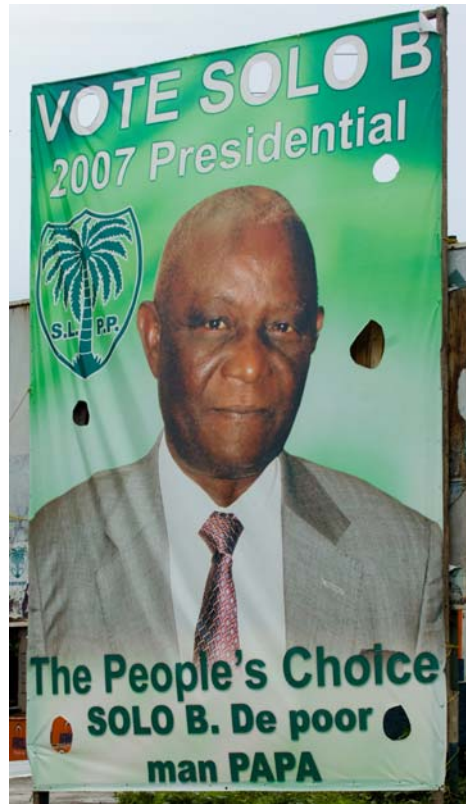


**SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
PRESS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE**



The National Electoral Commission finalised the results of the August 11 presidential and parliamentary elections on Saturday. None of the seven presidential candidates received the 55% of the votes necessary for a first round victory, so a runoff between the two top finishers, Ernest Bai Koroma of the APC and Solomon E. Berewa of the SLPP, will be held on September 8. See today's *'Special Court Supplement'* for the final presidential poll results from NEC.

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:

Monday, 27 August 2007

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

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International News

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Taylor Trial Adjourned / *World Politics Review* Page 7

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Standard Times

Monday, 27 August 2007

The Right of Accused Persons in Court

Before the out break of the civil conflict in Sierra Leone the judiciary was regarded by many people as the most corrupt institution. In fact, the independence of the judiciary, the lack of security of the tenure of judges and government interference served to impoverish the administration of justice in Sierra Leone completely. The TRC report indicates that judges and lawyers failed to stand up against state tyranny. They also failed to give any meaningful content to the rule of law. It also indicates that "lawyers who should be the first line of defence whenever the human rights of people are violated, in most cases turned blind eyes against those things. "Lawyers through their collective inaction contributed substantially to the massive abuse of human rights before the civil conflict", states the TRC report.

Apparently, access to affordable legal representation in Sierra Leone was and is still a serious problem even though the Justice Sector Development Project of Sierra Leone has done extremely well in re-structuring the judiciary but it was to no avail. In fact, most people cannot afford to hire so-

licitors in Sierra Leone despite one of the necessary conditions for the operation of the rule of law which clearly states that "an accused should hire on the service of a lawyer if he cannot afford a legal advocate, the state should provide him with one".

However, this is only on the theoretical aspect and not practical as those who cannot hire lawyers are forced to languish in prison and lock-ups for excessively long period. This clearly indicates that the rights enshrined in the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone are largely meaningless to the common man in the streets.

Indeed, the Lawyer's Centre for Legal Assistance (LAWCLA) has done extremely well in educating the public about their rights, duties and obligations in the law court of Sierra Leone. In the first place an accused is presumed innocent until he/she is found guilty by a court of law.

Further, the right to speedy trial is another right of the accused person. Therefore, he/she has the right to be tried without undue delay and the trial must be carried out in a speedy manner. Also if he is refused bail, the case should not be adjourned for an unreasonable

amount of time. This indicates that the accused person has a right to an advocate. He/she can choose any one to defend him or her. However if the accused cannot afford one, he/she can defend him/her self in court.

An accused person has the right to examine the witness brought before him or her and can cross examine the witness (es).

The right to bail is open to anybody is charged with an offence (other than murder or treason) from a magistrate.

Adults at age 18 or older can be tried in public and those below this age are tried in a close court unless they are charged with an adult.

Despite all what has been said about the rights of the accused persons, it is clear that most of these things are not applicable in some magistrate courts.

After a person has been charged with a criminal offence he/she can be granted bail by a magistrate to a surety.

A surety is a person who represents an accused person and serves as a moral guarantor between him and the court. The surety does not need to take any amount of money to the court. It is also important to note that if the accused jumps bail and refused to appear in court, he/she will be issued with a bench warrant.

New York Times
Monday, 27 August 2007

Liberian Ex-Leader's War Crimes Trial Is Stalled

By MARLISE SIMONS

PARIS, Aug. 25 — When Charles Taylor, the former president of Liberia, was arrested 17 months ago on war crimes charges and ordered to face international judges, it was heralded as a milestone for justice in Africa.

His trial, the first war crimes trial for an African president, was to start in April.

But having barely begun, the case has already lost its momentum. Last Monday, hearings were postponed for the fourth time this year, and the court is now set to reconvene in January.

The latest disruption was the result of Mr. Taylor's dismissal of his court-appointed lawyer, Karim Khan. His new lawyer, Courtenay Griffiths, told the court that his team needed at least four months to study the 40,000 pages of evidence already before the court. And he said that Mr. Taylor's personal archives, about 50,000 pages, had only just surfaced and needed to be examined.

The delays have caused much fingerpointing about who at the United Nations-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone is most to blame.

The responsibility is variously pinned on the judges for trying to schedule the complex case with undue haste, on the court administration for being inept and short of funds, or on Mr. Taylor — who has denied all criminal charges — for stalling.

One problem that has dogged the trial is that it was moved from the relatively inexpensive Sierra Leone to the much costlier city of The Hague, in the Netherlands.

Several countries, including the United States, which was deeply involved in creating the tribunal, feared that a trial in Freetown, the capital of Sierra Leone, for such an influential politician could cause unrest in West Africa.

Court officials say that the move has created more bureaucracy while driving up salaries and travel bills for staff and witnesses.

“The court had to find new offices, move people, hire more staff, find safe quarters for witnesses, all on a very tight budget,” said Stephen Rapp, the tribunal's chief prosecutor.

Turf wars arose with the host, the new International Criminal Court. An official with the Sierra Leone tribunal, who did not want to be identified because he needs to work with both courts, said the international court initially tried to charge “an enormous sum” for the use of one of its rarely occupied courtrooms and insisted on renting out a whole floor of its cellblock instead of just Mr. Taylor's two cells. In the end, prices came down.

But the new location has also put the Sierra Leone court under a stronger spotlight in a town with three other international courts, packed with lawyers, students and observers from the fast-growing field of international law, some of whom have been critical.

As it happens, the Sierra Leone court was planned to benefit from lessons learned from the war crimes tribunals for Rwanda and for the former Yugoslavia, which were seen as slow, expensive and far from the wars' victims.

When it opened in 2002, American officials involved in its creation presented the new institution as a better model, one that would be cheaper, faster and leaner and would try only a few top leaders. One innovation was using both national and international judges.

But in practice, the court, now dealing with just 10 defendants, has had difficulty in carrying out its mandate. Operating on two continents — in Europe for Mr. Taylor and Africa for the other cases — has clearly complicated its mission, but critics say that from the start the court has been slow and inept.

Its original three-year mandate is expected to turn into eight years. The original budgeted cost of \$54 million, based on voluntary contributions, has tripled and is growing. “Because of numerous mistakes and cost-cutting, it has become comparatively more expensive and slower than the other tribunals,” said Antonio Cassese, an international lawyer who wrote an efficiency report ordered by the United Nations that was published this year.

During recent hearings, several lawyers following the Taylor trial from the public gallery were critical of the prickly style of the leading judge and of her rush to open the trial this summer when the prosecutors and defense had agreed that September would be realistic. They said they believed that the bench had been under some political pressure to move the case along.

With their uncertain, voluntary financing, court officials have had to divide their attention, devoting time to drumming up contributions. “We now think this will be a \$4 million trial,” said Herman von Hebel, the new court administrator who, after a recent hearing, rushed off with Mr. Rapp, the chief prosecutor, on a fund-raising trip to world capitals. “We have funds in hand to last us through October,” said Mr. Rapp, adding that new pledges “will take us to into 2008.”

Mr. Taylor has protested the disarray but also exploited it. Although he is believed to have amassed a large fortune, he has claimed to be indigent and demanded legal aid, repeatedly requesting more time and more money to hire the additional top lawyers he wanted to defend him. He faces 11 counts of crimes against humanity and war crimes, for instigating or tolerating many of the enormous atrocities committed by rebels he backed during the Sierra Leone civil war of the 1990s.

Mr. Khan, his former lawyer, said his client became more and more angry as court documents were sent to the defense late or incomplete and motions and requests sent to the court were ignored. “We were fighting a phantom,” Mr. Kahn said. “We often got no replies.”

On the opening day of the trial, Mr. Taylor stayed in his cell. “He told me the only thing which will embarrass this court is public attention,” Mr. Khan recalled in a recent interview. As part of that strategy, Mr. Taylor fired him as the lawyer, knowing this would stall the trial, Mr. Khan said.

Mr. Khan, who walked out of court after announcing that he had been fired, said during the interview that he regretted having to leave “one of the biggest cases in the world.”

But Mr. Taylor’s tactics worked. The judges ordered that “sufficient” funds be provided to defend the accused, and the court has now almost doubled Mr. Taylor’s defense budget, to \$70,000 per month. It also provides close to \$30,000 monthly for other services, like office rent and investigators. Last Monday, Mr. Taylor took his seat in court behind his new team of three lawyers, and the judges granted them preparation time until January.

Meanwhile, on orders of the United Nations Security Council, investigators continue to search for Mr. Taylor’s assets, which, if found, will be tapped for reimbursing the court.

According to the chief prosecutor, governments in half a dozen countries are enrolled in the inquiry, and \$15 million in assets of Mr. Taylor’s business associates have been frozen in Britain, the United States, France, Egypt and Lebanon. But legal proof is still needed that those businesses were fronts for Mr. Taylor.

World Politics Review

Saturday, 25 August 2007

<http://www.worldpoliticsreview.com/article.aspx?id=1065>

Taylor Trial Adjourned

-- Lawyers representing former Liberian leader Charles Taylor successfully lobbied Aug. 20 for a delay in proceedings at the International Criminal Court until Jan. 7, 2008, to prepare a more thorough defense.

British lawyer Courtenay Griffith argued he had not had sufficient time to prepare after being appointed in late July to represent the African strongman. Prosecutors, who have had years to build a case, did not challenge the request in the hopes the extra time now will prevent delays further along in the process.

Taylor, the first former African head of state to be brought before an international court, is charged with 11 counts of crimes against humanity and war crimes for his actions in Sierra Leone's gruesome 1991-2002 civil war. Taylor denies all charges that he actively encouraged and armed rebel groups notorious for their forced recruitment of child soldiers, use of sexual slavery, murderous rampages and mutilations of thousands of civilians.

Griffiths also questioned the necessity of having mutilated victims testify in the trial, as whether the crimes occurred isn't the central issue in the case.

"Nobody is denying that horrific acts were committed. . . . The question is were those horrible things done at the behest of, under the orders of, within the knowledge of this defendant. So let's concentrate on that issue and get rid of all this emotional baggage," Griffith told the court.

Most Africans are watching the trial closely in hopes that a successful prosecution will end a prolonged era of impunity that has seen some of the continent's worst bloodshed in centuries. A few of the continent's current and former dictators, however, are no doubt hoping Taylor will succeed and ease their worries about potentially facing international justice.

For the thousands of Sierra Leonians mutilated and left to struggle for survival in the aftermath of the brutality, Taylor's potential prosecution would be a major emotional victory. Some, like 23-year old Maxwell Fonah, want to see Taylor live out the rest of his days behind bars. Others, like Kabiayatu Fofonah -- who had both her legs chopped off for hiding from rebels -- are hoping for some clarity and closure.

"Maybe when the trial starts we will know more about the war and why it happened. I need to understand this," she told London's Sunday Times.

The Analyst (Monrovia)

Friday, 24 August 2007

Prosecute Former Warlords

The Executive Director of the Association of Disabled Females International (ADFI), Mrs. Racardia B. Dennis has underscored a need to prosecute former rebel leaders and their generals for past atrocities to serve as deterrence to would-be troublemakers.

Speaking at the organization's headquarters in Slipway over the weekend said failure by the Liberian government and its international partners to bring to justice those who committed mayhem against the people of Liberia would amount to promoting impunity in the country.

"Gone are those days when criminals were allowed to masquerade in the midst of civilized and decent people turning themselves into social imposters characterized by deception and falsehood", said Mrs. Dennis.

She said war criminals must be made to account for their evil deeds as their motives can no longer remain under the carpets. "If we permit their brutal ventures to remain unexposed, it will be very detrimental to the victims, and their exposure will serve as deterrence to any future plans".

She commended government and international partners for the establishment of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) to hear testimonies of both victims and perpetrators which will help to reconcile the country and promote national development.

"We also want to urge the TRC to be more sensitive to the plight of war-related adventitious persons particularly women and children who were the most vulnerable and victimized opponents", she said.

She said the organization has launched a tactical mapping operation across the country to make a documentary on war-related adventitious persons focusing on women and children.

Mrs. Dennis said the organization will collect nationwide statistics and data on the number of persons made handicapped as the result of the 14-year civil war in the country.

Special Court Supplement

Final Results of the August 11 Presidential and Parliamentary Elections

National Electoral Commission – Saturday, 25 August 2007



Republic of Sierra Leone
NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION
FINAL ELECTION RESULTS



Final Results Summary

Updated 25 Aug 2007 10:00

Tally Progress

National: 6,163 of 6,163 (100.0%) polling stations reported

District	Stations Reported	Stations Pending	% Reported
Kailahun	421	0	100.0%
Kenema	631	0	100.0%
Kono	417	0	100.0%
Bombali	517	0	100.0%
Kambia	322	0	100.0%
Koinadugu	349	0	100.0%
Port Loko	527	0	100.0%
Tonkolili	412	0	100.0%
Bo	567	0	100.0%
Bonthe	190	0	100.0%
Moyamba	310	0	100.0%
Pujehun	252	0	100.0%
WA Rural	252	0	100.0%
WA Urban	996	0	100.0%
National	6,163	-	100.0%

Turnout

National: 1,984,106 (75.8%) for reported polling stations

District	Voters	% Turnout
Kailahun	141,463	77.6%
Kenema	211,636	78.1%
Kono	136,296	75.6%
Bombali	157,097	76.5%
Kambia	88,778	65.9%
Koinadugu	79,857	66.9%
Port Loko	161,096	74.5%
Tonkolili	127,261	75.1%
Bo	190,442	79.3%
Bonthe	56,256	77.4%
Moyamba	89,073	73.3%
Pujehun	70,826	72.3%
WA Rural	85,184	75.1%
WA Urban	388,841	79.1%
National	1,984,106	75.8%

Presidential Election by District

District	KOROMA (APC)	TURAY (CPP)	JALLOH (NDA)	CONTEH (PLP)	MARGAI (PMDC)	BEREWA (SLPP)	KARIM (UNPP)	District Total
Kailahun	6,997	1,452	1,130	864	19,721	102,174	392	132,530
Kenema	23,847	2,184	2,529	1,270	42,394	123,811	602	196,437
Kono	43,566	2,418	1,304	584	4,803	70,798	621	124,084
Bombali	121,715	3,087	1,055	551	2,751	15,342	641	145,142
Kambia	55,525	2,203	1,087	833	1,510	19,498	707	81,363
Koinadugu	42,027	2,087	918	525	1,500	23,719	453	71,229
Port Loko	118,131	4,085	1,301	852	2,094	22,649	785	147,657
Tonkolili	98,498	2,597	858	412	1,327	15,298	544	117,334
Bo	18,320	1,817	1,523	1,497	66,770	89,383	472	179,782
Bonthe	1,597	682	676	643	31,995	16,590	164	52,347
Moyamba	14,448	1,873	1,181	1,118	28,454	32,258	491	79,823
Pujehun	1,890	627	623	725	28,825	33,114	166	65,770
WA Rural	50,912	1,250	619	288	3,473	21,758	299	78,597
WA Urban	222,260	2,288	3,144	794	20,082	117,622	943	367,113
National	815,523	28,610	17,748	10,556	255,499	704,012	7,260	1,839,208

Summary of Votes by District

District	Valid Votes	Invalid Votes	Total Votes
Kailahun	132,530	8,933	141,463
Kenema	196,437	15,199	211,636
Kono	124,084	12,212	136,296
Bombali	145,142	11,955	157,097
Kambia	81,363	7,415	88,778
Koinadugu	71,229	8,628	79,857
Port Loko	147,657	13,439	161,096
Tonkolili	117,334	9,927	127,261
Bo	179,782	10,660	190,442
Bonthe	52,347	3,909	56,256
Moyamba	79,823	9,250	89,073
Pujehun	65,770	5,056	70,826
WA Rural	78,597	6,597	85,184
WA Urban	367,113	21,728	388,841
National	1,839,208	144,898	1,984,106