

SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
PRESS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

PRESS CLIPPINGS

Enclosed are clippings of the latest local and international press on the Special Court and related issues obtained by the Press and Public Affairs Office as of:

Wednesday, July 28, 2004

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.
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Ibrahim Tommy
Ext 7248
MOBILE: 232 76 645 914

At the Special Court...

Prosecution to produce investigator

By Odilia French

In the ongoing trial of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) at the Special Court the Prosecution have been ordered by the Trial Chamber to produce the investigator who recorded the statement of TF1199 the eight Prosecution Witness.

This order was made following some information given by this witness during cross-examination by Defence Counsel John Cammegh for the third accused Augustine Gbao, which was not found in his statement. The witness while testifying last week told the court that he learnt

about an attack and the kidnapping of UN troops in Makeni while he and other boys from the Small Boys Unit were in Lunsar

in the hands of Caritas Makeni. He said that when they heard about the attack, they decided to get out of

there to avoid being captured and recruited again by the rebels. The witness said that on getting to Rogbere

Junction on their way to Freetown together with Caritas staff, he saw UN trucks load of rebels with

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Prosecution to produce investigator

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naked white men in the back of these trucks passing by. During cross-examination by Mr. Cammegh, yesterday the witness when asked narrated the whole incident to the court stating exactly what he said last week. Mr. Cammegh then read part of his first and second statements but it contained nothing about any naked white men in trucks or anything about the Nigerian battalion to end UNAMSIL's assignment

kidnapping of UN troops. Mr. Cammegh then asked the witness whether he was lying or not as his two statements made no mention of what he is telling the court. To which the witness replied that he is speaking the truth. Mr. Cammegh then made an application for the investigator one Ms. Hatt to come and give her own side of the story. Prosecutor- Leslie Taylor in her response told the court that Ms. Hatt is out

of the jurisdiction and is presently somewhere in Europe; adding that she is no longer working for the Special Court. Mr. Andreas O'Shea who is also for the third accused told the court that they are deeply concerned about the answers coming from the witness; adding that the Prosecution have to be very open with them the defence, on what a witness is going to say in court. He said that they

should come out openly and tell them whether they knew that the kidnapping of UN troops was part of the witness' testimony. "Prima facially it is unfair to the defence," he added. Presiding Judge- Justice Benjamin Itoe then ordered the Prosecution to arrange

for Ms. Hatt to be brought to the court on the expense of the Special Court for clarification purposes. Meanwhile, Defence Counsel for first accused, Issa Sesay, Wayne Jordash also made an application for an adjournment of the

testimony of Prosecution Witness TF1060 for a period of 42 days. According to him the witness in his first statement did not mention Issa Sesay but in a supplemental statement made mention of his client and they would like to investigate the information given by that witness.

Awolko

Wednesday, July 28, 2004

Special Court Summons Statement taker

By Joseph Komeh

The Presiding Judge of the Trial Chamber of the Special Court, Judge Benjamin Mutanga Itoe has on Tuesday instructed the prosecuting counsel to invite the prosecutions

statement taker and guardian of witness TFI-199 Miss Ann Catharine Hatt to appear before the court at a session to be determined. Judge Benjamin asked the prosecu-

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tion to ensure that Miss Hatt be brought in the interest of fair determination of a fair trial.

This move came as a result of an application made by defence counsels of the three RUF indictees based on the testimony given by the witness during cross-examination. In his testimony, TFI said he saw RUF fighters wearing UN combat uniforms on their way from Makeni to Freetown and driving UN vehicles with kidnapped and stripped UN soldiers at Rogbere Junction. During cross-examination, the witness testified he saw at Rogbere Junction

(from his hiding place) about 20 UN vehicles driven by RUF fighters in uniform with white men at the back of each vehicle. The controversy reached its climax when defence counsel observed that neither document relating to the first statement of the witness made towards the end of last year purported to have been signed by Catherine Hatt, and the second interview of the witness with the prosecuting investigation team in February this year made any mention of UN personnel captured and seen at the back of lorries. Lawyer Osho Williams said, it was now time the prosecution

stood up to say if they knew of any kidnapping or not.

The witness insisted on having said this to the prosecution. He said his statement was not read to him a second time by the prosecution for him to confirm it. Against this background Judge Benjamin Itoe asked that Miss Catherine Hatt be made to come to clarify the issue.

The prosecution counsel however countered that Miss Catherine Hatt is not a witness, neither is she even part of the jurisdiction of the court. She is also reported to be out of contract with the Special Court.

The New Star

Wednesday July 23, 2004

Special Court To Quiz Statement-Taker

By Mohamed Mansaray

The Presiding Judge of the Trial Chamber of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, Justice Benjamin Itoe yesterday upheld defence application for Ann Cathrine Hatt to be flown into Sierra Leone to appear in court to make clarifications in respect of statement she obtained from a Prosecution witness TF1-199, sometime in 1998.



**Prosecutor
David Crane**

The application was made by defence counsel for the third accused Augustine Gbao, Andreas O'shea and supported by John Cammegh another defence counsel for the accused.

The witness first made statement to the Prosecution in August last year and a supplementary statement in February

this year.

The 17-year-old Prosecution witness testified in court on July 20 this year. He was cross-examined again yesterday by John Cammegh at court room No.1, Jomo Kenyatta Road in Freetown.

In his application, counsel drew

the attention of the court to the fact that in both statements of the witness disclosed to the defence, there is no mention of anybody being abducted by rebels nor was anything said about the 20 UN captured trucks containing naked white UN prisoners as the witness said

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Sierra Times

Wednesday July 28, 2004

Setback Times

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Special Court Wants Statement-Taker

during his second cross-examination. He submitted that Miss Hatt would be required to tell the court what it was that the witness told her, since according to him, the defence has established what they described as "glaring discrepancies" in the testimony of the witness.

Responding, a Prosecution lawyer, Lesley Taylor submitted that they are not against the application made by Mr. Cammegh. The Prosecution Counsel further submitted that Ms. Hatt does not appear on the witness list, nor is she within the jurisdiction of the court.

She told the court that Ms. Hatt may be living somewhere in Europe but would not say exactly where.

"The defence is not pleased with the answers given by the witness", Andreas O'shea another defence lawyer for Augustine Gbao told the court. He said that the statement-taker needs to appear in court and clarify certain issues with respect to statement she took from the witness, and accused the Prosecution of not being open to disclosing statements of witnesses to the defence.

Asked by John Cammegh, whether he (the witness) did in fact get to Gbere Junction where an alleged gun fire took place between ECOMOG and the invading forces, the witness said that he did not but said that he went very close to the place.

Asked further how many lorries containing white men and rebels he saw, the witness said that he did not count but that they may have been over 30, twenty of which were white UN vehicles.

When the witness was further asked whether his statement obtained in 2003 by the Prosecution was read back to him, the witness said that he was not sure whether it was read back to him.

In his testimony on July 20, the witness told the court that he saw a group of people he referred to as 'white men' and rebels near Lunsar, heading towards the direction of Freetown in 1998. He also told the court that some of the 'white men' did not wear any clothing on their bodies while others bowed down their heads in the trucks. "The trucks were many and each had 'white men' and rebels", the witness further told the court, but did not say how many trucks. He went on to testify that there were heavy exchanges of gunfire when the trucks arrived at Gbere Junction where ECOMOG forces were based.

The witness told the court that he and other former members of the Small Boys Unit (SBU), about 300 of them were in the custody of CARITAS (an NGO) in Lunsar after being brought from Kabala that he saw the men in the vehicles. The witness who spoke in English further testified that they (SBUs) learnt about the abduction of UNAMSIL forces in Makeni through a staff member of CARITAS and they decided to abandon the camp in Lunsar.

The witness was born in the Bombali district in 1987 and was led in evidence by Prosecution counsel, Sharan Pamar.

Christian Monitor

July 2004

On the alleged kidnapping of UNAMSIL Personnel RUF Commander's application Dismissed

The application for the exclusion of the evidence of Witness TF1-199 on the kidnapping of UNAMSIL personnel has been dismissed and Defence may proceed with the cross examination of the witness if Counsel so desires. That was the ruling in the Trial Chamber of the Special Court on Monday 26th

July.

The prosecution had previously disclosed the redacted written statement for this witness on different dates between November 2003 and December 2003 while its unrelated version had been disclosed in accordance with the witness protection orders. The Defence submits that part

of the testimony of witness TF-199 pertaining to the kidnapping of UNAMSIL personnel in Makeni should be excluded on the grounds that it is fresh evidence and it has not been given notice of this event from the disclosure referred to above and that, as a result it cannot properly prepare to cross-examine

this witness. The Defence claimed that evidence which cannot be properly tested by the Defence cannot be given probative value and therefore should be excluded.

Meanwhile, the former leader of the RUF, Issa Sesay failed to appear at the Court yesterday reportedly on grounds of illness.

Cocorioko Website (formerly Daily News Inquirer)

REBELS KILLED KIDS AND PACKED THEIR HEADS IN A BAG -SAYS TEARFUL PROSECUTION WITNESS

Tuesday July 27, 2004

More tears have been shed by witnesses at the Special Court for Sierra Leone as they continue to narrate the atrocities allegedly committed by rebels of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF).

Witness TF-064 cried for over 5 minutes uninterrupted and Presiding Judge Benjamin Itoe (Pictured right) had to tell her to have comfort and continue her testimony when the woman broke down after telling the court about how the rebels raped her, though pregnant, amputated both her hands; removed her sister's underwear and plunged a knife into her private parts; rounded up kids and assembled them along with adults under a tree. They included her own sons, who were 1 and 3 years old.

She alleged that the rebels then separated the kids from the adults and murdered all but one of the children, with the surviving child being asked to carry a blood-dripping bag as they left the village with their captives. The woman said she was asked at gunpoint to laugh when she saw the dead bodies of the children littering the floor. She was then shown the contents of the bloody bag--The heads of all the kids, including her sons', who had been killed.

Our reporter, Soriebah Kalokoh, said that Sierra Leoneans were outraged by the testimonies, which are bringing back sad memories of the 11-year-old war and many people are blasting the court for not bringing to trial the rebels who individually perpetuated these wicked acts.

"What is the use of having us hear all these pathetic stories when the people who committed them are free and will not face charges?" an old man was quoted as saying. The Special Court is trying only the leaders of the various armies, who are deemed as bearing the greatest responsibility for the horrors committed by their fighters.

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The Special Court And International Humanitarian Law

Concord Times (Freetown)

OPINION

July 27, 2004

Posted to the web July 27, 2004

By Tatafaw Tumoe
Freetown

A lot of people mistake a short memory for a clear conscience.

The Special Court for Sierra Leone is here to stay. For those who think otherwise, there is really nothing they can do apart from shedding tears for those who might find their relatives, friends or mentors trapped within the cogwheels of justice and truth.

Following the establishment of the Special Court, a lot of press articles, radio phone-in programs and seminars have seen a whole lot of ideas being brought up as to why the Special Court should operate, or why it should not operate etc etc.

The end in this case will certainly justify the means. What however some sections of the Sierra Leonean community fail to realize is that the crimes for which Hinga Norman and others are alleged to have committed are not only against Sierra Leonean law but international laws. They might have committed them in Sierra Leone but the crimes transcend borders.

That explains why Charles Taylor is also found wanting.

The Special Court for Sierra Leone is therefore a very important component in our search for a civilized world where people will not be allowed to take any action with impunity without thinking of the consequences. David Crane is really doing a grand job not only for Sierra Leone but the world.

The Special Court for Sierra Leone is guided along the premise of International Humanitarian Law, which in essence was brought about through the great effort of the International Committee of the Red Cross founded by five Swiss citizens in 1863 (Henry Duncant, Guilloume-Henri Dufour, Gustavu Moynier, Louis Appia and Theodove Maunoir).

According to the ICRC, International Humanitarian Law forms a major part of Public International Law. These are laws, which in times of war are there to protect the people who are no longer taking part in the conflict and "to restrict the methods and means of warfare." International Humanitarian Law also known as the Law of Armed Conflict or Law of War has two branches; The Law of Geneva As the name implies, this law was codified in the city of Geneva and is "designed to safeguard military personnel who are no longer taking part in the fighting and people who are not actively involved in hostilities, e.g. civilians.

The Geneva Convention of 1864 is the starting point of International Humanitarian Law, as we know it today. Indeed, since there is no society without its own set of rules, so there has never been a war that did

not have rules covering the outbreak or the end of hostilities.

The Law of The Hague The Law of The Hague on the other hand establishes the rights and obligations of the opposing forces in the conduct of military operations and also limits the means of harming the enemy.

Prior to the establishment of the International Humanitarian Law, philosophers had taken up the challenge of regulating wars. Jean-Jacques Rousseau, the 18th century French philosopher had formulated principles about war. According to Rousseau, "war is in no way a relationship of man with man, but a relationship between states in which individuals are enemies only by accident, not as men, nor even as citizens but as soldiers," he went on further to say that "since the object of war is to destroy the enemy, it is legitimate to kill the latter's defenders as long as they are carrying arms, but as soon as they lay them down and surrender they cease to be enemies or agents of the enemy, and again become mere men and it is no longer legitimate to take their lives. To be continued.

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TUESDAY
July 27, 2004

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NEWS

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Nigerian Court Resumes Case Against Taylor's Asylum

ABUJA (AFP) -- A case by two Nigerian amputees who want to force their government to hand former Liberian leader Charles Taylor over to international justice resumed here Monday.

Emmanuel Egbuna and David Anyaele, who both had their arms cut off by Sierra Leonean rebels, allege that Taylor played a role in their ordeal and have asked for a judicial review of his asylum in Nigeria.

VIEWES

Opinion
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Taylor, who was not represented in court Monday, fled to Nigeria last August as enemy fighters closed in on the Liberian capital Monrovia. He was granted asylum by Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo in exchange for not interfering in Liberia's peace process.

SPECIAL

Learning
It's Worth
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The Abuja federal high court adjourned the case earlier this month following a request by the plaintiffs' lawyers who complained of difficulties in locating Taylor's address for the purpose of serving court orders.

Taylor has been living under Obasanjo's protection in the southeastern Nigerian city of Calabar.

The two amputees were later given the go-ahead to serve court papers on the former Liberian president through the daily press.

Exchange
IRIB TV
IRIB Radio

Taylor has been accused by international prosecutors at a UN-backed special tribunal in Liberia's neighbor Sierra Leone of backing the rebel Revolutionary United Front (RUF) during that country's own bloody civil war.

A Libyan-trained guerrilla, Taylor fought his way to power at the head of a brutal rebel army, then fought the latest in his country's long line of civil wars before seeing himself confirmed as Liberia's elected president in 1997.

Soon afterwards Liberia was plunged back into anarchy by a new rebellion. Taylor, meanwhile, stands accused of backing the RUF between 1991 and 2001 in exchange for a share in Sierra Leone's trade in so-called "blood diamonds".

He was forced out of power by a combination of international pressure and the advance of a rebel army on his capital in August last year, and has since been living in comfortable but increasingly isolated exile in Nigeria.

Obasanjo last week defended his decision to protect Taylor, saying his decision to grant him political asylum had helped end Liberia's latest civil war and allowed a new generation of leaders to embark on a peace process.

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President Olusegun Obasanjo is reported to have said in Nigeria that his country's commitment to the continued stay of former Liberian Presi-

Obasanjo calls protecting Taylor a honour

dent, Charles Taylor, is a matter of honour. Taylor went to Nigeria last year on asylum as a condition for peace in Liberia. He has since been living in Calabar, Cross River State. According to *This Day* newspaper of Nigeria, president Obasanjo,

made the statement on the occasion of a book launch marking the 70th birthday anniversary of his Foreign Affairs Minister, Ambassador Oluyemi Adeniji. His statement was in apparent reaction to mounting pressure both in and out of Nigeria for the release

of Taylor to face trial at the Special Court for war crimes in Sierra Leone.

The President said if the country promised to provide security to an asylum seeker, it should honour that pledge. "We must tell the world we are a country of

honour. If we say come here we'll give you security we should be able to do so," he is reported to

have said. "If we had not brought Charles Taylor here,

there would have still been bloodbath in that

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Obasanjo calls protecting Taylor

From Front Page

country," he added. Obasanjo told the gathering of eminent Nigerians gathered at the Nigeria Institute of International Affairs (NIIA), in Lagos that there was need to re-define what should be the role of Nigeria in Africa. The president said he was interested in seeing how Africans in diaspora relate to Nigeria.

Taylor is wanted for trial of war crimes, crimes against humanity and serious violations of international humanitarian law committed by the Revolutionary United Front rebels who he al-

legedly backed during the country's civil war.

Defending Nigeria's big-brother role, Obasanjo, pointed out that Nigeria had provided asylum to a number of troubled African leaders in the past. He cited the example of the former Chadian leader, Felix Maloum, who spent 23 years in the country and was so comfortable that by the time he was leaving, he had 22 children.

The African Union, he said, must be seen as a new organisation which has "brought total emancipation of Africa." He added: "We can make the next century the century of Africa. I believe we can do

it. I am sure we can do it."

Two Nigerians have taken a court action against Charles Taylor in Abuja. Anyaele and Egbuna said they were attacked, tortured and amputated by rebels under Taylor's command in Sierra Leone in 1999 during a business trip. Anyaele's arms, were severed while those of Egbuna were also mutilated.

President Obasanjo has insisted that Taylor's asylum is part of an international consensus to bring peace to then war-torn Liberia. Courtesy *This Day*, Nigeria

The Independent

Wednesday July 28, 2004



THE
CHRISTIAN
SCIENCE
MONITOR

Sierra Leonean President Apologizes to Liberians

The Inquirer (Monrovia)

NEWS

July 27, 2004

Posted to the web July 27, 2004

President Kabbah said while it is true that the Chairman of the transitional government in Sierra Leone Charles Gyude Bryant made an open apology to Sierra Leoneans when he visited that country earlier this year for the participation of Liberians in the 10 years civil war in that country, he thinks it was necessary to make it clear that Sierra Leoneans equally participated in the war in Liberians.

The Sierra Leonean Head of States made these statements yesterday in the office of the NTGL Chairman when he addressed Executive Mansion reporters shortly after he held a close door meeting with NTGL Chairman Gyude Bryant.

President Kabbah who was in the country yesterday as guest of the Liberian government to join in the celebration marking the country's 157 independent day celebration, President Kabbah said Liberia and his country has similar historical links stressing that what so ever that happens in Liberia will have a split over effect on his country.

The Sierra Leonean leader who is the first Head of State to visit Liberia since the induction into office of the NTGL, spoke strongly of the need to respect the non-aggression treaty between the three Mano River Union countries of Liberia, Sierra Leonean and Guinean.

He said these three nations should report and turn over to the other any one who try to carry out subversive activities against the other.

President Kabbah who alluded to the fact that the treaty was not respected at certain point in time by the three countries due to some reasons, also warned those who may be planning to cause trouble in the basin stressing that the three nations have renew their commitment to the treaty.

On what measures that have been put in place by his government to prevent close border or subversive activities along the border with Liberia and Guinea, President Kabbah who was flanked by his friend and brother NTGL Chairman Gyude Bryant, said his government has instituted measures such as posing men at the border points to deal with such a situation.

Commenting on the extradition of former Liberian leader Charles Taylor, President Kabbah said his government has made a commitment not to interfere with the work on the special court in Sierra Leone adding " as a lawyer myself, I will not do such. I will not interfere with the court."

He added that former President Taylor was taken out of the country under an arranged spear headed by the President of Nigeria who he said has promised to provide the former leader with all the necessary security protection.

He said for the Nigerian leader to back slide on this promise in keeping with the arrangement that took Taylor out of Liberia would demonstrate that he is not a man of his words adding " by there are other options being persuade at the moment"

President Kabbak departed the country yesterday.

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Gov't Acts On Arms Explosion

THE government of Sierra Leone has acknowledged that the rampant circulation of small arms and light weapons especially along our common borders represents significant threat to human security and post-conflict peace building.

"It is against this background that the government wholeheartedly welcome and endorse the GOSL/UNDP Sierra Leone Border Strengthening Programme," a government position statement from the Office of the President stated last week.

Government says it is not oblivious of the fact that with the war now over, the main challenges facing it are in areas of post-conflict peace

building, socio-economic development with human security paramount.

The statement added that without a comprehensive strategy involving all relevant stakeholders, threats from border insecurity are bound to impair on the stability of the country.

In a letter dated 18th April, 2004, addressed to the National Security Coordinator, the Project Coordinator of the



Joe Blell Deputy Defence Minister

UNDP/Arms for Development Programme requested the office of National Security to be a principal coordinating body of the border Strengthening initiative. The office of the National Security has since accepted to coordinate the programme.

"It is worthy to note the unswerving commitment of the

Government of Sierra Leone at the highest level to the Sierra Leone Border Strengthening Programme," the statement concluded.

The government will tomorrow afternoon make a formal presentation of its Border Strengthening Programme initiative in the conference Room of State House.

The Democrat

Wednesday July 28, 2004