

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



Elephant spotted in Aberdeen

**PRESS CLIPPINGS**

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

**as at:**

Thursday, 27 June 2013

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.  
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact  
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# **“SIERRA LEONE LACKS JURISDICTION TO PROSECUTE IBRAHIM BAH” ....SAYS INTERNATIONAL LAWYER**

**By Yusufu Sesay**

An international lawyer who doubles as the executive director of Sierra Leone Institute of International Law, ambassador Alieu Ibrahim Kanu equivocally disclosed that Sierra Leone lacks the jurisdiction to prosecute

Ibrahim Bah, allegedly accused of supplying arms to the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) in Sierra Leone headed by Foday Sankoh and as well as to the former president of Liberia Charles Taylor.

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## **“SIERRA LEONE LACKS JURISDICTION TO PROSECUTE IBRAHIM BAH”**

### **From Front Page**

He said the alleged offences committed by the said RUF armed dealer is a crime against humanity which he said is between two or more states.

Ambassador Kanu noted that such person would only be tried in a country which has domesticated the United Nations International Convention on Crimes Against Humanity which he said Sierra Leone are yet to domesticate such convention.

He said country like Brussels, Belgium which has domesticated the principle of universal jurisdiction has the power to trial anybody wherever the offence is allegedly committed.

Ambassador Kanu noted that the Sierra Leone police has the requisite power to investigate Ibrahim Bah to ascertain whether the suspect is the same person as Ibrahim Balde, Ibrahim Barry as he usually claimed to be whenever he wants to travel in any part of the world.

He said after the conclusion of the investigation, the government of Sierra Leone should hand their findings to the United Nations Security Council who would later forward the matter to the International Criminal Court (ICC) for prosecution.

He stressed the need for the government to work towards incorporating international crimes into the country's law book.

He said Sierra Leone has not signatory to more than fifty (50) UN international convention and not to talk about how many treaties has been domesticated.

The executive director further reiterated that Sierra Leone could only trial the alleged arm dealer by evoking the international convention on crimes against humanity since the country is signatory to the treaty.

He was speaking at a press briefing held at the institution head office, Wilberforce Street Freetown.

## Macleans (Canada)

Wednesday, 26 June 2013

### **Update on Ibrahim Bah, Charles Taylor's gun and diamond runner**

As reported here last week, Ibrahim Bah, the man who for years managed the transit of weapons from Liberia into Sierra Leone in exchange for blood diamonds, has been arrested in Freetown, Sierra Leone. Sierra Leonean authorities, according to the Freetown newspaper Awoko, have now confirmed he is in their custody.

On Monday, U.S. Republican Congressman Frank Wolf wrote Secretary of State John Kerry to urge that America press Sierra Leone to open a criminal investigation into Bah's alleged crimes.

"Such a course of action would be significant for a number of reasons, not the least of which is that most of Africa's worst crimes are usually not adjudicated by and within the country they occurred, especially when the criminal activity involves non residents," he wrote in the letter, which has been obtained by Maclean's.

## Oman Observer

Thursday, 27 June 2013

### War wounds fester

By Zoom Dosso — IT is over a week since Ruth Flomo was last able to walk, the bullet lodged in her leg an agonising reminder of the terror of being shot in crossfire during Liberia's bloody civil war 10 years ago. Flomo, then just a teenager, was caught in an exchange of fire between the rebel Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy and troops loyal to ex-president Charles Taylor as the conflict was nearing an end in 2003.

"I am living with a bullet in me," the 28-year-old said, her voice gentle and supplicating, as she held the back of her scarred thigh while resting in an armchair at her home in the Liberian capital, Monrovia. "We were fleeing when a stray bullet penetrated my right leg. I was rushed to the hospital where doctors conducted an x-ray and said that the bullet that pierced my leg was still in my flesh and was just an inch away from my bone."

The medics in the Monrovia hospital were ill-equipped to deal with gunshot wounds and had to discharge Flomo in the hope that the bullet would work its own way out. Ten years later, it regularly causes her serious pain. "After a week in the hospital I was discharged and sent home. I was advised to keep taking antibiotics, ampicillin or penicillin, with the hope that the (bullet) would have come out but to this date it is still in me. Every now and then I feel pain in my leg and my entire body. I don't have the money to go to hospital to remove it. I do not have the means of paying the bill," she said.

Deep psychological and physical wounds remain in Liberia after two back-to-back civil wars which ran from 1989 to 2003 and left a quarter of a million people dead. Numerous rebel factions abused, maimed and killed, some making use of drugged-up child soldiers, and deep ethnic rivalries and bitterness remain across the west African nation of four million people.

There is no official figure for people living with poorly-treated gunshot and explosives wounds but charities estimate that Flomo is among 5,000 women and children coping with the pain of shrapnel they cannot afford to have removed. Miatta Gayflor was just 12 when a bomb exploded near her as she fled a gun battle between government troops and rebels in Monrovia, sending white-hot shrapnel searing into her back.

"It is sometimes difficult for me to sit. I feel rotten pain for at least a week every two months. The only treatment I can afford is a painkiller," the 23-year-old said, breaking into sobs.

"I was not armed, my mother did not have weapons and we were only running for our lives and that is the crime we committed. I can still remember my mother holding me in her arms crying for help while I was bleeding," Gayflor said. She and thousands like her have formed a Liberian branch of the Association of Disabled Females International to demand compensation from the government for their suffering.

"The association is about only women and children because we did not pick up arms to fight. We were harmless but we suffered most," the group's executive director, Meima Hoff, said. "We have been going from office to office to cry for help but no one has come to our rescue."

A glance at the group's membership provides a gruesome snapshot of the privations women suffered during the civil wars, with many of the activists made blind, missing limbs or suffering mental or neurological disorders.

A Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) was set up by President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf to probe war crimes and rights abuses between 1979 and 2003, and particularly during the brutal conflicts that raged in 1989-96 and 1999-2003.

The commission said a compensation scheme should be set up alongside a war crimes court to prosecute eight ex-warlords for alleged crimes against humanity but the government is yet to implement the recommendations.

Ten years after the war, no money has been made available and the only Liberian to face trial is Charles Taylor, and that was for his role in neighbouring Sierra Leone's civil conflict, not that in his own country.

## New Liberian

Tuesday, 25 June 2013

### **Obama Walks in Bush's Shadow**

-SNIP-

Take Liberia as an example, it was Mr. Bush persistence that finally saw Liberia's Charles Taylor reins on power loosened when he ordered troops for Liberia and told Taylor explicitly you "must leave." His father continuing American tradition in disregard to Africa ignored Liberia for Iraq in 1990 despite Liberia's long standing tradition of being a friend to the United States. Had that conflict not progressed beyond its initial stages almost 300,000 lives would have been safe, the history is deep between both countries. Bush would pay Liberia an official visit before he left office and led efforts to cancel Liberia's debts.

-SNIP-

## Radio Netherlands

Tuesday, 25 June 2013

### **You were key in setting up Hague court, Africa told**

On June 25, a number of important actors will convene in Dakar to discuss issues related to the International Criminal Court. Senegal is one of many African states that were early supporters of the court as an institution to make a decisive push in the fight against impunity.

By Tina Intelmann, President of the Assembly of States Parties to the International Criminal Court and guest columnist for our partner allAfrica

Participants at the discussion in Dakar include high-level representatives from a number of French-speaking countries of the African continent.

Looking back in history, African states were key players in the creation of the court. The Rome Statute, by which the court has been established, reflects many key African positions, such as giving priority to domestic legal proceedings, the independence of the prosecutor and the court's independence from the United Nations Security Council. Today, I am gratified to preside over an Assembly of 122 States Parties, 34 of which are from Africa.

Recently, the Court and its activities have received considerable attention in the world media. Apart from regular updates on individual cases, attention has been given to broader issues relating to the court.

All this is testimony to the fact that, 11 years into its existence, the court has really started making a significant footprint on the international scene.

What people are asking now is not if the court will ever have any work – as was the case after the Rome Conference in 1998 – but rather: Is it going too fast? Is it working as we imagined? The discussions that we see in the world media, including the media in Africa, show increasing attention to the institution, but sometimes some of the basic facts get lost in this debate.



## FIDH

Monday, 24 June 2013

<http://www.fidh.org/icc-s-prosecutor-and-president-participation-to-the-38th-fidh-congress-13537>

### ICC Prosecutor and President's Participation to the 38th FIDH Congress

On 23 May 2013, Sang-Hyun Song, President of the International Criminal Court (ICC), and Fatou Bensouda, ICC Prosecutor, participated in the opening of the 38th FIDH Congress in Istanbul. Celebrating the 15th anniversary of the Rome Statute, Sang-Hyun Song enjoined the Turkish President to ratify the Rome Statute, making Turkey the 123th State Party.

Sang-Hyun Song, who, the day before, participated in a conference entitled « The International Criminal Court : A Global Commitment to End Impunity » and organized by the Turkish and International Coalition for the International Criminal Court, in collaboration with FIDH, stressed that the ratification of the Rome Statute was an important means to fight against impunity. «



The goal of universal membership is important for several reasons. Each new State Party strengthens and broadens the ICC's jurisdiction, increasing its credibility not only for holding perpetrators of mass atrocities accountable, but also for the prevention of future atrocity crimes. », he said during the conference on 22 May at Bilgi University.

M. Song added during his speech at opening of the 38th FIDH Congress: « The particularly acute suffering of women in conflict has far too often been invisible. And when suffering goes unrecognised, when victims are not heard, and perpetrators not held to account – then wounds cannot heal, justice cannot be attained, and the cycle of suffering continues. »

As for Fatou Bensouda, she declared during the opening of the 38th FIDH Congress: « Gone are the days when those who commit mass murders, rapes, and plunder, could be cleansed of their atrocities through a mere hand shake and a scribble of their initials on a piece of paper which purports to bind them to conditions that they have no intention of ever observing. ». She added: « My challenge is to consolidate what has been achieved, to build on from it, and to answer victims' calls for justice. That is the promise made in Rome and that is the promise we cannot fail to fulfil. ».

These declarations were made in the presence of FIDH member organisations working in States which situation is either under preliminary examination (as Colombia, Honduras or Guinea) or under investigation (as Sudan, DRC, Uganda, Cote d'Ivoire or Mali) before the ICC.

The Economist  
 Wednesday, 26 June 2013

### Liberia's army: A proud day



ON A drizzly morning at Liberia's Roberts International Airport, beneath the bright yellow lights of an aircraft hanger, a brass band and 45 uniformed soldiers stood waiting for President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. Past the white United Nations cargo containers and the muddy edges of the runway, the Liberian jungle stood veiled in fog. These men, from the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL), would soon be trading the rainforest for the Sahel to engage in their first peacekeeping assignment with the Africa-led International Support Mission in Mali (AFISMA).

"This is a proud day for all of us, as Liberians," proclaimed President Johnson Sirleaf (pictured in purple). "For so long—decades, in fact—we have been the beneficiary of support from our ECOWAS [Economic Community of West African States] neighbours, and friends from far and wide, who came to our shores to help us restore the peace and rebuild a shattered nation. It is time for Liberia to give back, in whatever small way that we can."

Following the legislature's approval in January of the president's decision to send troops to Mali, the infantry platoon underwent five months of training at Camp Sande Ware in the country's northwest. American marines have acted as mentors, supplying equipment and logistics. Once in Mali the unit will be embedded within the 333rd Nigerian battalion for three months.

It has been more than half a century since Liberia committed troops to the UN's operation in Congo, and only a decade since the end of the 14-year civil war which left 250,000 people dead and the nation in tatters. The commitment to the Mali peacekeeping mission is small, and Liberia still hosts 8,000 UN

peacekeepers and police officers in bases across the country. But the ability to send troops is being touted as a marker of the nation's progress.

Liberia's Comprehensive Peace Agreement, which ended the civil war in August 2003 and led to the exile of the former president, Charles Taylor, called for the nation's factionalised armed forces to be restructured. The new AFL, a 2,000-man force, was reconstituted six years ago by DynCorp International, a contractor for the United States State Department, but has been beset by attrition and complaints over wages, benefits and living conditions.

The army embarked on its first combat mission last year to root out militants who had been allegedly engaging in cross-border attacks in western Côte d'Ivoire. Now headed by a Nigerian commander, Major General Suraj Alao Abdurrahman, the AFL is due to be fully operational and autonomous from the second half of 2014.

## Courthouse News Service

Wednesday, 26 June 2013

<http://www.courthousenews.com/2013/06/26/58860.htm>

### **Liberian Warlord Label Wasn't Defamatory**

By ALEXANDRIA D'ANGELO

(CN) - A writer for the Atlantic Monthly should not face defamation claims over his description of George Boley as a Liberian "warlord," a federal judge ruled, citing various reports corroborating that status.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement has confirmed that it deported Boley from the United States in 2012, two years after it took him into custody and charging him "with numerous extrajudicial killings in Liberia," and with the "recruitment or use of child soldiers in Liberia," according to the ruling.

During Liberia's controversial civil war in the 1990s, Boley served as chairman of the Liberia Peace Council. Despite that organization's name, the State Department said Boley has not denied credible allegations that he used his position on the council to "authorize[] the summary execution of seven of his fighters November 14 for harassment of civilians," the ruling states.

Boley also served Liberia as minister of state, minister of education, and minister of post and telecommunications.

He sued Atlantic Monthly and national correspondent Jeffrey Goldberg in January 2013 over two articles that ran online in 2010 after ICE had arrested Boley.

"Some news out of New York," Golberg's first article stated, as quoted in the complaint. "George Boley, a warlord I first met when covering the Liberian civil war in the mid-90s, and who later moved to New York, was arrested January 15th by U.S. Immigration and Customs and is now sitting in a jail cell in upstate Batavia. So far, he's being charged administratively, with lying in order to gain entry into the U.S., and with committing extrajudicial killings while in another country. Other branches of Homeland Security, I've been told, are looking at charging him with actual war crimes, which is a good thing, because he belongs in the Hague with his fellow warlord, Charles Taylor. ... I knew, from firsthand observation, that his organization, the grossly misnamed Liberian Peace Council, recruited and armed child soldiers; fed them drugs; and ordered them to rape and kill."

In the second article discussing an alleged relationship between Liberian figure Charles Taylor and the Rev. Pat Robertson, Goldberg wrote: "You should pardon the expression, but, Christ. Charles Taylor is an evil man, more evil than my own personal Liberian warlord George Boley. I suppose I shouldn't be surprised by Pat Robertson, but this is fairly unbelievable."

The Atlantic Monthly and Goldberg moved to dismiss Boley's federal complaint in Washington, arguing that their comments were protected under the District of Columbia's Anti-Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation Act of 2010, or the Anti-SLAPP Act, which "authorizes the preliminary dismissal of meritless defamation lawsuits challenging speech on matters of public concern."

They had also sought dismissal under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(6), but U.S. District Judge Reggie Walton said Tuesday that the Anti-SLAPP law sufficed.

Citing reports from ICE, the court found that Goldberg's statements are protected by the fair report privilege.

Boley also "cherry-picked" Goldberg's comments and took them out of context, according to the ruling.

Goldberg's full article noted that he had become involved in a 2008 complaint Boley filed against Advocates for Human Rights. That Minnesota nonprofit had subpoenaed Goldberg to testify against Boley in his defamation lawsuit against it.

Goldberg described Boley's 2008 lawsuit as "the definition of chutzpah," unaware that doing so would prompt Boley to also sue him for defamation.

Boley's Minnesota suit was dismissed weeks before Goldberg wrote about it in 2010.

"Viewed in context, then, Goldberg's allegedly defamatory statement merely described an affidavit he submitted in an official proceeding, i.e., a civil lawsuit filed by Boley," Walton wrote. "The fair report privilege applies to summaries of statements made in connection with judicial proceedings, even when it is the defendant's summary of his own prior testimony. And Goldberg's statement fairly and accurately described his affidavit with proper attribution to the court document. Thus, the statement is protected by the fair report privilege."

Though Goldberg exceeded the bounds of fair report by saying that Boley "belongs in the Hague," Walton said the remark still qualifies under the "fair comment" privilege.

Similarly, Goldberg's characterization of Boley as "evil" and a "warlord" are not defamatory, as they are "imaginative expression," unverifiable by fact, and thus protected by the First Amendment, according to the ruling.

Boley additionally failed to prove actual malice on the part of the defendants. Specifically, Boley never denied that he is, in fact, a warlord.

Calgary Herald (Canada)

Wednesday, 19 June 2013

## Riders defensive end Davis's mom helping war-torn Liberia recover

Saskatchewan defender proud of Pearine David-Parkinson, who helped make him the man he is today

By IAN HAMILTON, Postmedia News



The person who made the biggest difference in Will Davis's life now is trying to make a difference in the lives of millions.

Davis's mother, Pearine Davis-Parkinson, is a member of the government that's trying to turn things around in Liberia, a West African nation that has seen its share of unrest.

Before she embarked on that career, however, her son benefited from her wisdom and guidance.

"My mom has been my everything," Davis, a promising defensive end with the Saskatchewan Roughriders, said Tuesday after the CFL team practised at Mosaic Stadium. "She's like my backbone — and I have no problem having my mom as a backbone.

"She's never really overbearing, but she still is 'Mom' so at times she'll still see me as a little kid. I don't mind that sometimes as long as it's not overbearing.

"She lets me know how to get things done and how to do things for the future so I'm good at them. Then she lets me go."

Davis's parents were born in Liberia. A military coup in 1980 threw the country into disarray and sent Pearine — a former member of Liberia's women's basketball team — and her then-husband, William Davis Sr., to the United States in search of a better life.

A subsequent uprising led by Charles Taylor resulted in the overthrow of the Liberian government in 1989 and to a bloody civil war that lasted for the next six years.

Fighting erupted again in 1999 and continued until 2003, when peacekeepers entered the region. In 2005, elections installed Ellen Johnson Sirleaf as president — and she brought Davis's mother home as deputy minister of state.

“It was a bad place before,” said Davis, who was born June 2, 1986, in Greenbelt, Md. “Growing up, I remember her telling me stories about my family and how my grandma and all my aunts and uncles had to run out of a burning house — things like that. That's why they came over (to North America).

“She went back and everything has been good so far. (The country) is rebuilding and getting better and she's one of the catalysts of that. I'm really proud of her.”

Davis-Parkinson has travelled between Liberia and Maryland over the years while also jetting around the world on state business. That limits the time Will can spend with her, but the two connect virtually every day by phone.

“It's one thing to talk to her, but I don't know exactly what's going on unless I'm there,” admitted Davis, who attended the University of Illinois. “She keeps me informed.

“I always ask if she's safe and if everything's going well. I'm not sure if she always tells me everything, but I know she always fights. I think that's why she got that position in the first place. She's trustworthy and she fights.”

That said, Davis-Parkinson's job could invite trouble in a country that has had its issues. In fact, reports in March suggested she was held hostage by a group of disgruntled employees of Liberia's General Services Agency.

Asked if that incident put him off just before his initial tryout with the Roughriders in April, Davis downplayed the event and said his mindset wasn't affected at all.

“She's all right,” said Davis, a 6-foot-2, 248-pounder. “She says that a lot of things are said and a lot of things people say aren't true. You just have to go with it. You can't really control everything that's going on.

“There are a lot of bad people just because of how it is (in Liberia) and the rebuilding process. People want things done faster. She's trying her best.”

Davis-Parkinson appears to have instilled that characteristic in her son, who left Illinois ranked seventh on the Fighting Illini's career sack list with 15.

Davis was selected in the sixth round (204th overall) of the 2009 NFL draft by the Arizona Cardinals and played 21 games with them over two seasons before being released in September of 2011. He attended a Roughriders mini-camp in Florida in April and earned an invitation to training camp.

Davis had two tackles and a sack in Friday's 31-24 pre-season victory over the host Edmonton Eskimos and is to get another chance to show his wares during Saskatchewan's final pre-season game, Thursday versus the visiting Calgary Stampeders.

After that, he'll likely get a long-distance phone call from his biggest fan.

"She taught me how to be the man I am today when it comes to anything in life, like how to act, how to be respectful and say, 'Yes sir' and 'No sir,' and respect your elders," said Davis, whose parents are divorced. "She still corrects my grammar sometimes, too.

"She's a mom all around. She has really put me together pretty well."