

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



**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:**

Wednesday, 26 September 2007

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

**Local News**

Special Court Prosecutor Interacts With Civil Societies / <i>Awoko</i>	Page 3
More Funding For Special Court / <i>Awoko</i>	Page 4
Even Former Warlords Deserve Fair Trial / <i>Concord Times</i>	Pages 5-7

**International News**

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary / <i>UNMIL</i>	Pages 8-9
Dictators Can Run But Can No Longer Hide / <i>New Vision (Kampala)</i>	Pages 10-11

Awoko

Wednesday, 26 September 2007

## Special Court Prosecutor interacts with Civil Societies

By Betty Milton

Stephen Rapp the Prosecutor of the Special Court yesterday held an interactive forum with members of Civil Society and pupils of various Secondary Schools on the judgment and sentence of indictees of the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC), Civil Defence Forces (CDF) and Revolutionary United Front (RUF)

Speaking at the Presidential Lounge of the National Stadium Prosecutor Rapp explained about the court, how it was established by an agreement between the government of Sierra Leone and the United Nations and its mandate which is to prosecute those who bear the greatest responsibility.

The Prosecutor maintained that the court is not here to try all those who fought during the war but those who bear the greatest responsibility for the wrongs that were committed.

Stephen Rapp said that the

three groups - RUF, AFRC and CDF - were those identified by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission as bearing the greatest responsibility for the war in the country.

He went on to explain that the conviction by the judges of the AFRC indictees is an indication that they were also responsible for serious crimes during the 10 years war and the sentence a month later to 50, 45 and 50 years in prison.

For the CDF judgment the Prosecutor went on, the two accused were convicted on various grave crimes against humanity not just murder but also cruel treatment and collective responsibility.

He added that the judgment on the CDF is a pointer that it does not matter on which side you are fighting whether fighting against a dictator or to restore democracy the civilians should be

protected.

Explaining about the trial of Charles Taylor Prosecutor Rapp said, Taylor was responsible for the attacks led by the RUF in the country, though there were certain grievances but that most of these attacks were fueled by Charles Taylor.

These attacks he added, were not against the Police or the Army but on the innocent civilian population who were used as slaves and carried loads for the rebels.

Prosecutor Rapp said "this is not about winning or losing, it is about the rule of law and justice."

In her statement Marie Mabinty Kamara of the Special Court Outreach Section said that the Prosecution had been interacting with Civil Societies in the court but that they thought it fit to come out and meet with them outside the court encouraging the pupils to ask questions so as to get first hand information from the prosecutor.

Awoko

Wednesday 26 September 2007

# More funding for Special Court

Australia will increase its support for efforts to bring to justice those responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity in the African nation of Sierra Leone.

Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Foreign Affairs Greg Hunt has announced that a further \$100,000 will be provided to the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

Mr Hunt said this would double Australia's

contribution to \$200,000 this year and bring our total support since 2001 to \$800,000.

The Government of Sierra Leone and the United Nations established the Special Court to try those most responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law and Sierra Leonean law after 30 November 1996.

'Our latest contribution to the Special Court will help sustain its operations

in the critical period until it completes trial action, which is forecast to be in early 2010,' Mr Hunt said.

'The recent Presidential elections in Sierra Leone have enabled the peaceful transfer of power to a new administration.

'This is a remarkable achievement after the appalling civil war between 1991 and 2001. The

Australian Government is pleased to have contributed to Sierra Leone's stability

through support for the Special Court.'

The Special Court trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor for alleged complicity in atrocities committed by Sierra Leonean rebels is underway.

The Court has pursued nine indictments of people on charges including mass murder, rape, enslavement, conscription of children into an armed force and attacks on UN peacekeepers and humanitarian workers.

Mr Hunt said the Court is widely regarded as having made a strong contribution to peace in Sierra Leone. 'It recently convicted five former militia leaders for crimes including the recruitment of child soldiers,' he said.

## Concord Times

Wednesday 26 September 2007

### Even Former Warlords Deserve Fair Trial

# Guest Writer

*By Robtel Neajai Pailey*

The long awaited trial of fast-talking, charismatic warlord-turned-Liberian president Charles Ghankay Taylor was a dramatic tour de force in the complexities of international justice. Though Taylor is being tried on 11 counts of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other serious violations of international law committed during Sierra Leone's 11-year civil war, the defendant himself was nowhere in sight for the first day of the trial, causing heads to turn, brows to furrow, and feathers to be ruffled.

Taylor's lawyer read a letter to the court in which his client called the trial a charade, riddled with deficiencies in representation for the defence team and inadequate resources. Taylor said the court has proven itself incapable of delivering justice because of blatant infringements on his rights, as evidenced by 'the insidious presence of a camera in conference facilities in the Detention Unit, overseeing meetings between lawyer and client that are supposed to be privileged and confidential'.

The camera issue persisted for several months, without any safeguards from the Special Court administration, which has shown its inefficiency in performing the basic functions of legal proceedings. The obvious result was Taylor's indignant absence: 'I choose not to be the figleaf of legitimacy for this process...' he wrote defiantly in his letter.

As I sat in the public gallery and media news room at the International Criminal Court (ICC) in the Hague on June 4, I could not help reminding myself that the events unfolding were not a melodramatic farce, but rather a foreshadowing of months to come in the complicated web of accusations and counter-attacks in the case of one of Africa's most notorious warlords. While some believe Taylor's rebuff of the court de-legitimised the prosecution's evidence against him, others, like Human Rights Watch, believe that the case sends a strong message that impunity will no longer be tolerated in Africa, or elsewhere.

Whatever your perspective, Taylor's absence from the prosecution's opening statements is symptomatic of broader issues of restorative justice, the power of representation, and an international system structured in dominance. Is Taylor a scapegoat for the international criminal (in) justice system, which still has a strong Western influence and funding channel? Who really bears the greatest responsibility for the atrocities committed in Sierra Leone? What about the crimes committed in Liberia? Why was the trial relocated to the Hague, when the crimes were allegedly committed in Sierra Leone? These and many more questions need to be explored adequately for a holistic picture to be drawn.

#### **Background to the case**

The Sierra Leone civil war began in 1991, initiated by the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) led by Corporal Foday Sankoh, who exploited the country's diamonds to fund his push against government forces. Civilians were targeted in an act of irrational retribution, in which tens of millions of thousands died, rapes and mutilations were rampant, and more than 2,000,000 people were displaced because of the 11-year conflict.

The UN backed Special Court for Sierra Leone was mandated in 2002 to try those who bear the greatest responsibility for the war that destabilised much of West Africa and stunted economic/political activity. Taylor's indictment materialised in 2003 before he was granted political asylum by President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria. It is alleged that in exchange for diamonds, Taylor provided the RUF with much needed arms and ammunition, manpower, military training, security and a safe haven in Liberia, as well as strategic and tactical advice, enhancing the junta's ability to continue the war.

The prosecution's opening statements proposed to lay out the foundation of their case, stating that witnesses and documents will eventually present damning evidence that Taylor was responsible for the development and execution of a 'common plan' that led to death and destruction in Sierra Leone.

'The plan, formulated by the Accused [Taylor] and others, was to take over political and physical control of Sierra Leone in order to exploit its abundant natural resources and to establish a friendly or subordinate government there to facilitate this exploitation', said chief prosecutor Stephen Rapp, as he gazed pointedly at an empty seat that Taylor would have inhabited.

Some believe that Taylor should have remained in West Africa to face the victims of his alleged campaign of carnage. Others, however, believe that Taylor's international network of contacts could have posed a threat to the stability of the region if his trial had remained in Sierra Leone. These concerns are legitimate, considering Taylor's Houdini antics throughout the years.

He 'mysteriously' escaped from a Boston jail in the mid-1980s and ended up in military training in Libya. In 2005, he 'disappeared' from his asylum residence in Calabar, Nigeria only to be found at the Nigeria-Cameroon border, before facing arrest in late March 2005. Supported by those who fear Taylor's

stronghold in the region, a swift overhaul of the trial to The Hague has proved problematic anyway, even though the Special Court for Sierra Leone requested the move. Whether on West African soil or within European jurisdiction, this case is complicated and sensitive.

Leading to the trial: A complex web of manoeuvres and counter-maneuvres

The capture of Taylor ricocheted a message across Africa that impunity will no longer be tolerated. After nearly two years of asylum in Nigeria, Taylor — handcuffed and scowling — was transported by UN military police to Sierra Leone at the end of March 2005.

He appeared at the UN Special Court for the first time on April 3 to face charges for supporting Sierra Leone's civil war. As I watched Taylor on screen after his capture at the Nigeria-Cameroon border, I could not help noticing that the warmonger looked visibly pissed, like he had been duped by a humiliating practical joke gone awry.

Except no one was there to say, 'Just kidding, Chucky!' All of his playmates had disappeared, leaving the indicted prisoner in UN custody alone and crestfallen. Flashback to the summer of 2003, and a different vignette materialises altogether. Taylor stood draped all in white like a king on the tarmac of Liberia's Roberts International Airport, waving and promising to return someday 'by God's grace'. He was headed for political asylum in Calabar, Nigeria after being forced into exile by international condemnation and rebel factions campaigning for his departure. The fact that Taylor briefly landed on Liberian soil three years later only to be transported to a UN military jet for an oh-so-eventful journey to Sierra Leone, and then the Netherlands to face war crimes charges, is one of the most twisted ironies of our time. In fact, the past two decades of Taylor's life would be an intriguing epic.

In a recent discussion with my cousin Edward Dillon, we managed to concoct a skeletal memoir filled with twists and turns that could land Taylor on somebody's bestseller list. We figured that such a book would more importantly hold the key to his misadventures. It would serve as an exposé of sorts, explaining the extent of his ties to some of the big wigs of African politics and non-Africans alike.

Taylor has been connected to Libya's Muammar al-Gaddafi, Burkina Faso's Blaise Compaore, Cote d'Ivoire's late president Felix Houphouet-Boigny, former Ghanaian head-of-state Jerry Rawlings, and even US evangelist Pat Robertson, who signed a deal to mine an area in southeastern Liberia in exchange for Taylor's 10 per cent share in the

*Contd. page 9*

*From page 4*

company. Taylor was armed with charisma, a West African entourage of cohorts and international connections to boot.

The indictments of Taylor's West African networks were many. Sankoh died in prison from a heart attack and failing health while he was awaiting trial. Johnny Paul Koroma, who wielded control of the Sierra Leone Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) that overthrew President Tejan Kabbah in a coup in 1997, is still at large. Notorious RUF field commander Sam Bockarie, who was killed in Liberia allegedly by Taylor's command for fear of reprisal, was also indicted.

Samuel Hinga Norman, former Sierra Leone Minister of Interior and head of the Civil Defence Force, was months away from a verdict, when he mysteriously died in prison. Though Kabbah eventually testified in front of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Sierra Leone, some argue that he was equally complicit in committing atrocities as Norman. Why was he not indicted? Similarly, Gaddafi of Libya has ingratiated himself into the favour of the US once again. Like most African became president of Liberia in 1997, said Banks, who served as a lead drafter of the current Liberian constitution.

A conflict resolution arbiter during Liberia's conflicts from 1990-1996; Banks censured the UN Special Court for Sierra Leone for its limited mandate. 'The authority granted to the court is circumscribed only to the crimes in Sierra Leone', he said in April 2006 at a press conference in Washington DC. According to Banks, the crimes that Taylor committed during his rebel war in Liberia from 1989-1996 were more extensively grotesque. 'Liberia is not getting out of the international intervention what it deserves', said Banks. He added that there needs to be a tribunal set

up for Liberia to prosecute Taylor and his cronies, many of whom hold positions in the current Liberian government headed by Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. Activists argue that Taylor's case is part and parcel of Liberia's future post-conflict reconstruction development, especially if his accumulated stolen wealth - estimated at over US\$2.5 billion - is returned to the country's treasury.

**More than meets the eye**

Most coverage of the Taylor trial is devoid of critical engagement with the complex questions that bedevil the Special Court for Sierra Leone in particular, and the international criminal justice system, in general. Are truth and reconciliation commissions a Western conception of restorative justice? What about the gachacha courts in Rwanda, which serve as local mechanisms for prosecuting crimes?

Just as the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in Arusha, Tanzania, another UN-backed court system, is riddled with deficiencies, so too is the Special Court for Sierra Leone illegitimate in the eyes of many because it does not spring from the bowels of Africans themselves.

Instead, it serves as a band-aid imprint of appeasement from the West, which is just as complicit in Africa's civil wars as the warlords who have been indicted, Taylor included. After all, the same arms that were

used to destabilise both Liberia and Sierra Leone can be traced to international networks in the US, Russia, and elsewhere.

Taylor's fall from grace is reminiscent of a pantheon of notorious strongmen who have had to face the international criminal (in)justice system, among whom have been Slobodan Milosevic of Yugoslavia and Saddam Hussein of Iraq. What these three men have in common is one self-perpetuating node: an imprint of Western metaphysical guilt and disapproval. Once an enemy of the West, always an enemy of its court superstructure. Yes, Taylor's trial serves as a precedent in its own right in Africa. But it should not be manipulated to serve the needs of legitimising an internationally funded and controlled criminal court thousands of miles away from the continent of Africa itself. Even African warlords-turned-presidents-turned-defendants deserve a fair trial.

*Culled from: Pambazuka*

United Nations  Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

---

## **UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 25 September 2007**

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

### **International Clips on Liberia**

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

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

AP 09/25/2007 08:12:24

### **Ivory Coast restarts identity card program in step toward elections**

PARFAIT KOUASSI

**ABIDJAN**, Ivory Coast - Ivory Coast began a giant and contentious task Tuesday \_ trying to determine who among its millions of inhabitants lacking proper documents qualify for national IDs, a key step toward holding elections expected next year. The national identity card program has been repeatedly delayed and derailed by political wrangling.

### **Local Media – Newspaper**

#### **Government Dismisses Diplomatic Row Report**

*(The Informer)*

- Reacting to a media report of a supposed diplomatic row between the U.S. Embassy and the Liberian government over the hand over of the Ducor Palace Hotel to the Libyan government, the Executive Mansion dismissed as incorrect the report and described it as "speculation" which is far from the truth. A local daily, National Chronicle yesterday quoted a senior Unity Party official as saying that the Americans were not happy that the Libyans have been given the Ducor which is few yards away from its embassy.
- Speaking to journalists, Presidential Press Secretary, Cyrus Badio said President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf and Ambassador Booth were in constant communication and that the U.S. envoy has never raised such a matter.

#### **University and Embassy Sign Agreement Today**

*(The Informer)*

- The University of Liberia and the U.S. Embassy will today sign a lease agreement for the construction of a new chancery at the Greystone Compound in Monrovia. A UL statement issued in Monrovia yesterday said the new facility would be a major investment that will boost Liberia's post-conflict and sub-regional security. As part of the agreement the University will benefit from an endowment fund that will ensure the smooth running of the institution after 15 years of civil war.



### **Lawmakers bar Justice Commission**

*(National Chronicle)*

- The Director of Press at the National Legislature Isaac Reed announced that the House was barring the Catholic Justice and Peace Commission's grading of the performances of members of the Legislature until the Commission's point-man at the House stopped operating in secrecy.

### **Rapist Jailed For Life**

*(National Chronicle, New Democrat, The Informer and The Inquirer)*

- The Judge of Criminal Court "B" has sentenced to life imprisonment 58-year-old Allan Rogers for raping an eleven-year-old girl. The convict was arrested last year and was found guilty by a panel of jury last week in the case prosecuted by lawyers of the Association of Female Lawyers of Liberia (AFELL) through a UNDP partnership. Lawyer representing Mr. Rogers had taken exception to the ruling and announced an appeal to the Supreme Court.

### **Executive Mansion Vows to Fight For Enactment of Asset Freeze Law**

*(New Democrat, Heritage and The Informer)*

- The Executive Mansion said it would not relent in pressing for the enactment of the assets freeze and property seizure law. Presidential Press Secretary, Cyrus Badio said the Executive Mansion has not received the rejected bill from the House of Representatives and reiterated that the President was committed to the passage of the assets freeze.

### **Local Media – Radio Veritas** *(News monitored today at 9:45 am)*

#### **Government Dismisses Diplomatic Row Report**

*(Also reported on ELBS, Star Radio and Truth FM)*

#### **Government Owned University, U.S. Embassy Sign Agreement Today**

*(Also reported on ELBS, Star Radio and Truth FM)*

#### **Executive Mansion Vows to Fight For Enactment of Asset Freeze Law**

#### **Rock Hill Residents Disappointed Over Failed Land Survey**

- Residents of Rock Hill Community around the Ducor Palace vicinity say they are disappointed over the failure of the Ministry of Lands, Mines and Energy to resurvey the disputed 8.1 acres of land as promised by officials of the ministry. The survey was due to take place yesterday but the Assistant Minister for Lands and Survey, Julu Johnson along with the survey team failed to show up as promised by the ministry last week.

#### **58 Year Old Rapist Jailed For Life**

- The Judge of Criminal Court "B" has sentenced to life imprisonment 58 year old, Allan Rogers for raping an 11 year old girl. Rogers was arrested last year and was found guilty by a panel of jury last week. The case was prosecuted by lawyers of the Association of Female Lawyers of Liberia (AFELL) through a UNDP partnership. Lawyer representing Mr. Rogers had taken exception to the ruling and announced an appeal to the Supreme Court.

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

## New Vision (Kampala)

Tuesday, 25 September 2007

### **Dictators Can Run But Can No Longer Hide**

By Opiyo Oloya  
Kampala

THE weekend extradition of former Peruvian strongman Alberto Fujimori to face trial in Peru for corruption and killings committed during his ten-year rule of the South American country, sent unmistakable message for dictators around the world: You can run but you cannot hide.

Fujimori who fled to Japan in 2000 before showing up in Chile in 2005 was extradited by Chilean Supreme Court on charges that include the Barrios Altos and La Cantuta massacres in the early 1990s as Peru battled the Maoist rebel group Sendero Luminoso, the Shining Path.

Fujimori's extradition came barely 72 hours after 82-year-old former Khmer Rouge second-in-command Nuon Chea, known as "Brother Number Two" (Pol Pot was "Brother Number One") was arrested from his jungle home along the Thai border and indicted for his role in activities that caused the deaths of an estimated 1.7 million Cambodians during the communist rule from 1975 to 1979.

Although old and frail, Nuon Chea will face trial for crimes against humanity in a UN-backed tribunal in Phnom Penh. However, what makes Fujimori's case interesting is the fact that he enjoys some support in Peru where he is regarded as the man who saved the country from runaway inflation, civil war and political chaos.

During his reign, Fujimori successfully rid Peru of El Sendero Luminoso guerillas and the rebel El Movimiento Revolucionario Túpac Amaru that had wreaked havoc in the countryside, sowing widespread fear and destruction.

His best moment in the international limelight came in April 1997 when Peruvian commandos tunnelled an underground pathway to the residence of the Japanese ambassador where hostages had been held since December 1996 by the Tupac Amaru guerrillas.

While all 14 rebels were killed in the resulting firefight, the hostages were rescued with minimal loss to the army. Fujimori was hailed as a hero and seemed in total control until things suddenly collapsed around him in 2000.

How could the former leader who enjoyed such international accolades be the subject of arrest as a criminal?

Part of the answer may be found in the global grassroots anti-violence movement spearheaded by organisations like Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International that have successfully used various media to portray former dictators as no better than those who carry out raw terror. The terror of September 11 only served to intensify the spotlight on the bloody tactics used by extremists around the world as well as expose the repressive nature of unpopular leaders who were ignored in the past. Terror is terror is the new mantra.

A good example was former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet who died last December fighting numerous charges against him. For almost a decade, the general had retired in relative wealth, hobnobbing with the likes of former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and the late US President Ronald Reagan.

On October 16, 1998, he was arrested in London while seeking treatment, shocking even his victims who never imagined he would face justice. His final years were characterised by humiliation that he never imagined he would have to go through as a former president. The clamour for justice involving fallen leaders has spread around the world.

In July 2006, bowing to international pressure, the African Union asked Senegalese president Abdoulaye Wade to prosecute the former president of Chad Hissene Habré exiled in Senegal since his ouster in 1990. Habré stands accused of the deaths of 40,000 people and victimising another 200,000 during his eight-year rule of Chad.

Meanwhile, buoyed by the changed climate against dictators, Ethiopian federal court in December 2006 convicted former ruler, Mengistu Haile Mariam, and 70 others of genocide committed during the dark days of Red Terror that saw many Ethiopians killed.

Early in January this year, the dictator was spared the death sentence when he was sentenced in absentia to life in prison. The former dictator is currently enjoying the protection of another African dictator Zimbabwean president Robert Mugabe. But for how long will he stay free?

Secondly, the adoption of the Rome Statute in July 1998 gave teeth to the International Criminal Court with its headquarters in the Hague to bring to justice those accused of committing heinous crimes including genocide, torture and crimes against humanity.

Bolder and stronger, the international body extradited and tried former Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic who died last year before a verdict was rendered. It is currently hearing the case of former Liberian president Charles Taylor. But perhaps the most important factor against dictators is the fact that the world's superpowers, including United States, have increasingly shied away from shielding former allies with blood on their hands.

The last time the US openly helped a former dictator escape justice was when Philippines dictator Ferdinand Marcos was ousted in February 1986 after a 20-year rule, and fled into exile in Hawaii where he died on September 28, 1989 at the age of 72.

Interestingly, though he should have been released from US federal prison two weeks ago, former Panama dictator and narco-trafficker General Manuel Noriega remains incarcerated. US officials are fighting to send Noriega to France where he was convicted in absentia for money laundering.

Indeed, the era of free rides into exile to enjoy looted fortunes stashed away in foreign bank accounts ended with former dictators like Idi Amin, Mobutu Sese Sekou of Zaire, and Ferdinand Marcos of the Philippines. In the new era, a dictator is only safe so long as he remains in power.