Ms. Campbell to come to the court and testify about the alleged incident, after she has already refused to comment on the matter to newsmen. It is in this light that prosecutors have also requested the judges to issue a subpoena to oblige Ms. Campbell to avail herself before the Special Court for Sierra Leone in The Hague.

Relying on the Rules of Procedure and Evidence of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, prosecutors are seeking that the subpoena be issued ordering Ms. Campbell to testify before the court and an order be given to the Registry of the court to serve and enforce the subpoena on Ms. Campbell.

“Ms. Campbell, the actual recipient of the Accused’ gift of diamonds, is clearly in a position to provide material evidence about this event,” the motion states.

“The prosecution’s repeated efforts to interview Ms. Campbell about this event have been unsuccessful and Ms. Campbell has given public statements that she does not wish to be involved in this case. Thus, judicial intervention in the form of a subpoena is necessary,” prosecutors argue.

Prosecutors also argue in their motion that Ms. White, who was Ms. Campbell’s representative in 1997, has told prosecutors in an interview that she was present in South Africa in 1997 and “personally heard Mr. Taylor say he wanted to give diamonds to Ms. Campbell and she personally saw the diamonds delivered to Ms. Campbell by men on behalf of Mr. Taylor.”

As proceedings continued in court this week, Mr. Taylor’s witness, Joseph Menson Dehmie, told the court that prosecution witness and former RUF radio operator Dauda Aruna Fornie, commonly called DAF, lied to the court when he testified that he had undergone training as a radio operator under the present witness while in Liberia. Mr. Dehmie described Mr. Fornie as a starving young man who had come to him for assistance, which said assistance he had given to Mr. Fornie. Mr. Dehmie said Mr. Fornie spent about 4-5 months with him during which he (Fornie) cooked and fetched water for him.

“Counsel, I have told you that the only thing that I know about DAF was that he was in need of assistance and I gave him assistance. He was a cook and he used to fetch water for us. He was not a radio man, he never held a microphone. He was a cook,” Mr. Dehmie said as he responded to questions about Mr. Fornie undergoing training as a radio operator.

Mr. Fornie testified in 2008 that about 300 of RUF rebels were taken to a Liberian rebel base at Bomi Hills in Liberia in 1991 where they underwent advanced military training. Mr. Fornie also said that at Bomi Hills, the RUF rebels performed domestic chores for Mr. Taylor’s NPFL commanders. According to Mr. Fornie, he was in the RUF group assigned to the NPFL Signal Unit at Bomi Hills and was trained in the use of communication or radio equipment by the NPFL Signal Regional Commander named “Joseph Dehmie” – the witness who is presently testifying in Mr. Taylor’s defense.

On Thursday, Mr. Dehmie expressed his surprise to find out that Mr. Fornie was an RUF fighter. According to Mr. Dehmie, he only knew Mr. Fornie after the young man had approached him at Bomi Hills as a hungry man who was desperate to get food.

“I am only hearing this today,” Mr. Dehmie said.

“Up to the time he was with me, he did not tell me that he was a soldier. That is surprising to me. I am only hearing this now.”

Mr. Dehmie told the court that when Mr. Fornie approached him for help at Bomi Hills, “he [Fornie] was so desperate. He was tiny — even a Somalian refugee was better than him.”

On Friday, Mr. Dehmie contradicted Mr. Taylor’s account about the existence of radio stations belonging to the NPFL in Liberia. The witness also said that there were no communications between the NPFL and RUF rebels in Sierra Leone in the early 1990s, contrary to what Mr. Taylor himself had told the court in his testimony as a witness in his own defense.

After pointing out on a map of Liberia the various locations where the NPFL installed communication radios in Liberia during the West African country’s conflict, Mr. Dehmie told the court that he did not know anything about a radio station belonging to the NPFL that was called “Tree Top.”

Lead prosecutor Ms. Brenda Hollis pointed out that on September 19, 2009, Mr. Taylor himself, testifying as a witness in his own defense spoke about the radio station “Tree Top” when asked by his defense lawyers.

“Tree Top, to the best of my recollection – Tree Top was a radio – the principal – I think one of the principal radio posts in Gbarngaha, if I am not mistaken, was called Tree Top,” Mr. Taylor told the court in September 2009.

Ms. Hollis also read from a February 24, 2010 transcript in which she quoted Mr. Taylor's first defense witness Mr. Yanks Smythe, himself a former member of the NPFL who said that the "radio station Tree Top was located in Gbarngba."

Mr. Dehmie still insisted that he did not know about "Tree Top."

Mr. Taylor also in his testimony told the court that the NPFL maintained a radio station at Foya in Lofa County and that in the early days of the Sierra Leonean conflict in 1991-1992, there was radio communication between RUF rebels in Sierra Leone and his NPFL in Liberia. On Friday, Mr. Dehmie denied the existence of any NPFL radio station at Foya, insisting also that there was no radio communication between the RUF and the NPFL in the early 1990s.

Ms. Hollis read from an October 27, 2009 transcript in which Mr. Taylor's defense counsel Courtenay Griffiths asked him (Taylor) about radio communications with the RUF in the early 1990s.

"If you wanted to communicate some information to an individual in Sierra Leone, how would you do that?" Mr. Griffiths asked Mr. Taylor in October 2009.

"I would instruct my radio operator Butterfly to transmit a message," Mr. Taylor had responded.

When this was read out to Mr. Dehmie on Friday, he responded that "I am not convinced that this is what Mr. Taylor said but if this is from Mr. Taylor, he would have communicated on a radio that I did not know about."

Earlier on Monday, prosecutors sought to impeach the credibility of Mr. Taylor's 11th witness, former NPFL commander Timan Edward Zammy, by pointing out that the witness has not been truthful about how he was recruited into NPFL, as well as the positions he claims to have held in the rebel group during the early days of the Liberian conflict.

Mr. Zammy, who spent more than one week testifying for Mr. Taylor, focused mainly on the conduct of the NPFL in Liberia and refuting claims that the Liberian rebel group was best known for committing heinous crimes against civilians. Prosecutors say that the RUF rebel group – a group that Mr. Taylor is accused of supporting in Sierra Leone – copied their tactics from the NPFL. Mr. Zammy has said that civilians were protected in areas under NPFL control. As his cross-examination continued on Monday, prosecutors focused mainly on pointing out areas in the witness's testimony where they believe he has not been truthful.

One area of focus on Monday was Mr. Zammy's account about how he was recruited into the NPFL. What he has told Special Court for Sierra Leone judges is different from what he told the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Liberia. During his direct-examination last week, Mr. Zammy told the court that he was recruited into the NPFL in the 1980s by one Alfred Mehn, popularly known in the NPFL as the "God Father." Prosecution counsel Katherine Howarth pointed out to the witness that he had told the Liberian TRC that it was Mr. Taylor who recruited him into the NPFL while he was in Ivory Coast. Noting the discrepancy, the witness said that his testimony before the TRC was a mistake.

"So when you told the Truth and Reconciliation Commission that Charles Taylor recruited you from the Ivory Coast, you got that wrong, correct?" Ms. Howarth asked the witness.

"It is not wrong, it is an error. I am repeating it, it's an error, it's a mistake," the witness responded.

Asked directly whether he was saying that he had "made a mistake when giving evidence to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission," the witness said "yes."

"A mistake is not a lie, a mistake is allowed to be made, anybody can make a mistake," Mr. Zammy said.

Ms. Howarth also pressed the witness hard on his evidence in direct-examination that in 1991, Mr. Taylor appointed him as Battalion Commander for the sixth Battalion of the NPFL, which was stationed in Bomi Hills. Ms. Howarth pointed out that other defense witnesses who testified about the NPFL command structure did not mention Mr.

Zammy's name as Commander of the sixth Battalion. These defense witnesses included Yanks Smythe, Karnah Edward Mineh, and Mr. Taylor himself.

Reading from a January 2010 transcript, Ms. Howarth pointed out that Mr. Taylor, while he testified on his own behalf, only referred to Mr. Zammy as "an Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) officer" and as "one of the Special Forces."

"This is all he [Taylor] had to say about you. He doesn't mention you as sixth Battalion commander. Another defense witness Yanks Smythe does not mention you as sixth Battalion commander and your one time friend Edward Mineh does not mention you as sixth Battalion commander. Were you actually sixth Battalion commander?" Ms. Howarth asked the witness.

"I will not tell lies. I served as sixth Battalion Commander in 1991...I was commander of the sixth Battalion from February 1991 to November 1991," the witness responded.

Prosecutors believe that pointing these flaws in Mr. Zammy's testimony will impeach his credibility and make him a witness whose account cannot be relied on.

As he concluded his testimony on Tuesday, Mr. Zammy told the court that areas controlled by the NPFL were the safest zones for civilians during the Liberian conflict. The witness also dismissed as "lies" claims that the NPFL was involved in looting civilian property, killing of civilians, rape, and sexual slavery – at least in his area.

"Civilians came to NPFL controlled areas because it was only the NPFL areas that were safe," Mr. Zammy said.

When pressed with reports of more abuses allegedly committed by NPFL rebels against the civilian population of Liberia, the witness clarified that his knowledge of NPFL conduct was limited to places which were under his control.

"I am not saying that within the whole of Liberia there was no violation, I am talking about my controlled area. I did not control Grand Jida, I did not control Lofa. The things that happened there I can't tell. But within my controlled areas is what I am talking about," he explained.

The witness dismissed as "untrue" the Liberian TRC report that the highest number of atrocities during the Liberian conflict were committed by NPFL rebels.

"The TRC report is not correct. Members of the TRC, even the chairman said he was victimized by the NPFL. What do you expect him to say about the NPFL?" the witness asked.

"The chairman was supposed to be neutral but if he makes such a comment about the NPFL, what do you expect him to say? The TRC report is not correct," he insisted.

Mr. Taylor is responding to charges that he provided support to RUF rebels in Sierra Leone during the West African country's 11 year civil conflict. The former president has denied all charges against him.

There will be no court sittings next week as the judges will be attending the plenary session for judges of the Special Court for Sierra Leone. Mr. Taylor's trial will resume on Monday, May 31, with a continuation of Mr. Dehmie's cross-examination.

The Patriotic Vanguard

Saturday, 22 May 2010.

Naomi Campbell may give evidence in Special Court

Sent in by Aroun Rashid Deen, New York.

British supermodel, Naomi Campbell could be heading for The Hague, Netherlands, to testify as a witness in the trial of former Liberian leader and warlord, Charles Taylor, if the prosecution gets its way.

Prosecutors at the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone have filed a motion to subpoena Naomi Campbell (pictured) to testify about a piece of rough diamond that the accused, Charles Taylor, gave her as a gift in September, 1997 in South Africa. Miss Campbell and Taylor were guests at a dinner hosted by then President Nelson Mandela. The prosecution says the gift is relevant to the charges that Mr. Taylor faces, as it stands central to its allegations that the former warlord was instrumental in the smuggling of rough diamonds from both Sierra Leone and Liberia for "personal enrichment and arms purchases for rebels in neighbouring Sierra Leone." The prosecution has said that Mr. Taylor received diamonds from the AFRC/RUF junta during the indictment period.

The AFRC/RUF junta was a joint force of rebels and rag-tag renegade soldiers that overthrew the democratically elected government of Sierra Leone in 1997. They were also responsible for the killing and maiming of thousands of people during the war. The group was well known for its brutal trademark of amputating its victims.

Miss Campbell has expressed reservations to give evidence in the court for fear of her safety. Prosecution documents, however, claim that she did not deny receiving the gift when interviewed about it on The Oprah Winfrey Show, aired on May 3, 2010.

A human rights activist, Mia Farrow who was also in South Africa at the time, was first to suggest that Mr. Taylor had given the supermodel a diamond.

The call for Campbell's subpoena came more than a year after the prosecution had formally closed its case. It, however, states that evidence about the alleged diamond had not been received at the time. The prosecution also filed a separate motion to reopen its case after the Defense phase of the trial. Even though the Rules of Procedure Evidence do not afford the prosecution a right to reopen its case, international jurisprudence does allow it in certain instances. For example, the Trial Chamber of the International Criminal Tribunal of the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) sitting on in the Celebici Case in October 1997 granted an application by the prosecutor for the issuance of subpoenas to six witnesses. This exception is based on Rule 54 of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence, which provides that "at the request of either party, a Judge or a Trial Chamber may issue such orders, summonses, subpoenas, warrants and transfer orders as may be necessary for the purposes of an investigation or for the preparation or conduct of the trial."

The government of Sierra Leone and the United Nations jointly set up the Special Court to try those who allegedly bear the greatest responsibility for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed during the decade-long bloody war in Sierra Leone.

The Court's spokesman at The Hague, Solomon Moriba, says the Trial Chamber will rule on the Prosecution motion in the coming days or weeks. However, he stated that if the request is granted and Miss Campbell agrees to testify, she will only do so after the close of the defense case which is likely to continue into the summer.

It is not known why Taylor gave Campbell and Charles Taylor that led the latter to give her a diamond. The 39 year old supermodel is not new to lawsuits and criminal cases. In June 2008 she was sentenced to 200 hours of community service after pledging guilty following an incident at Heathrow Airport in London in which she attacked her household employees and two police officers. Prosecutors charged that she cursed, kicked and spat at police in a rage over a missing luggage.

In 2007 she performed a week of community service, sweeping floors and cleaning toilets in a garbage facility in Manhattan, New York City. The community service was the sentence imposed after pledging guilty to misdemeanor assault for hitting her maid with a cell phone because she couldn't find a pair of jeans.

Miss Campbell in 2000 pledged guilty to assault charges in Toronto for beating an assistant. Some former aids of the supermodel and maids also have sued her, accusing her of violent outbursts. Some of the cases have been settled.

Shockya.com

Friday, 21 May 2010

Naomi Campbell May be Subpoenaed in Blood Diamond Case

Written by: Karen Benardello

Supermodel Naomi Campbell may be called to testify as a witness in the U.N. case against Charles Taylor, the exiled former president of Liberia, FOXNews.com reported on May 21. Prosecutors in the case filed a motion for her testimony, as they want to hear about the uncut “blood diamonds” Taylor gave her in 1997 at a dinner party at Nelson Mandela’s home.

Taylor is currently on trial for the war crimes committed during the Sierra Leone conflict in the 1990s. He denies the allegations that he gave arms and ammunition to rebels during the civil war in exchange for diamonds.

Prosecutors believe they may get a subpoena against Campbell because actress Mia Farrow took pictures of her with Taylor at the dinner. Farrow also said that Campbell told her about the diamonds the following morning. Carole White, Campbell’s former agent, corroborated Farrow’s story, saying she heard Taylor tell the model he would give her the diamonds.

Campbell had declined to comment on the case on numerous occasions, including during an appearance on ‘The Oprah Winfrey Show.’ She has said she doesn’t want to put herself or her family in danger.


United Nations **Nations Unies**

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary
21 May 2010

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

UN News in Liberia

UNMIL

UNMIL Boss to Lecture at IBB

[The Inquirer]

- The Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) of the United Nations in Liberia, Ms. Ellen Margrethe Løj has accepted an invitation from the Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida (IBB) Graduate School of International Studies at the University of Liberia to serve as a visiting lecturer during this current semester.
- Ms. Løj will bring her experience to the IBB Graduate School stemming from over 33 years of experience.
- For the first time in the history of the graduate school, someone with the esteem of the SRSG who currently heads the UN Mission in Liberia is a visiting lecturer at the school.
- Her first lecture brought together professors, students from other universities to come and witness first hand Liberia's SRSG lecture on UN Peacekeeping Operations: Some Lessons from the UN Mission in Liberia.

Local News on Liberian issues

Threshold Bill Case Partially Withdrawn From High Court

[The Inquirer]

- The group of lawmakers who took the Legislature to the Supreme Court on the threshold bill has withdrawn their case.
- The decision followed days of consultations with the complaining lawmakers.
- Senate President Pro-tempore Cletus Wotorson made the announcement Thursday during the sitting of the Senate.
- The lawsuit by the lawmakers was in connection with what they considered the illegal treatment given the first veto by President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf on the threshold bill.
- Meanwhile, Senator Wotorson says discussions are ongoing with the other complainant, the Concerned Setor Youth to withdraw the case.
- The case by the group represented by one James Doe has already been forwarded to the full bench of the Supreme Court with a conference slated for May 28.
- The group is contesting the 2008 census which it claimed was poorly conducted and must not be used to set the threshold for constituency representations.

Government Condemns Ex-AFL Widows' Protest Action

[Heritage]

- The government has condemned the protest action by aggrieved ex-Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) widows in Monrovia, demanding unpaid benefits supposedly owed them by the government.
- The ex-AFL widows, in what seems to be an unwavering protest action, are demanding over US\$5 million in unpaid benefits to their deceased husbands.
- The women have been staging sit-in-action for the last two days at major streets and intercessions in Monrovia to draw the attention of the government and the international community.

- But at a news conference Thursday Deputy Information Minister for Public Affairs, Jerolinmek M. Piah, said the action by the aggrieved ex-AFL widows was obstructing the normal flow of traffic thus infringing on the rights to movement of other people.
- “We want to condemn the action of our mothers and sisters. Their action to block traffic is in violation of other people’s rights,” Piah said.

NEC Releases Timetable for River Gee By-election

[Front Page Africa, In profile Daily, The Informer, The News, Public Agenda, Daily Observer]

- The National Elections Commission (NEC) has released the official timetable for the pending River Gee County District Number Three by-election.
- The release of the timetable followed a notification the Commission received from the House of Representatives declaring a vacancy in the House as a result of the death of River Gee Representative Albert Toe.
- NEC Chairman James Fromayan told a news conference Thursday, the River Gee by-election is scheduled for Tuesday July 20 and announcement of official results from the first round would take place on July 23rd while a possible run-off date would be set for August 3rd, 2010.
- According to Mr. Fromayan, individuals wishing to contest the process would begin filing their nomination letters from May 27 to June 10.
- The NEC Chairman said replacement of lost or damaged voter cards is June 12-22, while political campaign would begin June 26 to July 18, 2010.
- The release of the election timetable was done simultaneously with the issuance of the writ of elections as required under section 4.3 of the new Election Law of 1986.

CDC Caucus Dismisses Merger Speculations

[Front Page Africa, Heritage, Daily Observer]

- The Legislative Caucus of the opposition Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) has ruled out any possibility of a merger with the ruling Unity Party (UP).
- The Chairman of the Caucus said the CDC as a grassroots political party will not join the UP under any circumstance.
- Montserrado Representative Rufus Neufville made the statement in reaction to reports that the party has merged with the ruling UP describing it as black lies and work of detractors.
- Representative Neufville said contrary to the reports the CDC is strategizing to defeat the governing UP in the 2011 elections.
- He also confirmed the arrival of CDC political leader George Weah into the Country.

Immigration Bureau Dismisses Six Officers

[The Inquirer, Heritage, National Chronicle, The News, Daily Observer]

- Authorities of the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization (BIN) Thursday dismissed with immediate effect six of its officers for facilitating the escape of six Bangladeshi nationals.
- The six Bangladeshis were being held for human trafficking.
- Speaking at a news conference Thursday, Immigration Commissioner Chris Massaquoi said the escapees have been rearrested following a swift and vigorous search operation.
- Commissioner Massaquoi said officers which include Major Solomon Geh, Captain Yancy Karlu, Major Paul Dweh, Augustine Kollie, Captain Roosevelt Weaye, and offer Emmanuel Berrain have been charged with conspiracy and criminal facilitation.
- The BIN boss said the six officers have been turned over to the Justice Ministry for persecution.

LTTP Supports University of Liberia’s Teachers College

[Front Page Africa, In Profile Daily]

- The Liberia Teacher Training Project (LTTP) says it would work with the William V. S. Tubman Teachers College at the University of Liberia to increase its capacity.
- LTTP Chief of Party said increasing the capacity of the college will enable it extend its services and speed up the human resource development.
- Dr. Johnson Odharo speaking Thursday when his entity donated assorted items to the college noted the venture will be a huge capitol investment.
- The items which include three Dell Desktop computers, a Printer with cartridge, one Dell laptop computer and a Dell projector with screen is put at over US\$4,000.

- The money to procure the items was provided by the United States Aid for International Development, USAID.
- Receiving the donation, the dean of the college, Professor Euphemia Abdullai expressed gratitude to USAID and LTTP for the gesture.

Opposition Politician Accused of Donating Expired Medical Supplies, But...

[Heritage]

- The chief medical doctor at the Jallah Lone Medical Center in Bopolu City, Gbarpolu County has accused Dr. Togba Nah Tipoteh of distributing expired medical supplies at the hospital.
- Mr. Massabory Kamara claimed the medical items donated to the hospital by Dr. Tipoteh a fortnight ago were expired since almost three years and as such, had no medical value.
- Mr. Kamara, who is also the County Health Officer of Gbarpolu, asserted that the donation by the veteran opposition politician was not properly done and described the donation process as lacking what he calls total verification.
- He also asserted that the donation by Dr. Tipoteh has the propensity to destroy the lives of patients at the hospital if they were not observed carefully before use.
- But Dr. Tipoteh commenting on Mr. Kamara's accusation described the action of the chief medical doctor to reach the press without consulting him as premature.
- He said Susuku, which is the main distributor of those items, has covered other counties in the country without any problem that has been alleged by the Jallah Lone Medical Center.

Star Radio *(News monitored today at 09:00 am)*

Threshold Bill Case Partially Withdrawn From High Court

Bong Lawmaker Wants Increment in Allowances for Education and Health Workers

- Bong County Senator Jewel Howard Taylor has called for an increase in the allowances of education and health workers in the country.
- In a letter to the Senate, Senator Taylor proposed a two million dollar allotment to target the allowances of education and health workers in the draft budget.

Auditor General Exposes River Gee Representative, But...

- Auditor General John Morlu has released a strongly-worded letter in Monrovia warning River Gee Representative Elijah Seah against interfering in audit matters.
- In the four-page letter, Mr. Morlu warned Representative Seah to stay clear of all audits of the General Auditing Commission (GAC).
- The communication is in reference to a meeting negotiated by Representative Seah through the River Gee County Legislative Caucus with the Auditor General to get the basis of his request to the President to revoke the induction of River Gee Development Superintendent, Alexander Yeaher.
- The letter detailed how during one of the meetings, Representative Seah allegedly made a one-on-one proposal to Mr. Morlu in the fraud case involving Mr. Yeaher.
- The Auditor General claimed he rejected the proposal by Representative Seah something that prompted the lawmaker to leave his office in anger though he did not elaborate.
- He also described as a sad commentary, the intervention of the River Gee Legislative Caucus in audit matters with the aim to protect Mr. Yeaher.
- But Representative Seah said the letter by Mr. Morlu is intended to blackmail him and vowed never to stay clear of GAC audits once a River Gee citizen is accused.
- According to him, the meeting with Mr. Morlu was intended for Mr. Yeaher to be heard and given a copy of the audit reports which indicted him of fraud.

Bassa Institute of Nursing Bill Introduced in House

- A bill seeking the establishment of the Grand Bassa Institute of Nursing Studies has been introduced in the House of Representatives.
- The bill is under the sponsorship of Grand Bassa Representative Baron Brown.
- Representative Brown said if enacted the bill would pave the way for people with interest in the nursing in Grand Bassa to acquire the required basic medical training.
- According to him, the institute will educate young people to become mid-wives, physician assistants and registered nurses.
- Representative Brown said it was important to pass the bill to make the health sector more viable and meet the medical needs of the Country.
- The bill has meanwhile been sent to the House Committees on Health, Judiciary and Ways, Means and Finance for review.

(Also reported Radio Veritas, Sky FM, and ELBC)

Information Minister Off to China

- Information Minister Cletus Sieh has left the country for Shanghai, China to participate in a meeting of World Expo 2010.
- The meeting is of the Steering Committee of the World Expo 2010 of which Liberia is a co-chair.
- The thirty-two nation committee meeting is expected to deal with issues surrounding the Expo 2010 which takes place sometimes this year in China.
- Minister Sieh is expected to preside as Liberia has been asked to chair the Shanghai meeting.

NEC Releases Timetable for River Gee By-election

CDC Caucus Dismisses Merger Speculations

(Also reported Truth FM, Sky FM, and ELBC)

LTTP Supports University of Liberia's Teachers College

New Higher Education Curricula Validated

- Senior stakeholders in the higher education sub-sector have validated the revised and synchronized curricula for universities and colleges in Liberia.
- The newly standardized curricula would be used for freshman and sophomore students at various institutions of higher learning in the country.
- The chairman of the committee constituted to draft the curricula Arnold Hill, President of the Liberia Baptist Theological Seminary said the new curricula have created the space for the smooth process of education.
- According to Mr. Hill, the curricula would allow students transfer from one institution to another without difficulty.
- The Director General of the National Commission on Higher Education Dr. Michael Slewion expressed satisfaction over the validation.
- Dr. Slewion said the new curricula would be enforced beginning the next academic year.

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

Immigration Bureau Dismisses Six Officers

(Also reported Truth FM, Sky FM, and ELBC)

Truth FM *(News monitored today at 10:00 am)*

Rights Activist Says Claims of Sexual Harassment Is Political

- A rights activist, Rev. Emmet Hoff has termed claims of sexual harassment against Auditor General John Morlu as politically motivated.
- Rev. Hoff, a former commissioner of the Township of Johnsonville said the allegation of sexual harassment is intended to weaken the General Auditing Commission's (GAC) ability to fight corruption in the country.
- The rights activist said it is important for the government to begin taking decisive action on the audit reports instead of what he calls fighting back.
- He however concurred with the GAC that the claim of sexual harassment by the Auditor General is being sponsored by the Executive Mansion and the Finance Ministry.

International Clips on Liberia

Supermodel Campbell must testify in Taylor trial, prosecutors say **www.earthtimes.org**

The Hague - Supermodel Naomi Campbell should be forced to provide incriminating evidence about an alleged "blood diamond" gift she received from former Liberian leader Charles Taylor, who faces war crime charges in The Hague, prosecutors said Friday. Prosecutors at the Special Court for Sierra Leone were told about the gift from actress Mia Farrow, who was also present at a reception at Nelson Mandela's South African home in 1997 attended by Campbell and Taylor. Farrow told prosecutors that Campbell had told her about being woken up in the middle of the night by "two or three men" and being given a "large" rough diamond on behalf the former president. Campbell has not denied receiving the diamond, but told the Oprah Winfrey Show on May 3 that she did not wish to be involved in the case. "He has done some terrible things and I don't want to put my family in danger," according to an ABC television transcript quoted in a subpoena request dated May 20. Prosecutors say that evidence about the gift is "central" to their case since "it supports the Prosecution allegations that the Accused used rough diamonds for

arms purchases for Sierra Leone." Prosecutors in The Hague say the notoriously temperamental supermodel should be forced to provide the evidence in court since their "repeated efforts to interview Ms Campbell about this event have been unsuccessful." A number of phone messages and emails sent to her solicitor went unanswered, prosecutors said. "Ms Campbell's consistent refusals to speak to the Prosecution voluntarily and her statements that she does not want to be involved in the case justify the Trial Chamber's issuance of a subpoena," prosecutors have told judges. The judges must now decide whether to grant the request for a subpoena - a writ issued by a court authority to compel the attendance of a witness at a judicial proceeding. Were Campbell to defy such a writ, she could face charges of contempt of court.

Business Opportunity for Small and Minority Businesses in Liberia PR Log - Global Press Release Distribution

American small and minority owned businesses will have a chance to learn about conducting business on the global market. American small and minority owned businesses will have a chance to learn about conducting business on the global market. "Runway Liberia" Trade and Tourism Exhibition presented by Lonestar Cell-MTN, the number one cellular service provider in Liberia, West Africa will take place on Friday, July 23, 2010 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel Silver Springs, MD. Liberia has made great strides in economic development since 2005 and is actively promoting its interest in having American businesses participate in its economic re-development. Liberia, a nation slightly larger than the state of Ohio, with a population of approximately 3.4 million people is rich with natural resources such as iron ore, rubber, timber, tin, gold and diamonds. In recent years, the Government of Liberia has reported that it has discovered sizable deposits of crude oil along its Atlantic Coast. Agriculture is one of the largest sectors in the country. Liberia produces coffee, cocoa, sugarcane, rice, cassava, palm oil, bananas, plantains, citrus, pineapple, sweet potatoes, corn, vegetables and beverages. Runway Liberia is committed to building a brighter, prosperous and sustainable future for Liberia.

International Clips on West Africa

Guinea

World court 'satisfied' with Guinea massacre probe

Guinea (AP) - The head of an International Criminal Court mission to Guinea says the judge investigating the September massacre of more than 150 people at a pro-democracy rally is working independently and free from official interference. Amadi Bah told reporters Friday that 200 people have been interviewed about the massacre, including women who were raped. He says he is satisfied with the progress of the investigation and is confident Guinean authorities will find and punish those responsible. A U.N. commission investigating the deaths has said the killings and rapes may constitute crimes against humanity and may have been ordered by officials. An interim government was established with help from international mediators in the aftermath of the massacre and an assassination attempt against the junta leader now in exile.

Ivory Coast

UNOCI provides human resources and logistical support to transport grey list and documents related to the appeals process

Côte d'Ivoire/African Press Organization (APO)/ — The Deputy Spokesman of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), Kenneth Blackman, announced that the Mission had finished transporting the grey list to 19 regions throughout the country during UNOCI's weekly press conference on Thursday in Abidjan. Mr. Blackman explained that UNOCI continued its support to the electoral process by providing logistical and human resources support. «The Mission had to mobilise land and air transportation for this operation with the participation of the civilian, military and police components of UNOCI» he said. Also as part of its support to the electoral process, the Deputy Spokesman announced that the Mission had transported consignments of claim forms and methodology guides for the processing of appeals to various regions. The regions included the Vallée du Bandama (Bouaké), Savanes (Korhogo), Moyen-Cavally (Guiglo), Denguélé (Odienné), Worodougou (Séguéla) and Bas Sassandra. In addition, Mr. Blackman said that UNOCI FM had provided sensitisation and information for the people concerned through its interviews and reports. «We also hope that the level of sensitisation will increase in order to give ample opportunity to those who have a right to have their names on the provisional electoral list' » he added. Earlier, the Deputy Spokesman said that the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General in Côte d'Ivoire, Y. J. Choi, was in New York to take part in a high-level internal meeting which will discuss various issues, including the Ivorian peace process.

Associated Press
Saturday, 22 May 2010

World court 'satisfied' with Guinea massacre probe

CONAKRY, Guinea — The head of an International Criminal Court mission to Guinea says the judge investigating the September massacre of more than 150 people at a pro-democracy rally is working independently and free from official interference.

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The EastAfrican
Monday, 24 May 2010

International Criminal Court belongs to us Africans

As the world gathers in Kampala, Uganda next Monday for the first Review Conference of the Rome Statute setting up the International Criminal Court, it is an important time to affirm Africa's commitment to bringing an end to the impunity that prevails in too many countries on our continent.

The lack of true justice prevents us from moving forward to a more stable, peaceful future.

We have many conflicts in Africa, and many of these conflicts are actually incited, financed, and organised by leaders. These leaders mobilise their supporters, mostly from their communities, to go and kill and rape and destroy members of other communities.

Eventually, as in Kenya, a shaky peace is achieved — but the same leaders who use violence against their own people remain in power and thereby make violence against humanity worthwhile.

Surely such leaders who commit unspeakable acts of horror cannot be trusted to create peaceful societies? Not until those who perpetuate these gross violations of human rights are held accountable.

In the aftermath of some of the most horrific conflicts in Africa in the 1990s — including Rwanda and Liberia — Africans were at the forefront of advocating for the creation of an international court.

In fact, of the current 111 states parties to the Rome Statute that founded the International Criminal Court, 30 are African.

One of the goals of the ICC is to encourage and stimulate local and national justice systems to reform and strengthen, so that in the future, national systems will be able to restore justice without the intervention of the ICC.

A great strength of the Rome Statute is that it criminalises rape as a weapon of war, along with other atrocities that specifically target women and girls. On a continent where violence against women is practiced on a mind-boggling scale, the ICC offers a glimmer of hope.

All of the current cases before the it — Uganda, Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic, and Sudan — include investigations of gross atrocities that target women.

The process is as important as the outcome, because it provides the “space” for bringing into the open discussions about how sexual crimes and other gender violence destroy communities across Africa.

But while the ICC is catalysing healthy debate across the continent, it will only truly work in bringing about accountability if Africans support its work. Take the case of Sudan.

Those wanted by the ICC for war crimes and crimes against humanity are treated by many African leaders as though they were misunderstood heroes. If Africans are not ashamed of crimes against their own people, neither the ICC nor other governments can help them.

Both at individual state level and at the level of the African Union, there is a need to maintain support for the ICC, while simultaneously continuing to engage in peace processes and encouraging judicial reforms continent-wide.

The African Union Panel Report on Darfur (also known as the Mbeki Report for Thabo Mbeki's leadership on the initiative) and the subsequent formation of a High Level Implementation Panel are good examples of how the African Union should proceed on issues of justice.

Released in October last year, the Mbeki Report did not set out to help President Omar Hasan al-Bashir and others find a way out of the ICC indictment.

Instead, it stressed the importance of justice and reconciliation in Darfur by proposing a combination of mechanisms to repair the damaged relations between Darfurians and the state.

Further, the Mbeki Report emphasised the need to combat impunity for sexual crimes for building the confidence of the thousands of Darfuri victims.

In my country, Kenya, there is a need for national and local justice mechanisms to help us come to terms with the horrific post-election violence.

Sadly, those involved in the violence are still in the government. The Waki Commission, an international inquiry into the post-election violence, compiled lengthy documentation and produced a sealed list of those deemed most responsible.

Many are believed to be in senior leadership positions in Kenya. They precipitated the violence to get power and they got it.

The opening of ICC investigations into Kenya's post-election violence is therefore a welcome development that gives hope to the victims and may serve to prevent similar events in the future.

I hope that it will not only serve as an example of justice, but that it will inspire our national leaders to build institutions that ensure that communities can expect justice from them.

Many detractors of the ICC claim that it is only focusing on African countries. However, the ICC is actively engaged on other continents, and there are growing international calls for it to initiate a case on Burma. Atrocities such as genocide and rape as a weapon of war are not unique to Africa.

Our leaders need to support the work of the ICC in Africa, as well as other countries – or we are not really fully participating in the global community and what positive benefits it brings in terms for the potential for realising justice.

I call on African leaders to take this unique opportunity at the Review Conference that is being hosted in the heart of Africa, in Uganda, to affirm your support for the ICC.

Let us work together to bring an end to the culture of impunity by holding those who commit such crimes to account. Impunity not only perpetuates crimes against women, children and other civilians, it teaches successive generations how to continue the violence.

Let us seize this historic opportunity on our own continent to demonstrate our commitment to peace and justice.

Wangari Maathai is the 2004 Nobel Peace Laureate and a founding board member of the Nobel Women's Initiative

The Phnom Penh Post

Monday, 24 May 2010

Artist tells of survival in S-21

Brooke Lewis and Mom Kunthear



Photo by: Heng Chivoan

Bou Meng walks through the displays Sunday at the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum. A new book about the artist, one of only a handful of inmates who survived Tuol Sleng prison, was released on Sunday.

BOU Meng may be one of only a handful of inmates who escaped from Tuol Sleng prison with his life, but that doesn't mean his time there was any less intense than that of the estimated

16,000 who perished.

In a biography released Sunday, the artist describes how he was imprisoned and tortured, and how the assignment that saved him – painting portraits of Pol Pot and other Communist leaders – also came with the pressure of knowing that his work was being scrutinised by fiercely dedicated revolutionaries.

He recalls in the book that prison guards warned him: “If the portrait is not lifelike, you will be dead.”

Written by researcher and Cambodia Television Network news director Huy Vannak, the biography – titled *Bou Meng: A survivor from Khmer Rouge Toul Sleng Prison S-21; Justice for the Future, not just for the Victims* – traces the artist's life from an impoverished childhood in Kampong Cham province to an emotional encounter with Tuol Sleng prison chief Kaing Guek Eav, alias Duch, nearly 30 years after the Khmer Rouge fell from power.

It tells the story of how a self-described peaceful artist who “never dreamed of joining any political movement” was swept up in the Khmer Rouge revolution in 1971, after hearing a radio broadcast in which Prince Norodom Sihanouk called for citizens to help “liberate” a country that had been overtaken by the Lon Nol regime the previous year.

After six years of service to Pol Pot, Bou Meng and his wife were imprisoned at Tuol Sleng, a turn of events he says he still doesn't understand. “It is hard to describe my suffering,” he says in the book. “We had devoted everything, even our happiness to the revolution. We were rewarded with suffering and remorse.”

Bou Meng was separated from his wife upon arrival at the prison, and though he never learned the details of her fate, it is assumed that, like many prisoners, she was tortured before being executed and buried in a mass grave.

He was also separated from his two children, and has no idea of what happened to them.

After two months of detention, Bou Meng was interrogated and tortured for two weeks before the staff put him to work painting portraits for the regime.

Huy Vannak, who began work on Bou Meng’s biography in 2003, said in an interview Sunday that the same skill that saved the artist’s life was integral to the process of transmitting his life story to the page.

“During the writing process, he painted more than 100 paintings about his life history during the Khmer Rouge. I asked him to paint pictures so that he could restart his memories,” Huy Vannak said. “Sometimes, he would just paint a picture and then the story would come out by itself.”

The process was often a painful one, the author recalled.

“Sometimes he cried when he spoke about the misery. Especially when he talked about his wife. But also when he talked about the way the Khmer Rouge tortured him, the way the Khmer Rouge dehumanised him,” he said.

Huy Vannak writes in the book that “every family in Cambodia, from the King to the peasants, lost at least one member during this regime”, and that victims and perpetrators across the country are now living side by side, often uneasily.



Photo by: IMAGE COURTESY OF DC-CAM

A 2004 piece by Tuol Sleng survivor Bou Meng depicts the painter finishing a portrait of Pol Pot as other detainees create a sculpture of the Khmer Rouge leader. As they work, a guard stands watch in the corner.

He said Sunday that the personal histories of survivors such as Bou Meng effectively complement the trials unfolding at the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of

Cambodia. Individual stories, he said, can potentially reach a broader audience, and thus facilitate reconciliation in a manner that legal proceedings can’t.

“This book is another side of the history and the justice and healing process. I don’t think [the trial] alone can provide the truth, the whole truth of the Khmer history,” he said.

“At least we now all have a chance to acknowledge their suffering. When people suffer and you acknowledge their suffering, this is the way you can help victims to move forward, to move on.”

The first Khmer Rouge leader made to sit in the dock at the tribunal – Duch, Bou Meng’s former tormenter – was due to be sentenced early this year, but the verdict has not yet been reached.

Bou Meng said Sunday that he is concerned that he and other survivors – including fellow artist Vann Nath, who has been struggling with various illnesses – will not live to see justice served.

“I wish to God to help Vann Nath stay alive, at least until the court decision about Duch’s trial,” he said. “I want the court to do it quickly before my friend dies so he can know and feel better.”

In the meantime, he added, he is eager to see how the public responds to his book.

“I have never thought that I would have the opportunity to do this work when I was this age, and I hope that I live longer to see the book of my history being read by many people,” he said.

Naharet

Monday, 24 May 2010

STL Prosecutor's Spokeswoman Achouri Resigns

The spokeswoman of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon's prosecutor, Radhia Achouri, has announced her resignation.

In a statement issued Sunday, Daniel Bellemare's spokesperson said it was time for her to resign after a year of work with the STL.

She said she was leaving The Hague, where the tribunal is based, on May 29 "to return home."

Achouri added that her experience at the prosecutor's office was beneficial.