

**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**

**as at:**

**Thursday, 28 August 2008**

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.  
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact  
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Standard Times  
Thursday, 28 August 2008

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## ISSUES

The former Liberian president Charles Taylor surprisingly showed up in court on Tuesday morning after his lead counsel had on Monday told the Special Court for Sierra Leone sitting in The Hague that his client would not subject himself to the two new security measures.

On Monday, the Head of the sub-office of the Special Court in The Hague, Gregory Townsend presented a four-page report in which the Dutch authorities said they would not drop the two security measures.

BBC World Service Trust reporter at The Hague, Mariama Khai Fornah caught up with defence counsel Courtney Griffiths and first asked him what the two security measures were.

GRIFFITHS: Well, one of the measures involved a chain being put around Mr. Taylor's waist, and he finds that provision particularly objectionable and obnoxious. Because you can imagine coming from an African background with our history of slavery, what it must feel like to a black person to be led with a chain around your waist. And I can perfectly understand why he regards that as being an affront to his humanity.

Now the other provision, which I'm not allowed to discuss publicly, effectively is a method of sensory deprivation on the journey from the prison facilities to the Court. Mr. Taylor's willing to compromise on that, because he understands that for security reasons such a measure might be necessary. But so far as the chain around his waist is concerned, he fails to understand – and neither do we as his legal counsel – why that should be felt necessary when he's escorted to Court by a number of fully-armed Dutch security officers.

FORNAH: *You are emphasizing on the chain around his waist, but when we spoke to the Head of the Sub-Office here at the Special Court, Greg Townsend, he said it is only a leather belt that is placed on Mr. Taylor. Why are you really emphasizing on the chain around his waist?*

GRIFFITHS: Well my information is that there is a chain involved. I have not been allowed sight of the particular contraption, but the fact of the matter is everybody knows that Mr. Taylor likes to look good. So the thought that he'd be leaving prison without a belt to keep his trousers up is that unimaginable. Why he needs another belt around his waist, God only knows.

FORNAH: *What do you intend to do after Mr. Townsend has given his report to the Court that there is no way these measures can be removed?*

GRIFFITHS: Well, as advised by the Judges, who have already stated that they can find no justification or rational basis for the imposition of these provisions against Mr. Taylor, we intend to take up this issue with the President of the Special Court for Sierra Leone and provide written submissions in the hope that

## Interview with Taylor's lead defence counsel, Courtney Griffiths QC

they will be able to resolve these matters with the Dutch authorities.

FORNAH: *When the report was read out, you said there is no justification or rationale for your client, Mr. Taylor, to conform to what he said in Court. Why did you make such statement?*

GRIFFITHS: Well I was merely quoting what the Judges had said on, I think it was Wednesday of last week, when having consulted with the head of the Court [sic], Mr. Townsend, in private session without counsel from either side being present, they were given the intelligence upon which this change in security was based.

And having been so briefed by Mr. Townsend, their response was that there was no rational basis or justification for these measures being

term at least we are willing to cooperate, but there is a limit to our patience and there will come a time, if nothing is done about the removal of these conditions, when Mr. Taylor frankly will refuse to come to Court, because he regards the imposition of these measures as an affront to his humanity.

FORNAH: *So how soon do we expect you and your colleagues to take this kind of action from stopping Mr. Taylor not to come to Court?*

GRIFFITHS: Well it depends on how speedily the President of the Court can respond to the written submissions we intend to submit to the Court as soon as possible.

FORNAH: *Now Mr Griffiths, don't you think that if Mr. Taylor refuses to show up in Court that will be a waiver of his rights?*

Unlike in other trials of this kind where defendants have refused to accept the authority of the Court, Mr. Taylor bows when the Judges come in and he bows when they go out, and he's fully engaged in the trial process and has shown respect for the proceedings. Against that background, one must understand how strongly he feels about this issue, that having behaved in that way throughout these proceedings he should find it necessary to say "I will refuse to cooperate in future if these conditions continue"

imposed against Mr. Taylor. So I was merely repeating a conclusion to which these Judges, who obviously know a thing or two about security considerations, had already said.

FORNAH: *You quoted Mr. Taylor as saying that he will not be in Court, but it is surprising to note that Mr. Taylor is in Court. On what basis is he in Court?*

GRIFFITHS: Well, we have prevailed on Mr. Taylor that despite his objections to these obnoxious conditions to which he's being subjected, that we all have a vital interest in the trial continuing, and continuing smoothly and efficiently.

Now you will recall that the particular witness who is currently giving evidence, that person's evidence had been adjourned since June. And so consequently we appreciate the logistical difficulties involved for the Office of the Prosecution in transporting witnesses from West Africa to The Hague. We're anxious not to exacerbate those problems, so in the short

GRIFFITHS: Well, I find it somewhat objectionable and cynical of the Prosecution to adopt such a position, knowing as they certainly do that throughout Mr. Taylor's been fully cooperative with the Court.

He has fully engaged with the court system. Unlike in other trials of this kind where defendants have refused to accept the authority of the Court, Mr. Taylor bows when the Judges come in and he bows when they go out, and he's fully engaged in the trial process and has shown respect for the proceedings.

Against that background, one must understand how strongly he feels about this issue, that having behaved in that way throughout these proceedings he should find it necessary to say "I will refuse to cooperate in future if these conditions continue."

(Courtesy BBC World Service Trust)

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We Yone

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## The Heart of the Matter

By M'Balu Wangai

The making and prosecution of the war launched against the All People's Congress in 1991 which brought untold sufferings on the people of this country, killing, maiming, arson, rape and destruction of properties and lives remains a mystery to many Sierra Leoneans.

When the war started in 1991 it took almost five years before Sierra Leoneans got a glimpse of the actual picture of the then rebel leader Foday Saybana Sankoh when his SLPP backers' brokered peace with the NPRC since Maada Bio who had toppled Valentine Strasser in a palace coup had assured the SLPP of their return to power in the 1996 elections.

Since he surfaced from oblivion and until his death Foday Sankoh's utterances have not been extremely helpful in reaching at the heart of the making of the war which even the TRC report condemns as senseless.

However, one of his utterances that readily comes to mind when one attempts to unravel the mystery behind the making of the war against the APC and the people of this country is his assertion that nine of them conceived and planned the war, but due to his very callous attitude, though some say he was under oath not to disclose the others, they remain unknown to the vast majority of Sierra Leoneans.

It is then probable that the remaining eight are still alive and kicking, living with us and perhaps undermining the progress made by the APC and the Government since they are totally against the APC being in power and directing the issues of governance.

In contemplating who the remaining eight may be certain scenarios have to be brought to light which may point light at some direction which may not exclude former president Ahmed Tejan Kabbah.

Let me start by recalling those days when we had the Green Book Movement in Sierra Leone operating under the directives of one Sallu Kamara who was probably a lab technician at Fourahbay College in the mid eighties. Alie Kabba, an alleged founder member of the Movement, used to attend meetings which were held in various undisclosed spots. In fact it was Alie Kabba who actually arranged for some students and

## Foday Sankoh said they were nine, Where are the remaining eight?

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other members to go to Libya for military training unbeknown to them and on the pretext that they were going to Ghana to continue their studies on scholarship.

The Green Book Movement was a revolutionary Movement that was intended to build a popular movement against the APC. It could be recalled that Alie Kabba was fond of saying that he had an uncle in the UN system that was ready and willing to finance an uprising against the APC. Also, Sallu Kamara will usually visit Libya and according to pictures he showed members he had always been accorded an official welcome. However, it is said that the Libyans noticed he had traveled to the USA and became suspicious of him and decided to cut him off. By then the first crop of students and members had left for Ghana together with Alie Kabba. They were filled with enthusiasm which later turned out to be a bitter experience for them since all of them were committed to their educational pursuits. The movement however died down since the Libyans had terminated all contacts with Sallu Kamara.

Years after, those students and other members of the Green Book Movement returned home with sorrowful and horrific stories of hard military training somewhere in Libya, and that they were not even accorded the opportunity to further their education as was promised. They said that it was only when they threatened to go on hunger strike that they were eventually returned to Freetown. This happened in 1989.

And then the war started in 1991. The leaders were illusive and there were

many speculations. However, the people of Sierra Leone for the first time came to know the RUF leader Foday Saybana Sankoh when peace was brokered between the RUF and the NPRC ahead of the 1996 elections.

I will now look at is events leading to the conduct the 1996 elections. Dr. John Karefa Smart had return to Sierra Leone after many years since he was forced to self exile. Dr. James Jonah had also returned home from his long sojourn in the UN system and was considered the fitted man to oversee the coming elections and thus presided of the Interim National Electoral Commission (INEC) while Foday Sankoh had entered into negotiations with the NPRC government of Julius Maada Bio.

Nobody actually knew Dr. Karefa Smart's reason for returning home at that particular time. However, one the parties at that time, the UNPP, searching for a credible leadership spotted Karefa Smart and hooked him up to be their leader. Nonetheless, Foday Sankoh in a BBC interview, which date cannot be recalled, appealed to the people of Sierra Leone to vote for the SLPP if they want peace. He actually warned against voting for Dr. Karefa Smart and his UNPP. He alleged that Dr. Karefa Smart had left the USA to broker peace between the RUF and the NPRC government but negated the duty to participate in the politics of the country. Was Foday Sankoh convinced that the SLPP will make peace with his rebel outfit, or was he part of the SLPP's plan to return to power since losing elections in 1967? Whatever happened is another story but the SLPP won the 1996 elections with Ahmed Tejan Kabbah as President. The war heightened. A coup toppled the SLPP government. It was reinstated and a kind of peace was actually brokered with the RUF that saw the return of Foday Sankoh to Sierra Leone in a position equivalent to that of the vice president. Even while he basked in

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# Heart of the Matter

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affluence and until disgraceful arrest, imprisonment and death Foday Sankoh refused to say anything significant that gives clue to the real perpetrators of the war: those who together with Sankoh conceived and planned the idea of war against the APC and the people of this country, except that he is once quoted to have said that they were nine in number that conceived and planned the idea of a war against the APC and the people of this country.

Who are the remaining eight remains a very serious question demanding answers.

The war attracted the attention of many scholars and researchers. The mention of Alie Kabba in one the scholarly writings and word that he was killed in the early days of the war struck the memory of those who were members of the Green Book Movement. It confirmed that the Movement was indeed to recruit potential fighters and that that was the mission of Alie Kabba. Who then was the uncle in the UN system that was ready to finance the war? Was it ex-president Kabbah who coincidentally is an uncle of Alie Kabba and a former worker in the UN system?

Omrie Golley was long known as a spokesperson for the RUF though at one time he was sacked and denied by the RUF leader Sankoh before his death. Relentlessly he struggled alongside the RUF until the disarmament was completed. On his return to Sierra Leone the SLPP had arrested and charged for treason. He dumped at Pademba Road prisons until his pardonable release not too long ago. Why should Kabbah's SLPP treat a former RUF spokesperson who worked so hard to fast track the disarmament process as if he was a condemned prisoner? Golley may deserve sympathy but he has likewise Sankoh done injustice to this country by depriving the nation of the truth behind the formative days of the RUF war so that history will remain to be the adjudicator of facts. Issa Sesay, Eldred Collins, Gibrill Massaquoi and others may so much about the operative days of the RUF but very little about its formative days. Thus the question continues to linger: Who are the remaining eight and where are they?

## BBC World Service Trust

Wednesday, 27 August 2008

### **INTERVIEW WITH THE HEAD OF SUB- OFFICE GREGORY TOWNSEND- WEDNESDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2008-WEEK TWO**

The implementation of two new security measures by the Dutch Authorities has generated a lot of arguments. The Charles Taylor Defence team says one of the measures involves the chaining of Mr. Taylor, but officials of the Special Court say it is a leather belt that is involved.

Mr Gregory Townsend is the Head of the Special Court of Sierra Leone sub-office in The Hague. His office is responsible for the welfare of Mr. Taylor.

The BBC World Service Trust Mariama Khai Fornah caught up with Mr. Townsend and first asked him about his description of the two security measures.

TOWNSEND: Now as of August of 2008 the Dutch transport police have decided, based on the situation on the ground as opposed to Mr. Taylor's conduct in particular – so not based on any misconduct of Mr. Taylor, based on security in general – they've moved Mr. Taylor from a medium-security transport to a high-level transport. And that really just relates to him going from the detention centre to the Court and back on what is Monday to Friday hearings. And the higher-level security has a different procedure, it's a different team that does it, it's a larger number of officers and also certain procedures that are confidential, certain procedures that we've talked about in court, and in both the medium level and the high level security Mr. Taylor is handcuffed and the handcuffs are attached to a belt, a leather belt that goes around his waist. And Mr. Taylor hasn't objected to that because that [glitch in tape] standard operating procedure for both the medium and the high-level security. What I understand his objection to be is that the high-level security officers hold that belt from behind, and as the Dutch transport police have explained, that that's their standard operating procedure, it's a tactical operational position that helps them secure the detainee they're moving – in this case Mr. Taylor. In other words, it's for his own security and for the security of the officer. And Mr. Taylor, alone of all the detainees, several hundred I understand, he's the only one who has this objection.

FORNAH: Mr. Griffiths made mention about some chains, that Mr. Taylor could be having a chain around his waist, and you have been saying something about a leather...

TOWNSEND: My understanding from having seen the transport and also having read the ICC rules is that use of chains is prohibited, so I'm not aware of any chain being used and I that Mr. Griffiths might have misspoke in Court on that point. The restraint belt is in fact leather. Now the handcuffs of course are metal and they're attached to it with a metal clip, but there isn't a chain used. So I think that hopefully would clarify it.

FORNAH: You were asked to investigate on the matter. What are your findings so far?

TOWNSEND: The Registry has found that the high-level security put in place, not just for Mr. Taylor but for two other international detainees in The Hague, has a rational basis – that is, the Dutch security authority has reviewed security Holland-wide and decided that they needed to upgrade it, and that's based on their confidential high-level information. It doesn't relate to any misconduct by Mr. Taylor in particular, but they're imposing it, not against Mr. Taylor, but against several high-level detainees. And so, based on that rational basis, we understand that they've used their standard operating procedures, and because we rely on the Dutch transport, because that's a relationship of the Special Court with Holland,



and they're in fact crossing Dutch territory, it's natural and understandable that they would want to control the situation and follow their rules of procedure, that these standard operating procedures are there in place to protect Mr. Taylor and to protect their officers.

FORNAH: Has there been any rumour that Mr. Taylor wants to escape for the Dutch government to impose this type of high-level security?

TOWNSEND: I'm not aware of any such information and I don't think that's the situation as I've been [led to know].

FORNAH: You presented your report in Court concerning the two security measures. Is there any hope that these measures would be removed?

TOWNSEND: Well I hope there will be a resolution to the dispute that the Defence have raised. Now Mr. Taylor, uniquely, has raised this objection into this procedure, and I'm not aware of anyone else having this objection so far. Now the Dutch have said that this is their standard operating procedure, it's for security reasons, and whether the highest level of the Ministry of Justice will give instructions to make a concession to Mr. Taylor, I don't know. I haven't seen any indication so far. Mr. Taylor raised this objection and absented him from Court on the 18th and 19th of August, but then came back to Court on Wednesday the 20th of August 2008. And whether there is a reduction to go from high-level security back to medium-level security, or whether the Dutch Ministry of Justice instructions the transport police to change its procedures, one of those two scenarios might happen or Mr. Taylor's objections will just carry on.

FORNAH: So before I leave you, what do you have for the people in Sierra Leone, because this rumour of Mr. Taylor being chained is just moving around.

TOWNSEND: The Registry of the Special Court for Sierra Leone would like to disavow that story. In effect, the ICC rules expressly prohibit the use of chains, and I have no information to believe that Mr. Taylor's ever been chained while in custody in The Hague. Like all detainees he's handcuffed. I think everyone in every jurisdiction in the world's used to being taken to and from court in a handcuff, and the only other thing that might be different here is use of this leather restraint belt which essentially keeps one's handcuffs fixed around their waist. Now, Mr. Taylor hasn't objected to that leather restraint belt being used, because that's normally used both in the medium and the high-level transport. It's just he has a personal objection about his personal space, to someone holding that belt from behind. Particular objection is particular to Mr. Taylor and we're working to resolve it, but again, the Dutch seem to say that they're unwilling to do so at this point.

FORNAH: That was the Head of the sub-office of the Special Court for Sierra Leone in The Hague, Gregory Townsend.

## Associated Press

Wednesday, 27 August 2008

### **Liberian ex-warlord dodges questions at hearing**

By JONATHAN PAYE-LAYLEH

MONROVIA, Liberia (AP) — A former Liberian warlord whose drugged fighters once appeared on camera holding up a human heart dodged questions Wednesday and refused to accept any wrongdoing during an appearance before a public commission.

Sekou Conneh is the former head of the rebel group that encircled Liberia's capital and heavily shelled it in the final months of Liberia's 14-year conflict in 2003.

Conneh appeared before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and argued he should be treated as a hero for having launched the attack that led to the defeat of President Charles Taylor, himself on trial for war crimes at The Hague, Netherlands.

Taylor's forces have been accused of numerous atrocities — including eating the hearts of their slain enemies. But the rebel group Conneh led is also blamed for barbaric actions.

Besides shelling the capital, the Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy is tied to massacres of entire villages. The group's siege of Monrovia led to so many deaths that Liberians began piling up the bodies in front of the U.S. Embassy in a plea for help.

Conneh argued the shelling was the work of Taylor's forces, even though Conneh's rebels allowed themselves to be filmed as they assaulted the city. During the war, both sides blamed each other for shelling civilian populations in the capital.

He made a brief opening statement before the commission, then said he was willing to answer questions. But the ex-rebel asked more questions of the commissioners than he answered.

"If a minister embezzles or carries out any act of corruption, would you hold the president liable? The president is not responsible for a minister's mistake," Conneh said in response to a question of whether he was accountable for his men's actions.

Conneh, who was a candidate in the 2005 presidential election, expressed surprise that "as a liberator you are questioning me, when you should be happy about my role."

He described his group as a resistance force that only fought to restore democracy in Liberia.

"If we had not fought to get Charles Taylor out of your backs you wouldn't be sitting here today," he told the commission.

Liberia's postwar government setup the truth commission, inviting both victims and perpetrators to retell their version of events. But critics say the commission is toothless since it cannot send war criminals to jail. Many argue that what is needed is a war crimes court so that those most responsible for atrocities can face real justice.



Conneh's rebel group was founded in Sierra Leone in 1998 and organized its attacks on Liberia from neighboring Guinea with that country's help. It was made up of members of the Mandingo and Krahn ethnic groups that suffered under Taylor's regime. They first assaulted Liberia's forested north in 1998.

Over the next five years, they fought their way to Monrovia and attacked the capital three times in 2003 — battles so devastating Liberians refer to them as World War I, World War II and World War III.

The U.S. sent warships off the country's coast. Cornered, Taylor and his family went into exile in Nigeria. He was later arrested on war crimes charges for his role in fueling an equally horrific rebellion in Sierra Leone and sent to The Hague.

Agence France-Presse

Wednesday, 27 August 2008

### **US freed Taylor to overthrow Doe, Liberia's TRC hears**

MONROVIA (AFP) — A former Liberian warlord allied to Charles Taylor has told the country's Truth Commission that the US released the strongman from jail in 1985 to engineer the overthrow of president Samuel Doe.

"Taylor did not break jail. Taylor was let out with the purpose of coming to Liberia to help us move a dictatorial regime," Prince Johnson, now a Liberian senator, told the Commission Tuesday.

Taylor was always believed to have escaped from a US jail before returning to Liberia to overthrow Doe but Johnson, who has already made allegations about Washington's dubious role in the 1989-1997 war, insists he was secretly set free by the authorities.

Taylor and Johnson were allies in the early 1980s, but they later fell out, with Johnson forming a rival organisation to Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL).

Johnson, a former warlord known for his brutality who videotaped his fighters torturing and killing Doe in 1990, was the first former warlord to testify before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) since it started its hearings last year.

His much anticipated appearance ensured the hall where the TRC sits was packed to capacity with 500 people attending on Tuesday.

After returning to Africa Taylor, who is currently on trial for war crimes before the UN-backed Special Court of Sierra Leone in The Hague, went to Burkina Faso to get training for his rebels but was roped in to overthrow then-president Thomas Sankara in 1987, Johnson said.

"When we got there (Burkina Faso) we were told that we were going to be arrested if we did not comply to remove Thomas Sankara from office because he was not in favour of our plan. We were asked to join a special group of Burkinabe soldiers to overthrow Sankara. That was how Thomas Sankara was removed," Johnson said.

Sankara, who ruled Burkina Faso from 1983 until his assassination during the coup in 1987, was replaced by Burkina Faso's current President Blaise Compaore who was reportedly involved in arming Taylor during the 1990s.

## Africa News

Thursday, 28 August 2008

[http://www.africanews.com/site/list\\_messages/20208](http://www.africanews.com/site/list_messages/20208)

### **Liberia: Taylor Named in Sankara's Death**

Murtala Mohamed Kamara, AfricaNews reporter in Freetown, Sierra Leone

**The man who made history by butchering former Liberian President Samuel K. Doe to death yesterday testified before the country's Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) in the capital Monrovia.**



Liberia's Truth and Reconciliation Commission was set up to establish what and who were responsible for the country's civil war which left thousands of lives lost and properties worth millions of dollars.

Speaking to commissioners yesterday the former fighter now senator said he is responsible for the death of the late Samuel K. Doe but later maintained that politicians and religious leaders who formed an interim government in exile while Samuel Doe was still alive were also responsible for the late president's death.

Mr. Prince Johnson recalled that before the start of the war they were looking for help in the region and Charles Taylor former Liberian President connected them to Burkina Faso. Mr. Johnson explained that the then President Thomas Sankara was opposed to the war in Liberia but his deputy Blaise Campore said the only way he could help the effort of the war in Liberia is for NPFL to help him overthrow Thomas Sankara. Mr. Johnson said they helped overthrow Thomas Sankara who was later murdered and they proceeded to Libya where they underwent military training before starting a war in Liberia which lasted for 15 years.

Meanwhile The TRC is still hearing testimonies of those that took part in the Liberian civil war while the former president Charles Taylor is standing trial on 11 counts for allegedly supporting one of the world most feared rebel group, the Revolutionary United Front of Sierra Leone.

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United Nations  Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

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**UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries  
27 August 2008**

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

**Newspaper Summary**

**Executive Mansion Probes Corruption Scandal at Ministry of Postal Affairs**

(National Chronicle, Heritage)

- The Executive Mansion has reportedly launched a probe into what appears to be a major corruption scandal at the Postal Affairs Ministry. Addressing a news conference Tuesday, Postal Affairs Minister Jeremiah Sulunteh said about US\$7,000 and some LD\$50,000 was lost to power theft.
- Minister Sulunteh said a special committee set up to investigate the alleged power theft found that Assistant Postal Affairs Minister for Administration, Thierry Swatie Genesis was aware of the illegal power deal. He said while the scandal was being investigated, Mr. Genesis reported to the Mansion that he (Sulunteh) had siphoned about US\$75,000, a charge the Minister denies.

**Former Rebel Leader Says Body of Slain President Doe was Cremated**

(National Chronicle, Heritage, The News, New Democrat, The Inquirer, The Analyst, The Informer)

- The media reports that leader of the defunct Independent National Patriotic Front of Liberia (INPFL), Prince Johnson yesterday told the ongoing Truth and Reconciliation Commission thematic hearings that the body of former President Samuel Doe was cremated.
- Mr. Johnson, now Senator of Nimba County said the body of President Doe was first buried but exhumed months after it was speculated that he had no grave.
- The former INPFL leader said following the exhuming of the body a decision was reached not to rebury but to burn the body. Meanwhile the Daily Observer quotes the erstwhile leader of the INPFL as saying that they fought tyranny and dictatorship which were being perpetrated against the vast majority of Liberians by the government of Samuel Kanyon Doe.

**Ex-President Charles Taylor Appears in Court Despite Protest**

(The Analyst)

- Former Liberian President Charles Taylor appeared in Court Tuesday despite his threat on Monday not to show-up in his war crimes trial. Mr. Taylor told his lawyers that he would not submit himself to two new security measures instituted by Dutch Prison authorities.
- Under the measures, Mr. Taylor will be corded around his waist to be taken to court. The lead Defense lawyer, Courtenay Griffiths said a written submission is being drafted for onward presentation to the President of the Special Court for Sierra Leone to request the immediate removal of the measures or risk Mr. Taylor not appearing in Court any longer.

**Man Found Butchered to Death**

(Daily Observer)

- [sic:] Scores of motor vehicles skidded to a halt across from the S.D. Cooper Road near Paynesville early Tuesday morning, attracted by a huge crowd that had gathered to see the badly beaten-up body of an unidentified young man. The victim was found dead early Tuesday. Reports say the man was apparently beaten up by a mob. The Daily Observer

reports that a police officer who begged for anonymity said the victim was a notorious criminal that had been terrorizing inhabitants of that community for the past two weeks.

## Radio Summary

### **Star Radio** *(News culled today from website at 8:00am)*

#### **Another War Actor Testified at TRC Hearings Today**

- The leader of the disbanded Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) rebel movement, Mr. Sekou Damate Konneh took the stand at the ongoing TRC public hearings in Monrovia today, testifying about his role and knowledge of the Liberian civil war from 1979 to 2003. .
- Mr. Konneh controlled the LURD rebel group that waged a military rebellion against detained former President Charles Taylor.
- It is believed that the rebel forces of Mr. Konneh were behind the released of several rocket grenades on a U.S. owned facility, the Grey Stone Compound in Monrovia that killed and wounded scores of civilians seeking shelter there.

*(Also reported on Truth F.M. and ELBC)*

#### **House of Representatives Passes National Human Rights Commission Act**

- The House of Representatives has passed into law the Act establishing the Independent National Human Rights Commission of Liberia.
- The House took the decision following a report by its Judiciary Committee and is to be sent to the Senate for concurrence.
- The Independent National Commission on Human Rights seeks to ensure speedy justice for victims of human rights violations.

*(Also reported on Truth F.M. and ELBC)*

#### **Two Police Officers Wounded in Grenade Attack**

- Reports say two officers of the Liberia National Police and the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) have been wounded in a grenade attack in Barkedu, Lofa County.
- Correspondents said the officers were attacked following the arrest of one Ngfee Dolleh, a resident of Bakedu charged with persistent non support.
- Particles from the grenade explosion inflicted several wounds on the head, chest and hand of the DEA officer and he is currently admitted at the local hospital in Voinjama.
- Meanwhile, two residents have been arrested and are in the custody of the police.

#### **Taylor Appears in Court in spite of Protest**

#### **Former Rebel Leader-turned Senator Says Corpse of Slain Head of State was Cremated**

*(Also reported on Truth F.M. and ELBC)*

#### **Government Investigates Corruption Scandal at Postal Affairs**

*Also reported on Truth F.M. and ELBC)*

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## New Vision (Uganda)

Wednesday, 27 August 2008

### **ICC arrest warrants no impediment to peace**

Thadeus Mabasi

MANY people have argued that the arrest warrants issued by the International Criminal Court (ICC) against the leaders of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) are an impediment to the peace process in northern Uganda.

They argue that the ICC imposes a Western notion of retributive justice, which clashes with the local restorative justice system. I wish to disagree.

Although the LRA leaders continue evade arrest, the ICC indictments have contributed to the peace process in a positive way. There are two reasons for this view.

Firstly, the local population is interested in accountability mechanisms. A recent survey carried out by the International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ) and the Human Rights Center at Berkeley revealed that 76% of residents interviewed in the camps for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) want those responsible for gross human rights abuses to be held accountable.

Secondly, the ICC does not preclude but rather complements local reconciliation mechanisms. While the ICC targets the leaders, reconciliation and amnesty are directed at the low-rank LRA combatants, especially child soldiers.

The criticism that the ICC obstructs peace is untenable on two grounds.

First, international criminal justice deters the commission of future crimes. Global justice has a preventative effect. The deterrence effect is at work in Uganda because as the LRA case gained momentum in 2004, the humanitarian situation dramatically improved.

Secondly, it is evident that the ICC indictments have generated such pressure that the LRA was left with no other option but to negotiate.

This is because the ICC focused the international community's attention on the conflict in Northern Uganda and the horrific crimes committed by the LRA.

This has had the effect of increasing international legitimacy and support for the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) military campaigns; putting pressure on Sudan to stop supporting the LRA; and inducing states to restrict diaspora funding for the LRA.

Therefore, the ICC indictments have made war more costly and risky for the LRA and the rebels have no option but to seek a safe exit through a negotiated settlement with the Government.

Therefore, the ICC should be embraced by the international community. If in some cases it makes peace negotiations difficult, that may be the price that has to be paid.

*The writer is a lawyer*

Agence France-Presse  
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### UN court charges ex-spokeswoman with revealing Milosevic secrets

THE HAGUE (AFP) — The UN war crimes court said Wednesday it has charged a former court spokeswoman with divulging confidential information over the trial of late Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic.



Florence Hartmann, a French national, has been ordered to appear before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) on September 15 to answer two counts of contempt of court, the ICTY said.

She could face a punishment of seven years in jail or a fine of 100,000 euros (150,000 dollars) if found guilty.

A court statement said the tribunal "orders the prosecution of Florence Hartmann for knowingly and wilfully disclosing information in knowing violation of an order of a Chamber."

It added: "Hartmann is alleged to have authored text published in 2007 and 2008 that disclosed information relating to confidential decisions of the Tribunal's appeals chamber in the case of Slobodan Milosevic."

Hartmann covered the Balkan wars of the 1990s as a journalist for French newspaper *Le Monde* and went on to become spokeswoman for the former chief war crimes prosecutor Carla del Ponti from 2000 to 2006.

After leaving she published a book, "Peace and Punishment: The Secret Wars of Politics and International Justice" and wrote several articles on the court's work, notably for *Paris Match* magazine.

The charges say three pages of her book give details on decisions by the appeals court between September 20, 2005 and April 6, 2006 and the confidential nature of those decisions.

The statement said Hartmann "knew that the information was confidential at the time disclosure was made, that the decisions from which the information was drawn were ordered to be filed confidentially, and that by her disclosure she was revealing confidential information to the public."

Hartmann's lawyer denounced the charges and said in a statement that they were motivated by non-legal concerns.

"This decision is incredible," lawyer William Bourdon said from Paris.

"Taking action against Ms. Hartmann means that all those who, legitimately, in the interest of the public and of history, wish to bear witness to their actions in the service of international penal justice will be muzzled," he said.

Hartmann, who also wrote a book about Milosevic before joining the court, was not immediately available for comment.

The court said a specially named lawyer would lead the prosecution so that no-one from the same department that Hartmann worked in would be involved.



## Inter Press Service

Wednesday, 27 August 2008

### International Criminal Court Scrutinises Paramilitary Crimes

By Constanza Vieira

BOGOTA, Aug 27 (IPS) - The International Criminal Court's (ICC) chief prosecutor ended a three-day visit to Colombia Wednesday, where he has been investigating who is ultimately responsible for the human rights crimes committed in this civil war-torn country.

In the scenario of Colombia's internal armed conflict, where "we have an enormous number of crimes and a massive number of criminals," the criteria being followed is "to go after the people who may be considered among those most responsible," ICC prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo said in Bogotá during his three-day visit to the country this week.

In Colombia's decades-long civil war, appalling human rights crimes are committed by all sides: the leftist guerrillas who took up arms in 1964, the security forces and the far-right paramilitary militias.

But the latter, whose leaders are drug traffickers or have ties to the drug trade, are blamed by the United Nations for 80 percent of all killings, while the insurgents are held responsible for 12 percent and the security forces are blamed for the rest.

Some say today's paramilitary groups emerged in the early 1980s, when drug traffickers turned landholders organised private militias to combat the guerrillas, who had started kidnapping wealthy landowners and their family members.

But others say the extreme-rightwing groups were created to do the dirty work in the counterinsurgency war when Colombia's international image began to be hurt by the widespread human rights abuses committed by the security forces.

In any case, the paramilitaries worked closely with the authorities, according to numerous rulings against the Colombian state handed down by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

This is the second visit to Colombia by Moreno-Ocampo, an Argentine lawyer who first gained renown outside his country for his work as assistant to prosecutor Julio César Strassera, in the 1985 trial that convicted nine members of the military junta that ruled Argentina during the 1976-1983 dictatorship for crimes against humanity.

Moreno-Ocampo's first visit was in October 2007, when he announced that he had been keeping a file on Colombia for the past three years.

He also said he was closely following the judicial processes held under the Peace and Justice Law, which governs the partial paramilitary demobilisation process negotiated behind closed doors with the rightwing government of Álvaro Uribe.

The Peace and Justice Law offers legal benefits, like short sentences, to paramilitaries who provide full information about their crimes and make reparations to their victims.

The ICC, based in The Hague, was set up to investigate and prosecute war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide in cases where countries directly connected with such crimes are not able or willing to carry out prosecutions themselves.

The ICC prosecutor's visit to Colombia coincided with a growing uproar around what has been dubbed the "parapolitics" scandal, in which the public prosecutor's office and the Supreme Court have arrested or are investigating some 70 legislators -- nearly all of them Uribe allies -- for alleged ties with paramilitary groups.

The Supreme Court investigates and tries sitting members of Congress, while the public prosecutor's office brings former lawmakers to justice.

One of the latest developments in the ongoing scandal is the removal of senior regional prosecutor Guillermo Valencia, the brother of Interior and Justice Minister Fabio Valencia, for alleged ties with "Don Mario", a fast-rising drug kingpin and paramilitary chief.

But the underlying battle involves repeated, veiled government attacks on the Supreme Court, especially associate Justice Iván Velásquez, the Court's chief investigator in the parapolitics scandal.

Witnesses who accused Velásquez of trying to dig up evidence to implicate President Uribe in the scandal, but later confessed that they were pressured or deceived into doing so, are feeding the spiral of the "clash of powers."

So is last Sunday's news that two senior executive branch officials have held meetings over the past year, in the presidential palace, with emissaries sent by a druglord who claimed he had evidence to undermine Justice Velásquez.

Just before Moreno-Ocampo's visit, the issue heated up when the president of the Supreme Court, Justice Francisco Ricaurte, referred to "a strange alliance," in which the government and the paramilitaries were making common cause against the Supreme Court.

Ricaurte repeated what he said several months ago: "There is a plot against the Supreme Court to discredit its magistrates and undermine the legitimacy of the reports of wrongdoing."

"There is a plot here. The public prosecutor's office should investigate," said Velásquez himself.

Prosecutors who have been taking the confessions of demobilised paramilitaries under the provisions of the Peace and Justice Law have all been threatened, as have the magistrates of the Supreme Court's criminal chamber.

And in the meantime, Interior and Justice Minister Valencia is pushing for changes in the justice system which could limit the power of the Supreme Court to investigate and try legislators implicated in the scandal, and for political reforms that would only go into effect shortly before the current legislature ends in 2010, thus prolonging the status quo.

Iván Cepeda, spokesman for the Movement of Victims of State Crimes (MOVICE), said the ICC should be alerted to how the politicians caught up in the scandal "have begun to be absolved."

Among those implicated in the scandal is Mario Uribe, the president's cousin and close political ally, who stepped down as senator to avoid being investigated by the Supreme Court and to fall instead under the

jurisdiction of the public prosecutor's office, which is headed by a former deputy minister of the current government, Mario Iguarán.

Before being arrested in April, Mario Uribe attempted to seek political asylum in the Costa Rican Embassy.

The Supreme Court began to investigate him in July 2007 for allegedly receiving support from the paramilitaries in his election campaign and for the purchase of 5,000 hectares of land reportedly acquired by means of threats against the owners.

But the former senator was released from prison on Aug. 20 after the public prosecutor's office said there was insufficient evidence to hold him.

And although the investigation of Mario Uribe continues, it is not including a 2000 land deal with one of the paramilitary chiefs extradited to the United States on drug charges in May, according to the Bogota magazine *Semana*.

Three other former lawmakers who quit Congress have also been released from prison in the last few weeks, after witness testimony was dismissed by the public prosecutor's office.

"The government coalition is made up of parties whose leadership has been implicated in the parapolitics scandal. The parties' presidents are under prosecution, and between 30 and 70 percent of the votes the parties won are compromised because the legislators are either on trial or in jail," former minister Camilo González Posso, the head of the Institute for Peace and Development (INDEPAZ), told IPS.

This is "a governing coalition that has won power by the use of violence. They share the responsibility for the appalling crimes for which the paramilitaries are being tried," he added.

"How will impunity be avoided, and what kind of reparations will be demanded of the 'parapoliticians' who contributed to murders, massacres and the forced displacement of three million people in Colombia?" asked González Posso, alluding to the provisions of the Peace and Justice Law.

The same questions are being asked by the ICC prosecutor, according to a letter to the Colombian government from Moreno-Ocampo, dated Jun. 18 but kept secret until Aug. 15, when it was published by the Bogota daily *El Nuevo Siglo*.

"How will the trial of those most responsible for crimes under the jurisdiction of the ICC, including political leaders and members of Congress presumably linked to demobilised groups, be ensured?" asked Moreno-Ocampo.

"The parapolitics scandal is a key issue for us, because those who are ultimately responsible should be tried and convicted," he added in the letter.

Cepeda pointed out to IPS that since the Rome Statute, which created the ICC, went into force in July 2002, elections have been held in Colombia "in which mechanisms of armed pressure and territorial control were used, which can be linked to crimes against humanity."

IPS learned that the ICC prosecutor is not pleased with the fact that the legislators investigated in the parapolitics scandal are accused only of conspiracy to commit crimes, with aggravating circumstances, and not of crimes against humanity.

One possibility is that the most heavily implicated legislators will be sentenced in Colombia on charges of conspiracy to commit crimes, and could face possible prosecution before the ICC for crimes against humanity.

"Parapolitics is the main front in the struggle today in Colombia," said Cepeda.

"The possibility of a way forward to democracy depends on how this struggle between hopes for impunity versus the search for truth and justice in the parapolitics cases plays out," he said. (END/2008)