

**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

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Tuesday, 26 June 2012

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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Standard Times
Tuesday, 26 June 2012

Charles Taylor Deserves the Punishment

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

BY ISSA BM KAMARA

When one looks at the Liberian/Rebel factor in Sierra Leone's brutal war for blood diamonds and his threat that Sierra Leone will taste the bitterness of war then there is no doubt that he played a major role in our over decade war that virtually wrecked this Nation.

I am pretty certain that you may have read some of my articles under this column of the sad period this Nation and its people went through during our rebel war and military rule, and then it is clearer to you as to what went wrong especially those activities that moved this Country backwards.

Furthermore you would have had a slight knowledge of certain political moves that were either misplaced or misdirected to restore sanity and peaceful co-existence. Whichever way you assess the situation, the fact remains that the cumulative effect of those activities and resultant consequences that happened are not only responsible for the state we are today but the Herculean task we face now to rebuild a shattered nation and to re-brand the image of a country that had won the admiration of the sub-region in particular and Africa in general.

Today, as I write, the task to handle the problems is enormous, yet the awakening reality that no one is to make Sierra Leone for us, but our very selves has not only become crystal care, but has also raised the awareness that together we stand, divided we fall. All hands must be on deck to restore our past glory.

A glory that will remove our over dependence on foreign handouts and that will move us from the bottom index of underdevelopment. It is a situation that should be tackled seriously and with a sense of purpose. No half-hazard approaches will suffice. This is the more reason why I keep refreshing you memory of the darkest period of our history, simply for you to comprehend the disaster we went through. However along the line we also clearly noticed the involvement of a Liberia with a motive that remains anybody's guess. Whether it was to help Sierra Leoneans to defeat the rebels, to make Sierra Leone a base to launch a rebellion in Liberia or for blood diamonds, or revenge by Charles Taylor as he had once promised that we will taste the bitterness of war remains food for thought. Please read on and see what you can make out of that.

At the outbreak of war, other prob-



Author

lems occurred simply as the result of a familiar pattern of ingrained corruption within the military. Senior and top echelon officers responsible for the disbursement of war funds must bear deep blame for the misappropriation that became public knowledge. Between April and August 1991 a total amount of over Le 2.6 billion was expended on the military, excluding Le 200 million monthly for salaries.

Despite this massive expenditure, soldiers in battle fronts suffered a variety of shortage of food, fuel, medication and vehicle spare parts.

In the border south-east combat zone, there were 1,503 troops with 400 civilian volunteers.

These were provided with 48 mostly old transport vehicles for which a required monthly supply of fuel was 5,000 gallons of diesel and 3,000 gallons of petrol. Actual quantities received in the course of several monthly supplies were 3,000 gallons of diesel and 1,800 gallons of petrol. While much of the rest was sold clandestinely some found its way into the private diamond mining enterprises of military officers.

Meanwhile in the combat zone, five senior army officers accused of desertion or collusion with the enemy by giving them information on government troop movements, received the light penalty of a simple dismissal from military service.

All those difficulties were the product primarily of neglect, ineptitude and venality in the military. They also came in the wake of a declining economy which compounded the problem.

The rebels were hardly hamstrung

by such problems. Trained in the tactics of insurgency warfare, they operated in a terrain that was similar to what they were accustomed to in Liberia. The first waves of invaders were augmented by Sierra Leone youths who were captured, terrorized, trained and inducted into their ranks. Among these they obtained knowledgeable guides for their jungle movements. In their arsenal were brand

the rebels pushing them out of many areas they had laid waste and looted.

Regarding the fighting however many government soldiers even so early in the war, were behaving with comparable brigandage.

But there was one factor which made an impressive impact on the success of the Sierra Leone army. This was the ULIMO Factor.

The Liberian war had led to a massive influx of refugees into Sierra Leone.

Among these were former supporters of the murdered President Doe, his ethnic kith and kin, anti-Taylor elements, members of Doe's national army and ethnic Mandingos, all severely victimized in the onslaught of the NPFL forces. In early May 1991, a small group of four was formed in Sierra Leone comprising of Arma Youlo former Assistant Director for intelligence at the National Security agency in Liberia. He was also Director of Operations and Special services dealing with espionage; Alhaji G. V. Kromah former Minister of Information in President Doe's

government, as well as former assistant Professor of Mass Communications at the University of Liberia, James Chelley, Senator from Montserado Country; Major-General Albert Karpeh, Ambassador of Liberia to Sierra Leone. This group was to be joined later by Raleigh Seekie and Roosevelt Johnson. Edward T. Kamara former Minister for Party Political affairs in Sierra Leone acted as the link between the group and President Momoh.

The group which began meeting in March 1991, became known as the Liberian United Defence Force (LUDF). As time went on, the depth of commitment of Kromah, Youlo, Karpeh and Johnson to the objective

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new AK-47 assault rifles, rocket propelled grenade launchers (RPGs) and heavy machine guns, with a seemingly inexhaustible supply of ammunition. There was also the 'simulator' a curious device which simulated the sound of intense machine gun fire and exploding mortar bombs. Its use in the initial stages of the war was clearly unnerving to government troops unfamiliar with it.

It created panic and chaotic retreats that often led to casualties.

The entire rebel arsenal was new, supplied from Charles Taylor's stocks in Liberia. In spite of these advantages, government forces rapidly seized the initiative from

of liberating Liberia from the grip of the NPFL, made them the leading figures in the organization. When the war began in Sierra Leone, they offered to fight the rebels on the understanding that government would provide base facilities for the force they were training to fight the NPFL in Liberia afterwards. To this the government of President Momoh gave its consent.

On 6th April 1991, following the training of the first 150 Liberians in Kenema, the LUDF which later changed its name to the United Liberation Movement of Liberia (ULIMO), commenced operations. The first engagement was in Gofur, eleven miles from Kenema town, from where government troops had retreated in the face of heavy rebel attacks. ULIMO troops engaged the rebels here in a three hour battle and succeeded in pushing them back to Joru, where another five hour battle was fought with rebels sustaining heavy casualties. ULIMO soldiers fighting under the command of Arma Youlo sustained no casualties. A second engagement between ULIMO and the rebels was in Gorahun Tunkia in Kenema district where 22 ULIMO soldiers under the command of the late Lieutenant Solomon Kamara, a Krahn from Kakata in Liberia, and the late Warrant Officer Freekalar successfully defeated the rebels.

Following these successful engagements, ULIMO became a significant factor in the war against the insurgents who had by this time swelled their ranks with a considerable number of forcibly recruited Sierra Leoneans. Other engagements took place in several towns in Kailahun and Kenema districts where ULIMO front line commanders like J. Domingo Bawah or Cobra, a Krahn from Grand Gedeh county in Liberia distinguished themselves.

In late May 1991, Cobra was summoned to Daru army base by Colonel Marray Conteh. At Daru it was decided that a combined force of Sierra Leoneans, Guinean and ULIMO troops was to be assembled for the recapture of Bunumbu, which was now a heavily fortified rebel base, and from where rebels had carried out several attacks over a wide area including Gandorhun in the Kono district.

The town of Bunumbu in Kailahun district hosting one of the oldest educational institutions in the country had developed as a small and prosperous rural community. Its growth as a commercial centre had largely depended on the Teacher Training College established in the 1930s. With funding from the International Development Agency (IDA) beginning in the 1970s, the Institution expanded its Teacher Training Programmes and its structural facilities to some of the best in the nation. Bunumbu College, with highly trained and competent teaching and administrative personal was the pride of the nation. The town and the college fused in a harmonious, tranquil and prosperous relationship. It consequently became a prime target for rebel attack.

On 16th April, the town of Manowa, eight miles from Bunumbu fell to the rebels who had by-passed Daru army base.

NaCSA pays reparation to 12,398 victims across the country

The National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA) has commenced payment of urgent interim reparations, in the form of livelihood grant of Le.300,000 each, to victims of the Sierra Leone conflict across the country.

The grant is in continuation of previous benefits provided to victims across the country since 2009, and a total number of 12,398 victims, who have not received any form of reparation benefit since the programme started in 2008 will benefit.

According to the Programme Manager, Amadu Bangura, the first payment of micro-grant was made in October 2009 and a total of 19,857 victims from the five recommended victim categories (amputees, war wounded, war widows, victims of sexual violence and children) benefited from that

payment.

The catalytic fund available then to kick-start the programme was not enough to extend this benefit to all 33,793 victims registered for the reparations programme, and an outstanding caseload of 12,398 was carried forward. Since then, NaCSA has been trying to secure funds to pay these victims to ensure equity, and the United Nations Peace Building Fund, through the International Organization for Migration (IOM), has again provided additional funding specifically to pay the residual caseload.

Payment is ongoing in all 12 districts, and will last for a month, during which time all victims are expected to have received payment. The payment itself is being done by the Sierra Leone Commercial Bank.

Cont Page 6

NaCSA pays reparation to 12,398 victims across the country

From Page 5

The Reparations Programme Manager explained that only victims who have not received any form of reparations previously will be paid, as this is a continuation of previous benefits.

The TRC recommended the implementation of the reparations programme to respond to the needs and restore the dignity of the five categories of victims mentioned above, who are considered to be the most vulnerable victims of the Sierra Leone conflict, and although recommended benefits include the provision of social service packages such as health and education support, NaCSA, the implementing agency came up with the idea of providing urgent cash grants to

enable victims meet basic needs while modalities are worked out for the provision of social service packages.

Meanwhile, NaCSA is working in close collaboration with the office of the Chief of Staff in the Office of the President to mainstream social services, i.e. free healthcare for vulnerable victims, education for child victims and social security allowance (pension) for amputees and severely war wounded.

In addition to the cash grant, victims have also benefited from emergency medical assistance, psycho-social support, skills training, gynecological treatment and fistula surgery, and housing for amputees.

The payment ends on 25th July 2012.

The New Dawn (Liberia)

Monday, 25 June 2012

War Crimes Court Is A Must-Rep. Mulbah

The Chairman of the House's Committee on National Defense emphasized the need for a War Crimes Court in Liberia. Hon. George Sylvester Mulbah told our correspondent in Gbarnga recently that the establishment of the Court and subsequent trial of individuals who committed heinous crimes against humanity in the country during its civil war, will serve as a deterrent to future war mongers and their supporters.

"Now you know that it will be difficult for war to enter Sierra Leone because those who executed the war have been prosecuted," he said, adding that if Liberia could call for a special court, it would serve as a serious warning for any Liberian dreaming of venturing into war.

The House's Committee Chairman on National Defense said he would support any attempt to bring a special court to Liberia for the prosecution of former war lords in the country, assuring that the government will ensure that those crossing from Liberia to the Ivory Coast to hamper the peace process in that country are brought to justice.

"We will not tolerate anyone wanting to use Liberia to destabilize our neighboring countries as we ourselves have just emerged from protracted civil unrests," the Bong County law maker maintained.

He said as Chairman on National Defense, he will work with the Executive Branch of Government to ensure that those listed by government were arrested and decisively dealt with in line with the laws of the land.

Hon. Mulbah who spoke at a graduation program in Gbarnga, Bong County last weekend, also noted that with the discovery of oil in the country, those who wish to take the focus of Liberians away from how to benefit from such resource will be seriously resisted.

"We now have oil in this country; we will not allow anyone to make us run away from our oil; we are thinking about how to improve the life of every citizen in this country," he exclaimed. According to a survey, he said, each oil block in the country will produce about six hundred billion barrels at a cost of US\$42 trillion at the price of seventy dollars per barrel.

"With this, you don't have to work as citizens before you get money; you have your direct share of this wealth," Representative Mulbah claimed.

- Writes Papa Morris from Bong County

The New Dawn (Liberia)

Tuesday, 26 June 2012

CDC Demands Reconciliatory Justice

E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor



Congress for Democratic Change National Chairman George Solo says the people of Liberia need reconciliatory justice rather than reconciliation on the surface as it is allegedly being preached by the Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf led administration.

In a relax mood, Mr. Solo told the New Dawn Sunday night at the residence of CDC political leader George Weah in the Rehab community outside Monrovia, that it is unfortunate and humiliating for the

country to be forging for national reconciliation in the absence of justice or the prosecution of alleged perpetrators of crimes.

He indicated that those, who meted evil against the country's population, including the killing of innocent people and destruction of properties, valued millions of United States dollars, opening of pregnant women stomach to establish the sex of a child by rebels, among others are today policymakers, riding the best cars and living in luxuries at the expense of their victims.

“Those that created the problems, that brought the protracted civil wars should bear the greater responsibility by facing justice. Those that lobbied for the purchase of arms and the training of rebels to wage war on the Liberian soil and its citizens should be punished in order to have total reconciliation among the peace loving people of this land”, he said.

Chairman Solo said former President Charles Taylor had his day in court, was found guilty and subsequently sentenced for 50 years for aiding and abetting rebels in neighboring Sierra Leone therefore, the international community should establish similar court in Liberia to set precedence for the unborn generation or else, Liberians will never experience real peace and total reconciliation as they will continue to live with bitterness.

He disclosed that the Congress for Democratic Change is about to commence a national reconciliation campaign here that will bring onboard various stakeholders, tribes, traditional elders, and ordinary Liberians. Solo, who did say when, however said the pending reconciliation dialogue is intended to find a way forward in moving the party and the entire country forward in the globalized age.

Macleans (Canada)

Monday, 25 June 2012

<http://www2.macleans.ca/2012/06/25/bill-horace-accused-in-liberia-living-in-toronto/>

Bill Horace: Accused in Liberia, living in Toronto



A former Liberian army rebel commander accused of war crimes is under investigation in Canada

By Michael Petrou on Monday,

Patrick Robert/Sygma/Corbis

A former commander in a rebel Liberian army whose alleged war crimes were first exposed in Maclean's is under investigation by Canada's Crimes Against Humanity and War Crimes Program, a collaborative unit consisting of the RCMP, the Department of Justice, the Department of Citizenship and Immigration, and the Canada Border Services Agency.

Bill Horace fought in the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL), a militia founded and led by Charles Taylor, the former president of Liberia who was recently sentenced to 50 years in prison by a United Nations-backed war crimes court. In March 2010, Maclean's published evidence gathered from alleged eyewitnesses and former associates of Charles Taylor and Bill Horace, as well as witness statements given to Liberia's Truth and Reconciliation Commission—all implicating Bill Horace and men under his command in horrendous atrocities. Horace arrived in Canada about a decade ago and is today living freely in Toronto. When first contacted by Maclean's in 2009, Horace admitted membership in the NPFL but rebuffed or ignored subsequent attempts to interview him. None of the allegations against him has been proven in court.

One of Horace's alleged victims, a man named John Harmon, told Maclean's about a day in 1993 when Horace and men under his command confronted Harmon and other hungry civilians who were foraging for oil palm fruit at an abandoned plantation near the town of Pleebo, close to the border with Ivory Coast.

"They came and accused us of looting and therefore said we should be executed," said Harmon. "Twenty-one were executed in all fashions. They were shot. They were beheaded. Some were nailed to the cross, like my brother, Steve. He was nailed to the cross and then later shot."

Harmon said the victims took a long time to die. “We cried. We tried to talk to [Horace]. People came, some of our relatives came, and they were on the spot begging him while the executions were going on. It is a horrible thing to talk about.”

Harmon said he was saved by the intervention of another NPFL commander named Turtle Bone. His story was corroborated by two witnesses who gave statements to Liberia’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission—though one of the two recalled that the alleged massacre occurred in 1992.

“Everyone around here used to go to the big palm nut farm to cut palm and make oil to eat and sell,” one witness told the commission. “Gen. Bill Horace and his men were passing. They entered the plantation and accused us of looting the place. He then ordered his men to arrest people. They started chasing us, and everybody was running all over the place. They then started firing at us. I first saw one woman fall. The bullet hit her on the head. Her husband was crying. Then one of the other fighters shot him also.”

Under Canada’s Crimes Against Humanity and War Crimes Act, anyone who has committed gross human rights violations can be criminally charged, regardless of their legal status in Canada or where the alleged atrocities took place. An individual can be held accountable for crimes he personally committed, or for those carried out by subordinates.

In practice, though, criminal charges are exceedingly rare in war crimes cases in Canada. It is much more common to deport suspected war criminals than charge them. The standard of proof is lower, as are the financial costs involved. Since the act was passed more than a decade ago, two people have been prosecuted and one convicted.

The following witness statements referring to Bill Horace were given to Liberia’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Maclean’s has redacted names and some personal information to protect those who made the statements. One of the witness statements could not be posted online in an easily legible form. Maclean’s has transcribed the relevant passage (image 7).

STATEMENT

I. INTERVIEW DETAILS:

Date 08/18/06 Time 11:45 am Location: Pleebo
Name of Statement-Taker [redacted]
Language in Which the Statement Was Taken English
V W P O Victim
Ch Wo Da

II. PERSONAL INFORMATION:

1. Last Name [redacted] First Name [redacted]
Any other Name [redacted]
2. Date of Birth [redacted] Place of Birth Pleebo, Maryland County
Present Age 63 Age at Time of Incident [redacted]
Place of Birth Pleebo
3. Present Nationality Liberian
Nationality at Time of Incident Liberian
4. County of Origin Maryland Ethnicity Grebo
5. Contact Information and Address (including phone number if available): [redacted]
6. Mother's Name [redacted]
7. Father's Name [redacted]
8. Education Level High School
9. Occupation Farmer
10. Sex Male Marital Status Married
11. Number of Children 5 (3)
Children's Names [redacted]

12. Other relevant contact information or persons that would enable the TRC to contact you if more information is needed:

[redacted]

III. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL STATUS:

1. Community Affiliations Baptist Church, Maryland Association of Liberians
2. Current Social Standing Farmer
3. Source(s) of Livelihood Farming and external support
4. Economic impact of the conflict on statement giver (briefly) Depleted family situation
means of support and livelihood
5. What do you think would be necessary to restore you to the full social and economic life of the community? Include, if applicable, possible ways that the perpetrator might assist:
Prosecution and reparation

IV. WHAT CAUSED THE CONFLICT IN LIBERIA?

In your opinion, what caused the conflict in Liberia?
How can reconciliation be achieved?
Are you prepared to participate in public hearings as a TRC witness?
The conflict in Liberia was caused by excessive greed for power and wealth. Reconciliation can be achieved by the confession of the wrongs done by perpetrators. I am prepared to participate in TRC public hearing but am afraid for my security.

The Star (Toronto)

Monday, 25 June 2012

Opinion

Law of the jungle in post-Gadhafi Libya

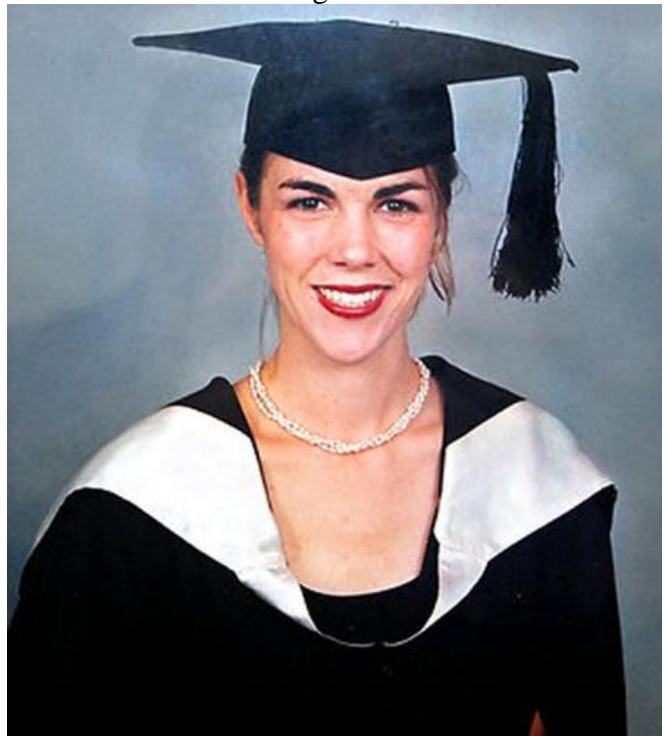
Eric Morse

Fresh from last month's triumph in getting a war crimes conviction against deposed Liberian president Charles Taylor, the International Criminal Court now has its hand caught in a bear trap in Libya.

On June 9, Melinda Taylor, an Australian senior lawyer for the court in The Hague and three of her colleagues were detained in Zintan, west of Tripoli, by Libyan "authorities" on charges of "espionage." The claim is that she was "carrying suspicious documents" for Moammar Gadhafi's captured son Saif al-Islam. According to Reuters, the "authorities" elaborated that "the lawyer had a letter written in English that they wanted him to sign admitting that there is no law in Libya and asking to be transferred to the ICC."

Things became clearer June 11 when those holding her said she would be released if she led them to a key former regime figure linked to Saif al-Islam. Taylor is alleged to have had this individual's GPS co-ordinates on her.

Put baldly, it's a ransom demand which also, as Andrew McGregor of the Washington security think-tank Jamestown Foundation notes, sends a message to the ICC — "the Gadhafis belong to us."



The ICC group was not detained by "Libyan authorities." They are being held by the Zintan militia, one of the most heavily armed and independent formations in the country, whose relations with the internationally recognized National Transitional Council in Tripoli are (at best) strained. In fact, the NTC's control even in Tripoli itself is actively contested. But most of the players in Libya agree that they want to deal with the Gadhafis themselves, and not turn them over to international justice. The Australian foreign minister has come and gone from Tripoli empty-handed.

The affair underscores that post-Gadhafi Libya is a chaotic place with no effective government, and that ICC officials with the temerity to go there are under threat. That is something new and very dangerous.

The detainees also appear to be victims of infighting within the ICC itself. Taylor's ex-colleague Seth Engel has said in a Huffington Post piece that her group was actually there as representatives of the ICC Office of Public Counsel for Defence (OPCD — the defence lawyers in any eventual trial), and that they were caught offside in a spat with Chief Prosecutor Luis Moreno Ocampo, who has taken the very odd position that the Libyans are entitled to try Gadhafi junior at home.

Yet Taylor's group was in Zintan to prepare for Saif Gadhafi's eventual defence, which raises the fundamental question: What on earth were they thinking of? The other question would be, who let them

go there under those conditions — the likely answer is that one silo of the court does not answer to another.

Moreno Ocampo, who retires at the end of next month, is known for international grandstanding. He is also not known for backing down on ICC claims of right to prosecute. In early May, the OPCD accused Moreno Ocampo of having biased the case against Gadhafi by declaring that Saif al-Islam was guilty; the OPCD demanded Moreno Ocampo's removal from the file. Moreno Ocampo had also hinted he had struck a deal with Tripoli to let Gadhafi be tried in Libya — while also asserting that no side in Libya is immune from war crimes investigation, quite rightly given the atrocities that we know have been going on in the country.

It's one thing to assert the supremacy of the court. It's quite another to be so ignorant of the situation on the ground — or so breathtakingly arrogant — as to send four civilians into what are effectively ungoverned lands and expect that nothing will happen.

Engel calls what is going on in Zintan “summary justice,” but it's more than that. It's a demonstration of complete breakdown of order in Libya — hardly surprising after Moammar Gadhafi's fall. The outcome in Libya post-Gadhafi is not much different from the outcome in Iraq post-Saddam, with the exception that this time the West managed to keep its boots off the ground.

None of which is of any help to Taylor, or to the credibility of international justice.

Eric Morse is a former Canadian diplomat, now vice-chair of security studies at the Royal Canadian Military Institute in Toronto.