

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



Njala University Accountability Now Club gathers for training at the Temporary Courthouse.

**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**

Thursday, 25 May 2006

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

Thursday, 25 May 2006

# Le75m Bail for American Spy and Others

**By Mohamed Kai**

**An alleged American spy; Michael Cheimildle, Collins Koroma and Felix**

**Damasco Rogers who are facing charges on conspiracy at Magistrate Sam Magai's Court No. , have**

**been granted bail in the region of twenty five millions leones each.**

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## Le75m Bail for American Spy and Others

**From front page**

In his application for bail, Defence Counsel, Momoh Fofanah intimated that the accused have not been found guilty of the charges proffered against them.

He said his clients are very much aware of the code of conduct of the court and craved Magistrate Sam Margal's fullest cooperation on every adjournment date.

Fofanah said the accused persons are so far innocent

of the charges proffered against them until proved guilty by a court of law.

In another development, Faranth Gebara, a Freetown businessman yesterday testified at the Magistrate Court No. 1 in a matter involving Denis Foray, General Manager of Faima Construction and General Services.

Mr. Gebara told the court that on 25th August 2005, he supplied twenty five swivel chairs to the company on the

order of the wife of the Minister of Development and Economic Planning, Mohamed Daramy, Hannah Daramy.

He further stated that on the other occasion, he supplied the remaining chairs to Dennis Foray and that Dennis Foray even appended his signature on the delivery book, but that he could not tell the court whether Faima Construction Service was a company or not.

The trial continues.

Awoko

Thursday, 25 May 2006

# Le25m bail for alleged American "spy"

Michael Chemidin, the American accused of espionage, was yesterday granted a Le.25 million bail by Magistrate Sam Margai at the Freetown

Magistrate Court No.1.

The same bail conditions were also granted to the other two Sierra Leonean [Felix Rogers and Collins Kamara] accused he is

being arraigned with.

Giving his ruling the Magistrate said, "The application of bail is granted," stating that, "the accused as well as the surety must sign a bail bond."

He added that, "The surety must be approved by the Master and Registrar..."

The Defence Counsel had earlier applied that order be given so that the first accused would be taken to

34 Hospital if he failed to meet the bail conditions.

The application was however objected by associate State Counsel Gerald Soyie, who stated that, "there is no need for an order"

However, Magistrate Margai noted that, "it stands to reason were proper treatment could not be offered within the prison the accused should be taken out for medical treatment."

Awoko

Thursday, 25 May 2006

# Special Court witness admits receiving Le112, 000 weekly

By Betty Milton

A defence witness, Fallah Bindi, in the ongoing trial of the three Special Court Civil Defence Forces (CDF) indictees: Chief Samuel Hinga Norman, Moinina Fofanah and Alieu Kondewa, has admitted that he had been receiving Le 112,000 weekly from the Witness

and Victim Support Unit of the Special Court.

The witness, who was answering to questions from Joseph Kamara of the Prosecution team, stated that he was not being paid for the evidence he had been giving. He disclosed that he was being given this particular sum for soap.

When asked whether he used to get such a sum in his farming, he answered in the negative.

Mr. Bindi stated that on 15 February 1998, his group was the first to enter Kenema but that they met resistance from junta forces in the town. Later, he noted, they were able to chase them out.

The defence witness told the court that after the attack they were able to get some arms, ammunition and some food, left behind by the junta forces.

Narrating further the witness stated that for them to be initiated into the Kamajor society, it was the decision of village chiefs who would select only men above

35 years.

He further stated that they were not using children in hostilities as this was something forbidden for them to do.

Awoko

Thursday, 25 May 2006

# Legal assistance for Nigerian General

Presiding Judge Pierre Boutet of Trial Chamber II of the Special Court yesterday enquired about the other witnesses who were to testify in the trial of the Civil Defence Forces (CDF).

Responding, Dr. Jabbie stated that their team would be sending a legal assistance to Nigeria for General Abu Wan Mohamed to travel to Freetown to testify for the defence.

Gen. Mohamed, who has been the sixth witness slated in the defence team of Chief Norman, is expected to explain the joint ECOMOG [the then military wing of the Economic

Community of West African States] and CDF role in defending Sierra Leone with particular reference to key geographic areas including Bo, Koribundo and other parts of the country.

The witness would also be expected to reveal the role of ECOMOG as a principal force in controlling, supporting and providing logistical support to the CDF. He would

also tell how the CDF was under ECOMOG's command and how arms and ammunitions were supplied to the CDF.

It will be recalled that President Kabbah is on the list

of the defence witnesses for Chief Norman but the prosecution on the other side is maintaining that the President's testimony will not have anything new to add to what has already been said.

President Kabbah, according to the summary of his evidence, is expected to explain the modus operandi of the Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) government in exile. He is also expected to give evidence on how arms and ammunition from Sandline International were brought into the country, and the instructions given to General Maxwell 'Khobe on how the arms should be used.

For di People  
Thursday, 25 May 2006

# AMERICAN MERCENARY SUSPECT GRANTED BAIL

**MICHAEL CHIMILDEL**, an American national who was charged alongside two Sierra Leonean with conspiracy in a purpose prejudicial to the security of the state was granted bail on Wednesday afternoon by the presiding magistrate of court No 1A, Sam Margai in the sum of twenty five million Leones.

## snapshot

Chimidel and two Sierra Leoneans were arrested about two weeks ago in front of the perimeter fence of the Special Court along Jomo Kenyatta Road while attempting to take a snap shot of the court without due permission of the court.

They were charged to court and later released but Chimidel was subsequently rearrested and had since been remanded at the maximum prison at Pademba Road where his health had gradually deteriorated.

As a result, the defence lawyer filed in an application for bail citing the physical condition of his client which the

magistrate eventually approved. In another event, court No1A was brought to a standstill after the magistrate had adjourned and sent one accused on remand for alleged robbery.

## brandishing

The accused refused to leave the dock and brandishing two razor blades which he had taken out of his pocket, vowed to damage himself and any other police or prison officer who attempts to take him away.

Speaking in an aggressive mood, he accused the police officers of extortion, that they demanded from him the sum of eight thousand leones in order to grant him bail. He said he gave the police the amount but the bail was never granted him and that he had spent close to three months in remand for a crime he had pleaded not guilty to.

In a desperate mood he said he would only leave the dock when his money was refunded but he however stopped short of naming the officers involved in the deal. The accused person was later persuaded to leave the dock by lawyer Serry Kamal who promised to defend him at the next sitting.

Awareness Times  
Thursday, 25 May 2006

### Charles Taylor exposed

The Secretary General of the Nigerian Coalition on the International Criminal Court (NCICC), Mr. Voke Ighorodje, has indicated how the former Liberian President now Special Court indictee, Charles Ghankay Taylor, while in Nigeria, breached three key agreements that clearly questioned his continued stay in the country.

According to Mr. Ighorodje, Charles Taylor deliberately refused to adhere to the caution disallowing him to make contacts back home in Liberia.

It could be noted that while in Nigeria, Mr. Taylor was accused of interfering with activities in Liberia, using his loyalists.

It was rumoured by many that the continued contacts being made by Mr. Taylor to Liberia, using mobile telecommunication and the like, had the potential of creating hiccups in the fragile peace the war torn country was enjoying at the time.

He is said to have violated this terms until he was finally delivered to the custody of the Special Court about two months ago.



Sierra News  
Thursday, 25 May 2006

# Chief Prosecutor bids farewell

**By Kadrie Koroma**

The Chief Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, Mr. Desmond de Silver has said that when he took up appointment as Chief Prosecutor, he promised that they would do everything possible to bring Charles Taylor to Freetown and today he is in Freetown.

He was speaking during a farewell press conference at the Sierra Leone News Agency headquarter, Wallace Johnson Street in Freetown.

Mr. De Silver said the trial of Charles Taylor in Freetown cannot possibly take place this year because trial Chambers 1 and 2 are fully engaged with CDF and RUF cases, but

*See back page*

# Chief Prosecutor bids farewell

assured all that if Charles Taylor is taken to The Hague for trial, he will be tried by the Special Court and will be given a fair trial.

He said after four years in Sierra Leone, he decided to return to the UK among other reasons to undertake medical operations. He said after that, he will make himself available for re-

appointment depending on the wish of the Secretary General, Kofi Annan. "I am not departing Freetown for good, I am departing Freetown for a while", he said.

The Chief Prosecutor said he will leave behind a very effective Prosecution Team and the Deputy Prosecutor, Dr.

Christopher Staker will be the Acting Prosecutor.

On the health of Hinga Norman, Mr. Desmond de Silver said it is the Registry that is responsible for all detainees health and not the Prosecutor but the Acting Public Affairs Head, Peter Anderson said Hinga Norman's illness is not life-threatening.

Concord Times  
Thursday, 25 May 2006

## Waiting For Taylor in The Hague

### Dateline Holland

By Osman Benk Sankoh

I wonder how it would have been like if Europe and the United States would just open their gates for at least an hour and allow Africans to stream in droves without the headache of visa restrictions. The word anarchy would have been an understatement and any attempt to restrain a loved one from going would fall on deaf ears. The idea of most Africans is that it is very easy over there. In fact, many think manna just fell from heaven. The reality is that we do have brothers and sisters out there who literally sleep on the sidewalks, others do barely have jobs to etch out a living while some have to contend with immigration wahala coupled with the uncompromising winter.

For many of those whose minds have been made up to go to the "white man's home," they will do everything humanly possible even to the extent of nakedly risking their lives along the Moroccan borders for Spain. But wait a minute, ask yourself this question; with corruption growing wings like an over fed bird everyday, with Kabbah tiger generators having succeeding in replacing a moribund NPA (No Power Available) in our homes and with the unsightly spectacle of filth in every available space in the city coupled with 'No Jobs Available,' what would you expect of a desperate man or woman? To them, their only hope is to go out there and start from afresh... clean up rubbish, wash dead bodies and so on.

Few weeks back, I decided to go and see for myself what is happening on that side of the world. I did not go to stay. My destination was primarily France but with the prospect of seeing Liberia's former president, Charles Ghankay Macarthur Taylor having his day in court in the Dutch town of Den Haag, it served as a perfect enticement to go there and just in case; wait for Taylor in The Hague.

In recent times, the name, The Hague, has become synonymous with "a court". And it is not just an ordinary court; The Hague, which is the administrative hub of the Netherlands, is the seat of the UN International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia (ICTY). Nobody visits this court without making international headline news. Until recently, it was the trial and death of Slobodan Milosevic, former president of Yugoslavia that made headline news from there. Now, a Dutch businessman is also behind bars and facing trial there for his alleged involvement in arms deal during the Liberian Civil war.

For me, the ICTY was a major landmark that I had wanted to visit ever since I was born but what further strengthened my resolve was the fact that Den

Haag had opened her doors for its ICTY facilities to host the trial of Taylor should they find a jail for him if proven guilty of his charges and considering the fact that I come from a country where Taylor is being kept waiting for trial backed by the fact that I also work in his native, Liberia was a motivating factor to have ventured there to see what awaits the former president when he finally arrives. Thus, when the opportunity came for me to take some time off work from my normal community outreach activities, it dawned on me that a visit to The Hague was almost now a fait accompli. The journey itself started by boarding a flight to Accra Ghana for an almost four hours and twenty five minutes flight which saw me being much more closer to God in prayers amid the recitation of some holy verses for a very long while. After resting for about seven hours at the Kotakoa airport, I was enroute again but this time round, onboard a comfortable KLM flight whose beautiful air hostesses were almost always on hand to ask, "coffee, tea, juice, wine or snacks?". In the early hours of April 12, I landed in Schiphol airport in Holland but it was not my final stop. Charles De Gaulle airport in Paris beacons and in less than 45 minutes from takeoff at Schiphol, I was there. Picked up by a friend, off we went to the Parisian suburb of Melun on board an underground train. Paris, they say is one of the most beautiful cities in the World and I got the better part of it but alas! Unlike most of our West African states, there is more life underground her holes and tunnels than above. In fact there is a lot of fuzz and buzz down there where you meet a lot of people than you can imagine order than on top, literally running to and fro for trains. After enjoying the beautiful landmarks of Paris including her Eiffel Tower and the famous media houses of Le Monde and the Stade de France among others, I was ready to set out again for The Hague.

On a cold and windy Saturday morning in April, I boarded a Thalys (underground electric train) from Paris' Gardene Nord for an over four hours journey to Den Haag's central station. As the place was very cold, I had to double and redouble my clothes to keep warm. Upon arrival in Den Haag as it is known in Dutch, one could easily feel the serene and peaceful atmosphere of this small Dutch town which happens to be the country's seat of government. There is some kind of romantic air that looms around it that one can't simply resist its enticement from falling in love with it. Since it was my maiden visit, I decided to take a look at some of

Special Court premises at New England Vile. Surrounded by the world Forum Center and KPMG, one of the world's renowned financial auditing firms, the ICTY surroundings has an air of pin drop silence that was somewhat frightening for someone like me from post-war Sierra Leone.

Perhaps, I should talk a bit about The ICTY. It started work in 1946 replacing the Permanent Court of International Justice, which had functioned in the Peace Palace since 1922. The Court is composed of 15 judges elected by the UN General Assembly and Security Council sitting independently of each other.

Unlike the Special Court in my home country that is heavily guarded by battle tested Mongolian troops with raised concrete walls and barbed wires, the ICTY has a relaxed outlook which does not mean security is taken for granted.

Though I walked up to the main entrance of Taylor's next home, I never had the opportunity of passing through the first gate and unlike Sierra Leone where four people were recently held for taking photos at the Special Court, at the ICTY, you can take as much as you want and nobody will cough. But take your time to ask passersby and even the taxi drivers around whether or not they know that Taylor, appears headed for the building just in front of them, most will ask, "but who is this

Taylor?" "Need I say more to them? Of course not but again, those guys still have fresh tales of how until recently, the former Serbian president, Slobodan Milosevic was a guest of honor at The Hague. From what I saw, The Hague is a nice place to be. Although some people including Taylor may disagree. There, his worries over mosquito bites, the scorching heat or what can now be best described as the uninterrupted flow of darkness - I mean, electricity shortage and just maybe, conjugal visits may be over.

After the Haag, I also had the opportunity of rubbing shoulders with the Sierra Leonean community in the cites of Helmond and Eindhoven where I attended a Sierra Leonean jam session and a PMDC organized meeting as an observer. The trip also gave me the opportunity of reuniting with two of my former colleagues at Concord Times, Kingsley Evans (Sugar), Alex John and Benjamin Palmer, formerly of For Di People. The latter came all the way down from Germany to see me.

Interestingly, guys kept asking my friend during my stay with him whether I was there for good or not but I am back to base, in Africa, where I enjoy eating my cassava leaves with red oil and of course, bush meat.

**END**

*The writer was onetime Editor of Concord Times.*

## Monitor

### May Edition

#### Introduction–The Hybrid Nature of the Special Court is Fast Dissipating, the Sierra Leonean Aspect Should Be Restored

Welcome to the Thirteenth Edition of the Sierra Leone Court Monitoring Programme (SLCMP) newsletter, the Monitor. In the last edition, we focused largely on advocating for Mr. Taylor's trial to take place here in Sierra Leone. As an organization, we still maintain our position since the reasons for taking it have not changed. Despite the fact that other civil society groups within and without Sierra Leone added their voices, the Special Court and the international community have continued to ignore their calls. What is more disheartening is the Government of Sierra Leone's (GoSL) continued silence over the whole issue, ~~not~~ withstanding the fact that the Sierra Leone Parliament unanimously passed a resolution requesting for the trial to take place at the Special Court premises in Freetown.

It is important that the Special Court be seen to be an independent court. This does not, however, imply that GoSL should not take part in the non-judicial aspects of the Court. The Special Court was established pursuant to an agreement between the GoSL and the United Nations. Ensuring the implementation of the non-judicial aspects of the Court does not in anyway constitute encroaching on its independence. The transfer of Mr. Taylor's trials to The Hague is purely a political decision and therefore, the GoSL was expected to play a leading role since the trial and its outcome will affect its people the most. Disappointing, this has not been the case.

The GoSL's continued apathy towards the non-judicial aspects of the Special Court has also resulted in the appointment of a non-Sierra Leonean in the position of Deputy Prosecutor. Based on the Agreement (Art. 3 (2)) between the GoSL and United Nations, the Deputy Prosecutor of the Special Court was supposed to be a

Sierra Leonean. However, the clause was changed to a GoSL appointee. This was how the present Prosecutor, Desmond de Silva, QC came to be appointed the Deputy Prosecutor. It was a major blunder, not because of the appointment of Mr. de Silva, but because the clause was changed. Furthermore, the GoSL abdicated its responsibility to rectify this gaffe when Mr. de Silva was appointed the Prosecutor after Mr. David Crane left. Another non-Sierra Leonean was appointed to the position even though the Sierra Leone Bar Association issued a statement to the effect that a Sierra Leonean should be appointed.

Mr. de Silva has announced that he will be leaving the Special Court in June. The SLCMP wants to take this opportunity to thank him for his contributions in ensuring accountability in Sierra Leone after a decade long civil war, and wishes him good luck in his future endeavors. To this end, Sierra Leoneans are looking forward to the GoSL's active participation in the appointment of the next Prosecutor.

## Analyzing Bush Wife Phenomenon at the Special Court Trials

### Ibrahim Jalloh

In October 2005, Zainab Bangura testified in Trial Chamber II of the Special Court as an Expert Witness on the issue of 'forced marriage' during the war in Sierra Leone. She was commissioned by the Prosecution in February 2005 to prepare a report on forced marriage in respect of the trials against the RUF and AFRC accused persons. In the Report, forced marriage was captioned as the 'Bush Wife Phenomenon'. The Prosecution's objective during the trials was to prove that 'forced marriage' during the war in Sierra Leone constituted war crimes and crimes against humanity. If the Trial Chamber upholds this charge, it would become an international precedent to make criminal this type of wartime gender-based violence.

This article gives a critical analysis of what constitutes 'forced marriage' as encompassed in the "Bush Wife Phenomenon" in the context of the Sierra Leone war. Under which scope this phenomenon becomes a war crime and/or crime against humanity.

According to Zainab Bangura, forced marriage arose when a young girl/woman was abducted during the war, came under the total control and command of a rebel/soldier (captor) claiming her to be his wife. This happened when the captor proclaimed *yu na mi wef*, in the Krio lingua franca, meaning 'you're my wife'. At that point, the victim was left with no option but to accept the "marriage". Following this, she did all the chores at the house as expected of a regular housewife. In return, the 'bush husband' ensured that he provided her protection and support in terms of food and clothing. Consequently, forced marriage became a means of survival for most girls/women behind rebel lines during the war. Some of these relationships continued even after the war, although with some adjustment; that is to say the 'bush wives' now have the option to leave. However, most 'bush wives' decided to stay because they have children from these relationships and, others because of the stigmatization or fear of reprisal as they are already labelled 'rebel wives'.

During the war, forced marriage was rampant. Given that some of the girls were forced into early marriages, the effects on their lives have become indelible. Most of the girls were impregnated when they were still under age. The much needed parental or family care during pregnancy was lacking. Even though some girls and women have attempted to reintegrate after the war, some communities have continued to make them feel unwelcome. They are made to feel guilty for their involvement with the 'bush husbands' and their children are sometimes regarded illegitimate and of 'rebel blood'. This makes social reintegration difficult for them and they subsequently returned to their 'bush husbands' again.

'Bush wives' were highly respected within "their communities" at that time than the 'non-bush wives'. On cross-examination of the Expert Witness, the Defence pointed out that the 'bush wives' were protected by their 'bush husbands' during the war and continued to stay with them at peacetime. They further pointed out that it was not indicative of forced marriage as alleged by the Prosecution but a betrothal one. Even though it involved an initial abduction but it later proved to be a marriage of convenience. It was a choice, wherein one was supposed to choose between the devil and the deep blue sea, but a choice nonetheless!!! There were situations when some young girls/women opted for it, because it guaranteed their protection and respect amongst the rebels and colleague abductees.

It is worth noting that, forced marriage and arranged marriage may be likened to betrothal marriages, wherein a woman is engaged in a contract of marriage. In betrothal marriages consent of the parties counts greatly to influence the relationship. Zainab Bangura stated in the Report that, during the war girls were forced into such relationships by using the barrel of the gun and later, though in a smaller number, were legitimized after the war. It became a marriage of circumstance because most of the 'bush wives' cannot detach themselves from that 'relationship'. Most of them

bore children in the relationship and that cannot be reversed.

From all indications, forced marriage may have got a long-standing existence in Sierra Leone but was overlooked because it was done during peacetime and customs accepted it. In effect, it was not classed as a crime.

However, the Witness's narrative indicated a dichotomy between the 'bush wife' phenomenon and the Sierra Leone customary law marriages. According to the Report, Sierra Leoneans practised a sort of arranged marriages before the war especially under customary rites. This was common practise in the provincial areas and around the Freetown environ. Customary law as recognized in the Sierra Leone legal system in relation to customary law marriages normally seeks to establish that the consent of the girl is subordinate to that of the parents /guardians (especially the father). She is only informed of the marriage shortly before it. This again, may be seen as forced marriage because the voluntary consent of the girl is not sought. The Witness's testimony referred to it as 'arranged marriages' because it was done during peacetime.

#### IS FORCED MARRIAGE A CRIME?

Municipal laws do not criminalize forced marriage in the actual sense, as there is no existing statute or judicial precedent to the effect. What is the nature of forced marriage as a crime? Sierra Leonean laws generally and customary law in particular see the essence of the family and community participation in marriage as of prime value because this is where the couples turn to whenever problems arise in their relationship. The family and community ensure the legitimacy of the relationship and the law comes in to legalize it. This may be the rationale for the Report to refer to such relationships as arranged marriages instead of forced marriages.

How can forced marriage constitute a war crime or crime against humanity considering the fact that it is a new phenomenon that does not have any prior international acclamation and can only be (in this instance) related to the conflict in Sierra Leone?

Under the Statute of the Special Court, for a crime to be regarded as a war crime and/or crime against humanity, it must have been committed in a pattern that is said to be widespread and systematic against any civilian population. With relation to forced marriage, Article 2 (g) provides that the Special Court can prosecute persons who have committed crimes that includes among other things "...rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy and other forms of sexual violence..." In addition to that Art.3 (e) asserted that the Court can also prosecute persons that have committed or ordered the commission of the serious violation of Art. 3 Common to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and of additional Protocol II of 8 January 1977 and these violations includes *inter alia* "outrages upon personal dignity, in particular humiliating and degrading treatment, rape, enforced prostitution and any form of indecent assault. Furthermore, Art. 5 (a) of the Statute makes room for municipal crimes to be prosecuted by the Special Court and this pertains to "offences relating to the abuse of girls under the Prevention of Cruelty to Children Act 1926 (Cap. 31) and that is to say:

1. Abusing a girl under 13 years of age, contrary to Sec. 6
11. Abusing a girl between 13 and 14 years of age, contrary to Sec. 7

111. Abducting of a girl for immoral purposes, contrary to Sec. 12...."

In the Report, Zainab Bangura refers to forced marriage during the war as "[t]he physical abduction of a young girl/woman by a rebel or soldier and, in most cases, coercing and terrorizing her into living with that rebel as a wife". Based on this, forced marriage may be classified as a war crime or crime against humanity because it has characteristics of the elements stated above, and they include *inter alia* rape, enslavement, sexual slavery, and acts of terror and conscription of children into armed conflict.

The 'Bush Wife Phenomenon' in the context of the Sierra Leone war becomes a unique case in itself. If it is upheld by the Trial Chamber then it becomes a precedent in international tribunals of this nature to follow its ruling but if rejected, it may become an 'obiter dictum' for future trials to make projections on. The SLCMP therefore encourages the Trial Chamber to look on both the pros and cons of the 'Phenomenon' in order to come up with a reasonable decision on the issue, as posterity will reference it in similar circumstances when they do appear again in the international limelight.

## Awareness Times

Wednesday, 24 May 2006

### **Special Court for Sierra Leone Chief Prosecutor Quits**

By Tom E. Tommy

The Chief Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, Desmond de Silver QC, yesterday officially informed media practitioners at a press briefing that he will cease to serve in that capacity by the end of this month, or latest by mid June.

Addressing what was dubbed as his final press briefing as Prosecutor of the Special Court, Mr. Desmond de Silver QC stated among other things that he is leaving because he needs to undergo a medical check-up back home, having served the court for four good years.

The British-born out going Prosecutor started his career with the Special Court as Deputy Prosecutor, working in close concert with the then Chief Prosecutor, Mr. David M. Crane.

It could be noted that when Mr. Crane decided to resign his position as Prosecutor, it did not take the United Nations Secretary General, Mr. Kofi Annan, much thinking to appoint Mr. de Silver to replace him.

Even before the departure of Mr. Crane, Mr. Silver was considered as a valuable resource in the prosecution team, based on his wealth of experience in the legal field.

He is said to have played a pivotal role in identifying those who bear the greatest responsibility for the despicable crimes committed during the decade long crisis, and like his former boss, Mr. Crane, he was determined to do his utmost to ensure that the culture of impunity is stopped.

When he took over as Chief Prosecutor, his greatest challenge was to ensure the return of Charles Taylor, who had been already indicted by the Special Court and who at the material time was under the protection of the Nigerian Government.

His dream finally came true two months ago when the former president was arrested and turned over to the court. Though he will not be there to further the prosecution of the former president, there is certainly no doubt that his successor will not find it difficult to prove the charges against him.

Desmond de silver will be temporarily replaced by Christopher Staker, an Australian, who has been his deputy.



## Reuters

Wednesday, 24 May 2006

### **Sierra Leone war crimes court names new prosecutor**

FREETOWN (Reuters) - Sierra Leone's U.N.-backed war crimes court, where former Liberian leader Charles Taylor faces trial, named a new chief prosecutor on Wednesday after his predecessor said he would step down at the end of June.

The Special Court said Christopher Staker, currently deputy prosecutor, would take over as chief prosecutor from Desmond de Silva, who announced his departure a month ago saying he wanted to leave to spend time with his family in England.

Taylor, long one of Africa's most feared warlords, was flown handcuffed and surrounded by U.N. peacekeepers to the Freetown tribunal in March after nearly three years in exile.

He pleaded not guilty last month to 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity for his role backing rebels who raped and mutilated civilians during Sierra Leone's 1991-2002 civil war.

The tribunal has asked the Netherlands to hold his trial in The Hague, citing fears that keeping him in Sierra Leone could provoke unrest, but he will not be moved until a third country says it is willing to imprison him if found guilty.

Staker, who studied at the universities of Adelaide in Australia and Oxford, England, has worked for the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. He joined the Freetown court in July, 2005.

## Associated Press

Wednesday, 24 May 2006

### **Bail Granted to American, Sierra Leoneans**

Michael Chemidlin, an American from Scotch Plains, New Jersey was granted bail on conspiracy...

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone (AP) - An American man and two Sierra Leoneans charged with plotting to help former Liberian President Charles Taylor escape from jail at a war crimes court were granted bail Wednesday of about \$8,000 apiece.

Chemidlin, a former U.S. soldier from Scotch Plains, N.J., was first arrested in early May for photographing the compound of the joint U.N.-Sierra Leone war crimes court in Freetown.

He and Sierra Leoneans Felix Rogers and Collins Kamara were re-arrested last week, one day after another judge ruled that there was no law against photographing the U.N.-backed tribunal. They have now been charged with conspiracy for "inspecting" the court.

Chemidlin has said he is innocent.

Magistrate Sam Margai said Chemidlin, who is suffering from malaria and muscle pains according to his lawyer, should be referred to a hospital for treatment. A hearing was set for May 30.

Taylor, who escaped from a Massachusetts jail in 1985, is charged with funding rebels who burned down villages and hacked off people's limbs during the country's war.

## JURIST

Wednesday, 24 May 2006

### **Three charged with plotting to free ex-Liberia president Taylor granted bail**

A magistrate in Sierra Leone Wednesday granted bail of \$8,000 each to three men charged with inspecting a prohibited area and conspiracy to assist former Liberian president Charles Taylor escape from prison at the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL), a war crimes tribunal. The suspects were reportedly caught photographing the jail earlier this month and were originally released for lack of evidence. The three men, former US soldier Michael Chemidlin and Sierra Leoneans Felix Rogers and Collins Kamara, were re-arrested and charged last week. Chemidlin claims he is innocent, and his lawyer requested that he be admitted to a hospital for symptoms of malaria. The court set a hearing for May 30.

Taylor, indicted by the SCSL for war crimes and crimes against humanity and now facing trial after his capture in March, is fighting requests to have his own proceeding moved from Freetown, Sierra Leone, to the International Criminal Court at The Hague in the Netherlands. He escaped from prison in Massachusetts in 1985.

## Xinhua

Wednesday, 24 May 2006

### **Taylor not appear as witness in Hague: report**

BRUSSELS, May 24 (Xinhua) -- Former Liberian President Charles Taylor will not appear as a witness in the trial of Dutch businessman Guus Kouwenhoven, Radio Netherlands reported on Wednesday.

The report said that the former president has, on the advice of his lawyer, declined a summons from a Hague court to clarify Kouwenhoven's role during the Liberian civil war.

Kouwenhoven, 63, known as "Mr. Gus" in Liberia, is on trial before a Dutch court for war crimes and violation of a UN arms embargo against Liberia.

The prosecution cited correspondence found in Kouwenhoven's homes to show that the Dutch trader was "a close ally" of Taylor.

Kouwenhoven was accused of smuggling guns into the country in exchange for lucrative timber concessions for his logging companies OTC and RTC. These weapons were subsequently used by Taylor's troops to commit atrocities against rebels and civilians. If convicted, Kouwenhoven faces a maximum sentence of life in prison.

Charles Taylor is currently being held custody in Sierra Leone on suspicion of war crimes.

## **UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 24 May 2006**

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

### **International Clips on Liberia**

*[There were no relevant stories on Liberia in the international media today]*

### **International Clips on West Africa**

05/23/2006 14:14:58

#### **Ivory Coast rebels begin pulling back from frontline**

By Herve Bar

ABIDJAN, May 23, 2006 (AFP) - Rebel leaders controlling half of the West African state of Ivory Coast said Tuesday their forces had begun pulling back from sections of the frontline as agreed under an ongoing peace process. "We have dismantled checkpoints in the region of Botro (centre) and begun transporting our elements to a regroupment site," rebel New Forces spokesman Sidiki Konate told AFP. The Military Council of the New Forces (FN) rebels, who have controlled half the West African country since late 2002, said earlier Tuesday they were committed to "applying peace accords in full."

05/23/2006 13:48:03

#### **UN weighing new sanctions against those obstructing Ivory Coast peace**

UNITED NATIONS, May 23, 2006 (AFP) - The UN Security Council on Tuesday held closed-door consultations on a French proposal for targeted sanctions against those obstructing the delicate peace process in divided Ivory Coast. The 15-member body however reached no decision on the French-drafted non-binding statement that threatens "targeted measures", meaning sanctions, against those blocking the peace process or inciting publicly hatred or violence.

### **Local Media - Newspapers**

#### **Civil Society Group wants Former Warlords Denied U.S. Entry Visas**

*(The News and Heritage)*

- A press statement issued in Monday yesterday said that the Forum for the Establishment of a War Crimes Court for Liberia has requested the US Government to deny visas to former Liberian warlords and their immediate relatives.
- The Forum said that former warlords and their associates, who allegedly committed war crimes during the civil war, should not be given visas to travel and evade justice. The group also called on Liberia's neighbors not to allow the warlords to use their borders to escape.

### **Liberian Government Catalogues Benefits for New Soldiers**

*(The Inquirer, Daily Observer and New Democrat)*

- Addressing a press conference in Monrovia yesterday, Deputy Defense Minister for Administration Othello Daniel Warrick said that recruits of the new Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) will benefit from educational, health and housing facilities as well as a new salary structure when enlisted.

### **EU Gives Additional US\$10.9 Million to DDRR Trust Fund**

*(The Analyst, Heritage and The New Liberia)*

- According to a press release jointly issued by the European Commission (EC) and UNDP, the Commission has contributed an additional US\$10.9 million to UNDP's Disarmament, Demobilization, Rehabilitation and Reintegration (DDRR) Trust Fund to integrate ex-combatants who have completed the disarmament and demobilization program.

### **President Sirleaf Lauds Mercy Ship for Surgeries in Liberia**

*(The Inquirer and Daily Observer)*

- Bidding farewell to the crew of Mercy Ships MV Anastasias Monday, President Ellen Jonsen-Sirleaf thanked the crew for their sacrificial services in transforming Liberians ostracized by their communities owing to deformities.

### **China Trains 29 Civil Servants in Rice Production**

*(The Informer)*

- Speaking yesterday at the graduation ceremony for 29 staff members of the Ministry of Agriculture who were trained in rice farming by Chinese, Chinese Ambassador Lin Songtian said that his country stands ready to help strengthen the agricultural sector to make Liberia self-sufficient in food production.

### **Secretary General Lauds President Sirleaf for Tackling Corruption**

*(The Informer)*

- In a statement delivered on his behalf at a session of the International Contact Group on the Manor River Basin by Deputy Special Representative for Rule of Law, Juiz Carlos da Costa, Secretary-General Kofi Annan lauded President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf for tackling corruption and ensuring good governance.

### **Local Media – Radio Veritas** *(News monitored yesterday at 18:45 pm)*

#### **Vice President Urges Liberian Agriculturists to Emulate Others**

- Addressing journalists in Monrovia yesterday, Vice President Joseph Boakai urged Liberians to emulate the success story of China, Japan, Korea and the United States as they work in the agriculture sector. Vice President Boakai said that Liberia is endowed with the potentials needed to enhance productivity in the agricultural sector.

*(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)*

#### **Agriculture Ministry Unveils Plan to Establish National Seed Center**

- In a press release issued in Monrovia yesterday, the Ministry of Agriculture in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization and the West Africa Rice Development Association have consented to establish a national seed center at Suacoco, Bong County to train and create jobs for Liberian youths.

*(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)*

**U.S. Pledges Logistical Support to New Liberian Army**

- According to a dispatch from Washington D.C. recently, the United States Government has pledged to support the new Armed Forces of Liberia by providing logistics as well as training programs for officers.

*(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)*

**Europeans Donate Additional US\$10.9 Million to Program for Ex-Combatants**

*(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)*

**Advocates for War Crimes Court Want Embassy to Deny Warlords Entry Visas**

*(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)*

**Police Evict Street Peddlers Again**

- Deputy Police Inspector for Operations Col. Gayflor Tarpeh told journalists yesterday that the Liberia National Police has begun to evict sellers from various corners of the streets of Monrovia. Col. Tarpeh said that the move is to clear the streets of peddlers and to enforce the relocation of marketers.

*(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)*

**UNMIL Commissions Accident Safety Lights at Monrovia Suburb**

- An UNMIL source yesterday said that the Nigerian contingent of the Mission yesterday commissioned a lighting system on the streets of a Monrovia suburb, St Paul Bridge. General Tommy Goranson said that the project was a way of improving vehicular traffic in the area.

*(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)*

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