

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



Man O'War Bay, Aberdeen, at night

**PRESS CLIPPINGS**

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

Wednesday 28 June 2006

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

Wednesday, 28 June 2006

# Defence Counsel's motion dismissed

By Betty Milton

Trial judges of Chamber I of the Special Court have dismissed a joint motion filed by Defence Counsels for the three Civil Defence Forces (CDF) accused: Sam Hinga Norman, Moinina Fofanah and Aliou Kondewa.

In the motion, the defence team submitted that they needed clarification as to the priority of contacting and interviewing confirmed defence witnesses by the Prosecution during the

defence stages of the trial and prior to their testimony, and a court order for the exclusion of statements taken from defence witnesses by the Prosecution.

The team further submitted that it was unfair to allow the prosecution to interview a confirmed defence witness when they [defence] were not given the opportunity to enjoy the same right with the prosecution witnesses as they were under protective measure.

During the Prosecution's

case, the defence submitted that they were prevented from conducting interviews, which were channelled to the Witnesses and Victims Section (WVS). They also submitted that because the defence witnesses decided to testify without protective measures, it afforded the prosecution a significant tactical advantage over the defence.

Also they stated that once a list of witnesses was made known, it was customary for the other party to seek permission before

approaching confirmed witnesses, which was a better practice to avoid allegations of bad faith and interference with witnesses.

In response, the Prosecution stated that it was a fundamental principle in criminal as well as civil proceedings and there was no property in a witness.

The prosecution also submitted that a witness was never "attached" to either of the parties at any stage of the proceedings and that they had legitimate reasons to interview defence witnesses, including for purpose of conducting their own reasonable investigations either to test the evidence or to obtain information which could be used to undermine the reliability or credibility of a witness.

The Prosecution

conceded that such contacts could be restricted by the Court's protective measures order depending on the circumstances of the case.

In their deliberation, the three judges: Bankole Thompson [presiding], Benjamin Itoe and Pierre Boutet, stated that they saw no merit in the defence submission that it was against the principle of equality of arm for the prosecution to contact defence witnesses directly when the defence were precluded from doing so in relation to prosecution witnesses due to the protective measures being in place.

The Chamber further stated that if the defence had made the necessary application before it, and asserted that defence

witnesses expressed fear that by placing their names on the list, they would be exposed to harassment they would have granted them the same privilege as the prosecution witnesses.

The Chamber however dismissed the motion in all other aspects.

On May 9 this year, during cross-examination of Mrs. Wuiyatta Sheriff who was a defence witness for the first accused, it became clear that the prosecution had been directly contacting, interviewing and taking statements from defence witnesses without the prior knowledge of the defence and with a view of challenging their credibility during cross-examination by the Prosecution, which as a general principle, was not permissible.

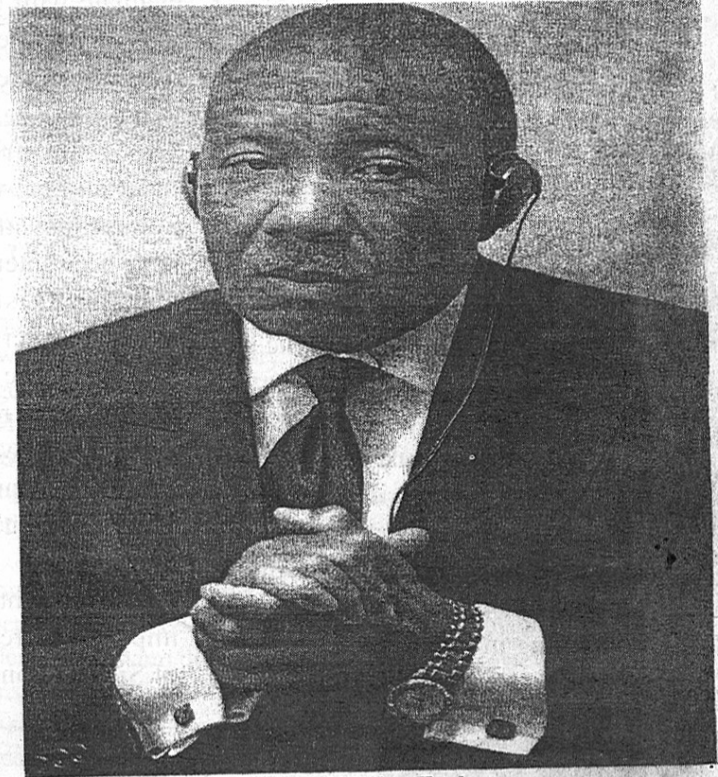
# US applauds Taylor's transfer to The Hague

A press release issued by the Public Affairs Office of the US Embassy in Freetown has welcomed the June 20 transfer of former Liberian President Charles Taylor from Sierra Leone to The Hague, where he will stand trial for war crimes and crimes against humanity. According to the release, the

US consider the action as an important step forward for justice and accountability, and contributes to stability in West Africa after decades of civil conflict.

Charles Taylor's arrest and trial, the release goes on, is the result of years of support for democracy and diplomatic

*Continued page 2*



*Charles Taylor*

## US applauds Taylor's transfer to The Hague

*from front page*

efforts by the United States and her international partners. Since President Bush took office in 2001, the US has been working towards a democratic transition in Liberia.

In 2003, President Bush demanded that Charles Taylor stepped down to help bring peace to Liberia. Nigeria offered Taylor a temporary place of exile in order to facilitate his departure.

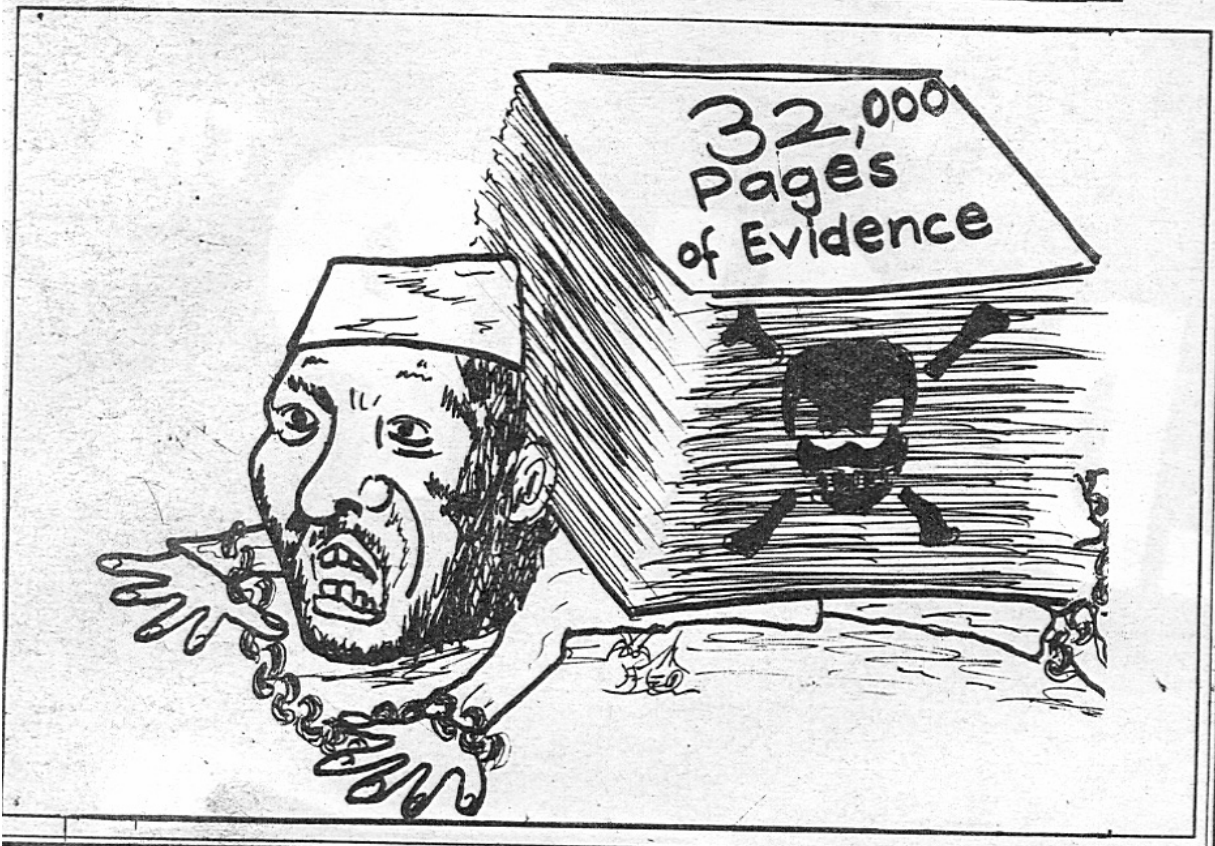
However, the United States always maintained that Charles Taylor needed to be held accountable for his actions. We therefore supported Nigeria's decision in March to turn Taylor over to the democratically elected government of Liberia.

Before the transfer took place, the United States worked in the UN

Security Council to make Taylor's trial possible. Last number, the US authored resolution 1638 giving the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) the authority to arrest Charles Taylor and hand him over to the Sierra Leone Special Court. Subsequently, the US worked to ensure the adoption of Resolution 1688 on June 16, which authorized the Special Court to be able to hold Taylor's trial in The Hague. Charles Taylor is the first African president to face charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity. His trial will demonstrate the international community's commitment to holding individuals responsible for their actions. "We applaud the efforts all those who have worked with us to bring Charles Taylor to justice", the US Embassy press release ends.

Exclusive  
Wednesday, 28 June 2006

# Charles Taylor cries for help



A cartoon depicting the volume of evidence against Charles Taylor

Concord Times  
 Wednesday, 28 June 2006

## GUEST WRITER

# Our courts and some foolish dressing codes

*Story: Umaru Fofana*

As a schoolboy, my teachers encouraged me to become a lawyer. My dad, on the other hand, said lawyers were destined for hell because they would see the truth and would seek to argue against it. That maybe not entirely be true. But one thing though is, It took the best of me and colonised my mind. I also remember as a student at Fourah Bay College once being on a panel with a law lecturer who later tried to persuade me to read for a law degree after the one I was pursuing. Well, I did not fall for it and I have no regrets for pursuing a career in journalism, which, unsurprisingly you may say, I see as the best profession. (Perhaps second only to being a righteous soldier.) But also because I do not like the wig on. Smile!

It is in the discharge of my duty as a journalist that I had gone to a Freetown High Court last week to cover the trial of the former spokesman of the former rebel Revolutionary United Front, Omrie Michael Golley. The courtroom was changed without me knowing. I had sat in the usual room awaiting the controversial Justice Ademus. Soon I realized some other courtroom was to house the trial. I dashed like Michael Johnson so as not to miss a bit of the proceedings. I straightaway strategically positioned myself at the press gallery so that I could clearly hear the exchanges, but also so that I could catch a glimpse of Mr Golley, since his medical condition had become as

newsworthy as the fact that his trial had been adjourned for nearly sixty times.

Scarcely before the proceedings went underway, the court clerk asked me – and a colleague – to leave the gallery. Reason: We did not have on a tie. Balderdash! The colleague was neatly dressed in African attire. But the colonial mentality associated with the law profession has taken the better of the rules. We were both stripped of our privilege. London, is most of the time cold, hence the reason for the way the colonial lawyers dressed and still do. Ours is a tropical weather yet we want to be more Catholic than the Pope. But just why do the rules remain so doggedly resistant to change? This, despite the fact that the courtrooms are so smoulderingly hot. So hot that on that very day, the Acting Director of Public Prosecution had to send his messenger to bring his fan from his office to use in the courtroom. And I could see some of the lawyers on the bench employing the services of cardboard fans if only to generate some badly-needed ventilation. Coupled with the coat, the tie, the gown, all black, plus the wig, the courtroom is unenviable! Women who enter our courts must have a head tie on. But the female police officers in the same courtroom leave their heads bare. Another inconsistency! Maybe the law reform commission should commission itself the task of reforming some of the rules in court, including dress code.

***I also remember as a student at Fourah Bay College once being on a panel with a law lecturer who later tried to persuade me to read for a law degree after the one I was pursuing.***

## Voice of America

Tuesday, 28 June 2006

### **Justice for Charles Taylor**

Former Liberian President Charles Taylor is now in The Hague where he will stand trial for war crimes and crimes against humanity. He had been in the custody of a special United Nations-backed war crimes court in Sierra Leone and will be tried by that court in The Hague.

Charles Taylor's arrest and trial is the result of years of support for democracy and diplomatic efforts by the U.S. and our international partners. U.S. State Department deputy spokesman Adam Ereli says his transfer to the Hague "is an important step for justice and accountability":

"We are grateful and appreciative to the efforts of Nigeria, Liberia, the British, the Dutch, and the [U-N] Security Council in making this move. And we have said from the very beginning that we will not rest until those accused of crimes are held accountable."

Charles Taylor is the first African president to face such charges. He was forced to leave office in 2003 after six years of gross misrule. Rather than working to improve life for Liberians, he supported rebels in neighboring countries and fomented civil strife in his own. He is accused of being part of a criminal enterprise set up to take diamonds from eastern Sierra Leone and use the profits to finance a campaign of destabilization in West Africa.

The eleven-count indictment Taylor faces includes charges of supporting rebels in Sierra Leone and Ivory Coast. He is charged with "bearing the greatest responsibility" for war crimes committed in Sierra Leone, including murder. He is also charged with crimes against humanity, including extermination, rape, murder, sexual slavery, and the use of child soldiers.

U.S. State Department deputy spokesman Adam Ereli says, "His trial will demonstrate the international community's commitment to holding individuals responsible for their actions." The U.S., Mr. Ereli says, "applaud[s] the efforts all those who have worked with us to bring Charles Taylor to justice."

*The preceding was an editorial reflecting the views of the United States Government.*

## UN News

Tuesday, 27 June 2006

### **Annan leaves this week on trip to West Africa, Germany**

United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan leaves this week for a five-nation trip to Africa, and then an official visit to Germany, during which he will attend the African Union (AU) Summit in Banjul, the Gambia, his spokesman announced today.

On the summit's margins, he will hold a series of bilateral meetings. He is also expected to host a mini-summit on Côte d'Ivoire, which will bring together that country's President Laurent Gbagbo and other African leaders.

From the Gambia, the Secretary-General goes to Freetown where he will visit the UN Mission in Sierra Leone, as well as the Special Court for Sierra Leone. He will confer with the President and other officials.

The Secretary-General will also visit the UN Missions in Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire, before proceeding to Ghana for a private visit.

While on an official visit to Germany, Mr. Annan will meet with officials and ministers of the German Government, including Chancellor Angela Merkel and President Horst Kohler. In Bonn he will visit the UN offices.

While in Germany, he also hopes to attend the World Cup Final.



## Mathabe.Net

Tuesday, 27 June 2006

[http://mathaba.net/0\\_index.shtml?x=538951](http://mathaba.net/0_index.shtml?x=538951)



*"This is the most difficult article I have ever had to write"*

By Lahai J Samboma

My life before the mid- to late-eighties was a kid's life, occupied with school, experimenting with alcohol, weed, sexual fumbling. Positively boring. And then I met Marx at University - and Sanjan. It was not his given name, just what he was known as, among campus revolutionaries and admirers beyond. His nom de guerre.

I was a boy, a "boy revo"; he was my senior and he was good: he could speak with passion, an orator; his commanding prose made me want to write. I loved him. I would have introduced him to my sister had I one.

They were members of a club formed to study Colonel Gaddafi's theses on revolution, the Green Book Study Group. It was an open secret on campus that Sanjan and co had a relationship with the "Leader". The mystique of Sanjan became boundless. They would jet off to Libya for weeks. On their return, they were looked on as kings.

### **STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS**

And then we challenged the government. Violent student demonstrations. Tear gas and paramilitary AK 47s were deployed, the principal's Merc Molotov-cocktailed. I was lucky to get off lightly; others were expelled, many put in jail to get their head straight. The University was shut down for a spell.

It was no surprise several years later to learn that the "Leader" was bankrolling Charles Taylor's armed insurgency in neighbouring Liberia. But Taylor was fighting against one of the most ruthless and corrupt American proxies in the region. I was against both US hegemony and its support for Sergeant Samuel Doe. So, that was okay.

Sierra Leone's one-party dictatorship was hated, so it was okay, again, for Gaddafi-blessed Foday Sankoh's Revolutionary United Front to launch their insurgency from their base in neighbouring Liberia with Taylor's very active support. Especially as the Sierra Leone government, fearful of the chaos in Liberia spilling over, was virulently anti-Taylor.

## **REIGN OF TERROR, RAPING, AMPUTATING LIMBS, PILLAGING**

But then young military officers took power in Sierra Leone, removing at a stroke the *raison d'être* of the RUF. But the killing continued nonetheless. That is the point at which I began to lose faith in “the struggle”. And then they began their reign of terror, raping, amputating limbs, and pillaging. I do not know whether the “Leader” was still supporting Sankoh at this point, but I do know that Taylor was. So, by extension, he might have been.

So, where do I stand now, when Taylor has been indicted for his role in the RUF atrocities and some want Gaddafi to meet a similar fate?

Many people get “wiser” as they get older. However, I am sorry to say, that glib get-out does not apply here. I was all for it at the time. With hindsight, with all that’s gone on, with thousands of people dead or maimed, it is easy for me to say that none of it should have happened. But I would be playing into the hands of the reactionary cabal who would want Africa to remain as we are - the exploitees of a neocolonialist international order of things that condemns our people to perpetual poverty, even as they mouth their platitudes about debt relief, aid and their new favourite catchphrase: make poverty history.

## **ERNESTO CHE GUEVARA**

This is the most difficult article I have ever had to write. This is simply because it has forced me to dig deep into myself and become more intimate with my convictions than ever before in my life.

Don’t get me wrong, the killing and other human rights abuses committed were wrong and will ever remain so. But you will not get me to say that the principle of liberating the people through armed struggle is wrong under any circumstances. What was wrong in this case is that the leaders of this so-called revolution were not disciplined enough, did not have the true interests of the people at heart. They killed the people they were supposed to be fighting for.

Ernesto Che Guevara himself, who has achieved iconic status all these years after he was assassinated by pro-American forces, was not only a believer, but also an active participant in African and international revolution. Famously, before his death, he travelled to Central Africa to make his contribution to the struggle of the Congolese people.

The struggle for a Union of African States, despite the best efforts of the forces of neo-colonialism and imperialism, continues. It may only be raging in the hearts of a relative handful of committed people, but it is ever-present; it cannot be snuffed out.

I am not that naïve to believe that the Libyan leader’s contribution to Africa’s struggle for independence, self-reliance and unity is done out of the sheer love. He expects dividends, maybe even the presidency of such a union. Even though he has reined himself in a bid to prevent the Americans doing a Hussein on him, he may still have those ambitions.

What I do know is that he backed the wrong horses and he lost, with the result that thousands of innocent people and lives were destroyed, with the result that many are now calling for his head. And, for that, he should answer. His support for Zimbabwe’s Robert Mugabe and Blaise Campaore in Burkina Faso - the man who murdered that Sun of Africa Thomas Sankara - also puts his judgement in question.

## **PERPETUAL INTERNATIONAL UNDERDOGS**

Be that as it may, it remains clear to this writer, given the strength and resoluteness of the forces that would want to keep us perpetual international underdogs, that only through radical change of the status quo on the continent will Africa rise to its full potential.

This is not to say that such a change has to come through violent means. It simply means that I have no faith in the leaders that neo-colonialist-imposed Western-style democracy produces in our countries. If a different style of leader, committed to challenging the status quo of underdevelopment and poverty, is to emerge then we may have to look elsewhere.

“No single part of Africa can be safe, or free to develop fully and independently, while any part remains unliberated, or while Africa’s vast economic resources continue to be exploited by imperialist and neo-colonialist interests. Unless Africa is politically united, under an All-African Union Government, there can be no solution to our political and economic problems,” Nkrumah wrote.

## **THEY SHOULD ANSWER FOR IT**

Apologists for the status quo in Africa would try to “blacken” me as an unreconstructed so-and-so, a supporter of terrorism, but that is the price we have to pay if we are to stand up for our ideals. The question here is not whether we win the approval of the paternalists who love us more than ourselves, but one of trying to chart a course that delivers the Pan-African ideal - whether they like it or not.

As to the question of the rights and wrongs of Gaddafi, Taylor and co, it holds without question that their revolution went very awry. They should answer for it. And I would like to see them in the dock, alongside George P(erpetual) W(ar) Bush and Tony B-Liar for their mass-murder of Iraqis. And I thought I could write an article without mentioning Bush-Blair!

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Lahai J Samboma, a freelance writer and PanAfricanist,

**United Nations**  **Nations Unies**

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

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## **UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 27 June 2006**

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

### **International Clips on Liberia**

06/27/2006 12:57:28

#### **Annun to visit five African nations and Germany**

New York\_(dpa) \_ UN Secretary General Kofi Annun will visit five African nations and attend the World Cup final in Germany, his spokesman said Tuesday. Beginning this weekend, he is scheduled to visit Gambia, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast and Ghana to hold talks with government officials in each country. In Gambia's Banjul capital, Annun will attend an African Union summit next week. He will make an official visit to Germany following the African tour and watch the July 9 final of the World Cup, said spokesman Stephane Dujarric.

#### **Tetanus Vaccinations to Fight Infant Deaths**

Monrovia, Jun 27, 2006 (UN Integrated Regional Information Networks/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) --The Liberian government and the UN have launched a nation-wide campaign to vaccinate women against tetanus, a simple measure which aid agencies estimate could help slash infant deaths by up to 70 percent. Some 258,000 women of childbearing age will get anti-tetanus shots in the first phase of the campaign, which covers five of Liberia's 15 counties.

### **Local Media – Newspapers**

#### **Local Media – Radio Veritas** *(News monitored yesterday at 6:45 pm)*

##### **President Lauds Senegalese Contingent in UNMIL**

- Receiving a visiting Senegalese Defence Ministry delegation at the Executive Mansion yesterday, President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf lauded the Senegalese contingent in UNMIL for helping to restore peace to Liberia, adding that the contingent has demonstrated professionalism in its peacekeeping duties. Senegalese Defence Minister Becaya Diop who headed the delegation, pledged President Wade's support to President Johnson-Sirleaf.

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

##### **President Constitutes Committee to Probe Alleged Attacks on Journalists**

- Briefing journalists in Monrovia yesterday, Presidential Press Secretary Cyrus Badio said that President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf has constituted a committee to investigate recent alleged molestation of journalists by State security forces. The President charged the committee to document accounts and claims by the journalists against security agents and report to the Minister of State in two weeks.

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

### **President to Appoint New University of Liberia Board of Trustees**

- President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf and Education Minister Joseph Korto will today meet with members of the University of Liberia Faculty Association to resolve the issues of salary arrears and benefits. Presidential Press Secretary Cyrus Badio told journalists yesterday that President Johnson-Sirleaf will soon appoint a new Board of Trustees of the University.

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

### **Liberian Group Urges Government to Secure the Release of Liberians**

- James Kollie, Vice President of Association for the Reconstruction of Liberia, a Ghana-based group has entreated the Government of Liberia to secure the release of Liberians who are being detained in various prisons in West Africa, adding that the reconstruction of Liberia required the input of all Liberians.

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

### **Government Drafts Law to Implement UN Resolution to Freeze Assets**

- In an interview yesterday, Justice Minister Frances Johnson-Morris announced that the government was drafting a law which would empower it to implement the UN Security Council's Resolution to freeze the assets of some former officials of the Taylor-regime. Minister Johnson-Morris said that without the necessary law, the government would be unable to effect the Security Council's mandate.

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

### **Immigration Officers Nab Non-Liberians with Liberian Passports**

- Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization Commissioner Chris Massaquoi told a news conference yesterday that the Bureau has arrested several persons for various immigration offences. Col. Massaquoi said that immigration officers had arrested two Lebanese nationals with two different passports including a Liberian passport and 10 other Malians for illegally entering the country.

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

## BBC Online

Wednesday, 28 June 2006

### **Ugandan rebel denies war crimes** **The leader of Ugandan rebel group Lord's Resistance Army has insisted he is not guilty of war crimes.**

Joseph Kony is wanted by a UN court, but told the BBC his group was not responsible for killings, maimings and abductions in northern Uganda.

Mr Kony was speaking in what he described as his first meeting with a journalist in almost 20 years.

Thousands have died in the conflict between rebels and the government, and more than a million forced to flee.

Mr Kony, who has been indicted by the International Criminal Court in the Hague on war crimes charges, described himself as a freedom fighter and called for peace talks.

He said stories of LRA rebels cutting off people's ears or lips were Ugandan government propaganda. He also denied his group kidnapped children.

"This is not true. I cannot cut the ear of my brother, I cannot kill the eye of my brother. I cannot kill my brother, that is not true," he said.

#### **Humanitarian crisis**

The rebels claim to be guided by the Bible's Ten Commandments and have caused widespread insecurity in northern Uganda and southern Sudan.

The LRA has kidnapped many thousands of children over the years. It turns the boys into fighters or porters and uses many of the girls as sex slaves.

The conflict has been described by the UN as one of the world's worst humanitarian crises.

The interview with the BBC's Newsnight programme comes as the south Sudanese vice-president, Riek Machar, attempts to broker a new peace initiative.

Previous attempts to negotiate an end to the war have failed, with both the Ugandan government and the rebels being accused of lacking commitment to peace talks.



Joseph Kony said this was his first interview for 20 years