

**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:

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Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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Taylor Was Not Honest With UN

-say Prosecutors

Charles Taylor was "not honest" with the United Nations Panel of Experts set up

to investigate his alleged dealings with Sierra Leonean rebels, prosecutors told the Special Court
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Taylor Was Not Honest With UN

From front page

for Sierra Leone today during cross-examination of the accused former Liberian president.

The UN Panel of Ex-

with Mr. Taylor in 2000, the former president lied to them about the whereabouts of notorious Sierra Leonean rebel commander Sam Bockarie.

In 1999, Mr. Bockarie, having fallen out with the leadership of the RUF, relocated to Liberia where Sierra Leonean rebels loyal to him were recruited into Mr. Taylor's Anti-Terrorist Unit (ATU). According to some prosecution witnesses, Mr. Bockarie relocated to Liberia on Mr. Taylor's invitation. Mr. Taylor on the other hand has said that Mr. Bockarie's relocation to Liberia was based on a decision by West African leaders. In 2000, reports indicate that Mr.

erts report released in 2000 accused Mr. Taylor of fuelling the conflict in Sierra Leone through diamonds and arms trade with Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels, a group that

Bockarie left Liberia for Ivory Coast, where he was involved in the conflict there, allegedly on Mr. Taylor's orders. Mr. Taylor has refuted such assertions. In his cross-examination today, the former president denied prosecution claims that when asked by the UN Panel of Experts about the whereabouts of Mr. Bockarie, he told them he "did not know where Bockarie was."

"Well, I could not tell where he was," Mr. Taylor said.

When told by Ms. Hollis that Mr. Bockarie "was carrying out your duties undermining other governments," Mr. Taylor responded that such an assertion was "a blatant halluci-

fought an 11-year conflict in Sierra Leone. In cross-examining Mr. Taylor today, lead prosecution counsel Ms. Brenda Hollis pointed out that when the UN Panel of Experts met

nation."

"Charles Taylor had no money, so why is he undermining other governments?" Mr. Taylor asked.

Mr. Taylor insisted that he was honest in his response to the UN Panel of Experts, asserting that he was not asked directly where Mr. Bockarie was.

"I was never asked precisely where he was. I was being honest with the UN because as president of Liberia, I needed to be sure of where he was. I told them the official position of my government that he was escorted to the Ivorian border," he said.

Mr. Taylor explained
Continued page 9

Taylor Denies

From front page

Mr. Taylor was today responding to questions under cross-examination by lead prosecution counsel Ms. Brenda Hollis on his associations in Libya where rebel forces were being trained to eventually invade Liberia and Sierra Leone in 1989 and 1991 respectively. Mr. Taylor has on numerous occasions insisted that he never knew about the formation of the Sierra Leonean rebel group Revolutionary United Front (RUF) and that he never met the group's leader, Foday Sankoh, in Libya. The former president has said that he instead met the leader of Sierra Leone Pan-Africanist Movement, Ali Kabbah, who was a former University of Sierra Leone student leader.

As Mr. Taylor was being cross-examined today, he challenged prosecution claims that Mr. Kabbah and Mr. Sankoh had a schism in Libya

because they both had disagreements as to what measures were needed to bring about change in Sierra Leone. Mr. Kabbah, the prosecution claimed, met with Mr. Taylor and told him he wanted to embark on ideological education in Sierra Leone as a means of bringing about change in the country, while Mr. Sankoh preferred a military revolution. The prosecution put it to Mr. Taylor that he supported Mr. Sankoh over Mr. Kabbah because he (Taylor) was also in favour of a military revolution in Sierra Leone, just like the one he was planning for Liberia. Mr. Taylor denied the prosecution's claim, insisting that he never knew Mr. Sankoh in Libya.

"You favoured Foday Sankoh over Ali Kabbah because Sankoh was in favour of a military option right?" Ms. Hollis asked Mr. Taylor today.

"I could have only favoured one

over the other if I knew the other but I did not know Sankoh," the former president responded.

"I do not know what happened behind the scenes but that is not what Ali Kabbah told me and other people," Mr. Taylor added.

Mr. Taylor challenged prosecution claims that Mr. Kabbah had told him (Taylor) that he did not want a military solution to Sierra Leone's problems but rather an "ideological training as a means of taking power" in the country.

"That is not my information," Mr. Taylor said. "The Ali Kabbah I met did tell Charles Taylor that he had contacts within the government and the military in Sierra Leone and that he only needed a spark for a military takeover in the country," he added.

Mr. Taylor also denied prosecution assertions that when he met with Muamarr Ghadaffi, he spoke to the Libyan leader about the schism in the RUF and his support for Mr.

Sankoh and his military option.

"No. I never knew of any schism in the RUF. Everyone in Libya had to mind their own business. When I spoke to Ghadaffi, I did not talk about nonsense. I spoke about revolutionary ideas. I did not speak to him about Sierra Leone at all," he said.

Since Mr. Taylor started testifying as a witness in his own defense on July 14, 2009, he has consistently denied ever helping to plan the invasion of Sierra Leone while in Libya. The prosecution has alleged that Mr. Taylor has been involved in a joint criminal enterprise with RUF leader Mr. Sankoh since the late 1980s when the two men allegedly met in Libya. This alleged criminal enterprise, the prosecution says, continued with the invasion of Liberia in 1989 and Sierra Leone in 1991, and up to the end of the conflict in Sierra Leone in January 2002. Mr. Taylor has denied the charges against him.

Awoko

Tuesday, 24 November 2009

Special Court wins Zain Corporate gala

The Special Court for Sierra Leone football team over the weekend won the Zain Corporate tournament by defeating UNIPSIL by a goal to nil (1-0) at the St. Edward's playing field Kingtom in Freetown.

The eight teams that took part in the tournament include, Special Court of Sierra Leone, United States Embassy, UNIPSIL, Guarantee Trust Bank, First International Bank, Standard Chartered Bank, British High Commission and Union Trust Bank. Probyn Browne Corporate and SME Manager of Zain Sierra Leone said the tournament commenced on the 3rd October 2009 and ended on the 21st November 2009 and the aims and objectives of the annual tournament is to create a platform for institutions to interact at the field of play. Browne expressed thanks and appreciation to the teams that took part in the tournament and encouraged the players to continue their good sportsmanship by accepting defeat and congratulated the winners for their exemplary performance. The corporate manager also said that the tournament was a success to the satisfaction of team's, supporters and the Zain management adding that a similar tournament will be organized in 2010.

Francis Minah Corporate Affairs Manager of Zain Sierra Leone distributed trophies and medals to the winners

Several players also won individual medals and trophies which include the best goal keeper, Best Player, Best Referee, Highest Goal scorer and best player while Saidu Kamara dressed in female suit won the best supporter. Some of the teams were also given air time and Zain phones.

Receiving the trophies on behalf of the Special Court for Sierra Leone the president of the court Justice Kamanda lavished praises on Zain for the well organized tournament and also congratulated the special court team for their performance during the tournament. The final was climaxed by a mini carnival for the participating teams and their supporters.



Probyn Browne Corporate and SME Manager with the Zain trophies and medals while the Special Court team poses with their trophy for AWOKO



BBC WORLD SERVICE TRUST

Monday, 23 November 2009

John Kollie

NEWS ITEM

Judge falls ill

Charles Taylor`s cross examination came to an abrupt end Monday, after one of the three judges fell ill. But before the sudden sickness of Justice Julia Sebutinde, lead prosecutor Brenda Hollis questioned Mr. Taylor on alleged killings by the National Patriotic Front child soldiers and the murder of 13 officers of the Armed Forces of Liberia who led fellow soldiers on the streets for pay in 1998. John Kollie transcribes reports for the BBCWST from The Hague on the trial of former Liberian president Charles Taylor...

Justice Julia Sebutinde made it to court, but she did not return after the 11: 30-noon break.

Presiding Judge Richard Lussick announced the adjournment, pointing out the importance of Justice Sebutinde hearing every piece of the evidence.

Miss Hollis joined by Defence lawyer Morris Anyah wished the sick Ugandan Judge speedy recovery. But before Judge Sebutinde left court, lead prosecuting Attorney, Brenda Hollis had time to ask Mr. Taylor about a string of alleged NPFL and Taylor government atrocities.

Mr. Taylor is expected to return to the witness box Tuesday to answer questions from Brenda Hollis as part of the legal process to test the truthfulness of previous evidence Taylor gave.

This is Alphonsus Zeon reporting for the BBCWST from The Hague.

Associated Press

Sunday, 22 November 2009

20 years after UN pact, many children still suffer

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone — Alhaji Babah Sawaneh's commander ordered him to shoot at innocent civilians and chop off their limbs. He saw women raped repeatedly. He was only 11, a child soldier of one of West Africa's most brutal civil wars.

Sawaneh was fetching water from a river with his brothers when rebels abducted him at gunpoint in 1997. They killed his uncle in front of him, and took the boy with them.

"I walked for 10 days, day and night, restlessly, killing, burning of houses, and amputation continuing by the rebels during the journey," said Sawaneh, now 22.

The commander called them the SBU, the Small Boys Unit.

"When we were about to arrive in the village, my commander gave me a small machine gun and instructed me to shoot directly into the village. He told me that if I refused he would kill me," Sawaneh said.

"The commander himself started shooting toward the village and the villagers started running. I started shooting with my gun and 15 people were killed in the village, while some were also captured.

"My commander asked us to cut off their limbs and when I delayed to carry out the instruction, he warned me for the last time and called me 'little rat.' We cut off limbs of 10 civilians."

In his second year with the rebels, Sawaneh began thinking about his parents and tried to escape. When he was caught, his commander flogged him with a machete. His back still bears the scars.

In January 2000, Sawaneh, then 13, was released with other child soldiers and put in a center for former child combatants. The center was unable to find his family.

More than 10,000 children younger than 15 were forced to fight in Sierra's Leone's 10-year civil war, according to UNICEF, and there are about 300,000 child soldiers around the world.

Sawaneh is now in his third year at the University of Sierra Leone, studying peace and conflict resolution.

"I would like to dedicate my knowledge to the advocacy against the use of children in armed conflict, which will help to promote peace and security in the world," he said.

By Clarence Roy-Macaulay

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 23 November 2009

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

International Clips on Liberia

Acute Malnutrition a 'Social Problem'

Monrovia, Nov 23, 2009 (UN Integrated Regional Information Networks/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- In the Liberian capital Monrovia acute malnutrition is due not only to poverty and inadequate health and sanitation services but also to factors such as high teenage pregnancy and the war's damage to the social fabric, say nutritionists, who call the condition "a social problem". "The high levels of acutely malnourished [children] are partly a hangover from the war," said James Fireman, manager of the Action contre la faim (ACF)-supported outpatient feeding centre for children in Pipeline, a northern Monrovia suburb. Liberian NGO ANDP runs the centre. "There was a breakdown in families, girls were being raped and their parents killed," he said. "If you don't have a family to teach you caring practices, how will you learn how to raise a child?" Fireman said communities are no longer well-defined. "People lost everything and after the war became more individualistic. Liberia is now a country of displaced people and refugees."

West African bloc bans arms transfer by member states

Nov 23, 2009 (Republic of Togo/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- West African regional bloc ECOWAS Saturday banned the transfer of arms by the 15 member states except for legitimate defence, security and peacekeeping operations, a senior official said. President of the Economic Community of West African States Commission Mohammed Ibn Chambas said the ECOWAS convention on small arms proliferation had come into force with its ratification by Benin. Other countries like Burkina Faso, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo had earlier ratified the convention in line with its provision requiring a minimum of nine out of the 15 members for it to be effective. Chambas said the convention "provides for a ban of arms transfer by member states, with possibility of exemption for legitimate defence and security needs, law enforcement and participation in peace support operations."

International Clips on West Africa

Guinea

Guinea: political deadlock.

<http://www.africanews.com>

After many days of negotiations, President Blaise Compaoré presented a document in which he made proposals for the resolution of Guinean crisis but the active forces rejected them because he did not take into account the masses' wills. Very angry against these proposals, the active forces preferred not to speak before meeting President Compaoré whereas junta's delegation welcomed them with joy and enthusiasm. According to an official document issued to the opposition and the delegation of the junta, the Burkinabe mediator proposes setting up a "National Transition Council" led by Captain Moussa Dadis Camara, who will remain in power. "The mediator suggested that Burkinabe Captain Dadis resigns from the army" four months before presidential elections if he wants to be a candidate. According to an official document issued to forces and the delegation of the junta, the Burkinabe mediator proposes setting up a "National Transition Council" led by Captain Dadis Moussa Camara, who is also "Head of State

"and" supreme commander of armies. "The mediator suggested that Burkinabe Captain Dadis resigned from the army" four months before presidential elections. The Guinean opposition considered President Compaoré's proposals "partial and biased. It is a partial and incomplete document. We firmly reject such proposals. Accepting this would mean that people died for nothing," said a Guinean opponent. The Guinean active forces met the facilitator to express their worries related to these proposals.

Sierra Leone

Government of Sierra Leone Requests Terra Energy & Resource Technologies to Survey the Country

http://money.cnn.com/news/newsfeeds/articles/prnewswire/200911230700PR_NEWS_USPR_FL15766.htm

NEW YORK, Nov. 23 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- Terra Energy & Resource Technologies, Inc. (OTC Bulletin Board: TEGR), a natural resource exploration services technology company, announces that the Ministry of Natural Resources of Sierra Leone accepted the Company's proposal for a countrywide mapping for natural resources and requested an exploration contract draft, which the Company has now submitted to the government. The Ministry sent the Company a letter, signed by the Minister, reading: "Members of our Ministry and I were very impressed with your technical presentation. Consequently, we have decided to engage your company to carry out the mineral inventory of our country within the shortest possible time. In this regard, please forward to us, a draft contract for us to present to cabinet." The Minister of the Natural Resources of Sierra Leone Hon. Alhaji Alpha Kanu invited the Company's President Dr. Alexandre Agaian to Sierra Leone to make a presentation of Terra Energy & Resource Technologies' mineral resource exploration applications to the Ministry's official and scientific staff. Following the presentation, Minister Alpha Kanu approved the Company's proposal to survey the country for natural resources utilizing the proprietary Sub-Terrain Prospecting (STePÂ®) technology.

Ivory Coast

Trafigura waste victims waiting for compensation

(AFP) –

ABIDJAN — Thousands of victims of toxic waste dumped in Ivory Coast are still waiting for compensation two months after a settlement was agreed because of a dispute over who should distribute the money. Oil trading firm Trafigura agreed to pay 33 million euros (49 million dollars) after caustic soda and petroleum residues were dumped in Abidjan. In August 2006, the Probo Koala ship, chartered by Trafigura, dumped the dangerous material on waste tips across the city -- having first attempted to offload the cargo in Amsterdam. An out-of-court settlement agreed in London on September 20 awarded 750,000 CFA francs (1,150 euros, 2,200 dollars) to each of the 31,000 victims. The money was to be distributed by the victims' British lawyers Leigh Day and Company, but Claude Gohourou, the president of the Ivorian national coordination of toxic waste victims, told AFP he obtained a court order last month blocking payment. Gohourou called for Leigh Day and Company to prove it was for them to hand out the compensation, and criticised the firm for allowing details of the settlement to remain confidential.

Local Media – Newspaper

Massive Turnout Expected Tomorrow

(The Inquirer, Liberian Express, Liberia Journal, Daily Observer, New Vision, Heritage, Plain Truth, The News, Public Agenda, Independent)

- Thousands of eligible voters are expected to turn out tomorrow, Tuesday, November 24, 2009 to cast their votes in the Run-off of the Montserrado County Senatorial By-election, which has

two candidates contesting to fill the vacant senatorial seat of the county to become the new Junior Senator of Montserrado County.

- The main opposition party, the Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) candidate Geraldine Doe-Sheriff and the candidate of the ruling Unity Party (UP) Clemenceau Urey, will be contesting the polls.
- Already, the National Elections Commission (NEC) said all is in place to conduct the final round of polling tomorrow with the arrival in the country of the ballot papers and a massive awareness campaign over the past days to educate voters about the process.

“Make Children Play Again” Says President Sirleaf At CRC Anniversary in Monrovia

(Daily Observer, The Inquirer, New Democrat)

- On Saturday, November 21, 2009, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, attended the first children’s festival held at the SKD Sports Stadium in Paynesville, outside Monrovia.
- It was jointly organized by UNICEF, Ministry of Gender and development and other partners in observance of the 20th Anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).
- A UNICEF release issued Saturday quoted President Sirleaf as saying, “A children’s festival is a way to look forward and an opportunity for children to take on leadership and make their country friendly for them to grow up. Let’s make Liberia a country where children can play again.”
- Ms. Isabel Crowley, UNICEF Representative in Liberia who spoke at the occasion, called on the Liberian Senate to pass the Children’s Act that had been adopted by the House of Representatives in February 2009.

ILO Expert Lauds Youth Training Programme

(Daily Observer)

- An official of the International Labor Organization (ILO) sub-regional office in Senegal has expressed gratitude to the Liberian Labor Congress (LLC) for progress in its operation.
- Ms. Faustina Mukazi Vanaperen said she was delighted over the positive performance of the LLC relative to promoting the interest of workers in the country.
- Ms. Vanaperen spoke recently during a three-day LLC Youth Strategic Planning workshop in Monrovia.

Health Ministry, Partners Kick Off Yellow Fever Vaccination Campaign

(The News, Liberia Journal)

- The Ministry of Health says today, Monday November 23 begins a yellow fever vaccination campaign throughout the country.
- The campaign, which is intended to last one week targets 3 million persons in the 15 counties of Liberia.
- A joint team of the Ministry of Health, World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) has put together US\$4 million to eradicate the disease in Liberia.
- According to Health Minister Walter Gwenigale except pregnant women and children under age nine months, every Liberian is qualified to take the yellow fever vaccination.

Firestone Turnovers Renovated UL Science Building

(The Informer, New Democrat, Heritage, New Vision)

- The Firestone Rubber Plantation Company has officially turned over the renovated Harvey S. Firestone Science Building of the University of Liberia (UL) to the Liberian Government.
- Speaking at the turning over ceremony, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf said despite financial constraints, the Government will continue its effort in improving the UL up to international standards.
- President Sirleaf said she was hopeful that the university will continue to respond to the needs of young people by offering quality education for future challenges.
- The Liberian leader challenged students of the university to take their education serious.

President Sirleaf Declares Tuesday Holiday

(Heritage, New Vision, Public Agenda)

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has by Proclamation declared Tuesday, November 24, 2009 a Holiday for the Run-Off of the Montserrado County Senatorial By-Election, which is to be observed throughout Montserrado County as a County Holiday.
- According to a Foreign Ministry release, President Sirleaf requests all Political Parties and Citizens to exercise restraint and cooperate with National Elections Commission (NEC) in ensuring a peaceful and credible election.
- The Liberian leader directs that all Government Offices, Business Houses, and Market places be closed on the day of the Run-Off of the Montserrado County Senatorial By-Election from 6AM to 6PM.
- The President calls on all citizens and foreign residents within Montserrado County, to respect and observe the day.

Ahead Of Tuesday's Run-off Election, US Warns Against Divisive Comments

(The Informer, Heritage, The News, The Inquirer)

- US Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield has called on candidates in the Senatorial run-off By-election and their supporters to avoid divisive comments that could split Liberia's diverse communities.
- Ambassador Thomas-Greenfield advised Liberians to put aside disunity and recognize each other as citizens of one united country on Election Day.
- The US Ambassador called on political parties to forward any complaints or allegations of irregularities directly to the National Elections Commission (NEC) and not irresponsibly incite their supporters.
- A US Embassy statement said the United States does not support any particular candidate in the by-election but only wants to see the democratic process working.

Another Defense Motion Stalls Angel's Murder Trial As Couple Languishes In Jail

(New Democrat, Heritage, Daily Observer, The News, Liberian Express)

- Criminal Court B has granted a defense motion for a pre-trial conference of the Angel Tokpah murder case.
- The conference is aimed at getting rid of irrelevant cases that could prolong the trial.
- Judge Blamo Dixon granted the motion and assigned the conference for next Monday.
- Judge Dixon urged the defendants to be in court or the proceedings would go ahead in their absence.
- According to the court, defendants Hans and Mardea Williams refused to attend this week's proceedings based on their lawyers' advice.
- The couple is in detention in connection with the mysterious death of little Angel Tokpah.
- The 13-year-old allegedly hanged herself in the couple's home in November 2007.
- But government believes she was killed before the couple created the bathroom scene.

Labor Ministry Intervenes In Guthrie stalemate

(Daily Observer)

- The Labor Ministry has set up an Emergency Response Committee to address the demands of aggrieved workers at the Guthrie Rubber Plantation.
- The constituted committee comprises representatives of the Guthrie workers, Labor Ministry officials, members of General Allied Worker's Union of Liberia (GAWUL) and the Guthrie interim management team.
- It followed a tension-packed dialogue initiated by a Labor Ministry delegation headed by Labor Minister Tiawon Gongloe Friday.
- The committee is expected to release its report in seven days.
- Meanwhile, the workers however rejected a plan by government to pay them one month severance benefits.
- Although they promised to return to work pending the outcome of the committee's report they maintained their four-month severance benefits must be paid in full.
- Labor Minister Gongloe assured everything will be done to address the plight of the workers.

Hauling And Pulling Over Bong Mines, Citizens Differ With Caucus

(New Democrat, Liberia Journal, The News)

- A group of Citizens of Fuama district in Bong County has taken serious exception to the moratorium placed on scrapping activities in Bong Mines.
- The concerned citizens described the ban announced by the Bong legislative Caucus as unilateral and vowed not to respect it.
- Two spokespersons Messrs Harmpton Giddings and Eric Kortumai of the Bong Mines citizens group said the ban was announced without the input of their district Representative Korpu Barclay.
- Messrs Giddings and Kortumai said the decision by members of the Bong caucus was dangerous.
- According to them, the decision has created a tense atmosphere in Bong Mines which could explode into chaos.
- They called on the caucus to retract its decision as hundreds of people mainly ex-combatants survive on the scrapping business.
- The Chairman of the Bong Caucus George Mulbah announced the ban Friday pending what he called the constitution of a citizens' committee.

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

Ahead Of Tuesday's Run-off Election: US Warns Against Divisive Comments

Hauling And Pulling Over Bong Mines, Citizens Differ With Caucus

Labor Ministry Intervenes In Guthrie Stalemate

"Western Solutions Have Failed Africa", Says UHRI boss

- The US-based Universal Human Rights International (UHRI) says western solutions have failed to solve Africa's huge economic, social and political problems.
- The President of the group Torli Kruah named colonization, the coming of missionaries and NGO donations as elements of failed solutions in Africa.
- Mr. Kruah speaking Saturday at the launch of a youth-focused group project, Young-Liberia said it was time for Africans to be more innovative by creating what he called marketable solutions to their problems.
- He said unless Liberians confront their problems head on the country will continue to be underdeveloped.

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

Archbishop Ziegler Wants Citizens Accept Tuesday's Run-off Results

- The Co-adjutor-Archbishop of the Catholic Archdiocese of Monrovia Lewis Jerome Ziegler is asking citizens of Monrovia County to accept the results of Tuesday's November 24 Senatorial run-off by-election no matter who wins.
- Co-adjutor-Archbishop Ziegler is urging all eligible voters in the run-off by-election between ruling Unity Party's Clemenceau B. Urey and the opposition Congress for Democratic Change's Geraldine Doe-Sheriff to vote their conscience.
- He said whatever decision they would make at the polls will chart a course for the best or worst for Liberia.
- He spoke Sunday when he delivered his homily during the Annual Harvest and Thanksgiving Mass at the Sacred Heart Cathedral in Monrovia.

LPRC Loses Million To Poor Facilities

- The Acting Managing Director of the Liberia Petroleum Refinery Company (LPRC), Nelson Williams said the company is losing million of dollars due to poor facilities to convey and store petroleum products.
- According to Mr. Williams, the LPRC in the last three years has paid petroleum importers close to two and the half million United States Dollars as claims for wastage of their products.
- He said the claims were legitimate as the wastage occurred due to rust and leak in the pipe lines and storage terminals of the company.

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

President Sirleaf Declares November 24 Holiday In Montserrado County

Health Ministry, Partners Kick Off Yellow Fever Vaccination Campaign

Firestone Turnovers Renovated UL Science Building

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BBC Online

Tuesday, 24 November 2009

DR Congo 'warlords' trial to open at ICC

The trial of two alleged Congolese militia leaders charged with war crimes is due to begin at the International Criminal Court in The Hague.

Germain Katanga and Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui are accused of directing an attack on a village in 2003 in which more than 200 people were killed.

They face charges of ordering attacks on civilians, sexual slavery, rape, and enlisting child soldiers.

Both deny the charges and have expressed sympathy for the victims.

It is only the second trial at the ICC in The Hague. The first case - of rival Congolese militia leader Thomas Lubanga - began in 2008 but has been delayed by legal argument.

Prosecutors say Germain Katanga and Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui led two groups of ethnic Lendu and Ngiti child soldiers and militiamen with the goal of "erasing" Bogoro village, in the mineral-rich Ituri province of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Many victims, mostly from the rival Hema community, were hacked to death with machetes, while women were raped and killed or taken as sexual slaves by their attackers, according to the charges.

Until the attack, the town had been controlled by Mr Lubanga's Union of Congolese Patriots (UPC) militia, mostly Hema fighters.

Prosecutors plan to call 26 witnesses, although 21 of them will testify hidden from public view for fear of reprisals.

The trial is expected to take several months.

The conflict in Ituri was part of a war that raged in DR Congo following the 1994 genocide in neighbouring Rwanda and involved troops and fighters from several neighbouring countries.

Militia leaders from all sides have been accused of using the conflict to profit from the region's mineral reserves, especially gold.

Campaign group Human Rights Watch has called on the ICC to also investigate officials from DR Congo, Rwanda and Uganda, accusing them of arming rival militias in Ituri.

The Ituri conflict ended after the intervention of European Union peacekeepers.

The wider DR Congo conflict officially ended in 2003 but much of the east remains unstable.



Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui (L) and Germain Katanga face war crimes charges

ICC TRIAL



Germain Katanga: Born 28 April 1978 in Mambassa, Ituri District.

Alleged commander of Patriotic Resistance Force of Ituri (FRPI)

Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui: Born 8 October 1970 in Bunia, Ituri District. Alleged leader of National Integrationist Front (FNI)

ICC charges: Seven war crimes, including wilful killing, sexual slavery, attacking civilians, pillaging and using child soldiers
Three crimes against humanity

Radio Netherlands Worldwide

Monday, 23 November 2009

Genuine remorse or crocodile tears?

By Karl Dowling



Phnom Penh, Cambodia

The Khmer Rouge prison chief accused of crimes against humanity, war crimes, torture and premeditated murder will make his final statements to the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) this week.

In attendance at the trial are surviving victims of the Khmer Rouge regime, which killed up to 2 million people between 1975 and 1979.

The trial of former prison chief Kaing Guek Eav -- better known as Duch -- began in February and a verdict is expected early next year.

The order of proceedings in the final week of the trial sees civil parties present their arguments on Monday, followed by the prosecution's closing statement on Tuesday. The defence will then speak on Wednesday and Thursday, after which civil parties and the prosecution will present rebuttal statements. The defence will then have one hour to make their closing argument, including any final statements by the defendant.

The accused has admitted that he oversaw the murders of approximately 15,000 men, women and children while in charge of the notorious Tuol Sleng prison and has asked for forgiveness from his victims and their families.

However, Duch has consistently denied any direct involvement in the torture and murder of prisoners. The crimes took place at the prison and in the nearby Killing Fields, where prisoners were often taken to be executed.

“Crocodile tears”

Duch, 67, has appeared remorseful throughout the trial and has apologized repeatedly for his actions under the Khmer Rouge regime. He has claimed that his job at the prison was performed under duress since he feared for his life from more senior Khmer Rouge officials if he did not carry out his duties.

Speaking about the final week of proceedings, Duch's lawyer Francois Roux said on Sunday, "At this moment it's very important to give credit to Duch for his guilty plea. Duch has recognized his responsibility".

However, lawyers for victims of the Khmer Rouge accused the regime's jailer of duping Cambodia's war crimes court. Attorney Kong Pisey told judges on Monday that Duch had sought "to cleverly evade responsibility when it suits him" and wept "crocodile tears" in the dock.

Controversy

Controversy has surrounded the UN-backed tribunal since its inception in 2005. Accusations of government interference have been rife throughout and it's also alleged that top jobs have been paid for.

Duch's trial is the first of its kind to take place at the ECCC. The joint trial of four other more senior Khmer Rouge leaders is expected to open in 2011, while deliberations are still on going regarding cases against five other former Khmer Rouge cadres.

Hirondelle News Agency

Monday, 23 November 2009

Ex-deputy Governor to testify for his own defence

Genocide-accused former Rwandan Deputy Governor, Dominique Ntawukulilyayo, will testify for his own defence on December 8, 2009, reports Hirondelle Agency.

Ntawukulilyayo is charged with genocide and direct and public incitement to commit genocide in the southern Gisagara sub-prefecture, where he was the Deputy Governor in 1994. He has pleaded not guilty to the charges.

Presiding Judge Khalida Khan said the accused was earlier scheduled to be in the dock on November 23, but the appearance had to be rescheduled after taking into consideration defence concerns that it has not yet prepared the defendant for his own defence.

She also added that some important materials were not yet translated into the language understood by the accused.

The Chamber has ordered that the translations be submitted by November 30 and the case was adjourned.

So far 22 defence witnesses have testified. The prosecution completed its case after calling 12 witnesses between May 6 and 26, 2009.

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The New Times (Kigali)

Tuesday, 24 November 2009

Rwanda: French Team Arrives for Genocide Probe

By Felly Kimenyi

Kigali — In what has been described as a landmark development regarding judicial cooperation between France and Rwanda, two senior judges from the Paris Court of Higher Instance have arrived in the country to investigate Genocide fugitives on French soil.

The two judges who arrived in the country on Saturday are Michele Ganascia and Fabienne Puos, and they will be here for a week on what prosecution called a 'touching base' mission that will see them look into files of four of the dozen indicted fugitives in France.

"Generally, they will initially work on about ten cases but in this case, they are going to first look at files of four individuals," said Jean Bosco Mutangana, who heads the Genocide Fugitives Tracking Unit (GFTU).

GFTU is an organ that operates under the Office of the Prosecutor General put in place to investigate and issue indictments to key fugitives responsible for the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi.

In an interview yesterday, Mutangana said that the two officials were the first from the French judiciary to come to Rwanda on a mission to investigate suspects in their country.

France is one of the countries said to have the biggest number of indicted and unindicted key fugitives, mostly former senior government officials, businessmen and clergymen, pinned for playing a significant role in the Genocide that claimed over a million lives.

"The French judiciary did request for our cooperation in ensuring the possible prosecution of these people, and we are willing to share with them all the information we have on the fugitives," said Mutangana.

He, however, could not reveal names of the people being probed saying that this might tamper with the ongoing investigation process. But reliable sources say that among those being targeted in the probe include Agathe Kanziga Habyarimana, widow of former President Juvenal Habyarimana.

According to judicial pundits, the new development could be an indication that France, which has for the past 15 years provided a safe haven to dozens of fugitives, was finally getting to realise the danger in shielding them.

Mutangana, who is also a national prosecutor, said that apart from providing the visiting judges access to the files of the suspects, they will also be facilitated in meeting witnesses.

Since its establishment in 2007, GFTU has issued over 90 indictments to fugitives living in different parts of the world, and so far, some countries have cooperated by arresting a couple of these fugitives with intention of trying or extraditing them to Rwanda.

France itself has made some arrests but all of those arrested have since been set free.

Some were arrested on warrants issued by the Rwandan judiciary while others had been indicted by the UN sponsored International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR).

The suspected fugitives in France Agathe Kanziga Habyarimana

The former First Lady who was recently denied refugee status by the French government is said to have been a core member of 'Akazu', the inner circle that is responsible for planning and supervising the Genocide.

She arrived in France on a Gabonese passport, after having trotted different African countries that included Kenya and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Claver Kamana

A former businessman in the now Southern Province; Kamana was last year briefly arrested by French authorities on an indictment issued by the Rwandan Prosecution.

He is accused of having financed the Genocide on top of bankrolling the establishment of Radio Television Libre de Mille Collines, the hate media house that played a significant role in encouraging militiamen to kill during the Genocide.

A French court later cancelled his extradition to Rwanda and subsequently set him free.

Lt Col Marcel Bivugabagabo

A former military officer in the then Rwandan Armed Forces (ex-FAR), Bivugabagabo is accused of spearheading killings, especially in the Northern Province where he operated.

Like Kamana, he was arrested in France last year but subsequently released after his extradition to Rwanda failed to go through.

His extradition which had been sanctioned by the lower court was overturned by the appellate court which ordered his release.

Isaac Kamali

Kamali, who has naturalised French citizenship, was in 2007 arrested as he travelled to the United States and was extradited to France since he was travelling on a French passport.

US authorities arrested him on the basis of the international arrest warrant issued by the Rwandan prosecution.

Like the rest, he was later released.

There are other fugitives who have since been arrested on French soil and held over indictments issued by the ICTR, but apart from one, Dominique Ntawukuriryayo, a former sub-prefect of the then Gisagara Commune in the Southern Province, who was transferred to the tribunal's detention facility in Tanzania, the rest were given 'provisional release.'

This former parish priest of St Famille Church in Kigali City, is said to have operated in cohort with the then Mayor of Kigali, Col Tharcisse Renzaho, in masterminding killings in different parts of Kigali, especially at the said church where hundreds of Tutsis who had sought refuge there were hand-picked by militias under his watch and executed.

Following his arrest, the ICTR referred his case to French courts for trial in under the tribunal's rule 11 bis of its rules and regulations regarding the transfer of cases to national jurisdictions. He was later granted provisional release.

Laurent Bucyibaruta

He is a former Prefect of Gikongoro Prefecture in the southern province where he is accused of spearheading a widespread killing mainly in the south.

He was also arrested on an ICTR warrant and was referred to French courts for trial like Munyeshyaka.

He was also released on provisional basis and hitherto, nothing has been made public regarding his prosecution.