

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



View from Lumley

PRESS CLIPPINGS

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

as at:

Tuesday, 26 June 2007

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



WVS STAFF WISHES TO ANNOUNCE THE DEATH OF MRS. MAYATTA LEBBIE ON SUNDAY 24 JUNE 2007. SHE WAS A SENIOR SUPPORT OFFICER OF THE WVS SECTION. SHE WAS A MEDICAL NURSE, WHO WORKED WITH THE WVS FOR OVER THREE YEARS, PROVIDING CARE FOR ALL WITNESSES. WE WILL INFORM ALL ABOUT THE BURIAL ARRANGEMENTS. THE STAFF IS IN PROCESS OF PUTTING TOGETHER CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE BEREAVED FAMILY. ANYONE WHO WISHES TO CONTRIBUTE CAN CONTACT MIATTA ABU (7354) / TEMITAYO FAULKNER (7329). MAY HER SOUL REST IN PEACE.

Taylor Rebels Against Special Court

Ex-President Charles Taylor who has been indicted on eleven count

charges of war crimes, crimes against humanity and violations of international humanitarian law over his alleged role

in the brutal civil war in Sierra Leone has again defied the Special Court order to appear at the start of his trials in the Hague on

the 25th June 2007, on the grounds that he was not certain of getting a fair hearing. Prior to his trial on Monday, Taylor informed Vincent Nmeielle, a Senior Court Official that he was definitely not going to be present for trial until enough resources are provided
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Taylor Rebels Against Special Court

FROM FRONT PAGE

to match those available for his prosecution.

The prosecutor reacted to Taylor's sacking of his lawyer at the start of his trial as a way of delaying his proceeding for which he should not be allowed to benefit from a situation of his own making.

The Presiding Judge, Julia Sebutinde ruled that adequate

resources had to be provided to the defence and said the Court's Registry had not moved quickly enough to ensure those were in place.

Before Taylor's trial was moved to the Hague, he had pleaded not guilty to all the charges when he appeared in court in Freetown, Sierra Leone, in March 2006.

Liberia's Taylor trial adjourned

The war crimes trial of Liberia's ex-President Charles Taylor has been adjourned until 3 July. The delay is to appoint a defence team after Mr Taylor sacked his lawyer. Mr Taylor is boycotting The Hague trial, saying he will not get a fair hearing. He is accused of backing rebels in Sierra Leone in an 11-year campaign that killed thousand of civilians. He denies all the charge. It is the first case of its kind against an African former leader. Before Monday's session, court official Vincent Nmehielle said Mr Taylor had called him to say he would not attend the court. "He [Taylor] said the chamber knows why he will not be in court," said Mr Nmehielle, responsible for the rights of the accused. But presiding judge Julia Sebutinde said: "For the record, the chamber does not know. We have not officially been informed why Mr Taylor is not in court." When the trial opened on 4 June, Mr Taylor also refused to attend court, saying in a letter to judges that he did not believe he would get a fair hearing. He also said he was sacking his lawyer, Karim Khan . Mr Taylor has been indicted on 11 charges of war crimes, crimes against humanity and violations of international humanitarian law over his alleged role in the brutal civil war in Sierra Leone.

New Vision
Tuesday, 26 June 2007

UN To Re-examine Taylor's Wealth

By Momoja Lappia

In a unanimous resolution passed last Wednesday June 20, 2007,

the United Nations Security Council called on Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon to set up a three-person panel within a month to re-examine the wealth of the Liberian former President Charles Taylor, who is currently standing trial in the Special Court for Sierra Leone set-up in the Hague for charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

This resolution follows the findings of another panel of experts monitoring Liberia, who recently discovered that Taylor may have substantial wealth in

Contd. Page 4

UN To Re-examine Taylor's Wealth!

Liberia and Nigeria, and that he owns a huge share in a reputable Liberian cell phone company.

It is reported that Nigeria did not allow the panel to investigate those allegations, and it is believed that the government of Nigeria has not seized any of Taylor's assets as required by a

previous council decision in 2004. Furthermore, Liberia has not yet adopted the legislation authorizing a freeze on the indicted's assets.

As at press time, the new panel of financial and diamond experts is also expected to assess the implementation of Forestry

legislation passed by Liberia's congress and signed into law in October 2006 by President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's regime. The panel will also gauge the Liberian government's compliance with the Kimberly Process Diamond Certification scheme.

Col. Gaddafi must explain

The killings, maiming, torture and amputation

SEE PAGE
10 FOR
STORY



Col. Gaddafi... to repent?



Boy soldier



Incomplete



Even this baby was not spared



Incomplete



Sankoh... sponsored by Col. Gaddafi

March 1991, the first gun shot was heard in Bomaru in the Kailahun District. Word went round that it was a small conflict between security guards at the border and some traders smuggling goods from Sierra Leone to Liberia. The issue was never treated seriously just the same way the May 1997 AFRC coup of Johnny Paul Koroma and others was neglected by President Kabbah. The late Bambay Kamara and those in the political class of the APC veiled the truth to the general public and informed the masses that everything had been put under control and a battalion of Special Security Division (SSD) battle tested men and women had already been dispatched to the border.

While all these manipulations and political deception were in progress Foday Sabana Sankoh, former disgruntled convict was engaged in massive recruitment exercise telling the innocent recruits that his mission was to overthrow the APC which to them was a very laudable effort as the APC by then was very unpopular and by all estimation had warranted a change of the status quo.

While Sankoh was busy recruiting young and able bodied men and women, other groups of politicians' privy to the exercise willingly gave their children to be recruited since the objective was to remove the unpopular APC government that had over stayed in power preventing other political parties like the SLPP the seat of governance. Less than three months Foday Saybana Sankoh through the British Broadcasting Co, operation (BBC) announced his intention and subsequently informed the world that in sixty to ninety days time the APC and its leader, the Late Joseph Saidu Momoh should relinquish the seat of political power, if not, he was going to fight.

The focus of this piece is not to give a narration of the Genesis or Revelation of the war that lasted for eleven years, but to address the role of Col. Gaddafi, the Libyan leader who is currently paying a visit to his Muslim brother, President of Sierra Leone, Alhaji Ahmad Tejan Kabbah.

It is neither the significance of his visit nor his personal contribution to the President that is the concern of this piece, but how he used his wealth to destroy a 46-year old nation that is still striving to catch up with the economic reality of the contemporary world.

When Sankoh announced his diabolical plan, the wonders, surprises and shocks were that such a situation would never come into fruition, as Sierra Leone is a peaceful nation with good hearted men and women. With the eleven-year old event that assumption is now history with everyone looking at each other with doubt. This was not the situation, but because of Man's inhumanity to his fellow Man we perceive every individual

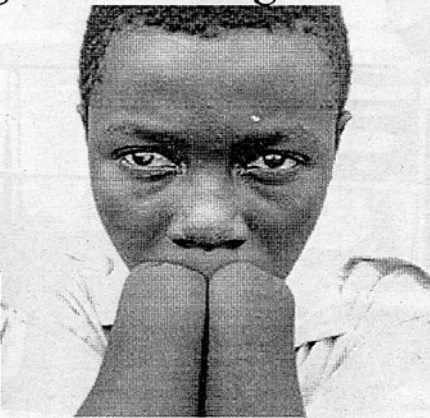
...Col. Gaddafi must explain:

The killings, maiming, torture and amputation



He was taught to shoot and kill as an enemy to both Mankind and the state.

It is written in the book of Proverbs that "Man is selfish and self-centered, Greedy and Corrupt, he can be violent for want of wealth...Better is the poor who walks in his integrity than he who is crooked though he is rich" Proverbs 28:6 Col. Muammar Gaddafi



...was amputated during the war

ogy. What the retired military officer had aimed at was to brainwash students as well as intellectuals about his political philosophy and targeting students or this group of intellectuals was in place since they are the future leaders of the world. Having failed to achieve that goal due to the smartness, vigilance and cunning na-



See how Gaddafi's wealth destroyed her

from him and let him not be fooled by his host that his visit is meaningful to the suffering Sierra Leoneans "for poor we are but bitter blood runs through us."

First, we shall take the opportunity to introduce him to the amputees, whose limbs were chopped off by the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) headed by the late

and regretful by now as he drove through the streets of Freetown yesterday, seeing homeless people begging for their survival, kids without parents asking for alms and the amputees who were born to this earth in complete human form now incomplete and disabled. The question is that what his wealth can provide for the people of this nation? For it was better for him to be poor and walked the streets of Freetown with integrity than to be corrupt and be driven in expensive cars to the Presidential palace at Hill Station. There goes the man who sponsored the killings of Sierra Leoneans in very large numbers shamelessly talking about African Unity. How can Africa be united when Col. Gaddafi is using his wealth to destroy the children of Africa? Yesterday, over the United Nations Radio 103 FM, Tea Break Programme, the voice of the Foreign Affairs Minister, himself an Alhaji, Momodu Koroma was urging people to come out and welcome the Libyan President. One should not be surprised to hear these words from Momodu Koroma especially when he is one of the major beneficiaries of this war machine and because of his appointment as Solomon Berewa's running mate Col. Gaddafi had to defy shame and come to Sierra Leone. We now begin to know them that if political power is giving to them either by prophetic destination or popular acclamation they would sell this nation to people like Muammar Gaddafi.

He was not even ashamed or afraid of the Lord Almighty to mention the name of another rebel backer, Blaise Campoare that Solomon Berewa would not have problem with him. If that is their motive, Governor Clarkson's prayer will haunt them day and night, Amen.

RR ...the people want to hear
from him and let him not be fooled
by his host that his visit is meaningful
to the suffering Sierra Leoneans
"for poor we are and bitter
blood runs through us" DD

is a man who is rich, but what we have not been able to establish was how he is able to acquire these riches, wealth, fame and power. In the case of power, history would be our guide; the same applies to the wealth he has been using to destroy nations. The first tip we got during the panic was that Foday Sankoh was an ex-military officer who was jailed by the late Siaka Stevens for an alleged coup attempt. After his release he relocated to the eastern part of the country and later to Libya where he was trained in guerrilla warfare in preparation for the task ahead which was to eradicate the APC through the barrel of the gun. But prior to that, this same Col. Gaddafi had made several attempts to infiltrate into the country through the introduction of the "Green Book" which contained materials about his political ideol-

ture of the late Siaka Stevens he became annoyed and turned his attention into sponsoring aggrieved citizens of the state in the likes of Foday Sankoh. Both Sankoh and Taylor spent considerable period in Libya receiving training to massacre their people and succeeded in doing so to innocent Sierra Leoneans, some of whom have no business in politics, let alone know how the state machinery is being run.

With all these deaths, torture, maiming and deprivation, the Libyan leader is now here, the country he used his wealth to punish innocent lives. While in the country he must be prepared to say something to the Sierra Leonean population. Some of us are not prepared to welcome him, whether for the sake of courtesy or what protocol demands. Despite that, the people want to hear

Foday Sankoh. Second, the remnants of the houses burnt during those turbulent periods and third, the graves of those who were fortunate to be buried and lastly the film "Cry Sierra Leone" done by Sorious Samura in remembrance of the massacre.

The history of Col. Gaddafi is replete with corruption, violence, dictatorship and undemocratic tendencies which unfortunately some of us have suffered from and continue to suffer as the bitter memories of the war are still with us. It is not known whether his visit is to repent and asked for forgiveness from the people, if that is so we may accommodate him and tell him that repentance is not enough but should pay for all the lives lost and property destroyed through his wicked, inhuman, unprogressive and undemocratic behaviour. He should be ashamed

Voice of America

Monday, 25 June 2007

Court Official Says Charles Taylor Not held Incommunicado

By Joe De Capua
Washington

An official for the Special Court for Sierra Leone denies accusations that the court is treating Charles Taylor unfairly at his trial.

The head of a group helping defend Taylor against war crimes charges says he's being held incommunicado and that the court is not doing enough to ensure it's a fair trial.

Herman Von Hebel is acting registrar for the Special Court for Sierra Leone. From Freetown, he spoke to VOA English to Africa Service reporter Joe De Capua about the absence of Charles Taylor during today's court proceedings.

"We would always prefer the accused to be in the courtroom. After all, it is a trial against him. And the normal practice of course would be that he and a defense team for him were to appear. I think we see it as part of his objections to what he considers as shortcomings in the possibility for his defense team to properly present his defense for him and some issues in the detention unit. Our position is that as such we don't see any problem...in the detention facility issues nor in his defense. We're always open for seeing what kind of defense would be proper for him, but the amount of support that we provide for an accused like him is beyond what is normally practiced in tribunals like the Special Court," he says.

Von Hebel says Taylor won't be allowed to "dictate" to the court. Asked what happens if the accused fails to appear on the scheduled resumption date of July 3rd, he says, "There have been cases in other tribunals where an accused did not appear at all during his entire trial.... The important thing is we will see that there is a proper defense in the courtroom. The purpose of the third of July and the brief delay here is in order to make sure that on the third of July there is a proper defense counsel representing him in court so that his defense issues are being properly addressed by then."

John Richardson, head of the Association for the Legal Defense of Charles Taylor, has accused the court of keeping Charles Taylor incommunicado. Von Hebel says, "No, that is not correct. He has the opportunity to communicate with family members. He has the opportunity to communicate with the defense team and that is by definition always privileged communication...representatives of Liberia and maybe other international organizations like the International Red Cross; he can meet with them. I had put restrictions on his communication a couple of weeks ago because of the fact that we received information from the prosecution, which looked like there is serious concerns with him trying to interfere with witnesses. And that of course is something that we cannot allow."

He says the defense challenged the move, but the action was upheld by the court. Von Hebel says the court is doing everything within reason to provide a fair trial for the former Liberian leader.

Reuters

Monday, 25 June 2007

Taylor boycott forces delay of war crimes trial

By Alexandra Hudson

THE HAGUE (Reuters) - Judges delayed Charles Taylor's trial on charges of directing atrocities in Sierra Leone on Monday after the former Liberian President failed to show up in court, saying he lacked funds for a defense.

Taylor, who is charged with instigating murder, rape and mutilation during Sierra Leone's civil war in a quest for the country's diamonds, boycotted the start of his trial in June.

He sacked his lawyer and declared the trial would not be fair, adding in a letter he intended to defend himself.

Judge Julia Sebutinde expressed frustration on Monday, not only with Taylor but with officials with the U.N.-backed special tribunal for Sierra Leone.

"The accused does not have the option to appear before this court as and when he chooses," Judge Sebutinde said.

But she added adequate resources must be provided in the interests of a fair trial and she ordered the court to ensure Taylor had another four people boosting his defense team, including a lead counsel, by July 31.

"We have frowned upon undue delay in this court. That it would come from an institution within this court is really regrettable," she said.

The court's principal defender, Vincent Nmehielle, said Taylor also wanted to avoid undue delay, and although he had been persuaded to accept a lawyer rather than defend himself, the court lacked funds to hire the right caliber of lawyer.

Earlier this month the president of the court and its prosecutor told the U.N. Security Council available funds would be exhausted by November and another \$60 million was needed.

"Budgetary constraints have got in the way," said Elise Keppler of campaign group Human Rights Watch.

The prosecution will now begin its case on July 3.

Associated Press

Monday, 25 June 2007

Taylor Boycotts Trial Again

By MIKE CORDER
Associated Press Writer

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) - Former Liberian president Charles Taylor boycotted the resumption of his war crimes trial Monday, again blocking efforts to try him on charges of orchestrating a murderous terror campaign during Sierra Leone's 10-year civil war.

Judges were forced to adjourn the case until July 3 because of Taylor's absence and the fact that he had no lawyer in court.

"I got a call this morning that Mr. Taylor said he will not be in court," said Vincent Nmehielle, the court's principal defender who is responsible for ensuring Taylor can mount an adequate defense to the charges. "He said the chamber knows why he will not be in court."

Presiding judge Julia Sebutinde angrily responded, "For the record, the chamber does not know."

When his trial opened June 4, Taylor also refused to leave his cell in a special wing of a Dutch seaside jail, saying he did not believe he would get a fair hearing and complaining that he had insufficient funds to pay for his defense.

Taylor, 59, also said in a letter to judges that he was firing his attorney, British lawyer Karim Khan.

"I cannot participate in a charade that does injustice to the people of Sierra Leone," he wrote. He now wants to defend himself or be represented by a high-level British lawyer known as a Queen's Counsel.

There were no defense attorneys for Taylor in court Monday, thwarting prosecution plans to put their first witness on the stand.

Taylor has pleaded not guilty to 11 charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity for allegedly arming Sierra Leone rebels and orchestrating the terror campaign they waged during their country's civil war that ended in 2002. His trial is being held in the Netherlands for fear it could spark more unrest if staged in Sierra Leone.

The war was notorious for drugged child soldiers toting automatic weapons and hacking off hands and limbs of their enemies.

Without even appearing in court, Taylor has turned officials against one another.

Judges angrily questioned Nmehielle about why he had not yet appointed a replacement lawyer despite knowing for months that Taylor wanted a bigger legal team.

"Why ... on the day that we are supposed to be hearing witnesses, why are we scrounging around looking for Queen's Counsel?" Sebutinde asked.

Sebutinde criticized both the defender and registrar for not acting sooner.

Nmehielle has accepted Taylor's decision to drop Khan. However, prosecutors and the court's registrar have not and say that only judges have the power to take Khan off the case.

She also suggested Taylor, who claims to be penniless despite a U.N. report that suggests he salted away millions while ruling Liberia, was asking too much.

“If the counsel have been good enough for 10 of the indictees in the special court, why are they not good enough for Mr. Taylor?” she said.

Senior prosecution trial attorney Brenda Hollis suggested Taylor was trying to stall the case and urged judges not to let that happen.

In his opening statement on June 4, chief prosecutor Stephen Rapp said witnesses will directly link Taylor to crimes committed by rebels.

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

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

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

Prosecutors say the rebels were among those supported by Taylor.

Associated Press

Tuesday, 26 June 2007

Ex-Liberian leader boycotts own trial

THE HAGUE -- Former Liberian president Charles Taylor boycotted his war crimes trial again yesterday, drawing an accusation from a prosecutor that he was manipulating the process from his jail cell. Because Taylor has fired his court-funded lawyer, he was not represented in court, forcing judges to adjourn the trial until July 3, when the first prosecution witness is due to testify.

The court will appoint temporary defense counsel. As he did at the trial's opening three weeks ago, Taylor stayed in his cell and complained that he lacked the funds to mount an adequate defense against charges of arming Sierra Leone rebels and orchestrating a murderous terror campaign during that country's 10-year civil war. The UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone, which is funded by voluntary contributions, has offered to give Taylor \$50,000 a month for his defense. (AP)

Cocorioko website

Monday, 25 January 2007

Taylor Calls For More Resourcesrefuses to surface again

By Umaru S Jah

Sierra Leone Special Court indictee, Charles Taylor, has again refused to appear at his trial at the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague. He has asked for adequate resources and replacement of his legal team to be able to defend issues regarding the evidences against him.

The Principal Defender, Vincent Nmehiely, said Taylor has expressed fears that he will not have a fair trial if his demands are not met. "The accused showed interest in what he called resolving the current impasse and said he is willing to cooperate with the court in order to avoid a delay of trial." The legal luminary expressed concerns over Taylor's quest to represent himself which he said, is not in the accused best interest and the judicial system as a whole. He said, "I have since produced and tendered report of the consultation with Taylor to the Registrar." He stressed the need for engaging the Registrar to speedily facilitate the process of enabling the accused to have a formidable legal team.

Reacting, the representative from the Registrar, Micheal Adaenuga, said a motion has been filed which indicates that the demands are excessive but that the Registrar still remains flexible and willing to cooperate with them.

A member of the prosecution, Ms Brenda Holis, pointed out that "The accused should not be allowed to benefit from a situation he is making" and suggested that the court should order him to appear in court.

The presiding judge of the trial chamber, Julia Sebutende, described the accused absence as "tantamount to boycotting the trial" adding, "he does not have any right to come to trial as and when he thinks necessary." Julia Sebutende warned of a potential delay of the trial and asked the principal defender, Vincent Nmehiely appoint an interim legal team. She directed the Registrar to ensure that the principal defender is able to present a full legal team before the chamber as of July 31.

The court was adjourned to July 3

Foreign and Commonwealth Office (UK)

Friday, 22 June 2007

Press Release



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Friday 22 June 2007 12:28

Foreign and Commonwealth Office (National)

Special court for Sierra Leone verdicts

Welcoming reports of the first verdicts in the trials of those accused of crimes against humanity at the Special Court for Sierra Leone, Lord Triesman, Minister for Africa at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office said:

"This is an important landmark in bringing justice in Sierra Leone, a tangible contribution to the process of international justice. These verdicts show how those who have suffered horrific crimes can work with the international community to ensure there is no impunity for those who commit such acts.

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

Press Office, Downing Street (West), London SW1A 2AL

GNN ref 148533P

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 25 June 2007

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

International Clips on Liberia

Liberia's Taylor trial adjourned

BBC
25 June 2007

The war crimes trial of Liberia's ex-President Charles Taylor has been adjourned until 3 July. The delay is to appoint a defence team after Mr. Taylor sacked his lawyer. Mr Taylor is boycotting The Hague trial, saying he will not get a fair hearing. He is accused of backing rebels in Sierra Leone in an 11-year campaign that killed thousand of civilians. He denies all the charges. It is the first case of its kind against an African former leader. Before Monday's session, court official Vincent Nmehielle said Mr Taylor had called him to say he would not attend the court. "He [Taylor] said the chamber knows why he will not be in court," said Mr Nmehielle, responsible for the rights of the accused. But presiding judge Julia Sebutinde said: "For the record, the chamber does not know. We have not officially been informed why Mr. Taylor is not in court."

Liberia's Taylor Boycotts Trial Again

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) 25 June 2007 -- Former Liberian president Charles Taylor boycotted the resumption of his war crimes trial Monday, again blocking efforts to try him on charges of orchestrating a murderous terror campaign during Sierra Leone's 10-year civil war. Judges were forced to adjourn the case until July 3 because of Taylor's absence and the fact that he had no lawyer in court. "I got a call this morning that Mr. Taylor said he will not be in court," said Vincent Nmehielle, the court's principal defender who is responsible for ensuring Taylor can mount an adequate defense to the charges. "He said the chamber knows why he will not be in court." Presiding judge Julia Sebutinde angrily responded, "For the record, the chamber does not know."

Liberians Re-sit exams after fraud

BBC
25 June 2007

Some 20,000 secondary school students in Liberia are re-sitting final year exams which were cancelled last month because of fraud. Airport officials had broken into boxes containing exam papers and sold them to students, an investigation found. The papers had been flown in from Ghana. Students sit the same exam across English-speaking West Africa. A BBC correspondent says there is tight security to prevent any recurrence of the cheating. The West African Examinations Council (WAEC) is determined to crack down after its previous exams were flawed by scams.

Asylum seeker jailed for rape

DerryJournal.com 25 June 2007-- A Co. Donegal based asylum seeker who was forced to fight as a child soldier in the Liberian civil war, was jailed for four years at the crown court in Derry yesterday after he admitted raping a twenty years old female student. Henry Ojaiko, (19), from Cliff View Hostel in Donegal Town, fled Liberia two years ago after he'd been shot in the leg during the civil war. The court was told he was forcibly recruited when he was ten years of age after his parents had been killed in the war. Ojaiko, who has applied for asylum in the Republic of Ireland, raped his victim during a students' party in a house at Argyle Street in Derry on June 16 of last year.

UN SECURITY COUNCIL REQUESTS PANEL OF DIAMOND EXPERTS TO RE-ASSESS LIBERIA

DIB Online, 24 June 2007—The United Nations Security Council called upon Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to set up a panel of financial and diamond experts to renew investigations of whether UN sanctions against Liberia are being violated. This request follows credible reports that former Liberian President Charles Taylor, now in The Hague facing trial for war crimes, may still have access to considerable wealth. In a unanimously adopted resolution, the Council appealed to Ki-moon to establish, within one month, a three-member Panel of Experts to conduct a follow-up assessment in Liberia and neighbouring countries in order to determine the effectiveness and impact of the measures introduced against Taylor and others in a previous UN resolution.

International Clips on West Africa

Ivory Coast pollution victims reject proposed allocation of pay-out

ABIDJAN, June 25, 2007 (AFP) - Victims of a toxic waste dumping in Ivory Coast on Monday spurned government's proposed sharing of nearly 200 million dollars in compensation from a Dutch firm accused of the pollution. The National Federation of Victims of Toxic Waste of Ivory Coast (FENAVIDETCI) "rejects in its entirety" the proposed distribution of the funds, its president Denis Pipira Yao said. According to details released last week by President Laurent Gbagbo's office, the families of the 16 victims who died will each receive 152,000 euros in compensation out of the 152 million euros (200 million dollars). But the bulk of the funds paid out by the multinational Trafigura in settlement for the August 2006 pollution outbreak will be retained by the state for development projects.

Softs - Cocoa steady in quiet trade on strong pound; coffee, sugar extend Losses

LONDON AFX International Focus (Thomson Financial) June 25, 2007 - Cocoa futures were steady as the strength of the pound against the dollar dampened enthusiasm for trade, with reports of falling exports from the world's main cocoa exporter Ivory Coast lending some support. At 2.14 pm cocoa for September delivery was flat from Friday's close at 1,068 usd a tonne on the Euronext Liffe. Trade was light in London as the strong pound dampened enthusiasm for cocoa, which is priced in sterling. Strength in the pound makes the commodity more expensive for buyers holding other currencies.

Local Media – Newspaper

IRC Launches Week-long Awareness Campaign Against GBV

(Heritage)

- The International Rescue Committee (IRC) in collaboration with the Women and Men Action groups will launch a weeklong-long awareness campaign today to increase the need for boys and men to be involved as equal partners in the fight against gender-based violence in Liberia.
- The campaign will be launched on the theme “Men As Partners in Ending Violence Against Women,” (MAPEVAW). It would be launched in nine sites in Montserrado, Lofa and Nimba Counties.

World Bank Moves to Boost Liberia’s Health Sector

(The Analyst and The Informer)

- The World Bank has stepped up its assistance to Liberia with the provision of US\$8.5 million to develop the country’s health sector.

U.S. Government to Renovate Public Works Ministry

(National Chronicle)

- The U.S. Government said that it will provide US\$2 million for the renovation of the Public Works Ministry.
- The contribution is a manifestation of America’s sustained commitment to support Liberia’s ongoing efforts to reconstruct and rehabilitate vital national infrastructure.
- The funding of the Public Works renovation comes many weeks after the U.S. Government donated a consignment of road building equipment to the ministry.

French Football Star Joins Peace Campaign in Liberia

(Heritage and New Vision)

- The French international and Barcelona football star, Lillian Thuram, has encouraged Liberian youths to denounce war and violence which he said are dangerous to peace and development.
- Mr. Thuram spoke to a large crowd, mostly youths in Monrovia Sunday during a one-day visit to the war-torn country.
- His visit was facilitated by the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA) in collaboration with Right to Play, an international NGO working with youths in Liberia under the Sports for Peace Programme.

Liberia to Launch New Population Census after 23 Years

(The Analyst, The Inquirer and Daily Observer)

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf will this Thursday officially launch the 2008 National Population and Housing Census in Monrovia, the first in 23 years.
- The launch, according to the Liberian Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS), will set the stage for preparatory work that will lead to the commencement of Population and Housing Census scheduled for March next year.
- The last population census in Liberia was conducted in 1984. Article 39 of the Liberian constitution requires that a census is held every 10 years. However, the civil war interrupted this procedure.
- The 2008 Census is apparently in view of the fact that the demographic profile of Liberia has changed considerably since the last censuses of 1962, 1974, and 1984.
- It is believed that a census would help policy makers devise ways to prevent the outbreak of diseases and give vital benchmark database to measure and standardize the transformation of Liberia.

Chief Executive Opts for Reopening of State University

(Liberian Express, Plain Truth, The Analyst, The Inquirer, The Informer and Daily Observer)

- In a statement issued by the Executive Mansion over the weekend, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf who is also Visitor to the University encouraged the students and faculty to express their willingness to return to classes so that the suspension can be lifted by the university administration.
- Classes at the state-owned university were suspended for time indefinite following a students protest demanding a return of their professors to the classrooms.

Local Media – Radio Veritas *(News monitored yesterday at 6:45 pm)*

Former President Taylor Boycotts Trial Again

- The trial of former President Charles Taylor accused of war crimes and crimes against humanity has resumed in The Hague with Mr. Taylor again refusing to appear in court.
- Mr. Taylor boycotted the trial at the opening on 4 June saying he did not trust the court and wanted a larger defence team.
- A court official, Vincent Nmehielle's informed the court that Taylor had called that he would not attend the court.
- He is accused of backing rebels in Sierra Leone in an 11 year campaign that killed thousands of civilians but Mr. Taylor has denied the charges.

(Also reported on ELBS)

U.S. Government gives US\$2 Million for Public Works Ministry Renovation

- In a release issued in Monrovia yesterday, the U.S. Government said it will provide US\$2 million for the renovation of the public works ministry and said this is a manifestation of America's sustained commitment to support Liberia's ongoing efforts to reconstruct and rehabilitate vital national infrastructure.
- President Johnson-Sirleaf and Ambassador Donald Booth are expected to officially kick off the renovation project today.
- The funding of the public works renovation comes many weeks after the U.S. Government donated a consignment of road building equipment to the ministry.

(Also reported on ELBS)

Government to Launch 2007/2008 Population Census Thursday

- The Liberian government will this week launch the 2007/2008 population housing census the first in nearly 23 years.
- President Sirleaf will perform the launch under the theme "Support Census 2008 for Improved Health, Education and Development" and comes on the heels of months of intensive planning setting the stage for preparatory work for the actual census taking in March 2008.
- The Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-information Services(LISGIS) is conducting the exercise which is intended to develop the necessary social, demographic and economic data at the lowest administrative subdivision that will be the basis for long-term development planning for Liberia.

(Also reported on ELBS)

ULFA Accuses Executive Mansion of Divide and Rule Tactics

- In a release issued at the week, the University of Liberia Faculty Association (ULFA) accused the Executive Mansion of using divided and rule tactics to split faculty members but urged its members to continue the over one week old strike.
- The association expressed disappointment over "inflammatory statements" made by President Sirleaf that a small portion of the faculty disrupted normal academic activities something which she described as an act of hooliganism.
- Meanwhile the UL faculty association has described the investigation panel set up by the administration as a "kangaroo committee" and has vowed not to submit to it.

French Football Star Wants Liberians Work to Maintain Peace

- Speaking yesterday upon his arrival in the country, French and Barcelona football star, Lillian Thuram called on young Liberians to denounce war and violence by doing things that would bring peace and development to the country. He then urged citizens to work towards the maintenance of the peace being enjoyed by everyone.
- He was later awarded a plaque by the UNMIL Sports for Peace Committee and was gowned by a local cultural group during an official ceremony.

(Also reported on ELBS)

Media for freedom

Tuesday, 26 June 2007

Child Soldiers Coalition welcomes verdicts against child recruiters in Sierra Leone

The Child Soldiers Coalition welcomes today's verdict by the Special Court for Sierra Leone against Alex Tamba Brima, Brima Bazzy Kamara and Santigie Borbor Kanu for, among other charges, the enlistment of children under the age of 15 and using them to participate actively in hostilities. The judgment confirms that children were recruited into the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC), one of the parties to the conflict during Sierra Leone's 11 year civil war.

The judgement sets a historic precedent since, for the first time, an international criminal tribunal has successfully prosecuted individuals for the recruitment and use of children as soldiers.

"The ruling sends the strongest of signals that recruiting and using children by government forces or armed groups is among the most serious crimes under international law and that those who engage in the practice can and will be brought to justice." said Victoria Forbes Adam, the Coalition's director.

The recruitment and use of children were some of the most widespread violations of international humanitarian and human rights law during the civil war. It is estimated that between 10,000 and 30,000 under-18 year olds actively participated at some point during the 11 year conflict: though, unfortunately, the jurisdiction of the Special Court is limited to cases of conscripting or enlisting children under the age of 15 years. Many of the children, who were used by all sides, were forcibly recruited.

Those children who were the victims of enlistment and use, many of whom are now young adults, urgently need support. In its final report completed in 2004, the Sierra Leone Truth and Reconciliation Commission specifically recognized that forcibly recruited children were among those who still suffer the consequences of the war and recommended specific reparative measures for them.

The Coalition's own field research in 2006 among former child soldiers with the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), another of the parties to the conflict and one to which the AFRC was closely associated, found that many have not successfully reintegrated into their communities and that they lack support and opportunities. For those who took part in the formal disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) process, vocational training and employment opportunities were inadequate. As a result, many have returned to the mining industry or the streets from where they were originally seized by the RUF. Significant numbers, perhaps as many as half, did not take part in the DDR process and subsequently received no support. Girls in particular were not included and are now facing lives of exclusion and poverty.

The Coalition calls upon the Sierra Leone authorities, with the support of donors, to provide effective remedies to former child soldiers to ensure that their suffering is fully acknowledged and that they are provided with appropriate support and assistance. This must include restitution, compensation, rehabilitation, satisfaction and guarantees of non-repetition. It should also include

psychosocial support and education, training, employment and other programs to facilitate their meaningful participation in society. Such assistance should be offered in the context of broader programs to help all war-affected children.

The inclusion of the charges of child conscription and use is the result of an historic decision taken by the Special Court's Appeal Chamber in May 2004. In response to a motion challenging its jurisdiction, the Chamber ruled that conscripting or enlisting children under the age of 15 to participate in hostilities was recognized as a crime under international customary law.

With this decision, the Court ruled that the defendants were subject to individual criminal responsibility for this offence during the entire period covered by the court's jurisdiction. More broadly, the ruling creates important jurisprudence that can be used by courts elsewhere to consider charges against

individuals for the crime of recruitment and use of children that took place prior to the adoption of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court in 1998.

"The Special Court has set some important precedents and contributed significantly towards delivering justice to the countless victims of the civil war," said Dee Brillenburg Wurth, West Africa Project Manager to the Coalition. "However, the narrow interpretation by the Prosecutor on the '*greatest responsibility*' standard applied along with the amnesty provision contained in the Lomé Peace Agreement means that many other suspects, including those who recruited and used children - will remain at large," she added.

The Coalition reminds the Sierra Leone government that it has the duty to investigate and, if there is sufficient admissible evidence, to prosecute before national courts persons suspected of enlisting or conscripting children and, if found guilty, the duty to punish them.

Background information

Tens of thousands of civilians were killed during the civil war from 1991 to 2002. The conflict was characterized by widespread abuses, in particular rape and sexual slavery, where girls and women were forced into "marriage", domestic servitude or other forced labour that involved forced sexual activity, including rape by their captors; the use of child soldiers; mutilation; destruction of property; and forced displacement.

In January 2002, the Government of Sierra Leone and the United Nations signed an agreement to establish the Special Court for Sierra Leone, to prosecute those "who bear the greatest responsibility" for crimes against humanity, serious violations of international law and a few select aspects of Sierra Leonean law committed in Sierra Leone since 30 November 1996, the date of the Abidjan Peace Accord.

In addition to Alex Tamba Brima, Brima Bazzy Kamara and Santigie Borbor Kanu of the AFRC, five other people are also on trial in the Special Court for crimes including enlistment of children under 15. They include three former RUF leaders, and two former Civil Defence Forces (CDF) leaders. The former Liberian President and principal backer of the RUF, Charles Taylor, has been charged by the Special Court, but for security reasons has been transferred to The Hague to stand trial. The enlistment and use of child soldiers are also among the charges against Taylor.

END

International Center for Transitional Justice

Sunday, 24 June 2007

Iraq Tribunal Issues Verdict in *Anfal* Case

Tribunal's Flaws Persist in Historic Trial for Iraqi Kurds

BAHRAIN, June 24, 2007—The verdict issued today by the Iraqi High Tribunal (IHT) in the *Anfal* case was a historic moment for Iraqi victims, said the International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ). The tribunal found five defendants guilty of charges of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes. Charges against a sixth defendant were dropped. Although the *Anfal* trial proceeded more smoothly than the *Dujail* trial, it still appeared to fall short of international fair trial standards, particularly in failing to ensure the right to an adequate defense.

Anfal was the second case heard by the Tribunal, and was more factually and legally complex than the *Dujail* case. The case focused on a series of coordinated attacks in 1988-1989 by Iraqi forces targeting the Kurdish population in northern Iraq, in which up to an estimated 180,000 Kurds were displaced, imprisoned, or killed. Proceedings began on August 21, 2006, with seven accused standing trial, including Ali Hassan al-Majid, former secretary of the Ba'ath Party's Northern Bureau (nicknamed 'Chemical Ali'), and former president Saddam Hussein. Hussein was dropped from the case after his hasty execution on December 30, 2006.

All defendants were charged with war crimes, genocide, and crimes against humanity. Witnesses for the prosecution gave harrowing evidence on the impact of the *Anfal* campaign on the Kurds. The trial also relied on extensive documentation produced by the Ba'athist regime. Particularly significant were the forensic evidence and allegations on the use of chemical weapons. Less than 10 witnesses were heard for the defense, and the court repeatedly refused motions to facilitate any testimonies of defense witnesses that were not provided live.

"The *Anfal* trial was in some ways better managed than *Dujail*, but it still had very significant problems," said Miranda Sissons, head of the ICTJ's Iraq program and one of its trial monitors. "These included impossibly vague charges, political interference in judicial assignments, and a failure to fully facilitate defense witness testimony. We'll be studying the judgment carefully to see whether the judges took due account of these challenges."

Although the *Anfal* trial showed some improvements over the *Dujail* trial, it also suffered from similar flaws. The case was dogged by political interference, gaps in the evidence, and a number of breaches of fair trial standards. For instance, it suffered an immediate setback when the presiding judge, Abdallah al-Amiri, was replaced at the request of the Prime Minister's Office after making controversial comments three weeks into proceedings. As in *Dujail*, the Trial Chamber issued charges so broad and vague as to violate defendants' rights to be adequately informed of the charges against them. Furthermore, the Trial Chamber's refusal to facilitate defense witnesses through video link or similar arrangements may have violated defendants' rights to an adequate defense.

Today's verdicts were delivered in a 75 minute session that contained little indication of the trial chamber's reasoning. According to ICTJ's on the ground observer:

Charges against Tahir Tawfiq were dropped for lack evidence, as per an earlier prosecution request;
 Farhan Mutlak al Jaburi was sentenced to life imprisonment for genocide, and to life imprisonment and ten years imprisonment for wilful killing and deportation or forcible transfer as crimes against humanity.
 Sabr al-Douri was sentenced to three terms of life imprisonment for genocide, wilful killing as a crime against humanity, and intentionally directing attacks against the civilian population as a war crime. He was also sentenced to ten years' imprisonment for the destruction or seizing of the property of an adversary as a war crime;
 Sultan Hashem was given four sentences of death by hanging for genocide, wilful killing and extermination as crimes against humanity, and intentionally directing attacks against civilians as a war crime. Hashem was also sentenced to two terms of life imprisonment for forced

disappearances and other inhumane acts as crimes against humanity, as well as four other prison terms for deportation as a crime against humanity and three counts of war crimes; Hussein Rashid was sentenced to death by hanging for genocide, willful killing as a crime against humanity, and intentional attacks against the civilian population as a war crime. Rashid also received a term of seven years' imprisonment for attacks against buildings dedicated to religious purposes

Ali Hassan al-Majid was given five sentences of death by hanging for genocide as well as willful killing, forced disappearances, and extermination as crimes against humanity, and intentionally directing attacks against a civilian population as a war crime. He was sentenced to multiple prison terms ranging from seven years to life for other inhumane acts as a crime against humanity and other crimes.

The ICTJ opposes the application of the death penalty in all cases as a form of cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment.

Individuals sentenced to more than one penalty will serve only the most severe. The court dropped a number of charges against each individual as a result of lack of evidence. The court also confiscated each defendant's movable and immovable property.

After reading the verdicts and sentences for all defendants, the trial chamber noted that complainants had the right to take a compensation case to the civil courts. The chamber also referred a list of 223 names of individuals to be investigated in relation to the *Anfal* campaign to the Tribunal's investigation department.

The volume of media and other coverage of the *Anfal* trial fell to almost zero immediately after Saddam Hussein's execution, although interest continued to be high among Iraqi Kurds. "After Hussein's execution, the *Anfal* case took place entirely outside of the international limelight," said Sissons. "Outsiders' lack of interest in *Anfal* sent a message that they were interested only in Saddam's execution and not in pursuing accountability for horrific crimes. An important opportunity to pressure the Tribunal to raise its standards was lost."

The ICTJ monitored the *Anfal* trial regularly from Baghdad. The Center will analyze the judgment in greater detail when it becomes available and will then issue a substantive analysis.

Background on the Trial

The Supreme Iraqi Criminal Tribunal was created by order of the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) in 2003 and incorporated into domestic Iraqi law on October 18, 2005. The Tribunal has jurisdiction over Iraqis and Iraqi residents who are alleged to have committed genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes between July 17, 1968 and May 1, 2003. It also has jurisdiction over violations of some Iraqi laws, such as interference in the affairs of the judiciary or the wasting of national resources.

The Tribunal's staff is entirely Iraqi, though its statute permits it to appoint international advisers. The Regime Crimes Liaison Office (RCLO), based out of the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, supports the Tribunal's investigative and logistical needs.

The *Anfal* trial was heard by five judges of the second trial chamber. Charges of crimes against humanity, war crimes, and genocide were brought against the following seven defendants:

Sabr Abdul-Aziz al-Douri: Former General Director of Iraq's Military Intelligence Service;
Farhan Mutlak Al-Jaburi: Former Director of the Military Intelligence Service of the northern region;
Sultan Hashem Ahmed al-Ta'i: Former Commander of Corps I of the Iraqi Army, in charge of the northern sector during the *Anfal* campaign, who later became Minister of Defense;
Ali Hassan al-Majid Al-Tikriti: Alleged architect of the *Anfal* campaign, and cousin of Saddam Hussein. Secretary-General of the Ba'ath Party's northern bureau from March 1987 to April 1989, with authority over all state agencies in the Kurdish region during this period;
Hussein Rashid Al-Tikriti: Former Deputy for Operational Affairs to the Chief of Staff of the Iraqi Army during the *Anfal* campaign;
Tahir Tawfiq Al-'Aani: Former Governor of Mosul, Ba'ath Party official, and assistant to Ali Hassan al-Majid (the prosecutor requested that charges against al-'Aani be dropped for lack of evidence);
 and

Saddam Hussein al-Majid Al-Tikriti: President of Iraq from 1979 until 2003. All charges against Hussein were dropped after his execution on December 30, 2006.

The June 24 judgment is not the final step in the *Anfal* trial. The case will go to cassation, a type of appeal. The appeal may be made on the grounds of errors of law, procedure, and facts. In cases where a sentence of death or life imprisonment is given, under the Iraqi Code of Criminal Procedure, the appeal process occurs automatically and the file is passed to the Cassation Chamber within 10 days of the judgment. Otherwise, individuals can lodge appeals within 30 days. The Cassation Chamber may reverse, revise, or affirm the original judgment of the Trial Chamber, and its judgment is final. Under the Tribunal Statute, sentences must be carried out within 30 days of the final judgment, subject to ratification by the Iraqi President.