

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



This pile of construction sand is well-protected by medicines which promise dire consequences to would-be thieves.

**PRESS CLIPPINGS**

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

**as at:**

Monday, 25 June 2007

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.  
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact  
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For di People  
Monday, 25 June 2007

# AFRC INDICTEES FOUND GUILTY

**ALEX TAMBA Brima, Brima Bazzy Kamara and Santigie Borbor Kanu alias 55 were yesterday Wednesday 20 June 2007, found guilty on 11 out of 14 count charges by three Justices of the UN Special Court for Sierra Leone.**

by  
**SU THORONKA**  
Justice Julia Sobutinde said all three were senior

that following the death of SAJ Musa, the Chamber is satisfied that Tamba Brima took control of the AFRC

thought to have been his girl friend and he ordered the killing of Nigerian troops and civilians at Fourah Bay.

members of the AFRC who acted in concert to commit crime. She said although Alex Tamba Brima alias (Gullit) denied his name and stated that he was charged with mistaken identity, he however did not dispute being PLO1.

She informed the court

and that Kamara was responsible for the command and co-ordination of attacks by the AFRC while Kanu was responsible for abduction and training of civilians.

Justice Sobutinde further said that during the invasion of Freetown, Kanu and Kamara killed civilians and that Brima shot a woman

"Brima ordered the killing of civilians at Kissy Mental Home. Under the command of Kanu and Kamara, women were raped in Freetown" she said.

She also noted that young girls of the Annie Walsh School captured were raped on the orders of Brima and Kanu. That Kanu also or-

dered the amputation of civilians at Up-Gun while Kamara raided World Food Programme warehouse and looted a number of cutlasses which he distributed for Operation Cut Hand.

That under the command of Brima, a child captured at Camp Rosus was forced to take part in the attack in Freetown and ordered the capture of civilians to carry load. On the crime of terrorism, Justice Sobutinde said the prosecution had proved its case beyond reasonable doubt, that Brima

ordered the burning of the City, that Brima, Kanu and Kamara ordered the killing of civilians at Karina while an unknown number of girls were raped in Bombali.

At Rosus, she said Kanu regulated forced marriages while Brima distributed children captured to do forced labour at Kagbembge and ordered the burning of Karina, purported to be home of President Kabbah. The atrocities committed by Savage in Tombodu Town in Kono District she said, were supervised by Brima Bazzy

Kamara while Kanu raped a girl presented to him at Port Loko.

Justice Sobutinde said Kamara ordered the killing of civilians and their intestines used as checkpoint to instill fear on Ecomog troops. She said that Brima participated in the killing of civilians at a mosque in Karina and ordered Operation Clear The Area at Camp Rosus.

Brima she said, bears criminal responsibility for crimes committed by his subordinates in Bombali while he also ordered the burning of Eastern Police Station. Justice Sobutinde said the Chamber is satisfied that Kamara, the most senior SLA officer in Kono was in a superior position and therefore, criminally responsible for crimes committed by AFRC in Kono and that he aided and abetted the troops that raided the Fourah Bay area.

That he is liable as superior for crimes committed in Freetown as he was part of the decision-making body within the AFRC. She also noted that Kanu looted a UN vehicle in Freetown, killed Ecomog soldiers and ordered amputations. He is therefore liable of criminal responsibility.

She adjourned Court for Monday 25 June 2007 at which time the accused persons would be sentenced. They were however not guilty of Count 11 and a conviction not entered in Count 7 and 8.

The News

Monday, 25 June 2007

## UNMIL conducts "Exercise Green Horizon III" in Salone

**T**he Military component of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), is conducting – with the full participation of the Mongolian contingent assigned to protect the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) – an exercise named "Green Horizon III" in Freetown, Sierra Leone, between 25 and 30 June, to test the readiness of troops to respond to any emergencies around the Court. The exercise is a UNMIL's Quick situational awareness, reconnaissance and liaison for UNMIL Force to practice its mandated tasks in support of the SCSL. The operation involves the ground movement of

return to Liberia following completion of their mission. The "Green Horizon II" exercise was conducted last January. The United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone (UNIOSIL) and the Government of Sierra Leone – based on Security Council Resolution 1620 – are fully involved in the planning of the military exercise, with support from UNMIL Force Headquarters in Monrovia.

## BBC Network Africa

Monday, 25 June 2007

LEAD-IN: The war crimes trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor is set to resume at The Hague today. He's the first former African head of state to appear before a United Nations-backed court with parallels being drawn between his case and that of former Yugoslav leader Slobodan Milosevic. Mr. Taylor has pleaded not guilty to all 11 charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity. So what can we expect today? That's the question I put to Liberian journalist John Kollie on the line to The Hague.

KOLLIE: Well, as far as the Court Registry and the Prosecution have said here, the trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor will resume at about 9:00 Netherlands local time – that's about 7:00 GMT. And they said some three weeks ago when this trial started, we expect that witnesses will appear to try and stop [as heard] this prosecution against former Liberian President Charles Taylor.

But will Mr. Taylor himself be there?

KOLLIE: Nobody knows exactly. We've been trying to get from just everybody involved here in The Hague, right from the Court Registry to the Principal Defender. And you know on the 4<sup>th</sup> of June Karim Khan, the British barrister who was representing Taylor, left court claiming he'd been sacked by Mr. Taylor, and he's now formally filed his withdrawal from the case and that has been accepted by the Principal Defender, so he will not be representing Mr. Taylor. And Mr. Taylor has earlier requested that he wanted to defend himself. That is apparently being rejected outright by the Prosecution and the Registry here, that this could delay the case and so they're saying that Mr. Taylor will have to allow some kind of defence for himself and not to try to defend himself in court.

Well there have been reports that Mr. Taylor had expressed some concerns or demands about funding his defence. Have those been addressed?

KOLLIE: Whether addressed or not, nobody can easily say that. What is clear though, last Sunday the Court issued some statements, exchanges if you will, between the Registry, the Principal Defender's office and Prosecution and the Registrar did say, agreed to add an extra \$5,000 to what has been made available to the Taylor Defence counsel here, meaning that the team will now received US \$50,000 a month for what they call "stage trial" as opposed to what was received before, \$45,000 a month.

Liberian Journalist John Kollie. Well there was drama when the trial started earlier this month. Mr. Taylor boycotted proceedings, sacked his Defence, and claimed that he would not receive a fair trial. This caused dismay within the Prosecution team as it went ahead to outline its case without the presence of the former Liberian leader or his counsel. So what is the Prosecution expecting today? Jeremy Waiser, the Special Assistant to the Chief Prosecutor. He spoke to Farouk [Chotia]

WAISER: We want to be able to present our evidence as quickly as we can. And we believe that Taylor should be represented, and we think that efforts are being made and will be made to ensure that he is.

But if new counsel is appointed for Mr. Taylor, then there's bound to be another lengthy delay.

WAISER: Well, if new counsel is appointed there is likely to be some kind of delay. It's difficult to speculate exactly how long such a delay would be, but obviously this is a sizeable case and so indeed, if new counsel comes in, they're going to need time to prepare.

Are you concerned that this is going to turn into a case similar to the Milosevic trial? It's just going to drag on, it's going to turn into political theatre, and in some ways justice is not going to be served speedily.

WAISER: Well frankly there are those concerns and those concerns are raised when someone, and you raised the Milosevic case, but those concerns become paramount when an individual is allowed to take hold of a trial by several means, but representing himself, by not appearing in court, etc. Now, to the credit again of the Judges of the Special Court, they have been quite diligent thus far in trying to see these proceedings go forward. But it is definitely a concern of the Prosecution that we go forward as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Jeremy Waiser, Special Assistant to the Chief Prosecutor at the Charles Taylor trial.

*[Transcribed by the Office of Press and Public Affairs]*

## Voice of America

Monday, 25 June 2007

### **Taylor May Not Show Up in Court Again, Says Former Advisor**

By James Butty  
Washington, D.C.  
*25 June 2007*

The trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor resumes Monday in The Hague. The trial opened briefly on June fourth, but Taylor, the first African leader to be tried outside of the continent, refused to come to court on grounds he will not receive a fair trial.

The U.N.-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone has charged Taylor with 11 counts of war crimes for his alleged support for Sierra Leone rebels during that country's civil war from 1991 to 2002. Taylor has pleaded not guilty to the charges. But the question on the minds of many is will Charles Taylor show up in court Monday?

John T. Richardson is the executive director of the Association for the Legal Defense of Charles Taylor. From the Liberian capital, Monrovia, he told VOA that unless certain requirements are met, Taylor may not show up again in court.

"We have no way of knowing whether the court has fulfilled the minimal requirement for the adequate legal defense of Mr. Taylor because Mr. Taylor has been held incommunicado; he has been denied phone calls except to four members of his family. And so we cannot know from Mr. Taylor. But since we have heard no information from any new counsel for Mr. Taylor, we cannot believe that there are reasons that this trial will resume because the conditions have not changed since June fourth," he said.

Not only did Taylor not show up in court on June fourth, but also in a letter to the court, he also reportedly terminated the services of his lawyer, Kharim Khan. But Richardson said the press has not fairly represented Taylor's side of what transpired on June fourth.

"I think the press has to be fair to Mr. Taylor. The lawyer read two letters in the court. One letter was from the principal defender stating that the registrar had denied basic resources to furnish minimal requirement for a lawyer, and the lawyer then read Mr. Taylor's letter saying that because you have been incapacitated by the registrar, I can no longer instruct you because this would be a charade," he Richardson said.

He said the former Liberian president is being held incommunicado, and this has made it impossible for those working on his behalf to do a good job.

"This is not a ruling from the court. The registrar, as the principal administrator, has now restricted Mr. Taylor to only contacts with sole members of his immediate family. As such, those of us that are responsible to assist in soliciting resources or finding pro bono lawyers are incommunicado from Mr. Taylor," he said.

Some have suggested that by his refusal to appear in court, Taylor was implying guilt. But Richardson said the court has stacked the legal deck against Taylor.

"Mr. Taylor pleaded not guilty when the indictments were read. But in the process of legal filings, lawyers, investigators and all these, there have been a request for equality of arms. And this has been denied by the registrar of the court," he said.

Richardson said he has not been able to speak directly to Taylor since June third. But Richardson said he was in contact with Taylor's immediate family members who, he said, speak regularly to the former president.

He reiterated that Mr. Taylor might not show up in court again come Monday.



“I would want to presume that not haven’t heard that a lawyer has been appointed or to even work with Mr. Taylor, not haven’t heard that even offices have been provided for Mr. Taylor, not haven’t heard that information from the prosecution have now been supplied to Mr. Taylor about what people are going to say against him to mount an adequate defense, I would suspect that the court would reasonable enough to not demand that the trial continue,” he said.

Richardson said he does not believe the court can force Mr. Taylor to appear before it.

“That question I believe you will need to get from a lawyer. But I do not know how denying someone the opportunity to defend themselves and then forcing them into court would resemble justice. Then I think the court could just go ahead and rule, as the international media is trying to do, that Mr. Taylor is guilty and forego any expense of a trial,” Richardson said.

He reiterated what other closed associates of Taylor had said that the former Liberian president will not get justice in the U.N.-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone.

“I think Mr. Taylor has been prejudged; I think by all indications, Mr. Taylor has been aggressively prosecuted in the court of public opinion. We constantly hear people, or world leaders, opinion leaders, speaking of Mr. Taylor’s guilt. And I don’t think it’s a rush to trial; I think it’s a rush to judgment,” Richardson said.

Richardson served as minister for public works in Taylor’s government and later as national security advisor. But he said serving in Taylor’s government does not and should not deny Taylor the international principle that an accused is innocent until proven guilty.

## BBC Online

Monday, 25 June 2007

### Liberia's Taylor boycotts trial

**Liberia's ex-President Charles Taylor has boycotted the resumption of his war crimes trial in The Hague.**

Court official Vincent Nmehielle said Mr Taylor had called him to say he would not attend the court, but did not appear to provide an official reason.

Mr Taylor is accused of backing rebels in Sierra Leone in an 11-year campaign that killed thousand of civilians. He denies all the charges.



Charles Taylor has denied all charges

It is the first case of its kind against an African former leader.

Mr Taylor previously boycotted the trial's opening on 4 June, saying it would not be fair because he had a single defence lawyer.

#### 'No official reason'

"He [Taylor] said the chamber knows why he will not be in court," said Mr Nmehielle, responsible for the rights of the accused.

But presiding judge Julia Sebutinde said: "For the record, the chamber does not know. We have not officially been informed why Mr Taylor is not in court."

At the trial opening, Mr Taylor explained the reasons for his boycott in a letter read to the judges by his lawyer, Karim Khan.

The letter said Mr Taylor would "not receive a fair trial" at the court that was not "fit for purpose", adding that he would not appear until "adequate time and facilities are provided".

Mr Khan then left the court, saying he was not in a position to represent his client without further instruction from him.

Judge Julia Sebutinde ordered the trial to continue without Mr Taylor, and the prosecution delivered its opening statements.

#### 'Not guilty'

Mr Taylor has been indicted on 11 charges of war crimes, crimes against humanity and violations of international humanitarian law over his alleged role in the brutal civil war in Sierra Leone.

#### CHARLES TAYLOR CHARGES

Acts of terrorism (WC)  
Murder (CAH)  
Violence to life, in particular murder (WC)  
Rape (CAH)  
Sexual slavery and violence (CAH)  
Outrages upon personal dignity (WC)  
Violence to life, in particular cruel treatment (WC)  
Other inhumane acts (CAH)  
Use of child soldiers (VHL)  
Enslavement (CAH)  
Pillage (WC)

**CAH:** Crime against humanity  
**WC:** War crime  
**VIHL:** Violation of international humanitarian law

The charges include terrorising the civilian population, murder, sexual violence, physical violence, using child soldiers, enslavement and looting.

Mr Taylor pleaded not guilty to all the charges at his first appearance at the court in Freetown, Sierra Leone, in March 2006.

The Special Court for Sierra Leone has been approved by both the UN and the government of

Sierra Leone.

It is sitting in the facilities of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague because of the risks that the trial might lead to renewed tensions within Sierra Leone and Liberia.

BBC Africa analyst David Bamford says the trial hinges on determining the degree to which Mr Taylor helped start, prolong and deepen the war in Sierra Leone.

### 'Blood diamonds'

Mr Taylor started Liberia's civil war in 1989 and became one of a number of warlords competing for control in the West African country.

He later emerged as Liberia's most powerful politician and won the 1997 presidential election.

Meanwhile in 1991, one of Mr Taylor's comrades-in-arms, Foday Sankoh, started his own rebellion in neighbouring Sierra Leone.

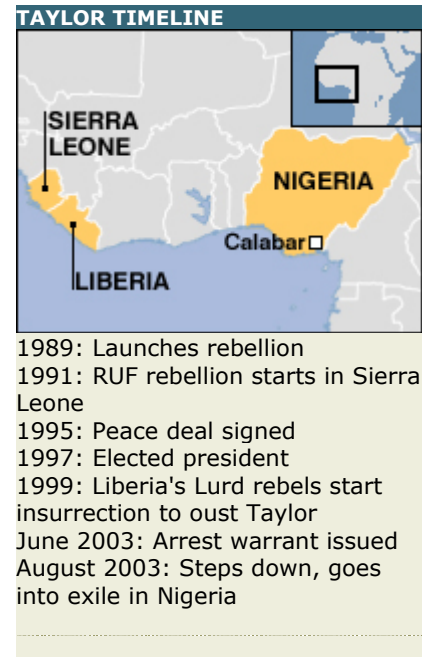
The prosecution claims Mr Taylor provided the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) leader with training, money, fighters, arms and ammunition to start the rebellion.

The RUF became notorious for hacking off the hands and legs of civilians during their decade-long war.

It is alleged that Mr Taylor shared a common plan with the RUF's commanders to gain power and control over Sierra Leone, so he could gain access to its diamonds and have a government in Freetown that would support his aims.

Mr Taylor lost power in 2003 after rival militias rose up and forced him into exile in Nigeria.

He was deported by Nigeria last year in controversial circumstances and flown to The Hague to await his trial.



## Reuters

Monday, 25 June 2007

### **Liberia's Taylor again absent as trial resumes**

By Alexandra Hudson

THE HAGUE, June 25 (Reuters) - The war crimes trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor resumed in The Hague on Monday with Taylor again absent after boycotting the opening three weeks ago.

Taylor, who is charged with instigating murder, rape and mutilation during Sierra Leone's civil war, said in a letter in early June it would not be a fair trial. The court's principal defender said at the opening of Monday's session Taylor would again not be attending.

"He said he believes that the chamber knows why he isn't here," the principal defender said.

Presiding Judge Julia Sebutinde replied: "For the record the chamber does not know why he isn't here."

In his letter to the court Taylor, once one of Africa's most feared warlords, said his defence team was outgunned by the prosecution, and had not been able to prepare his case.

"It is therefore with great regret that I must decline to attend any further hearings in this case until adequate time and facilities are provided to my defence team," he said.

Taylor has since been able to meet in The Hague with the Freetown-based court official in charge of organising and funding his defence, which Taylor had said lacked resources.

### **HORRIFIC WARS**

Prosecutors hope the trial will end impunity for African strongmen as well as send a signal that international justice can operate efficiently and fairly. However, some observers fear Taylor is intent on disrupting proceedings.

Taylor has pleaded not guilty to 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity, related to the 1991-2002 civil war which killed an estimated 50,000 people.

Even among Africa's horrific wars, the fighting in Sierra Leone stands out for its exceptional brutality -- casual murder, mass rapes, the hacking of limbs from civilians and the press ganging of child soldiers as young as eight.

The Special Court for Sierra Leone was set up jointly by the country's government and the United Nations in 2002 to try those deemed most responsible for human rights violations during the later stages of the civil war.

Prosecutors promised to produce strong and compelling evidence, including letters and witness testimony, that Taylor directed Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels as they carried out a campaign of terror against Sierra Leone's civilians.

Last week in Freetown the court handed down its first verdicts, finding three leaders of a militia guilty of war crimes that included killing, raping and mutilating civilians.

They are due to be sentenced on July 16.

Taylor's trial is being held in The Hague because of fears it could spur instability if held in Freetown.

## Associated Press

Monday, 25 June 2007

### **Charles Taylor war crimes trial to resume with debate over his defense**

Monday, June 25, 2007

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)

Prosecutors were due to call their first witness Monday in the international war crimes case against former Liberian President Charles Taylor on charges of arming Sierra Leone rebels and orchestrating a murderous terror campaign they waged during their country's 10-year civil war.

But testimony about atrocities may have to wait until judges, prosecutors and other court officials decide whether to allow Taylor to fire his attorney and defend himself.

Taylor, 59, plunged the opening day of his long-awaited trial into chaos on June 4 by boycotting the hearing and telling judges he no longer had faith in their U.N.-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone.

Complaining he had insufficient funds to pay for his defense, he wrote that the trial was "neither fair nor just.

"I cannot participate in a charade that does injustice to the people of Sierra Leone," he added. Taylor's lawyer said the former Liberian strongman now wants to defend himself.

The case was adjourned until Monday and it remained unclear if Taylor, who has pleaded not guilty to 11 charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity, would appear.

From his cell in a special wing of a Dutch seaside jail, Taylor has managed to turn court officials against one another. His trial is being held in the Netherlands for fear it could spark more unrest if staged in Sierra Leone.

Vincent Nmehielle, the court's principal defender who is responsible for ensuring Taylor can mount an adequate defense to the charges, has accepted Taylor's decision to dump Karim Khan, the British lawyer who had been his chief attorney. However, both prosecutors and the court's registrar have not and say only judges have the power to take Khan off the case.

With or without Taylor in the dock, wrangling over what to do next —and whether to allow Taylor to defend himself—was expected to dominate proceedings early Monday.

In a written response to Nmehielle's decision, senior prosecution trial attorney Brenda Hollis suggested Taylor was trying to stall the case and urged judges not to let that happen.

"Neither protection of the rights of the accused nor the interests of justice require a postponement of the resumption of the prosecution case," Hollis wrote.

In his opening statement on June 4, the court's chief prosecutor Stephen Rapp said he would call witnesses who will directly link Taylor to crimes committed by rebels.

The Liberian leader shipped rebels arms, ammunition and supplies such as alcohol and drugs used to desensitize children forced to fight. In return he got diamonds, often mined by slave laborers, Rapp said.

Last week the Sierra Leone court issued its first verdicts, convicting three former Sierra Leonean military leaders on multiple counts of war crimes, including the first-ever conviction for using child soldiers by an international court.

The men \_ Alex Tamba Brima, Brima Bazzy Kamara and Santigie Borbor Kanu \_ were indicted in 2003 as the alleged leaders of the junta, called the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council. The group of former military officers toppled Sierra Leone's government in 1997 and then teamed up with rebels to control the country until 1998, according to the indictment.

Prosecutors say the rebels were among those supported by Taylor.

**UNMIL Public Information Office**  
**Press Clips 22 June 2007**

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

**International Clips on Liberia**

**UN in Liberia launches investigation into beating of journalists**

Source: Dpa English Date: June 22, 2007

Monrovia\_(dpa) \_ The United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) has launched an investigation into reports that its troops beat and assaulted two journalists covering student protests this week, the UN said in a statement received Friday.

The announcement comes after local and international press freedom watchdogs, including Reporters Without Borders, condemned the violence against the two journalists on the University of Liberia campus, which left one of them seriously injured.

"UNMIL has ordered the immediate investigation into allegations that two journalists were manhandled during the student demonstration," said UNMIL chief Alan Doss in a statement.

Tuesday's student protests descended into violence and rioting which spilled onto the streets of the capital Monrovia, and sparked the police and UNMIL response.

Journalists Daylue Gaoh of the New Democrat and Evans Ballah of the Public Agenda were allegedly beaten by security forces while reporting on the protest and Goah was in serious condition in hospital.

UNMIL said it upholds press freedom and will not condone any acts of violence against practicing journalists and promised to make public the investigation's results.

The Press Union of Liberia said it was disturbed by the direct involvement of UN peacekeepers in the manhandling of the journalists to the extent of tearing up their ID cards and forcing them to delete their digital photos.

**UNMIL Reaches Benchmark: 3,500 Cops Trained; Last Batch Graduate July 7th**

Front Page Africa  
06/22/07

Monrovia - The Liberia National Police (LNP) Commissioner of Training and Development says the Police Service Training Academy has met the 3,500 benchmark requirements for the restructuring exercise of the LNP.

Commissioner Peter Zayzay says on July 7th, 2007 the Police Academy will put out the last batch of 300 trainees which is the highest since the commencement of the restructuring of the LNP.

Following the peace accord signed in Accra in 2003, the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) was mandated to create a new police service that will unlike the past, protect and promote the constitutional rights of its citizens by adhering to the canons of police ethics.



On 12 July 2004, erstwhile transitional government chairman and former Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Jacques Paul Klein launched the training at the newly reopened Police Service Training Academy in Paynesville.

The 10-month training programme offered topics in general policing, tactical training, criminal investigation, firearms, Liberian legislation and gender issues. The cadets underwent in-house instructions for the first three months, followed by six months of field training and a final one month training at the academy before graduation

Commissioner Zayzay disclosed that a new curriculum outside of the police current set of courses is being developed along with partners to include skills training.

He says a follow-up mechanism is being put in place to evaluate the training and equally monitor officers in the field.

"There are two approaches that we have taken. Firstly, we've initiated the process of evaluating the training program and that training program give rise to the review of the curriculum which is on-going and then we've also developed a mechanism to do a follow-up on the performance of our officers particularly the variety of training we are offering at the academy," he said.

He noted that besides the basic recruit training, the academy also offers in-service training programs in the areas of gender-based violence, criminal investigation, and traffic management. "These are some of the advanced courses we offer training in order to enhance the competency of our officers to deliver quality services to the people of this country," Col. Zayzay said.

## **International Clips on West Africa**

### **Britain sees 'landmark' in Sierra Leone court verdict**

LONDON, June 22, 2007 (AFP) - Britain's minister for Africa on Friday hailed the convictions of three rebel leaders in Sierra Leone for crimes against humanity, describing the verdicts as an "important landmark".

"This is an important landmark in bringing justice in Sierra Leone, a tangible contribution to the process of international justice," said Lord David Triesman in a statement.

"These verdicts show how those who have suffered horrific crimes can work with the international community to ensure there is no impunity for those who commit such acts.

"I urge the international community to maintain its support, financial and otherwise, for the Sierra Leone Special Court so that it can continue this important work."

A UN-backed war crimes court on Wednesday convicted three rebel leaders of war crimes and crimes against humanity in the west African country which suffered a decade-long civil war in which 120,000 people died.

Alex Tamba Brima, 35, Brima Bazzy Kamara, 39, and Santigie Borbor Kanu, 42, were found guilty on 11 of the 14 charges against them. They are to be sentenced on July 16.

, London-based human rights group Amnesty International said that while the verdicts were a "positive signal ... there are many others who carried out terrible acts during the country's 11 years of conflict."

"Thousands of others can and must be held criminally responsible," said Amnesty's legal adviser Hugo Relva, calling for reparations to be paid to victims.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair's 2000 decision to send troops to defeat rebels in Sierra Leone -- a former British colony -- was recognised last month when he was made an honorary "prince of peace" at a traditional ceremony.

He also won plaudits from Sierra Leone President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah and visiting Liberian head of state Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, whose predecessor Charles Taylor is on trial for alleged war crimes in The Hague.

Britain has offered to jail the former warlord if he is convicted.

## **S Leone prisons 'threaten peace'**

BBC  
Friday, 22 June 2007

Sierra Leone's failure to protect the rights of prisoners is threatening the country's peace and stability, a United Nations reports says.

Many inmates endure squalid conditions, including overcrowding, poor hygiene and inadequate food, it says.

The report was presented to the government by the UN's Victor Angelo.

He said that not protecting the human rights of any group endangered the consolidation of peace in Sierra Leone after its decade-long civil war.

About 50,000 people were killed, and many more maimed and raped in the conflict which ended in 2002.

### **Malaria**

The report - called Behind Walls: An Inventory and Assessment of Prisons in Sierra Leone - says a large number of prisoners across the country are on remand or awaiting trial.

Many prisoners had been in lock-ups for two years without indictment or a court appearance, including a sizeable number of children.

About 90% of prisoners interviewed in the country's 13 prisons did not have any legal representation during their trials.

Many prison windows not large enough to admit sufficient natural light and have no wire mesh - exposing inmates to mosquitoes and therefore malaria, the report says.

The BBC's Umaru Fofana in the capital, Freetown, says problems with the country's prisons are not a new phenomenon.

Prison officers often complain of a lack of resources with some paid less than \$30 a month.

This has dampened moral to the extent that prisoner escapes are common place, he says.

Minister of Internal Affairs Pascal Egbenda told the BBC the judiciary should do more to attend to cases and the finance ministry should increase the budget for prisons

There is a chronic shortage of judges and prosecution lawyers because of poor pay, our reporter says.

As part of an emergency measure, the government recently recruited new graduates, trained them as magistrates and dispatched them across the country.

## **The political scene: Mr Gbagbo reasserts the primacy of presidency**

Country Report via NewsEdge Corporation :

These developments were a major victory for Mr Gbagbo in reasserting the constitutional primacy of the presidency, a weapon he had used many times previously to challenge transitional power-sharing arrangements, even when he himself was party to those agreements. Under UN Resolution 1721 and its predecessors Mr. Banny, the former prime minister, had been appointed by the international community. In this position he was supposed to wield a substantial share of executive power, an arrangement which Mr Gbagbo resented and found numerous ways to undercut. Under the terms of the Ouagadougou agreement Mr Gbagbo was handed back uncontested executive authority, which was confirmed, in particular, by Mr. Soro's acceptance of being appointed by presidential decree.

Mr Soro's appointment as prime minister marks the rapid ascent of a new figure in Ivorian politics. Mr Soro is only 35 years old and had been a student leader of the Federation estudiantine et scolaire de Cote d'Ivoire (FESCI) in the 1990s before reappearing in late 2002 as secretary-general of the New Forces' main component, the Mouvement populaire de la Cote d'Ivoire (MPCI). Mr Soro's rise stands to eclipse the influence of the leaders of the two main opposition parties, Alassane Ouattara from the Rassemblement des republicains (RDR) and Henri Konan Bedie from the Parti democratique de Cote d'Ivoire (PDCI), respectively a former prime minister and former president of the republic and bitter rivals in the 1990s, before cementing their current alliance. Mr Soro has stated that he will not seek the presidency in the upcoming election (which is something of a moot point, as the constitution requires that the president must be at least 40 years old), but Mr Soro has indicated that he is prepared to bide his time. This, in turn, has fed speculation that Mr Soro and Mr Gbagbo have made an informal deal, according to which Mr Soro will allow Mr Gbagbo to run the elections in such a way as to secure a fresh five-year term, at the end of which Mr Soro will become eligible.

**UNMIL Daily Newspaper Summary**  
**Friday, 22 June 2007**

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

**UN Security Council Renews Investigations on Liberia**

*(The Analyst, The News, New Democrat and Heritage)*

- The United Nations Security Council on Thursday requested the Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to set up a panel of financial and diamond experts to renew investigations of whether UN sanctions against Liberia are being broken following allegations that former President Charles Taylor may still have access to considerable wealth.
- This development, according to The Analyst newspaper, appears to be worrying; especially with the Security Council having lifted protected sanctions on Liberian diamonds and timber.

**Newspaper Claims US\$2.5 Billion Spent on NGOs making Little Impact in Liberia**

*(New Vision)*

- The New Vision claims its investigation reveals that donors funding directed through local and international NGOs in the last three years have summed up to US\$2.5 billion, but has had little impact on the lives of ordinary Liberians.
- The paper said that with the huge amount of money donors are infusing into the Liberian economy through private initiatives, the health condition in the country remains poor with deplorable roads, inadequate supply of safe drinking water and other basic services that more than 600 NGOs operating in the country have professed to be addressing.

**UNMIL Probes Allegations of Assault on Journalists**

*(The News, Public Agenda and New Vision)*

- The UN Mission in Liberia says it has launched an investigation into allegations that its personnel manhandled two local journalists. The local media printed and broadcast news items in which the Press Union of Liberia and a global press freedom group, Reporters Without Borders (RSF), claimed that UN peacekeepers and their Liberia National Police counterparts assaulted two print journalists and forced them to delete photos from their digital cameras while they were covering student demonstrations recently.

**UNMIL and State Security Intensify Night Patrols**

*(The Inquirer and The Informer)*

- UNMIL personnel and officers of the Liberia National Police have intensified night patrols in most crime-prone communities across the country.
- UNMIL Force Commander Lt. Gen. Isaac Obiakor on Wednesday led a team of UNMIL senior officers along with local and international journalists to carry out a night patrol in several communities in Monrovia and its suburbs in a bid to obtain first hand information about the crime situation in the country.

**U.S. Presents War Records to Liberia's TRC**

*(Daily Observer)*

- [sic:] The United States Government has declassified more than 14,000 pages of documents on Liberia relevant to the civil conflict in the country. The documents were turned over to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and currently security experts are analyzing them to get a full understanding of the war.

## International Center for Transitional Justice

Friday, 22 June 2007

Press Release

### **Special Court for Sierra Leone Issues First Judgment**

Long-Awaited Milestone in Road to Justice

NEW YORK, June 22, 2007—The release of the Special Court for Sierra Leone’s (SCSL) first judgment on Wednesday—almost four years after starting its work in 2002—is an important milestone on the road to justice for all victims of the conflict, the International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ) said today.

In Freetown, Trial Chamber II of the Court handed down the verdict in the case against three accused members of the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC): Alex Tamba Brima, Brima Bazzy Kamara and Santigie Borbor Kanu. The three were each found guilty of war crimes, including terrorism and collective punishments, murder, and pillage, and for the first time in the history of international justice, the accused were convicted of the recruitment and use of child soldiers, also a war crime.

The SCSL also found the three guilty of murder, extermination, enslavement, and rape as crimes against humanity. One of the innovations of the case had been the Prosecutor’s charges of additional sexual violence crimes, especially the common practice of soldiers and rebels taking young women as their “wives” and keeping them as domestic and sexual slaves. The Court did convict the three of war crimes based on these charges. But the Court’s decision not to classify these as crimes against humanity represents a missed opportunity to reaffirm that such gender crimes were part of a broad and systematic policy. “The widespread practice of taking young women as a soldier’s entitlement has had a devastating impact on this group of women, just as the practice of taking children to fight has had on Sierra Leone’s youth” said Abdul Tejan Cole, Head of the ICTJ’s Sierra Leone program and a former prosecutor of the Special Court.

All of the accused were found guilty of these charges either on the basis of direct responsibility or superior responsibility in their respective roles as senior leaders of the AFRC. The three were acquitted of one count of physical violence.

Trial Chamber I is expected soon to pass judgment on two accused members of the Civil Defence Forces (CDF). The third, Chief Samuel Hinga Norman, died in February 2007 after the conclusion of the trial hearings. The trial against the three accused in the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) case is proceeding and the trial of Charles Taylor is due to continue next week at The Hague.

### **Background to the AFRC Trial**

The three former senior members of the AFRC faced a 14-count indictment alleging crimes against humanity, war crimes, and other serious violations of international humanitarian law. Although indicted separately between March and September 2003, on February 28, 2004, the Trial Chamber ordered the joint trial of Brima, Kamara and Kanu. The three pleaded not guilty to all charges.

The trial began on March 7, 2005 after initial delays in the appointment of a second Trial Chamber and concluded in October 2006. The Court heard testimony from more than 140 witnesses.

The charges against the three AFRC accused included the rape of girls and women of all ages and sexual slavery, in which “bush-wives” were forced into “marriages” and coerced into performing duties for their “husbands,” while traveling with the armed factions and regularly suffering rape.

The Sierra Leone conflict is also known for the widespread use of child soldiers. The charges against the three AFRC accused included conscripting or enlisting children under the 15 years of age into armed forces or groups and using them to participate actively in hostilities. In addition to proving these

underlying charges, crimes against humanity require proof of a widespread or systematic attack on a civilian population and knowledge by the defendants that they were acting in that context. The attacks conducted under the command of the three accused included unlawful killings, physical and sexual violence against civilians, abductions, and looting and destruction of civilian property. The AFRC and RUF also physically mutilated men, women and children, amputating their hands or feet and carving “AFRC” and “RUF” into their skin. Countless civilians witnessed these crimes.

The AFRC was formed when members of the Armed Forces of Sierra Leone seized power from the elected government through a coup on May 25, 1997. Shortly thereafter, the AFRC and RUF joined forces. Brima was a senior member of the AFRC, Junta, and combined AFRC/RUF forces, and at various stages of the conflict, was in direct command of those forces. Both Kamara and Kanu were among the group of 17 soldiers who staged the coup and ousted President Kabbah. The three accused commanded AFRC/RUF forces during the attack on Freetown on January 6, 1999.

### **About the ICTJ**

The International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ) assists countries pursuing accountability for past mass atrocity or human rights abuse. The Center works in societies emerging from repressive rule or armed conflict, as well as in established democracies where historical injustices or systemic abuse remain unresolved.

In order to promote justice, peace, and reconciliation, government officials and nongovernmental advocates are likely to consider a variety of transitional justice approaches including both judicial and nonjudicial responses to human rights crimes. The ICTJ assists in the development of integrated, comprehensive, and localized approaches to transitional justice comprising five key elements: prosecuting perpetrators, documenting and acknowledging violations through non-judicial means such as truth commissions, reforming abusive institutions, providing reparations to victims, and facilitating reconciliation processes.

The Center is committed to building local capacity and generally strengthening the emerging field of transitional justice, and works closely with organizations and experts around the world to do so. By working in the field through local languages, the ICTJ provides comparative information, legal and policy analysis, documentation, and strategic research to justice and truth-seeking institutions, nongovernmental organizations, governments and others.

To learn more about the ICTJ visit [www.ictj.org](http://www.ictj.org)

## Christian Science Monitor

Monday, 25 June 2007

Opinion

### Sierra Leone must care for war-crimes victims

The special court has meted out justice to perpetrators. Now victims need help.

By Angela Lederach and Claire Putzeys

Freetown, Sierra Leone

When the Special Court of Sierra Leone handed down historic war-crimes judgments last week, Tamba Finnroh was one of the first to hear the news.

He is one of the victims of the vicious cruelty used by all sides in his country's 11-year civil war: amputation. Mr. Finnroh lost his right hand and barely escaped with his left in 1997 when rebel forces caught him in the bush. Today, he is one of the few amputees in the country fortunate enough to have a job; he serves tea to witnesses who testify before the court. It is ironic that when defendants are called to testify during trial, they are treated as witnesses – and Tamba Finnroh finds himself serving tea to the very men who masterminded the violence that cost him his hand.

Last week's convictions of five top commanders from the Civil Defense Forces and the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council, two of the war's three fighting forces on trial, include the world's first-ever convictions for solicitation of child soldiers. The judgments have been rightly hailed as groundbreaking by the international community. But the fact remains that the rulings will have little bearing on those most in need of justice – the victims of the war, particularly those who were brutally amputated. As Finnroh says, "Whether or not these people are caught or are unpunished, it cannot bring back the hands."

Unlike Finnroh, thousands of amputees face the ongoing challenge of trying to find work to provide food for their families and pay school fees for their children. Tamba Ngaujah was the first amputee of the war; both of his hands were cut off by rebel soldiers from the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) in 1991. Today he lives in a four-room zinc shack on the side of a steep hill outside Freetown, with his wife, six children, and two other relatives. He is the sole provider for his household – no small feat for a man who has no hands. The RUF trials are still ongoing and judgments are expected in 2008. But even then, Mr. Ngaujah will still be searching for justice. "Those who have caused these problems, to jail them or do whatever to them, why can't [the government] think about the people who suffered from the war and come to their aid?" he said last week.

In fact, the final report of Sierra Leone's Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) issued in 2004 recommended that the government make reparations to amputee victims, including free medical treatment and free schooling for their children. Unfortunately, the government has yet to follow through with the commission's recommendations – a source of growing disillusionment here. Sadly, people like Finnroh and Ngaujah struggle not only with the injustice of the lack of government benefits, but they also face a daily struggle against social stigmas: Increasingly, the word "amputee" has become synonymous with "beggar."

The government is not bound by the TRC recommendations, and it argues that it doesn't have the resources to enact them. Sierra Leone ranks high on the failed-states index and is notoriously corrupt. But the government must quell the growing discontent among the war's victims. For

victims to find peace and a sense of justice, the democratically elected government must find a way to care for those whose lives were shattered by the war.

But despite the lack of attention given to war victims, many Sierra Leoneans we have met believe the current ruling party will emerge victorious in this August's elections as the lesser of two evils.

International nongovernmental organizations line the streets of Freetown, but responsibility ultimately lies with the government. The international community is not likely to pressure Sierra Leone through sanctions or other measures. But the issue of reparations is nonetheless a crucial question that the international community must consider as it seeks to support stable conditions here and in so many other troubled areas throughout the African continent.

While the world applauds last week's historic convictions, Ngaujah faces a day just like every other day. He will get up, his wife will dress him in a neatly pressed shirt, and he will climb the steep, stony slope up to the road. He will make his way into the busy streets of Freetown. There he will stand patiently, with dignity, for hours. "Good morning, sir," or, "Good afternoon, ma'am," he will say, hoping a kind heart will drop a few leones in his pocket.

• *Angela Lederach and Claire Putzeys are research fellows with the Voice to Vision project of Catalyst Peacebuilding ( [www.catalystpeacebuilding.org](http://www.catalystpeacebuilding.org) ), which is dedicated to gathering and telling the stories of forgiveness and reconciliation in postconflict Africa. Voice to Vision field program director Sara Terry contributed to this piece.*