

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



**PRESS CLIPPINGS**

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

**as at:**

Wednesday, 26 August 2009

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

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Concord Times  
Wednesday, 26 August 2009

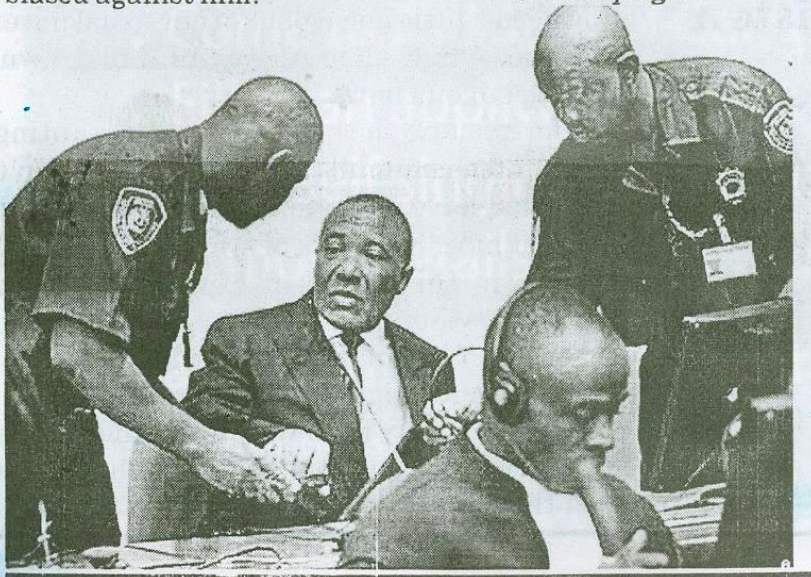
# Taylor says UN is biased

By Alpha Sesay

Charles Taylor has told judges in his war crimes trial that a 2001 United Nations expert report, which accused him of providing military and financial support to Sierra Leonean rebels in exchange for diamonds, contained an expert who was unfairly biased against him.

He also claimed that his rebel group which launched a civil war in Liberia in 1989 got support and equipment from the CIA.

In describing the 2001 United Nations Panel of Experts Report on Gun Running and Diamond Smuggling in Sierra Leone,  
*Contd. page 5*



## Local News

From page 1

Mr. Taylor said that he raised alarms when he found out who was appointed as the reporting experts. When Ian Smillie—who in a prior report had accused Mr. Taylor of involvement in diamond-for-arms trade in Sierra Leone—was named an expert, Mr.

## Taylor says UN is bi

Taylor wrote a letter to the UN Secretary General questioning Mr. Smillie's appointment. These concerns, Mr. Taylor said, were ignored by the UN and Mr. Smillie remained on the panel.

Mr. Smillie has already testified as an Expert Witness for the Special Court for Sierra

Leone's prosecution against Mr. Taylor. "I had concerns about people who had made allegations against Liberia being on the panel. You have already prejudiced the report by doing that," Mr. Taylor said.

Mr. Taylor accused Great Britain and the United States of

manipulating the findings of the by putting pressure on Mr. Smillie, who was their own nominee on the panel.

"Britain and America are bringing the pressure. We know that the pressure is coming on Smillie because of the interest." Mr. Taylor said. "I am confronted with these people who

have already made those allegations even before the panel report is out."

It was no surprise therefore, Mr. Taylor said, that when the Panel of Expert Report came out, he was accused of active involvement in the provision of financial and military support to the rebels in return for

diamonds. Mr. Taylor said that while these allegations were made against him, Britain and the United States failed to provide any "tangible evidence" of his involvement in Sierra Leone.

The prosecution has alleged that Mr. Taylor was involved in trading diamonds for arms with Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels in Sierra Leone. Several prosecution witnesses have testified that RUF rebel commanders took diamonds to Mr. Taylor and in return, he supplied arms and ammunition for use by the RUF rebels. He presently stands accused of bearing responsibility for crimes committed by RUF rebels in Sierra Leone. Mr. Taylor has denied all the allegations against him.

Mr. Taylor's defense counsel, Courtenay Griffiths, also today read portions of the book "Intervention in Africa" written by former United States Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Herman Cohen. In this book, a

whole chapter is dedicated to the conflict in Liberia from the late 1980s to the 1990s. Mr. Cohen states in the book that the United States government, through its Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), provided support to Mr. Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) rebel group. In his response, Mr. Taylor confirmed that his NPFL indeed received assistance from the United States.

"We were given some very high power technical radios by the embassy [United States], by the CIA at the time, that we used for rapid communications, that we could call almost anywhere in the world and get to anybody that we wanted to get to on the ground," Mr. Taylor said.

He explained that the assistance from the United States government was given to the NPFL as a deal to protect United States facilities in Liberia. Mr. Taylor also accused the United States of providing similar support to other rebel groups in Liberia.

Mr. Taylor's testimony continues tomorrow.

Awoko

Wednesday, 26 August 2009

# “UN Panel of Experts Report biased” - *Charles Taylor*

**F**ormer Liberian President, Charles Taylor has said in his defence in chief that the UN Panel of Experts Report was biased against Liberia.

He said the United States and Great Britain had the capability to have monitored gun running and diamond smuggling between Liberia and Sierra Leone. The Accused Former Liberian Leader told the court the Central Intelligence Agency, (CIA) assisted him during his rebel war.

Mr. Taylor told the Judges that the United Nations Panel of Experts report on gun running and diamonds smuggling in Sierra Leone was biased

He said the UN included on the Panel, Ian Smillie, a Canadian who had earlier accused Liberia of involvement in the Sierra Leone war. Mr. Taylor alleged that two Western Powers, Britain and the United States manipulated the UN Panel of Experts report by putting pressure on their own nominee on the panel.

The UN Panel Report accused Mr. Taylor of active involvement in fuelling the war through financial and military support to the rebels. The Former Liberian Leader said the United States and Great Britain have never presented any

tangible evidence about his involvement with the Sierra Leone rebels.

He said the two Western Powers had the capability to have detected arms smuggling and illicit diamond trade between Liberia and the rebels. The Defence team of Mr. Taylor adduced into evidence a book written by Former United States Assistant Secretary of State, Herman Cohen. The book entitled Intervention in Africa highlights the Liberian Civil war.

In the book Mr. Cohen said the United States made a deal with Taylor’s National Patriotic Front of Liberia, the NPFL for the protection of American facilities in Liberia. Mr. Taylor confirmed the deal with the Americans and explained how the NPFL benefited. The Former Liberian President however accused the Americans of secretly supporting all of the parties in the Liberian civil war.

Mr. Taylor said when Americans were working out Former President Samuel Doe’s exile they secretly supported Prince Johnson who broke away from the NPFL. Prince Johnson is the former leader of the break-away faction of Mr. Taylor’s former rebel NPFL movement.

The Exclusive  
Wednesday, 26 August 2009

# Taylor Blasts UN

## Says UN Report On Liberia Was Biased

At the sixth week of his testimony on direct examination, Former Liberian President, Charles Taylor has said the UN Panel of Expert was biased against Liberia. Mr. Taylor *Continued page 2*



# Taylor Blasts UN

*From front page*

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Premier News  
Wednesday, 26 August 2009

# CIA Helped NPFL

Listen to  
**'Good Morning Freetown'**  
on **Radio Democracy 98.1FM**  
Monday to Friday 7:30-9:00 am  
for up-to-date information  
on Sierra Leone

**C**harles Taylor has revealed that his rebel group which launched a civil war in Liberia in 1989 got support and equipment from the United States Criminal Investigations Agency (CIA).

Charles Taylor also said that a 2001 United Nations expert report, which accused him of providing

military and financial support to Sierra Leonean rebels in exchange for diamonds, contained an expert who was unfairly biased against him.



See Page 14

## Freetown City Council

A PROJECT OF THE OPEN SOCIETY JUSTICE INITIATIVE

### THE TRIAL OF CHARLES TAYLOR



#### Taylor Says UN Report on Diamonds and Guns was Biased Against Him; CIA helped his Rebel Group

Charles Taylor today said that a 2001 United Nations expert report, which accused him of providing military and financial support to Sierra Leonean rebels in exchange for diamonds, contained an expert who was unfairly biased against Mr. Taylor. He also claimed that his rebel group which launched a civil war in Liberia in 1989 got support and equipment from the CIA.

In describing the 2001 United Nations Panel of Experts Report on Gun Running and Diamond Smuggling in Sierra Leone, Mr. Taylor said that he raised alarms when he found out who was appointed as the reporting experts. When Ian Smillie who in a prior report had accused Mr. Taylor of involvement in diamond-for-arms trade in Sierra Leone was named an expert, Mr. Taylor wrote a letter to the UN Secretary General questioning Mr. Smillie's appointment. These concerns, Mr. Taylor said, were ignored by the UN and Mr. Smillie remained on the panel.

Mr. Smillie has already testified as an Expert Witness for the Special Court for Sierra Leone's prosecution against Mr. Taylor.

"I had concerns about people who had made allegations against Liberia being on the panel. You have already prejudiced the report by doing that," Mr. Taylor said.

Mr. Taylor accused Great Britain and the United States of manipulating the findings of the by putting pressure on Mr. Smillie, who was their own nominee on the panel.

"Britain and America are bringing the pressure. We know that the pressure is coming on Smillie because of the interest," Mr. Taylor said. "I am confronted with these people who have already made those allegations even before the panel report is out."

It was no surprise therefore, Mr. Taylor said, that when the Panel of Expert Report came out, he was accused of active involvement in the provision of financial and military support to the rebels in return for diamonds. Mr. Taylor said that while these allegations were made against him, Britain and the United States failed to provide any "tangible evidence" of his involvement in Sierra Leone.

The prosecution has alleged that Mr. Taylor was involved in trading diamonds for arms with Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels in Sierra Leone. Several prosecution witnesses have testified that RUF rebel commanders took diamonds to Mr. Taylor and in return, he supplied arms and ammunition for use by the RUF rebels. He presently stands accused of bearing responsibility for crimes committed by RUF rebels in Sierra Leone. Mr. Taylor has denied all the allegations against him.

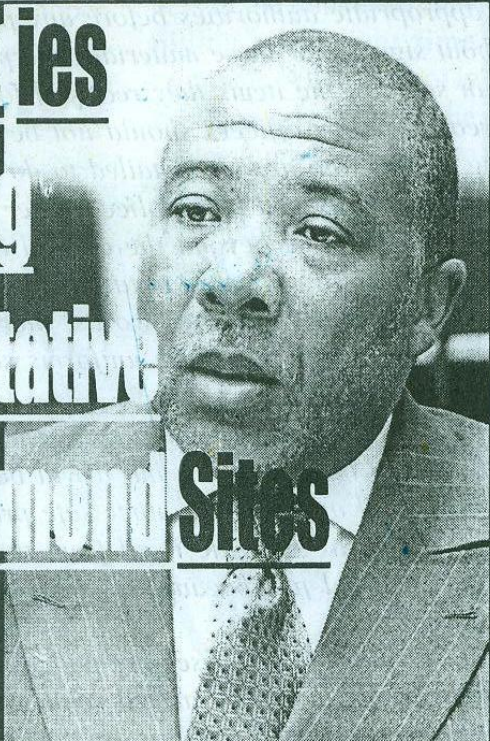
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Mr. Taylor also accused the United States of providing similar support to other rebel groups in Liberia.

The New Citizen  
Wednesday, 26 August 2009



# Taylor Denies Appointing Representative At RUF Diamond Sites

*By John Kollie*

The United Nations Panel of Experts report  
*Contd. on page 2*

*Charles Taylor at the Hague*

## TAYLOR DENIES APPOINTING REPRESENTATIVE AT RUF DIAMONDS SITES

*From page 1*

in 2000 alleged that an illegal diamonds trade involving Former Liberian President Charles Taylor and the RUF Rebels fuelled the decade long civil war in Sierra Leone. The UN Panel damning report has taken center stage at Mr. Taylor's war crimes trial in The Hague. Mr. Taylor denied any government officials involvement in the trade and wondered why America cannot stop the drug trade at its border with Mexico. John Kollie transcribes The Hague reports for the BBC World Service Trust...

The UN Panel alleged that Mr-Taylor had a Liberian representative in the Sierra Leonean town of Kono to supervise diamonds mining operations there. The UN Panel report named Dennis Superman Mingo, a Liberian as Mr. Taylor's representative to the diamond rich town of Kono.

Mr. Taylor told the court diamond transactions did not take place between him any member of the RUF. The Panel reported that it was not possible for such huge diamond trade to have taken place between Sierra Leone and Liberia without the permission of Liberian officials.

The Former Liberian President denied any government involvement in the illicit trade.

The Panel further declared that some government officials took advantage of the weak administration of Mr. Taylor to engage in the diamond trade with the RUF.

Mr. Taylor disagreed, and described the Panel's suggestion as foolish. He said the dense forest of Liberia makes it difficult for any government to detect smuggling across the border.

Mr. Taylor told the court America has similar problem at its border with Mexico. Mr. Taylor told the court the UN Panel of Experts visited Liberia during his administration, but he was not given the opportunity to respond to the allegation of gun running and illicit diamond trade.



The Democrat (Liberia)  
Monday, 10 August 2009

# Taylor Is Lying

## Liberia Record Discrediting

--Rapp

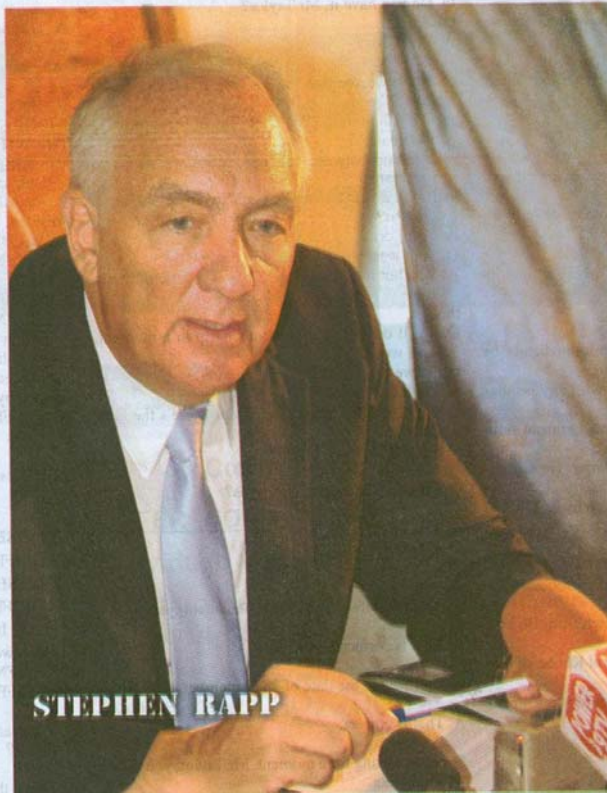
**M**r. Charles Taylor's self portrayal as a champion of human rights, democracy and tolerance in Liberia will be used to destroy his credibility as a witness, Prosecutor Stephen Rapp, stepping down for a US assignment, told journalists here Tuesday.

The outgoing Prosecutor of the UN backed Special Court for Sierra Leone, described Mr. Taylor's testimony at The Hague as contrary to evidence presented by the Prosecution, saying that the Prosecution will test his credibility and confront him on his human rights records here.

"...Of course, the Accused is presenting a story that is very different from the evidence offered by the prosecution...When our turn comes to ask questions, we will confront Charles Taylor with the full weight of our case," Mr. Rapp told journalists here Tuesday during his farewell press conference.

He said the Prosecution was accused of dwelling on evidence from Liberia when in fact the trial is about Sierra Leone, adding that Mr. Taylor is doing the same dwelling bulk of his testimony on Liberia, opening new subjects not related to Sierra Leone and testifying to how he had a good human right record. He said even though those testimonies do not relate to the case but that the prosecution is going to question him on that and confront him with evidence to the contrary to test his credibility.

"...We will have our opportunity to present him with evidence to the contrary," he said adding "Getting to the specifics where he said he didn't provide arms, he didn't provide materials, he didn't



used child soldiers, that he had a good human right record in Liberia, and when he is making these statement we have testimony from witnesses to the contrary and we are going to test that to bring his credibility into question."

"Obviously we want the truth from Mr. Taylor but individuals who are accused when they appeared, they come and denied the allegations, they banged on the

tables ...and provide their own evidence and that is what he is doing," Mr. Rapp said.

However, Mr. Rapp said the trial process is going well. He said the Prosecution called over 90 witnesses to appear in person in court. More than fifty of these witnesses, he said told the judges and the world about the grave crimes committed against tens of thousands of

## Taylor Is Lying

innocent victims in Sierra Leone, adding that more than thirty witnesses provided the linkage evidence showing Taylor's responsibility for the commission of these atrocities.

"We have been waiting patiently while the accused gives his own contrary version of events, and denies all the charges against him. We are looking forward to questioning him on cross-examination in the coming weeks," Rapp said. He said the case is not won until the judges decide.

Rapp, who takes up his new post as United States Ambassador at Large for War crimes Issues on September 8, next month said the Taylor defense is expected to conclude their evidence in February next year.

Stephen Rapp was appointed Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan in December 2006, for a term of three years. During this term he is tasked with completing the prosecution of the individuals who are alleged to bear the greatest responsibility for the violations of international humanitarian law committed in Sierra Leone between 1996 and 2002. All of these individuals are tried in courtrooms of the

SCSL in Freetown, Sierra Leone, except for former Liberian President Charles Taylor, whose trial is being conducted by the SCSL at the venue of the International Criminal Court in The Hague, Netherlands. Prior to joining the SCSL, Rapp had been Chief of Prosecutions at the United Nations-International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) since May 2005. In this position, Rapp was responsible for supervising the prosecution at trials in Arusha, Tanzania, of the military, government and political leaders allegedly responsible for the Rwandan genocide of 1994.

Before serving as Chief of Prosecutions, Rapp had been a Senior Trial Attorney at the ICTR since May 2001. In this position he headed the prosecution of what has been called the "Media Trial," the case against the principals of RTLM radio and the editor of the Kangura newspaper for allegedly inciting persecution and genocide. The Trial Chamber found the defendants guilty of all of major charges and the Appeals Chamber affirmed convictions for Direct and Public Incitement to Commit Genocide and Persecution as a Crime Against Humanity.

**--Othello B. Garblah**

## Cont'd from last edition

*Transcript of court proceedings on Former Liberian President Charles Taylor second day of EXAMINATION, 3 August, 2009.*

23 Continued logistic support to ECOMOG is needed from the  
24 international community in order to ensure the effectiveness of

16:00:38

25 those operations. Several countries in the region have already  
26 pledged to contribute some of the additional 6,000 ECOMOG troops

27 required to assist ECOMOG troops already in the country whose  
28 number has been estimated at 10,000 to 12,000.

29  
The governments of la Cote d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Guinea,

## OPEN SESSION

1 Mali and Niger have indicated their readiness to provide  
2 contingents stating that they could be deployed if the  
3 international community is prepared to bear the costs of  
4 transporting them to Sierra Leone.

16:01:15

5 My special representative Mr Francis G Okelo has initiated  
6 discussions on this matter and the chief military observer of  
7 UNAMSIL has been meeting with contingent commanders from the  
8 countries involved concerning their deployment and related  
9 expenses for in-country maintenance and other needs.

16:01:39

10 At the end of August 1998, UNAMSIL completed the first  
11 phase of the deployment of its military component consisting of  
12 40 military observers, the chief military observer and a medical  
13 team of 15 personnel. In addition to mission headquarters in  
14 Freetown, UNAMSIL has deployed military observers in five team

16:02:08

15 sites namely the three provincial capitals, Bo, Kenema and  
16 Makeni, the main demobilisation site at Lungi and Hastings  
17 airport. The observers have been well received by the  
18 communities and have established good relations with the local  
19 authorities as well as with ECOMOG and CDF personnel."

16:02:42

20 Yes. Could we now go, please, and jump to paragraph 36 -  
21 no, sorry, it is paragraph 25 first of all;  
22 "The state is currently prosecuting for treason and related  
23 charges some 40 people in two civilian trials. A court martial  
24 was concluded on 12 October and further trials are scheduled to  
16:03:26

25 commence in the coming weeks. A separate civilian trial of RUF  
26 leader Foday Sankoh commenced on 24 September 1998."

16:03:26

27 So we've got a date now:  
28 "Given the highly charged atmosphere surround-

ing the trial,  
29 the Attorney-General has requested the assistance of the UNAMSIL

## OPEN SESSION

1 human rights advisor on several occasions to ensure that Corporal  
2 Sankoh's rights are respected. However, the government's failure  
3 so far to persuade a Sierra Leonean lawyer to represent Corporal  
4 Sankoh is a cause for concern.

16:04:08

5 All the accused face the possible imposition of the death  
6 penalty. Already 16 civilians and 34 of the defendants in the  
7 court martial have been sentenced to death. Under Sierra Leonean  
8 law, only the civilians have the right to appeal their sentences  
9 to the Sierra Leone Court of Appeal and ultimately to the Supreme

16:04:32

10 Court.  
11 If the sentences are upheld throughout the appeals process,  
12 there is still the possibility of a pardon should the Head of  
13 State decide to exercise the prerogative of mercy under national  
14 law.

16:04:46

15 A further avenue of consideration of the sentence is  
16 available by virtue of Sierra Leone's ratification of the first  
17 optional protocol of the international covenant on civil and  
18 political rights, whereby individuals may petition the United  
19 Nations human rights committee.

16:05:06

20 So far, UNAMSIL and observers from the international bar  
21 association have found that the civilian group trials are being  
22 conducted in a manner which appears to comply with international  
23 procedural standards. It is also apparent that the government is  
24 largely committed to conducting transparent and fair trials.

16:05:26

25 It remains a matter of concern that those tried by court  
26 martial are deprived of their right to judicial review of the  
27 judgments and sentences. UNAMSIL is also concerned as to whether  
28 the manner in which a number of defendants were repatriated to  
29 Sierra Leone from neighbouring countries was in accordance with

16:05:46

OPEN SESSION  
1 applicable international standards. The concern of UNAMSIL  
2 continues to be conveyed to the government in a timely and  
3 forthright manner.  
4 On 15 October 1998, the United Nations high commissioner

16:06:03

5 for human rights wrote to President Kabbah asking him to  
6 intervene in the process to show mercy."  
7 Let's go, please, to paragraph 36. No, let's start at 35:  
8 "A humanitarian crisis of serious proportions is developing  
9 in isolated areas of Sierra Leone, particularly in the northeast.  
16:06:41

10 Since the incursion of former junta elements into Kabala at the  
11 end of 1998" - note that "former junta elements" - "humanitarian"  
12 agencies have been unable to assess needs there because of  
13 unpredictable security.  
14 The countryside between Kabala and Koidu up to the border  
16:07:13

15 with Guinea is also out of reach owing to insecurity and  
16 inadequate roads and airstrips. Similar conditions apply inter  
17 alia to the area east of Kambia in the northwest and in the  
18 Kailahun District.  
19 Continuing insecurity has resulted in increased  
16:07:33

20 displacement of populations. During the reporting period, some  
21 14,000 Sierra Leoneans were displaced from South Kenema District  
22 into Kenema Town. At the same time, the number of needy  
23 beneficiaries in Masingbi has swollen from 16,000 to more than  
24 35,000.  
16:07:57

25 The United Nations humanitarian coordination unit office  
26 for the coordination of humanitarian affairs estimates that up to  
27 a quarter of a million persons have been displaced in the  
28 fighting that followed the ECOMOG intervention in February 1998,  
29 an increase of about 70,000 persons since my last report. It is

16:08:46

OPEN SESSION  
1 feared that a considerable number of internally displaced persons  
2 remain unrecorded.  
3 The number of Sierra Leonean refugees in Guinea is now  
4 357,000, of which an estimated 217,700 have arrived since  
16:08:46

5 February 1998. Most of these fled to the Guekedou area, but  
6 some 7,700 have recently arrived in Forecariah following a rebel  
7 attack on 28 September at Kukuna near the border with Guinea.  
8 There are also 90,000 Sierra Leonean refugees in Liberia,  
9 including 40,000 new arrivals."

16:09:19

10 Pause there. Mr Taylor, was your country in a position to  
11 support this kind of influx?  
12 A. No, we were not. We were not.  
13 Q. Now further conflict in Sierra Leone, did you anticipate  
14 that might result in an increase in the refugee

16:09:48

problem?  
15 A. Oh, yes. Oh, yes. It was very clear.  
16 Q. And would such an increase place a strain upon the  
17 resources of the country of which you were President?  
18 A. Oh, definitely. Definitely, yes.  
19 Q. So help us, Mr Taylor, what did you have to gain from  
16:10:02

20 meddling in Sierra Leone?  
21 A. Absolutely nothing. Nothing.  
22 Q. "... including 40,000 new arrivals. Another

16:10:02  
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10,000 Sierra  
23 Leoneans have taken refuge in other countries in the region,  
24 mainly in la Cote d'Ivoire, the Gambia and Senegal, for a total

16:10:25  
25 of 457,000 Sierra Leonean refugees in the sub-region. So as to  
26 determine more accurately the number of refugees in Liberia, the  
27 office of the United Nations high commissioner for refugees will  
28 carry out a registration exercise in November 1998.  
29


In response to the newly emerged and internally displaced

1 persons situation in both the eastern and northern parts of the  
2 country, UNICEF, in collaboration in non-governmental  
3 organisations, is providing high energy biscuits to counter  
4 malnutrition and providing support to malnourished children

16:11:12  
5 referred to therapeutic feeding centres and supplementary feeding  
6 programmes."  
7 Can we move now then, please, to paragraph 48:

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6 intervene in the process to show mercy."  
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25 The United Nations humanitarian coordination unit office  
26 for the coordination of humanitarian affairs estimates that up to  
27 a quarter of a million persons have been displaced in the  
28 fighting that followed the ECOMOG intervention in February 1998,  
29 an increase of about 70,000 persons since my last report. It is

problem?  
16:09:48  
15 A. Oh, yes. Oh, yes. It was very clear.  
16 Q. And would such an increase place a strain upon the  
17 resources of the country of which you were President?  
18 A. Oh, definitely. Definitely, yes.  
19 Q. So help us, Mr Taylor, what did you have to gain from  
16:10:02  
20 meddling in Sierra Leone?  
21 A. Absolutely nothing. Nothing.  
22 Q. "... including 40,000 new arrivals. Another




10,000 Sierra  
23 Leoneans have taken refuge in other countries in the region,  
24 mainly in la Cote d'Ivoire, the Gambia and Senegal, for a total  
16:10:25  
25 of 457,000 Sierra Leonean refugees in the sub-region. So as to  
26 determine more accurately the number of refugees in Liberia, the  
27 office of the United Nations high commissioner for refugees will  
28 carry out a registration exercise in November 1998.  
29

In response to the newly emerged and internally displaced  
1 persons situation in both the eastern and northern parts of the  
2 country, UNICEF, in collaboration in non-governmental  
3 organisations, is providing high energy biscuits to counter  
4 malnutrition and providing support to malnourished children  
16:11:12  
5 referred to therapeutic feeding centres and supplementary feeding  
6 programmes."  
7 Can we move now then, please, to paragraph 48:

OPEN SESSION  
1 feared that a considerable number of internally displaced persons  
2 remain unrecorded.  
3 The number of Sierra Leonean refugees in Guinea is now  
4 357,000, of which an estimated 217,700 have arrived since  
16:08:46  
5 February 1998. Most of these fled to the Guekedou area, but  
6 some 7,700 have recently arrived in Forecariah following a rebel  
7 attack on 28 September at Kukuna near the border with Guinea.  
8 There are also 90,000 Sierra Leonean refugees in Liberia,  
9 including 40,000 new arrivals."

8 "In my fifth report on the situation in Sierra Leone of 9  
9 June 1998, I stated that additional deployments of United Nations  
16:12:01  
10 military observers beyond the first phase would depend on the  
11 security situation within the country and the progress made by  
12 the government in carrying out its disarmament and demobilisation  
13 plan.  
14 The security situation in Sierra Leone has not improved  
1 participation in the disarmament and demobilisation programme, it  
2 may be necessary to deploy United Nations servers very rapidly.  
3 I am therefore keeping the situation under ca review."  
4 And if we could just finally quickly look at th  
16:13:55  
5 conclusions, please:  
6 "The continuing conflicts Sierra Leone imp  
7 suffering on the people of that country. I stro  
8 summary executions, torture, mutilation" --  
9 PRESIDING JUDGE: I think that was "I stro  
condemn".  
16:14:26  
10 MR GRIFFITHS: What did I say?  
11 PRESIDING JUDGE: You said "commend"  
12 MR GRIFFITHS: Sorry:  
13 Q. "... I strongly condemn the summary ex  
14 mutilation, rapes, looting and other acts of  
15 barism carried  
16:14:42  
15 out by former junta elements and call on the  
16 arms and surrender. I am particularly outrage  
17 acts of terror perpetrated against children su  
18 limbs of boys and girls as young as six year  
19 the efforts to bring to justice the authors of t  
especially  
16:15:18  
20 abhorrent crimes.  
21 The human rights abuses committed by the r  
22 rise to the humanitarian emergency in S  
23 continue to cause the widespread dislocati  
24 populations. Though United Nations human  
16:15:42  
25 non-governmental organisations have done n  
26 of attacks and displacements more needs t  
27 urgency, especially in regard to the provis  
28 surgical capacity, specific services for ampu  
29 psychological treatment for the trauma suff  
OPEN SESSION  
1 and their families."  
2 I think the passage crossed out doesn't really  
3 anything:  
4 "The continuing commitment of ECOMOG  
16:16:15  
5 assisting the Government of Sierra Leone to  
6 security throughout the country and the effort  
7 deploy additional troops from ECOWAS cour  
8 view of the importance of the present offer  
9 the west and the wresting of the initiative from  
rebels, I



16:12:18  
15 significantly since my last report and, in some parts of the  
16 country, may have deteriorated. In the last two months the  
17 northern province has seen a resurgence of rebel activity,  
18 including atrocities, with no sign of weakening in rebel resolve,  
19 numbers or organisation.  
16:12:40  
20 Largely for this reason, the progress made by the  
21 government in carrying out its disarmament, demobilisation, and  
22 reintegration programme has been less than was hoped for. The  
23 intensification of fighting caused by the launching of the  
24 CDF/ECOMOG offensive and the consequent large-scale mobilisation  
16:13:04  
25 of both CDF and re-inducted RSLMP personnel do not at present  
26 provide the best conditions for the rapid progress of disarmament  
27 and demobilisation.  
28  
On the other hand, should the CDF/ECOMOG offensive lead to  
29 large-scale surrenders among the former junta elements and their

# Bockarie

ment and demobilisation of the armed forces of Sierra Leone and Liberia. I stress that the situation under current arrangements is not quickly looking at the end of the road. I am encouraged by the focus of the Secretary-General's intervention here on 16 October means that he, because this is directly from his office - means that he had to report this before 16 October. So he had to - he should have done a report that I read before 16 October --

Q. Have a look behind divider 25?

A. -- detailing what happened. Divider what?

OPEN SESSION

1 Q. 25, same bundle. Do you have it?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Have you seen this document before?

4 A. Yes. This is it. This is it. This deals with the 5,000

16:21:42

5 troops, yes.

6 Q. Now, we see this is a document dated 15 October 1998, and,

7 as you observe, it's the day before the second progress report of

8 the Secretary-General behind divider 26, yes?

9 A. Yes.

16:22:03

10 Q. And it's from Downes-Thomas, representative of the

11 Secretary-General, UNOL, Monrovia, to the United Nations.

12 "Reported attack by Liberia in Sierra Leone":

13 "The main message contained in the copies of code cables

14 from headquarters and from Okelo on the subject above was news to

16:22:28

15 me. I sought clarity and an update from the Liberian side by

16 meeting separately with foreign minister Captain at his ministry

17 on 14 October and with President Taylor in Ganta. I did not meet

18 with the minister of defence, Daniel Chea. I advised the

19 minister that it was important that I know the reaction of the

16:22:50

20 Government of Liberia to the allegations made by Sierra Leone.

21 That, together with any other pertinent information from the

22 Government of Liberia regarding these allegations could be useful

23 to the Secretary-General who would be dealing with this matter

24 shortly, i.e. the next day.

16:23:09

25 The foreign minister dismissed the allegations as

26 groundless. He had so informed Ambassador Winifred Kanu of

27 Sierra Leone. He also advised the ambassador that the Government

28 of Liberia was keen to conduct any joint or otherwise impartial

16:16:41

10 appeal to the members of the Security Council and the

11 international community to extend all possible technical and

12 logistical support to achieving the successful conclusion of the

13 conflict in Sierra Leone.

14 At the same time I am encouraged by the focus of the

16:16:58

15 government on strengthening democratic control over the

16 reconstituted armed forces."

17 Let's jump to paragraph 61. Yes, Mr Taylor?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. "The latest developments in the situation between

16:17:39

20 Sierra Leone and Liberia are a cause for deep concern. I urge

21 the governments of Sierra Leone and Liberia to continue to

22 exercise maximum restraint, pursue dialogue and implement the

23 confidence building measures aimed at improving relations between

24 the two countries which they agreed upon in July 1998. In doing

16:18:02

25 so, the two governments would continue to show their commitment

26 to sub-regional peace and security and their adherence to the

27 non-aggression pact and good neighbourliness treaty contained in

28 the Mano River declaration of 1973. In this context, should both

29 parties agree, the deployment of ECOMOG troops at the border

OPEN SESSION

subsequently accompanied by United Nations military observers, could help to stabilise the situation and restore mutual confidence."

Yes, Mr Taylor?

A. Yes, yes.

Q. Now, that's all I want us to look at. Now, Mr Taylor, help us. This suggestion at paragraph 5 which had been made by Kabbah of you massing fighters on the border, yes?

A. Yes.

Q. Tell me, was it a matter you discussed with the Secretary-General's special representative in Liberia?

A. He was all involved in it. I didn't just have to discuss it. He was deeply involved in it because anything that involved Liberia and Sierra Leone from months before, he was involved.

The special representatives of the Secretary-General on the Sierra Leonean side would be involved. Here we're talking about the major problem of a possible attack by 5,000 men. Of course

he is involved in it at all levels.

Q. And as far as you're aware, did he cause to be created any document detailing that particular allegation?

A. As always, he would do a full report. A full report to the Secretary-General regarding this very serious matter and I am more than certain if we - the fact that we have the Secretary-General's intervention here on 16 October means that he, because this is directly from his office - means that he had to report this before 16 October. So he had to - he should have done a report that I read before 16 October --

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27 Sierra Leone. He also advised the ambassador that the Government

28 of Liberia was keen to conduct any joint or otherwise impartial

The Democrat (Liberia)  
Monday, 19 August 2009

## US Was To Train RUF Commander

"Bockarie did not voluntarily leave Sierra Leone. ECOWAS extracted Bockarie from Sierra Leone. That's how he left. He did not leave Sierra Leone voluntarily. He came to Liberia in December of 1999. People did not know the inside story. But this is what happened. It was an ECOWAS extraction, they took him out of Sierra Leone, he had no choice," Mr. Taylor said.

Mr. Taylor said that once Sam Bockarie and his men were in Liberia and had obtained Liberian citizenship, his government decided to recruit them into the

December 1999, Mr. Taylor told judges today at his trial in The Hague.

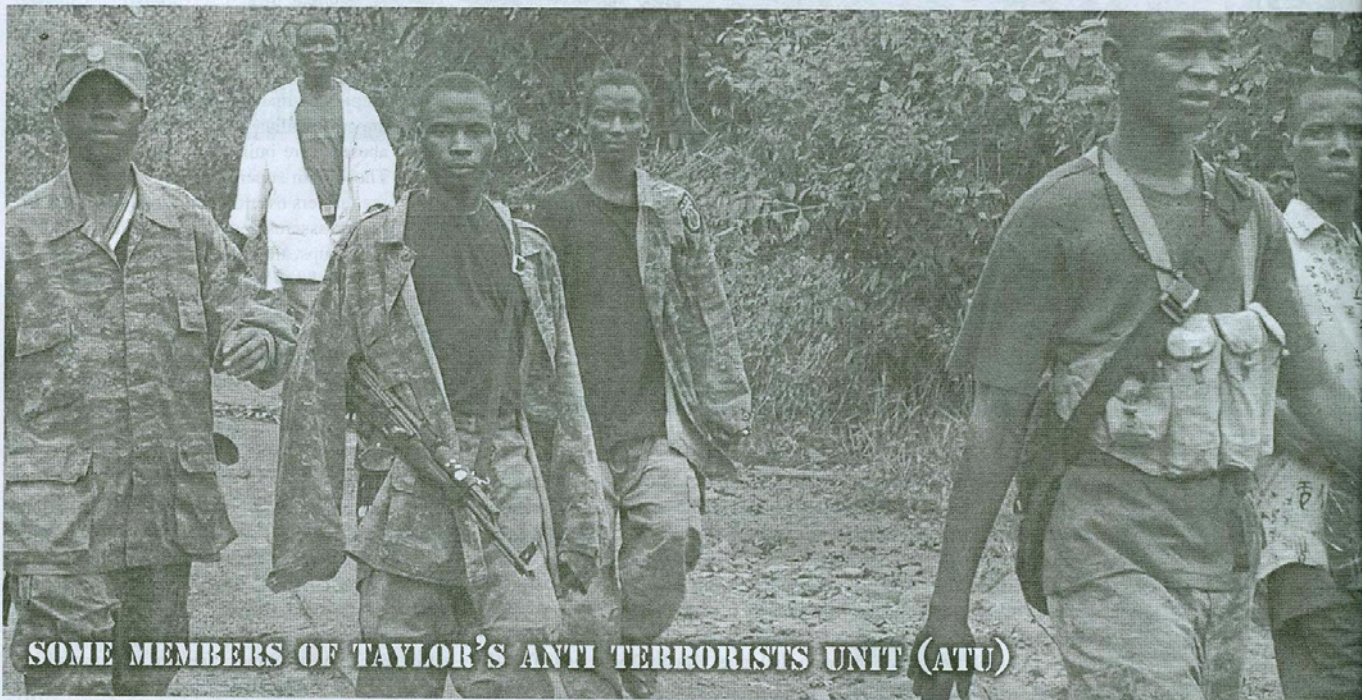
He told the judges that Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) leaders realized that Sam Bockarie's continued presence in Sierra Leone was a hindrance to the peace process in the country and a unanimous decision was taken that he should leave the country and obtain political asylum in Liberia.

When the government of Sierra Leone and the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels signed a

Leonean rebel leaders, he informed the United Nations and ECOWAS leaders of what he had said to the rebel leaders and his assessment of the situation.

As part of the arrangement to get Sam Bockarie out of Sierra Leone and relocate him to Liberia, Mr. Taylor said that the United States government agreed to provide scholarship for Sam Bockarie to undergo military training in the United States.

Mr. Taylor also said that Nigerian president Obasanjo gave a sum of 50,000 United States dollars



**SOME MEMBERS OF TAYLOR'S ANTI TERRORISTS UNIT (ATU)**

security sector. They were all trained and became part of Mr. Taylor's Anti Terrorist Unit (ATU)—an elite force that provided security for Mr. Taylor. The ATU was headed by Mr. Taylor's son Chuckie Taylor, who himself has been convicted in the United States for crimes of torture committed in Liberia.

Mr. Taylor said that when the clashes continued in the RUF, ECOWAS had no option but to get Sam Bockarie out of Sierra Leone. The decision to take Sam Bockarie out of Sierra Leone, Mr. Taylor said, was taken at a meeting with former Nigerian president Olusegun Obasanjo at the Roberts International Airport in Liberia. In December 1999, Sam Bockarie eventually left Sierra Leone for Liberia with about 300-400 RUF fighters who were loyal to him (Bockarie). Mr. Taylor said that Sam Bockarie and all his fighters were granted Liberian citizenship in order to integrate them into the Liberian society. Members of the international community, he said, were fully informed of everything he did.

Mr. Taylor said he had the international community's approval to grant political asylum to Sam Bockarie after the rebel commander left Sierra Leone in

peace agreement in June 1999, the disarmament of combatants started in the country. Reports indicate that while RUF leader, Foday Sankoh, wanted all his forces to be disarmed, his deputy Sam Bockarie was opposed to such a move. This led to a conflict between Foday Sankoh and Sam Bockarie, and at the time, according to Mr. Taylor, "it appears Bockarie wants to challenge Sankoh."

Mr. Taylor said he got involved to settle the conflict between the two rebel leaders by inviting them to a meeting in Liberia. This, Mr. Taylor said, happened with the consent of the United Nations, ECOWAS leaders and the government of Sierra Leone. "Everyone knew about it. The Committee of Six [originally Committee of 5, this body was set up by West African leaders to facilitate a peaceful end to the conflict in Sierra Leone], the United Nations Secretary General, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General in Liberia (SRSG) and [Sierra Leonean] president Kabbah knew about it. In fact, Sankoh was taken to Liberia on board a UN aircraft," he explained.

Mr. Taylor said after meeting with the two Sierra

sustain Sam Bockarie and his men in Liberia.

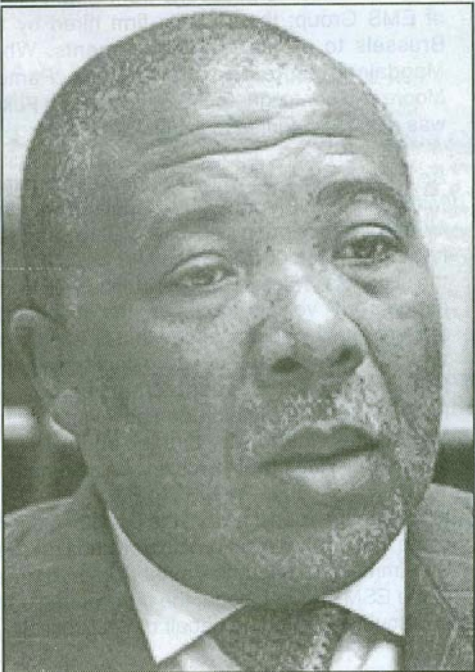
Mr. Taylor said he later on found it strange when the United Nations and the United States opposed Sam Bockarie's presence in Liberia. "This is strange. The man has just come in after agreeing with me and now you want me to throw him out? The same US had said they would give Bockarie training so he will cease to be a rebel."

The prosecution has alleged that Mr. Taylor provided support to the RUF rebels in Sierra Leone through the supply of arms and ammunition. The prosecution has further alleged that RUF commanders were answerable to Mr. Taylor. Several prosecution witnesses testified that in 1999, when Sam Bockarie fell out with RUF leader Foday Sankoh, Mr. Taylor willingly offered to host Sam Bockarie in Liberia, providing houses for him and his family and sending him and his fighters to launch attacks in Ivory Coast. Mr. Taylor has denied these allegations, saying that his involvement in Sierra Leone's conflict was for peaceful purposes only.

*Courtesy Alpha Sesay*

# Heritage (Liberia) Monday, 10 August 2009

## Taylor Trial Coverage



FORMER LIBERIAN PRESIDENT CHARLES TAYLOR



FORMER RUF COMMANDER, SAM BOCKARIE

**F**ORMER PRESIDENT CHARLES G. Taylor has told judges at his trial in The Hague that had the international community's approval to grant political asylum to Sam Bockarie after the rebel commander left

Sierra Leone in December 1999. Mr. Taylor told the judges that Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) leaders realized that Sam Bockarie's continued presence in Sierra Leone

was a hindrance to the peace process in the country and a unanimous decision was taken that he should leave the country and obtain political asylum in Liberia. "Bockarie did not voluntarily leave Sierra

Leone. ECOWAS extracted Bockarie from Sierra Leone. That's how he left. He did not leave Sierra Leone voluntarily. He came to Liberia in December of 1999. People did not know the inside story. But this is what happened. It was an

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1999, the disarmament of combatants started in the country. Reports indicate that while RUF leader, Foday Sankoh, wanted all his forces to be disarmed, his deputy Sam Bockarie was opposed to such a  
**See Page 6**

## **Charles Ghankay Taylor**

From *Front Page*

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Mr. Taylor said after meeting with the two Sierra Leonean rebel leaders, he informed the United Nations and ECOWAS leaders of what he had said to the rebel leaders and his assessment of the situation.

Mr. Taylor said that when the clashes continued in the RUF, ECOWAS had no option but to get Sam Bockarie out of Sierra Leone. The decision to take Sam Bockarie out of Sierra Leone, Mr. Taylor said, was taken at a meeting with former Nigerian president Olusegun Obasanjo at the Roberts International Airport in Liberia. In December 1999, Sam Bockarie eventually left Sierra Leone for Liberia with about 300-400 RUF fighters who were loyal to him (Bockarie). Mr. Taylor said that Sam Bockarie and all his fighters were granted Liberian citizenship in order to integrate them into the Liberian society. Members of the international community, he said, were fully informed of everything he did.

As part of the arrangement

to get Sam Bockarie out of Sierra Leone and relocate him to Liberia, Mr. Taylor said that the United States government agreed to provide scholarship for Sam Bockarie to undergo military training in the United States.

"The United States promised that they would assist, not the upkeep of the people but the discussion was held as to what to do for Bockarie and they had said that they would probably help to give him a scholarship to do extended military training at one of their military bases in the United States but that did not come to pass," he said.

Mr. Taylor also said that Nigerian president Obasanjo gave a sum of 50,000 United States dollars to sustain Sam Bockarie and his men in Liberia.

Mr. Taylor said he later on found it strange when the United Nations and the United States opposed Sam Bockarie's presence in Liberia. "This is strange. The man has just come in after agreeing with me and now you want me to throw him out? The same US had said they would give Bockarie training so he will cease to be a rebel."

Mr. Taylor said that once Sam Bockarie and his men were in Liberia and had obtained Liberian citizenship, his government decided to recruit them into the security sector. They were all trained and became part of Mr. Taylor's Anti Terrorist Unit (ATU)—an elite force that provided security for Mr. Taylor. The ATU was headed by Mr. Taylor's son Chuckie Taylor, who himself has been convicted in the United States for crimes of torture committed in Liberia.

The prosecution has alleged that Mr. Taylor provided support to the RUF rebels in Sierra Leone through the supply of arms and ammunition. The prosecution has further alleged that RUF commanders were answerable to Mr. Taylor. Several prosecution witnesses testified that in



## **Special Court Prosecutor: We Have Strong Evidence Against Taylor**

**T**HE PROSECUTOR OF the Special Court for Sierra Leone sitting in The Hague, Stephen Rapp, says the court has what he called strong compelling evidence against Mr. Taylor.

But Mr. Rapp notes that the pieces of evidence are yet to be evaluated by the judges at the Special Court.

He says he is happy that the trial process is going on well and that Mr. Taylor is entitled to present his own account and respond to the charges against him. The Special Court

prosecutor spoke Tuesday when he addressed the Liberian media about his planned resignation from the court to take up a new assignment in the United States.

Mr. Rapp discloses: "In July, I was nominated by President Barack Obama to be United States Ambassador-At-Large for War Crimes issues. The nomination has now been confirmed by the US Senate, and I have given notice to the UN Secretary General that I will resign as Special Court Prosecutor on September 7. I will then immediately take up the

new post, which is based in the US State Department in Washington in the office of Secretary Hillary Clinton."

Mr. Rapp states that he was honored to serve as Chief Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone for nearly three years.

Further speaking on the trial, he avers that the former Liberian leader, who is being prosecuted by the court, is presenting a story that is very different from the evidence offered by the prosecution.

He further discloses that they called over 90

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STORY: Jallah E.  
Grayfield, III

---

witnesses to appear before the court. According to him, more than fifty of these witnesses told the judges and the world about the grave crimes committed against tens of thousands of innocent victims in Sierra Leone.

Mr. Rapp further avers that more than thirty witnesses provided what he referred to as the linkage evidence showing Taylor's alleged responsibility for the commission of these

See Page 6

### **Special Court**

*From Back Page*

atrocities.

Among other things, the Chief Prosecutor added: "We have been waiting patiently while the accused gives his own contrary version of events, and denies all the charges against him, we are looking forward to

questioning him on cross-examination in the coming weeks. When our time comes to ask the questions, we will confront Charles Taylor with the full weight of our case."

Mr. Taylor is being tried on allegations of his support to RUF rebels in Sierra Leone. The prosecution has alleged that he supplied arms and ammunition to RUF rebels in return for Sierra Leone's diamonds, that the rebel commanders in Sierra Leone were directly answerable to him and that by his acts or omissions; he is responsible for the crimes committed by the rebels in Sierra Leone during the country's conflict. Mr. Taylor has denied all these allegations.

and opportunities.

It was intended to re-energize Government towards the overall speedy implementation of the Strategy and expand the ownership structure in the line ministries and agencies.

The session was recommended by the Liberian President to strengthen PRS pillar structures and press upon ministers, their deputies, assistants and PRS champions to develop a 90-day action plan for the speedy implementation of specific deliverables and

to track implementation for year-one deliverables as well as year two.

Planning & Economic Affairs Minister, Amara Konneh, whose ministry organized the two-day cabinet retreat, disclosed that at the end of the 90-day action plan, another session would be convened to review progress on implementation. Minister Konneh expressed the hope that at the end of the three-year period, the Strategy would have recorded a successful implementation rate.

*Happy Belated  
Birthday Greetings*

The Star  
Wednesday, 12 August 2009

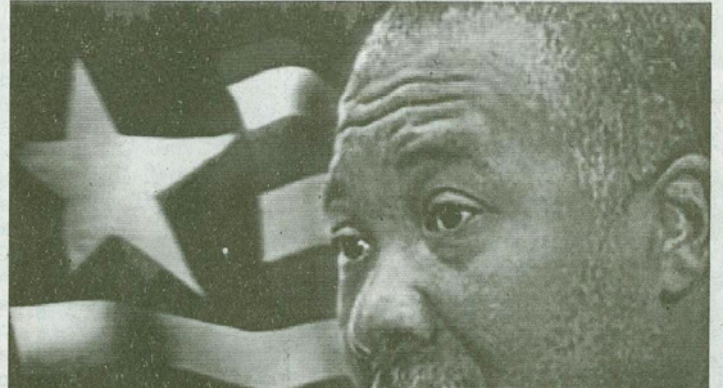
# “CIA Freed Me From Jail, U.S. Gave Me \$10M For Arms” -Charles Taylor Alleges

Former Liberian leader who is currently testifying before the United Nations Special backed court for war crimes and crimes against humanity, continues to proclaim his innocence at his trial in The Hague, has disclosed last week his release from prison in the United States was masterminded what he called, " CIA released me from Jail".

The eleven counts of crimes, including mass killings, mutilations, and sex crimes, in neighboring Sierra Leone. He is also accused of human rights violations—such as enslavement, looting, terrorizing and imposing collective punishments on civilians during the 11-year conflict in Sierra Leone from 1991 to 2002. The war claimed 75,000 lives, according to the United Na-

tions. Mr. Taylor served as president of Liberia from 1997 to 2003. Mr. Taylor's trial is being held in the Netherlands at the International Criminal Court (ICC) compound in The Hague because of security concerns. He is not being tried by the ICC, but by a Special Court for Si-

TURN TO PAGE 6



Sierra Leone established by UN Security Council Resolution 1688 in 2006. The trial began in earnest on January 7, 2008 after Mr. Taylor ended his boycott of the proceedings.

The prosecution rested its case in February after calling 91 witnesses.

Mr. Taylor began his testimony on July 15, saying the CIA freed him from an American jail in 1985 where he was held after accusations of embezzlement were lodged by Samuel Doe, a onetime U.S. ally and brutal Liberian dictator. Mr. Taylor, who had been a high official in the Doe regime, became one of several rebel leaders who opposed Mr. Doe. He entered Liberia to fight a guerilla war in 1989.

Mr. Taylor has dismissed the case against him as "lies" and "misinformation." Observers have said there was always a question about how Mr. Taylor got out of jail and out of the United States. Ramsey Clark, a former U.S. attorney general and founder of the International Action Center, a human rights advocacy organization, represented Mr. Taylor during the early stages of his extradition hearing in the U.S. District Court of Massachusetts.

"When Taylor escaped I heard about it right away," Mr. Clark told The Final Call during an interview on Aug. 5. "I don't see how he could have gotten out of that prison at Plymouth, Mass., and out of the country by himself," Mr. Clark said. However, he refused to speculate on who was responsible, saying he has never known who helped Mr. Taylor escape.

Mr. Clark did take a swing at the legitimacy of the court trying Mr. Taylor. "The court is a real problem, not a legal court, a creation of the UN Security Council. I have been very concerned by all of these courts, which seem to merely be the UN pursuing people who are the enemies of the powerful nations," Mr. Clark said.

On July 21, Mr. Taylor testified about the 1991 outbreak of civil war in Sierra Leone and the participation of the rebel Revolutionary United Front and the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council, a second rebel group. Mr. Taylor said he did not help plan the groups' attacks—nor did he know of the existence of these groups before the conflict began. Prosecutors say Mr. Taylor aided the rebels with weapons and ammo in exchange for diamonds. He denies the charge.

Mr. Taylor asserted "certain super powers," including America, provided him with \$10 million—including \$5 million to buy arms at the start of Liberia's civil war in the 1990s.

Mr. Taylor told the judges in late July that the international community knew of and approved of his contacts with the forces fighting in Sierra Leone. He insisted he acted as a representative of the Economic Community of West African States.

According to Mr. Taylor, the United Nations and ECOWAS were kept in the loop and he reported to then-UN Secretary General Kofi Annan or his special envoy to Liberia.

"Liberians are paying close attention to the Taylor trial," said Emira Woods, co-director of Foreign Policy In Focus at the Washington-based Institute for Policy Studies. There had been speculation for quite some time in Liberia that "the U.S. played both sides during the conflict," Ms. Woods said. Ms. Woods, a Liberian national, admitted many are waiting to see who else Mr. Taylor names as participants in the horrors that gripped her country during the conflict. Many feel the Taylor trial should focus on war crimes in Liberia, Ms. Woods added.

Human Rights Watch said the charges against the former president are related to his alleged role as a major backer of the Sierra Leone rebel forces.

On Aug. 4, Mr. Taylor dismissed allegations he has stashed huge amounts of money earned through illicit diamond trading and has secret bank accounts scattered around the world. "What bank accounts has the UN found that are for me?" Mr. Taylor asked. He said no one has produced evidence of their existence, "but it is repeated, repeated, repeated."

He dismissed as folly any suggestion that while Liberian security forces were without arms, he was supplying forces in another nation; and that while Liberians were suffering he was wasting time planning attacks in Sierra Leone.

A report of Mr. Taylor's testimony is available daily on the internet at [www.CharlesTaylorTrial.org](http://www.CharlesTaylorTrial.org), a project of the Open Society Justice Initiative; and can be viewed at <http://www.sc-sl.org>.

Elise Keppler, of the Human Rights Watch International Justice Program in New York, said, "This is an incredibly important trial, especially important to West Africa, where there has been so much civil strife; it shows people there that the rule of

law works for all." "Charles Taylor is accused of some horrific crimes; and we are not suggesting that he is guilty and must be convicted; but, that it is the process of hearing the evidence in open court that is important," Ms. Keppler said.

She also responded to the charge that the courts of international justice are only going after Africans. A lot of horrific crimes

have been committed in Africa and three out of four of the present cases, such as Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, were referred by those nations, said Ms. Keppler.

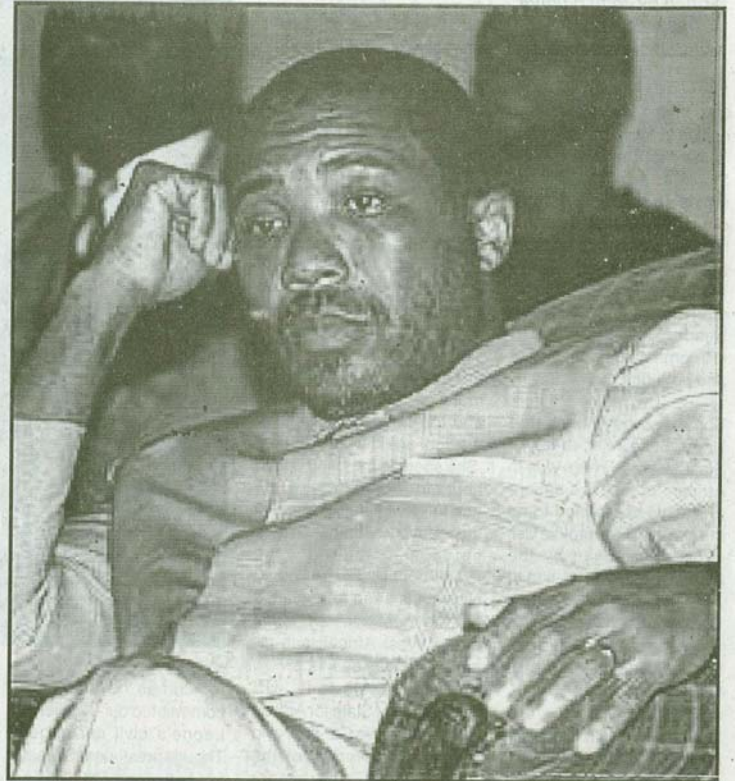
"I don't want to suggest that the international justice system has been perfect. Human Rights Watch is working to level the playing field," she said.

The Star (Liberia)  
Wednesday, 12 August 2009

# “I Didn’t Invite Sam Bickarie, He Was Invited By U.S Charles Taylor



*Sam Bockarie: Former RUF Commander*



*Charles Taylor, Former Liberian President*

By: John Kollie

Accused Former Liberian President, Charles Taylor says the re-location of Former RUF Leader, Sam Bockarie

to Liberia was not his personal decision. After his arrival in Liberia, did the United States promise Sam Bockarie a military scholarship? And why was Sam

Bockarie and his forces granted full Liberian Citizenship? John Kollie has this transcription on the

**TURN TO PAGE 6**

## I DID INVITE

BBCWST reports from the Hague...

Mr. Taylor told the Special Court on Monday the re-location of Former RUF Leader, Sam Bockarie and 400 of his fighters to Liberia was a decision of ECOWAS and not his personal decision and claimed by the prosecution in its presentation.

He said with the consent of other ECOWAS Leaders, he and Former Nigerian President, Olusegun Obasanjo met at the Roberts International Airport in Liberia and concluded Bockarie's transfer.

The Former Liberian Leader's testimony was that Bockarie's transfer to Liberia was ECOWAS' planned attempt to stop him from interfering with the disarmament process in Sierra Leone.

The Former Liberian Leader emphasized that the United Nations, the United States and all members of the ECOWAS Committee of five were informed.

For the sustenance of Sam Bockarie and his men in Liberia, Mr. Taylor told the court, the then Nigerian President Obasanjo provided on one occasion 50-thousand United States Dollars.

Mr. Taylor told the court that after

the arrival of Sam Bockarie in Liberia, the United States pledged to assist him with some training, a promise which according to him was never realized.

Mr. Taylor boldly told the court Sam Bockarie and his men were enlisted into the Anti-Terrorist Unit or ATU. The ATU was Mr. Taylor's elite security force that protected his presidency.

He said he granted Bockarie and his forces were also granted citizenship of Liberia as a strategy to discourage their continuous interference with the Sierra Leonean war. The Prosecution alleged in its indictment that Mr. Charles Taylor served as Commander in-chief of the Sierra Leonean rebels, the RUF. Mr. Taylor continues to deny the allegation.

The trial of the former Liberian leader for war crimes in neighbouring Sierra Leone continues before the UN backed Special Court for Sierra Leone sitting at the International Criminal Court in The Hague.

# Taylor: I Negotiated With RUF Rebels For The Release Of UN Hostages

## -Says ECOMOG Traded Diamonds and Arms With the RUF

Charles Taylor explained how he successfully negotiated the release of United Nations peacekeepers who were held hostage by rebel forces in Sierra Leone during his continuing testimony in The Hague today. Meanwhile while his defense team highlighted a United Nations report alleging that West African peacekeepers were involved in diamond and arms trade with Sierra Leonean rebels.

In May 2000, when Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels took more than 500 United Nations peacekeepers hostage in Sierra Leone, Mr. Taylor said that he was mandated by Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) leaders and the United Nations to negotiate with the RUF rebels and secure the release of the hostages. Speaking on behalf of the international community, Mr. Taylor said he expressed his anger to the RUF rebels and told them the hostages needed to be released

without any conditions.

Mr. Taylor said he called Issa Sesay, the RUF commander who was in possession of the UN hostages, to meet him in Liberia where the release of the peacekeepers was agreed. Mr. Taylor said ECOWAS leaders, UN and the United States Embassy officials were all informed that he was meeting with Issa Sesay.

"I was very tied up with this particular situation. I made it clear to Issa Sesay that the UN peacekeepers must be released unconditionally and voiced to him the outrage of the international community," Mr. Taylor said.

"I was not speaking with Issa Sesay as Taylor but I was speaking for ECOWAS, the African Union and the entire international community. I told Issa that the worst they could play with was the United Nations. I was very upset and

thought they were very stupid. I told him the UN people had to be released unconditionally. This was not a friendly chat," Mr. Taylor explained.

Issa Sesay, Mr. Taylor said, eventually facilitated the release of the hostages to Liberian authorities in Liberia before they were all handed over to the UN.

After the abduction of the United Nations peacekeepers in May 2000, RUF leader Foday Sankoh was arrested and put into custody by the government of Sierra Leone. Mr. Taylor told the judges today that because the RUF needed a leadership with whom to negotiate, he convened a meeting of ECOWAS heads of states and together, they all named Issa Sesay as interim leader of the RUF.

Mr. Taylor's defense counsel also read in court today a 2000

United Nations report which indicated that the Nigerian ECOWAS Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) peacekeepers in Sierra Leone were involved in trading diamonds in return for guns with the RUF rebels.

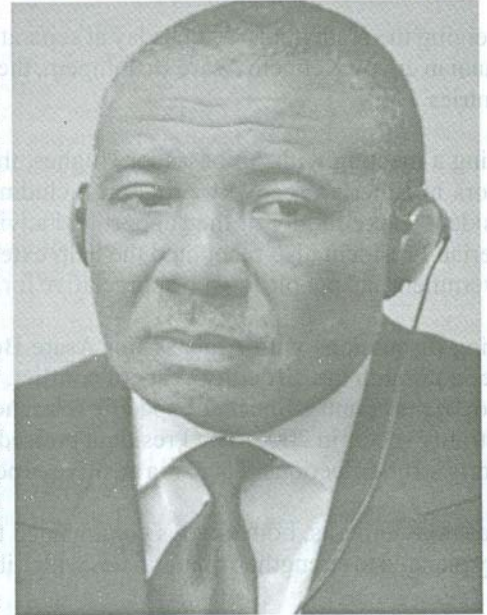
The prosecution has alleged that Mr. Taylor was involved in trading diamonds in return for guns with RUF rebels in Sierra Leone. Mr. Taylor today dismissed this allegation, calling it "total nonsense."

"There is no such thing as Foday Sankoh selling me diamonds," Mr. Taylor said.

Mr. Taylor further said that he believed the allegation in the UN report that Nigerian ECOMOG peacekeepers sold guns to the RUF in return for diamonds was true, because while he was a rebel leader, he had the same transaction with the Nigerian ECOMOG peacekeepers in Liberia.

"There is nothing new about ECOMOG selling arms to rebel groups. I Charles Ghankay Taylor bought arms and ammunition from ECOMOG peacekeepers in Liberia during the civil war even while we were fighting them," he said.

Mr. Taylor also told the judges today that he did not believe that diamonds played any role in the Sierra Leone conflict. "There is not sufficient



evidence to really make such conclusion," he said. Mr. Taylor said that he also could not tell whether the warring factions in Sierra Leone used diamonds to fuel the conflict in the country.

Mr. Taylor is being tried on allegations that he provided support to RUF rebels in Sierra Leone through the supply of arms and ammunition in return

for diamonds. Diamonds, the prosecution says, were used by Mr. Taylor and RUF rebel leaders to fuel the conflict in Sierra Leone and that through his acts or omissions, Mr. Taylor bears responsibility for the crimes committed by RUF rebels in Sierra Leone. Mr. Taylor has denied the allegations. He is presently testifying as a witness in his own defense.

## Armed Robbers Kidnap Baby

Men believe to be armed robbers have kidnapped a baby in the Gardnersville area. The action raises more questions than answers owing to the presence of UN peacekeepers along with trained

constant armed robbery in the area, particularly the taking away of the child.

The incidence has been reported to the police. The mother and father of the kidnapped baby could not be reached for comments as they

were not available to talk to the press.

Meanwhile, the community dwellers are calling on the Liberian government through the ministry of Justice to provide security for them to prevent the waves of armed

I am very pleased to be with you today. As you know, the Defense phase in the case against Charles Taylor began last month on 13 July. The following day the Accused took the stand in his own defense and has now been testifying for five weeks.

At this very important stage in the trial it is essential that Liberians and Sierra Leoneans continue to be fully informed of the proceedings in court. People must know that the trial continues in a fair, transparent and efficient manner. For this reason, I am very happy to be in Monrovia to take your questions about the trial.

The Prosecution is pleased that the trial process is going well. Charles Taylor is entitled to present his own account and respond to the charges against him. I must note that I am not able to comment on the specifics of his testimony, as the evaluation of his testimony is a matter for the judges.

Of course, the Accused is presenting a story that is very different from the evidence offered by the Prosecution. We called over 90 witnesses to appear in person before the Court. More than fifty of these witnesses told the judges, and the world, about the grave crimes committed against tens of thousands of innocent victims in Sierra Leone. More than thirty witnesses provided the linkage evidence showing Taylor's responsibility for the commission of these atrocities.

We have been waiting patiently while the Accused gives his own contrary version of events, and denies all the charges against him. We are looking forward to questioning him on cross-examination in the coming weeks. When our turn comes to ask the questions, we will confront Charles Taylor with the full weight of our case.

Let me talk for a moment about my own participation in this process. It has been my greatest honor to serve as the Chief Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone for nearly three years.

During my tenure I have overseen the other trials before the Special Court where we secured convictions of the leaders of the rebel groups and the civil defense forces for atrocities committed during the Sierra Leone civil war. I am particularly proud to have been part of judicial

proceedings that resulted in the first convictions in history for the recruitment and use of child soldiers as a war crime, the first convictions for attacks on peacekeepers as a violation of international humanitarian law, and the first convictions for sexual slavery and forced marriage as crimes against humanity. I am also pleased to have seen through the presentation of the Prosecution's case against Charles Taylor, the start of defense evidence, and our preparations to meet the defense case.

In July, I was nominated by President Barack Obama to be United States Ambassador at Large for War Crimes Issues. The nomination has now been confirmed by the US Senate, and I have given notice to the UN Secretary General that I will resign as Special Court Prosecutor on September 7. I will then immediately take up the new post, which is based in the US State Department in Washington in the office of Secretary Hillary Clinton.

For almost a decade, I have been working to bring justice to the victims of the most serious crimes committed by humankind, first at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and then at the Special Court for Sierra Leone. In this new position, I will continue that work on behalf of the US Government to assist countries in achieving accountability after the widespread commission of violations of international humanitarian law, and by doing so help prevent the recurrence of these atrocities.

As I leave the representation of the prosecution in the Charles Taylor trial in the capable hands of my colleagues, I would like to express my gratitude to the people of the region. In my many visits to Liberia, I have always found people of great caring and compassion, who were deeply interested in work of the Special Court in finding the truth and achieving justice.

The Special Court's jurisdiction is limited to Sierra Leone, to the period from November 1996 to January 2002, and to persons bearing the greatest responsibility for serious violations of humanitarian law. Despite these limitations, it is my parting wish as its Prosecutor that it has increased the respect for the rule of law by all individuals, no matter how powerful, and thus contributed to lasting peace and security.

Thank you



The Monitor (Liberia)  
Wednesday, 12 August 2009

# 'Stephen Rapp failed'

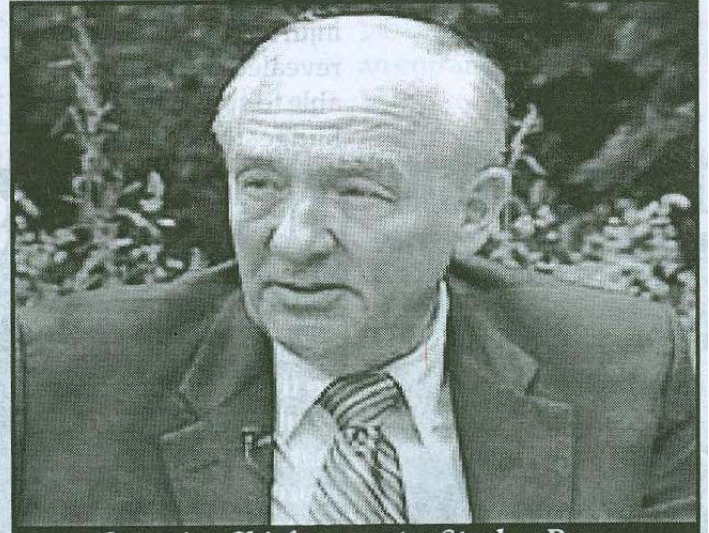


*Mr. Sando Johnson*

The spokesman of the family of former President Charles Ghankay Taylor, Sando Johnson has described as not only "disgraceful but also a slap in the face" the premature departure of

the Chief prosecutor, Stephen Rapp, in the ongoing trial of the former Liberian leader in The Hague.

Mr. Rapp at a news conference Tuesday in Monrovia announced that he was quitting the



*Outgoing Chief prosecutor Stephen Rapp*

prosecution team due to his new assignment in the United States of America as US Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes Issues. The nomination has now been confirmed by the US Senate, he said.

He said, "At this very important stage in the trial it is essential that Liberians and Sierra Leoneans continue to be fully informed of the proceedings in court. People must know that

**See Story on Page 6**

## Stephen Rapp

the trial continues in a fair, transparent and efficient manner."

"In July, I was nominated by President

## BBC World Service Trust

Tuesday, 25 August 2009

### Report from The Hague

#### Cue

The United Nations Panel of Experts report in 2000 alleged that an illegal diamonds trade involving Former Liberian President Charles Taylor and the RUF Rebels fuelled the decade long civil war in Sierra Leone. The UN Panel damning report has taken center stage at Mr. Taylor's war crimes trial in The Hague. Mr. Taylor denied any government officials involvement in the trade and wondered why America cannot stop the drug trade at its border with Mexico. Joseph Cheeseman reports.

CHEESEMAN: The UN Panel alleged that Mr. Taylor had a Liberian representative in the Sierra Leonean town of Kono to supervise diamond mining operations there.

The UN Panel report named Dennis "Superman" Mingo, a Liberian, as Mr. Taylor's representative to the diamond rich town of Kono.

Mr. Taylor told the court diamond transactions did not take place between him any member of the RUF. TAYLOR: Don't know who they're talking about, never had any representative anywhere. This kind of thinking, you can see the type of bias that I'm talking about. Every other country where diamonds are being illegally smuggled through is being done without the complicity of the leadership of that country, but you have a little rat in Liberia called Charles Taylor that is stealing diamonds.

CHEESEMAN: The Panel reported that it was not possible for such huge diamond trade to have taken place between Sierra Leone and Liberia without the permission of Liberian officials.

The former Liberian President denied any government involvement in the illicit trade.

TAYLOR: Tourists buy diamonds, okay. They do not require government intervention or official intervention at any level. None whatsoever. Then and now.

COURTENAY GRIFFITHS: Now, Mr. Taylor, there's another question. But can you say today that there was no Liberian government involvement in the movement of diamonds through Monrovia?

TAYLOR: None.

GRIFFITHS: Can you say that there was none?

TAYLOR: I can say that without stupor, without even blinking. There was none. It was not required. There was none.

WILLIAMS: The Panel further declared that some government officials took advantage of the weak administration of Mr. Taylor to engage in the diamond trade with the RUF.

Mr. Taylor disagreed, and described the Panel's suggestion as foolish.

He said the dense forest of Liberia makes it difficult for any government to detect smuggling across the border.

Mr. Taylor told the court America has similar problem at its border with Mexico.

TAYLOR: Why can't they stop the drugs coming out of Mexico? These things are bulky, okay? They can't stop the drugs from coming out with billions of dollars being spent on the US-Mexico border, building a fence and all, but little Liberia in the forest of West Africa with a little stone must be able to be detected. I mean, this is preposterous.

WILLIAMS: Mr. Taylor told the court the UN Panel of Experts visited Liberia during his administration, but he was not given the opportunity to respond to the allegation of gun running and illicit diamond trade.

## CharlesTaylorTrial.org (The Hague)

Tuesday, 25 August 2009

### **Liberia: Charles Taylor Dismisses United Nations Report On Sierra Leone as 'Disgraceful'**

Alpha Sesay

A 2001 United Nations Expert Panel Report, which accused Mr. Taylor of fueling the conflict in Sierra Leone through diamond and arms trade with Sierra Leonean rebel forces, took center stage today in Mr. Taylor's testimony. Mr. Taylor dismissed the report as "disgraceful" and full of "disinformation," as he refuted all its allegations against him.

The report, which Mr Taylor dismissed as biased against him in yesterday's testimony, alleged that Mr. Taylor received diamonds from two key rebel commanders in Sierra Leone: Ibrahim Ba, a Senegalese rebel commander who worked with Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels, and Johnny Paul Koroma, leader of the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC), a group of soldiers who overthrew the government of President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah in May 1997. The AFRC joined forces with the RUF rebels but they were forcefully removed from power by West African peacekeepers in February 1998. Mr. Taylor denied receiving diamonds from any of these individuals.

"I never had a business relationship with Ibrahim Ba. I have never collaborated with Ba for any sale of diamonds. There has never been a business relationship with Ba. None whatsoever. There are no documents to prove this. I don't recall any evidence that mentioned diamonds taken from Johnny Paul Koroma," Mr. Taylor said.

The UN report further named several individuals with whom Mr. Taylor is said to have had diamond transactions including Lt. Colonels Kennedy, Abdul Razak and Victor, each of whom were commanders of an RUF "mining unit" in Kono diamond fields in Sierra Leone. Responding to this, Mr. Taylor said that "I have had no contact with any of them."

The report also accused Mr. Taylor of having representatives in Kono and Tongo Fields in Sierra Leone, where the RUF rebels mined diamonds. Mr. Taylor denied having any representative in any of these places.

"I don't know who they are talking about but I never had any representative anywhere," Mr. Taylor told the judges.

Mr. Taylor also responded to allegations in the UN report that the RUF guesthouse in Liberia was used by RUF commanders for diamond transactions. Mr. Taylor denied knowledge of any such transactions taking place. "If I had found out, it would have been shut down. I had no idea it was used for such business activities," he said.

Mr. Taylor told the judges that while he did "not dispute the fact that diamonds were smuggled to Liberia," his government had no involvement in such diamond deals. He denied receiving any diamonds from RUF commander Sam Bockarie.

The prosecution has alleged that while RUF leader Foday Sankoh was imprisoned in Nigeria, RUF commanders took diamonds to Mr. Taylor for safe keeping pending the release of their leader. Mr. Taylor has denied this allegation.

"I had no knowledge of the fact that Sam Bockarie brought diamonds to Liberia. I did not hold diamonds for safe keeping, I did not hold diamonds pending anybody's release," Mr. Taylor told the judges.

According to the UN Expert Report, "this trade [diamond trade with the RUF] cannot be conducted without high level government involvement." Denying his government's involvement in the diamond trade with RUF rebels, Mr. Taylor told the court that "the nature of the diamond trade then and now did not require any government involvement. This is the case not only in Liberia. Tourists buy diamonds," he said.

Mr. Taylor referenced that even though the United States has a fence separating its border with Mexico, that has not stopped drug cartels from transporting drugs into the United States. "Why do they expect Liberia to detect little stones coming to the country? It is insulting," he said.

The UN Expert Report also stated that Mr. Taylor maintained training facilities for RUF rebels at various locations in Liberia including Batala. Mr. Taylor denied that any such training facilities existed. "None whatsoever, no training facilities for RUF in Liberia," he said.

He also told the judges that no prosecution witness has mentioned any training facility for the RUF at Batala. The only training facility that has been mentioned by prosecution witnesses is the one at Camp Name, Mr. Taylor said. According to the UN Expert Report, there is sufficient oral and documentary evidence to show that trainings were taking place at Batala. In response, Mr. Taylor explained that Sierra Leonean rebels who had followed Sam Bockarie when he relocated to Liberia in December 1999 were trained at Batala as part of the Anti Terrorist Unit (ATU) but they underwent such training only after they had been granted Liberian citizenship. They were therefore not RUF rebels anymore, he said.

Mr. Taylor went on to dismiss the legitimacy of the report altogether. "This is the UN Panel writing this report and it is disgraceful. They should have done their home work. This is disinformation," he said.

Mr. Taylor is responding to allegations that he provided support for RUF rebels in Sierra Leone through the supply of arms and ammunition in return for diamonds. The prosecution also alleges that Mr. Taylor gave direct orders to RUF commanders and that through his acts or omissions; he bears responsibility for the crimes committed by RUF rebels in Sierra Leone. Mr. Taylor has denied all these allegations. He is presently testifying as a witness in his own defense at the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

Mr. Taylor's testimony continues tomorrow.



United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

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## UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 25 August 2009

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

### **International Clips on Liberia**

#### **UNMIL Official Subject of Underage Sex Crime Probe Commits Suicide in Liberia**

08/24/09 - FPA STAFF REPORT

Monrovia – Tragedy eclipsed Liberia's Flag Day celebrations Monday when an American citizen Dale Allen Fosnight died in Monrovia at his home in an apparent suicide. A statement from the Ministry of Justice late Monday night said at the time of Fosnight's death, he was the subject of an investigation of alleged sexual abuse of minors. "As a civilian staff member of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), his case was under investigation by both the government of Liberia, the U.N. Office of Internal Oversight Services." The statement said: "The United States takes seriously all allegations of sexual crimes against children overseas, and U.S. Government law enforcement agencies were cooperating with the investigation for possible law enforcement agencies were cooperating with the investigation for possible prosecution of Mr. Fosnight in the U.S. under the "Protective Act" or other applicable laws. We regret the unfortunate circumstances of Mr. Fosnight's death and extend our sympathy to his family."

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

#### **Sierra Leone**

#### **Taylor Says UN Report on Diamonds and Guns was Biased Against Him; CIA helped his Rebel Group**

Aug 25, 2009 (CharlesTaylorTrial.org/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- Charles Taylor today said that a 2001 United Nations expert report, which accused him of providing military and financial support to Sierra Leonean rebels in exchange for diamonds, contained an expert who was unfairly biased against Mr. Taylor. He also claimed that his rebel group which launched a civil war in Liberia in 1989 got support and equipment from the CIA. In describing the 2001 United Nations Panel of Experts Report on Gun Running and Diamond Smuggling in Sierra Leone, Mr. Taylor said that he raised alarms when he found out who was appointed as the reporting experts. When Ian Smillie-who in a prior report had accused Mr. Taylor of involvement in diamond-for-arms trade in Sierra Leone-was named an expert, Mr. Taylor wrote a letter to the UN Secretary General questioning Mr. Smillie's appointment. These concerns, Mr. Taylor said, were ignored by the UN and Mr. Smillie remained on the panel.

#### **Guinea**

#### **Two killed in demonstrations in Guinea town**

ABIDJAN, Aug. 24 (Xinhua) -- The quelling of demonstrations over water shortage in the Guinean town of Kamsar on Monday morning left two people dead and some others seriously injured, according to media reports reaching here from Conkary. Soldiers reportedly opened fire when quelling the disturbance. Some infrastructure and private residences were destroyed by the

demonstrators. The local water shortage was suspected linked with Compagnie des Bauxites de Guinee (CBG)'s in Kamsar, which used a great deal of water and electricity in production.

## **'All God's Children:' Exposing the abuses of children of missionaries**

Source: McClatchy-Tribune Information Services Date: August 25, 2009

Aug. 25--Marilyn Shellrude Christman of Seattle was only 7 years old when she was sent to a boarding school for children of missionaries in Guinea, West Africa, in 1961. For eight years, in the remote, isolated school, she says, she was emotionally and spiritually abused. At times, she was also physically and sexually abused -- in some cases by a man who served as a dorm parent there, she said. It wasn't until decades later that she realized she hadn't been the only abused child at Mamou Alliance Academy, a now-closed boarding school run by the Christian and Missionary Alliance (C&MA), an evangelical Protestant denomination. Christman's story, along with those of two other families whose children attended Mamou, are told in the documentary "All God's Children," which has its West Coast premiere tonight at Mercer Island Presbyterian Church.

### **Local Media – Newspaper**

#### **Government Confirms Death of UNMIL Personnel under Probe for Alleged Sexual Offense**

(The Inquirer, National Chronicle)

- Government has confirmed the death of an American-UNMIL personnel, Dale Allen Fosnight at his home in Monrovia on Monday.
- According to a Justice Ministry statement, Mr. Fosnight was undergoing investigation for alleged sexual abuse of minors.
- Reports say the American died around the in Sinkor Old Road suburb in a suicide incident.
- A statement issued in Monrovia said UNMIL and the US Embassy was jointly investigating Fosnight.
- The Statement said both the Liberian and U.S. Governments, as well as UNMIL take very seriously all allegations of sexual crimes against children.
- The Statement added that the investigation was continuing as some associates of Fosnight are being questioned.

#### **No Mandate to Regulate Tuition At Private Schools, Says Education Minister**

(The News, New Democrat)

- Education Minister, Dr. Joseph Korto said the Ministry does not have the statutory mandate to regulate the fees and tuition of private schools in the country.
- Dr. Korto said though the schools were part of the national education system the Ministry only had the authority to institute a compel compliance methodology on issues such as curriculum and school calendar.
- He said the Ministry however lacked the supervisory mandate in determining the tuition of private schools.
- Speaking to reporters on Monday, Dr. Korto said the Ministry is presently bargaining with the head of private schools to ensure that the situation is brought under control.

#### **National Flag Day Orator Calls for Reconciliation**

(The Inquirer, The News, The Informer, New Democrat, Daily Observer)

- The orator of Liberia's 162nd Flag Day, Mrs. Christine Norman has warned that Liberia would never enjoy sustainable peace in the absence of total reconciliation.
- Mrs. Norman said in order to achieve reconciliation, perpetrators of evil against the Liberian people must apologize for their wrongdoings.
- Madam Norman said there was also a need for Liberians to change the content of their characters in order to sustain the country's fragile peace.

- The Orator of this year's Flag Day expressed opposition to any attempt to change the flag of the country saying though similar to the United States flag it remains unique to the Liberian state.
- At the same time, Education Minister Dr. Joseph Korto has instructed school authorities to begin the teaching of patriotic songs in schools with immediate effect.
- Minister Korto observed it was becoming increasingly clear that Liberians have forgotten the country's national songs including 'God bless Liberia'.
- Meanwhile, this year's drill competition known as Cadet Corps Drill was won by the Booker Washington Institute, followed by the G.W Gibson and the William V.S Tubman High schools.
- In brief remarks, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf described the flag as a true symbol of unity.

### **Council of Churches, New DEAL Clash over TRC Report**

(The Inquirer, Daily Observer)

- The Liberian Council of Churches (LCC) and the New Democratic Alternative for Liberia Movement (New DEAL Movement) have expressed contrasting positions on the recently released Draft Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Liberia.
- The positions of the two groups were reflected in separate statements issued in Monrovia over the weekend.
- The LCC in a seven-page statement issued in Monrovia identified several alleged violations in the report including omission of critical national issues.
- The LCC noted the findings conducted by the investigative experts in the fifteen counties were clearly absent from the report saying they believe the counties opposed the prosecution of alleged perpetrators.
- However, the New Deal has described the recommendations contained in the TRC report as the singular most important roadmap for social justice and an effective check on impunity in post-conflict Liberia.

### **US\$300,000 Request Compromises Probe**

(The News, New Democrat, National Chronicle)

- Days after President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf placed a moratorium on the Liberia Petroleum Refinery Company (LPRC)-ZAKHEM contract and appointed a committee to review the contract there are reports that the committee's work has been compromised.
- The report said a member of the committee Aloysius Jappah allegedly solicited an amount of US\$300,000 from LPRC's Managing Director to influence the committee's findings.
- The attempt to extort the money was revealed in an affidavit from Mr. Greaves detailing the matter.
- Meanwhile, the report said President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has the Justice Ministry to investigate the extortion claim.
- According to Justice Ministry officials, the probe has been simultaneously taking place along with another investigation into controversies over a US\$24.8 million contract signed between the Liberia Petroleum Refining Company (LPRC) and Zakhem International Construction Ltd for the rehabilitation and expansion of the LPRC product storage terminal.

### **President Sirleaf Upbeat about Progress At Bureau of Maritime**

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has expressed enthusiasm over the level of progress made by the Bureau of Maritime Affairs (BMA) as it revamps the ruined Liberia Marine Training Institute (LMTI) in Marshall, Margibi County.
- The LMTI facilities are undergoing a comprehensive facelift, with renovation and repair works being carried out on its administrative and school buildings, as well as dormitory and staff quarters.
- A total of about 12 buildings, including staff dormitories and a training center are being rehabilitated.
- The cost of the project is almost US\$1 million and is being funded by the BMA.

**Local Media – Star Radio** (*culled from website today at 09:00 am*)

### **Government Confirms Death of Alleged Sex "Offender"**

(Also reported on Radio Veritas)

## **No Mandate to Regulate Tuition At Private Schools, Says Education Minister**

*(Also reported on Radio Veritas, Sky F.M., Truth F.M. and ELBC)*

## **National Flag Day Orator Calls for Reconciliation**

*(Also reported on Radio Veritas, Sky F.M., Truth F.M. and ELBC)*

## **Senate Begins Confirmation of Nominees of INHCR**

- The confirmation of nominees to the Independent National Human Rights Commission begins today at the Senate.
- The confirmation hearings come a week after President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf appointed a seven-member panel to the Human Rights Commission.
- The Commission chaired by Cllr. Bedor-Wla Freeman comprises Losene Bility, Attorney Esther Seton-Cee and Clinton Layweh as members. Other members of the Commission include George Dayrell, Anthony Boakai and Joseph Cornomia, an activist of a war crimes court in Liberia.
- Under the TRC Act, the Independent Human Rights Commission is responsible to enforce all recommendations of the Truth Commission.

## **LCC Gives Position on TRC Report**

- The Liberia Council of Churches has released its official position on the final report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.
- In its seven-page statement issued in Monrovia, the LCC identified several alleged violations in the report including omission of critical national issues.
- The LCC noted the findings conducted by the investigative experts in the fifteen counties were clearly absent from the report saying they believe the counties opposed the prosecution of alleged perpetrators.
- The Council's statement read by its President, Bishop John Innis argues that the prosecution clause for alleged perpetrators was an input from the May 9, Virginia conference.
- According to the LCC statement, large portions of the TRC final recommendations are not enforceable.
- Meanwhile, the President of the LCC, United Methodist Bishop, John Innis has called on individuals accused in the TRC report to offer open apology to the Liberian people.

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Tuesday, 25 August 2009

By John Kollie

TAYLOR TRIAL/ 25-08-09/ TAYLOR DENIES APPOINTING REPRESENTATIVE AT RUF  
DIAMONDS SITES

*The United Nations Panel of Experts report in 2000 alleged that an illegal diamonds trade involving Former Liberian President Charles Taylor and the RUF Rebels fuelled the decade long civil war in Sierra Leone. The UN Panel damning report has taken center stage at Mr. Taylor's war crimes trial in The Hague. Mr. Taylor denied any government officials involvement in the trade and wondered why America cannot stop the drug trade at its border with Mexico. John Kollie transcribes The Hague reports for the BBC World Service Trust....*

The UN Panel alleged that Mr. Taylor had a Liberian representative in the Sierra Leonean town of Kono to supervise diamonds mining operations there. The UN Panel report named Dennis Superman Mingo, a Liberian as Mr. Taylor's representative to the diamond rich town of Kono.

Mr. Taylor told the court diamond transactions did not take place between him any member of the RUF. The Panel reported that it was not possible for such huge diamond trade to have taken place between Sierra Leone and Liberia without the permission of Liberian officials. The Former Liberian President denied any government involvement in the illicit trade. The Panel further declared that some government officials took advantage of the weak administration of Mr. Taylor to engage in the diamond trade with the RUF.

Mr. Taylor disagreed, and described the Panel's suggestion as foolish. He said the dense forest of Liberia makes it difficult for any government to detect smuggling across the border.

Mr. Taylor told the court America has similar problem at its border with Mexico. Mr. Taylor told the court the UN Panel of Experts visited Liberia during his administration, but he was not given the opportunity to respond to the allegation of gun running and illicit diamond trade.

## Radio Netherlands Worldwide

Tuesday, 25 August 2009

### ICC Prosecutor: "releasing Bemba would be an error"

By International Justice Desk



*The Hague,  
Netherlands*

Jean-Pierre Bemba should remain in custody to the end of his trial, prosecutor Luis Moreno Ocampo stated in a filing presented to the International Criminal Court (ICC).

The ICC ruled that the former Vice-President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) Jean-Pierre Bemba Gombo might await his trial outside prison. But in appealing the court's decision, Ocampo said the provisional release would be a "mistake."

"Mr. Bemba is still presumed innocent but must stay in the detention centre. We will do all we can to ensure he stands trial as soon as possible and that victims see justice done" he said.

Ocampo said that Bemba is now closer to trial and, if convicted, subject to a potentially lengthy sentence.

The court confirmed war crimes charges against Bemba earlier this year. And Ocampo believes that "increases the incentive to flee and to obstruct the prosecution. It also increases the capacity to harm witnesses, since the Bemba knows the identity of the witnesses and will continue to discover essential prosecution evidence."

The Court postponed the execution of the provisional release of Mr. Bemba because it has to find a state likely to host him.

The six countries where Bemba requested to stay - Belgium, France, Portugal, South Africa, Italy and Germany - must submit their observations to the Court during the hearings between 7 and September 14.

Ocampo requested suspensive effect to the appeal, so that there is no possibility of Mr. Bemba's release while it is under consideration by the Appeals Chamber.

The trial date for Mr. Bemba (46) accused of murder, rape and looting committed by particular their militia, the Movement for the Liberation of Congo (MLC), Central between October 2002 and March 2003, has not yet been fixed.

## Radio Netherlands Worldwide

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By International Justice Desk

### **KRouge trial can help heal Cambodian victims' trauma**



*Phnom Pehn, Cambodia*

The trial of former Khmer Rouge leaders is a chance for the regime's victims to overcome their lingering trauma, a psychological expert told

Cambodia's UN-backed tribunal Tuesday.

Dr Chhim Sotheara was testifying at the trial of Duch, whose real name is Kaing Guek Eav and who stands accused of overseeing the torture and execution of roughly 12,000 people at Tuol Sleng prison during the regime's 1975-79 rule.

But the expert, who is director of Cambodia's Transcultural Psycho-social Organisation, noted that the victims' trauma seemed to reoccur after they observed the court proceedings. The denial by some Khmer Rouge leaders of their roles in the atrocities also created more pain for the victims, he said.

Chhim Sotheara said that people were traumatised throughout the nation after the Khmer Rouge destroyed the country's infrastructure and created an "environment of fear".

He told the court that Cambodians could cope with their three-decade-old trauma only when justice had been served and the truth behind regime was revealed.

"The trial of the former leaders of the Khmer Rouge is an opportunity for the victims who have suffered and who have been traumatised for many years to overcome their trauma through justice," he said.

"It will be very helpful to heal the wounds, the suffering of those victims," he added.

Chhim Sotheara told the court that for every five Cambodians, two had developed trauma, while 14 percent of country's population aged over 18 had experienced post-traumatic stress disorder.

Led by Pol Pot, who died in 1998, the Khmer Rouge emptied Cambodia's cities in a bid to forge an agrarian utopia, resulting in the deaths of up to two million people from starvation, overwork and torture.