

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



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:**

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Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
Martin Royston-Wright
Ext 7217

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REMINISCENCE OF TAYLOR'S WEALTH

*-Shaw, Urey, Snowe, Dunbar Others Live In Luxury
-Lonestar Cell Pays Millions Annually*



Former President Charles G. Taylor



Cyril Allen



Benoni Urey



Edwin M. Snowe, Jr.

CORRUPTION, the virus that everyone considers a disease that has virtually eaten up the fabric of the Liberian society may continue if those who perpetrate the act are allowed to parade the corridors of power or live in luxury while these exploited live in abject poverty, as **News Editor Samwar Fallah** digs into part 1 of Taylor's wealth and periscopes the asso-

ciates of Taylor. The much publicized fight against corruption may not succeed when individuals that stole public funds during the tenure of previous governments ride the best cars and live

in expensive compounds while at the same time been admired by the very people they exploited.

The case in point is the ongoing scenario in Liberia where individuals who aided and abated

former Liberian President Charles Taylor in plundering state resources and reduced the Liberian people to peasants drive around Monrovia in exotic and Custom Built vehicles only showing to the public their ill-gotten wealth.

Imprisoned Liberian leader Charles Ghankay Taylor now facing trial in The Hague, Netherlands for war crimes and crimes against humanity allegedly committed in neighboring Sierra Leone may be one of those feeling the pain though not for acts committed in Liberia while his millions is been collected by others back home who are riding some of the best models of vehicles and living in luxurious palaces and sponsoring chains of "concubines".

Before the coming to power of Charles Taylor as President of Liberia following the 1997 general and presidential elections little or nothing was heard of some of Liberia's "wealthy individuals" today living in earthly paradise.

Several little known Liberians rose to prominence and accrued abundant wealth as a consequence of Taylor's desire to have cronies who could be by his side in looting of Liberian resources at the detriment of the struggling Liberian masses. These individuals are today glittering in bright smiles and freely dwelling amongst the very impoverished Liberian population.

Critical thinkers are of the view that such individuals must not be afforded the opportunity to

live amongst the people; they should rather be declared outcast of society like it is being done in order countries if corruption must be discouraged.

For Liberia, it is becoming a culture that people who reaped terror and subject the commoners to all form of calamities are the very people that are made heroes and adored as eminent citizen of society. Probably, this is one of the factors responsible for the country downfall (a failed state).

In an investigative survey conducted by this paper, it was uncovered that some close associates to the former Liberian leader are still collecting monies belonging to the jailed former African leader and increasing their wealth at the expense of their former master and still at the detriment of the Liberian people.

Amongst the companies paying money to the former Liberian leader through some of his close associates is the Lonestar Communications Incorporated, the first GSM provider that began operations in Liberia in 2001 during the regime of President Taylor.

Credible information in the possession of this paper reveals millions of dollars being paid to Mr. Emmanuel Shaw, Benoni Urey and others by the Lonestar Cell Company on behalf of former President Charles Taylor annually.

Our information gathered from a well placed source at the Lone Star did not mention the reason for the huge payment to these

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THE PARROT, FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 2008

REMINISCENCE

close associates of former President Taylor who actions during his tenure left several Liberians destitute but further investigation gathered that the payment is in fulfillment of a share the latter holds in the company.

It has been widely stated in Liberia by human rights and other organizations that former President Taylor is a shareholder in the Lebanese owned cellphone company that operated in Liberia and sold communication accessories including sim, scratch cards and other services at exorbitant prices for years.

The United Nations Security Council in a resolution in 2002 placed sanctions on former President Taylor and his close associates and also issued a warrant for the search and disclosure of all foreign and local accounts of President Charles Taylor and associates to be confiscated.

The UN resolution also placed travel ban and asset freeze on key individuals including Edwin M. Snowe, Benoni Urey, Emmanuel Shaw, Belle Dunbar, Cyril Allen and others for what the UN termed their role in aiding Taylor through the plundering of the resources of Liberia and fueling regional conflicts.

Former President Taylor currently on trial in The Hague sometimes ago said he was indigent and could not afford the cost to hire lawyers to put up his Defense at the UN backed Special International Court for Sierra Leone based in The Hague.

Following the statement, the United Nations, as a means of speeding up the trial offered to cover the legal expenses of the former Liberian leader but there was huge debate in Liberia and other parts of the world concerning Taylor hidden millions.

In this investigative survey, this paper will dig deep into the rise to prominence of some of these individuals who are today the "wealthiest" in Liberia and how they accrued their wealth.

Benoni Urey

A student of Chemistry at remote situated Cuttington University College in Suakoko, Lower Bong County graduated with a BSc degree in Chemistry.

The science sector of

Liberia has been very much under equipped and students in this academic sector end up in the classroom either as teachers.

This has led to the poor desire of Liberian students ambitious of studying science due to the lack of laboratory equipment and future job opportunities.

Benoni was one of the luckiest Liberian science students who rose to become wealthy with his one bachelor degree because of the association with former President Taylor.

The Cuttington trained chemistry Bachelor Degree holder became head of the Maritime Bureau right after the signing of the Benin, Cotonu Accord in 1995 and was maintained as head of Maritime Affairs by Charles Taylor, a Bureau that monitors and collects all taxes on the large marine industry of Liberia.

Situated on the Atlantic Ocean, Liberia has a good harbor for foreign vessels which makes the Maritime industry generate millions annually.

Urey generated millions of United States dollars from the Maritime registry of Liberia and was only accountable to Taylor.

Within less than six years, Benoni Urey acquired wealth from the Maritime industry where he collected monies and reported directly to Taylor.

There are documents in the possession of this paper which shows vividly how Urey and his LISC partners plundered the Maritime foreign accounts with the backing of jailed president Taylor.

During his tenure as Maritime boss there were no semblance of accountability, all he strived for was to satisfy Taylor and "hell" to the Liberian masses.

Urey is a millionaire backed by huge assets situated in Montserrado and Margibi Counties. He maintained his two Girls (children) in prestigious Universities in the USA and Canada, while thousands of Liberian children whom he and his Master (Taylor) made peasants languish with poverty and illiteracy.

Urey has originally been a senior member of the Lonestar Board and is believed to be a shareholder in Lonestar Cell and is receiving the share returns of his imprisoned Master, Taylor.

Emmanuel Shaw

Shaw was prominent before the coming of Taylor. He served as Finance Minister in the criminal regime of late President Samuel K. Doe. During his tenure as Finance Minister, the government was marred with rampant corruption as millions were transferred to Swiss accounts by his then boss, Doe. There was no accountability to the people, as Doe, Shaw and the rest plundered the Country resources.

He left the country as a result of the 1990 invasion and returned after Taylor was pronounced winner of the 1997 elections. He served as Advisor for Economic Affairs to Former President Charles Taylor.

In this Capacity, Shaw arranged and transferred millions of United States Dollars for Charles Taylor to foreign Banks namely Citi and UBS Banks in New York. All of these Monies came from the Lonestar Cell which Shaw according record also has a share.

This paper also has Documentaries evidence showing the trend of these monies. The Liberian Bank for Developmental and Investment (LBDI) aided Shaw in the transfer process on a commission basis.

Shaw, an Economist from the London School of Economic reaped heavily from this deal which went on for a protracted period.

Shaw, one of the owners of Lonestar Cell relaxes in ill-gotten millions while Liberian Children go to sleep almost on a daily basis hungry.

Edwin Melvin Snowe

Now a member of the House of Representatives for Montserrado County was a common grade-school boy prior to the coming to power of Charles Taylor.

In order to get a share of the Taylor marauding Liberian resources, Snowe hurriedly entered into holy matrimony with the daughter of the Liberian President Zoe Taylor and used the relations to seek favor from the despotic Liberian chief executive which subsequently led to his appointment as Deputy Managing Director for operation at the Liberia Petroleum Refining Company (LPRC).

While in this capacity Snowe raised huge sum of money some of which he used to fund as campaign which led to his election as President for the Liberia

Football Association (LFA). As President of the LFA, Snowe was accused of pillaging a FIFA grant intended to refurbish the Antoinette Tubman Stadium.

The Stadium today lies incomplete while Snowe reported that the money was exhausted.

Snowe also used his affairs with the daughter of President Taylor to initially perform two lucrative jobs simultaneously serving as Managing Director of the LPRC and head of the Liberia Football Association.

He like other close Taylor Associates reported directly to Taylor about the day to day running of their institutions and was not accountable to anyone else.

During the signing of the Accra Comprehensive Peace Accord, Snowe lobbied with representatives of the Government of Liberia, one of the sides to the Liberian conflict at the signing ceremony and was named Managing Director again for the second successive time at the LPRC.

During the two year tenure, the corporation was recorded for massive improbity and corruption as two separate international institutions, UN Panel of Experts and ECOWAS Audit Report indicted the LPRC for heavy financial discipline.

During the 2005 general and presidential elections, Snowe used his ill-gotten wealth and was elected as Representative for District #5 in Montserrado County.

Upon the inauguration of the current administration, he prevailed on fellow lawmakers, accordingly with money and was elected as Speaker of the Liberian National Legislature.

Within less than 2 years, the thirst for the mighty United States dollars made Snowe to surreptitiously negotiate diplomatic relations with Taiwan while the Liberian government maintained it was fostering relations with mainland China.

According to information Snowe sent Assistant Minister for Afro Asian Affairs, Ambrose Gbormie at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to Banjul, Gambia to inform the Taiwanese Consulate that plans were underway to renew diplomatic relations between that country and Liberia

only to solicit money from the renegade province of China as the Foreign policy is straightly the prerogative of the Liberian president. It was speculated that over million United States Dollars was collected from the Taiwanese.

Snowe is currently undergoing investigation on charges of Economic Sabotage at the Temple of Justice in Monrovia for allegedly stealing over one million United States dollars from LPRC where he served as Managing Director during the NTGL period.

Belle Dunbar

Served as head of the Liberia Petroleum Refining Company (LPRC) where she performed appeasing only Charles Taylor. Proceeds generated from the entity were straightly reported to Taylor. LPRC's actual revenue generation was hardly seen in the all over National revenue.

It was believed that she had a love-affair with Taylor thereby empowering her to run the LPRC her own way. At the LPRC, Belle raised millions for herself as though the institution was her private firm.

In our next edition, we will list and detail the rest of the Taylor Associates. And will publish documents of Shaw and Urey Thievery.

ALL MAJOR

Liberian people and lead the state to genuine reconciliation.

Following the President pronouncement that she will not appear before the TRC, but will rather explain her role in a book, there have been public criticism calling on her to lead by going before the commission.

Many Liberians spoken to said the President latest decision is not only anti-peace but also has the propensity to undermine the TRC process and discourage donors who have spent so much resources on the TRC process.

GAS PRICE

would announced". According to the source, no reason has been given for the gas price increment but maintained that there are some misunderstandings between petroleum importers and the Liberian Government on the issue of tariff.

He said the situation has caused delay in issuing coupons (gas slips) to Government employees and others because the

UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries 27 March 2008

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

Newspaper Summary

Deputy UNMIL Boss Warns Against Mob Violence ...Releases Report on Attacks against Police

(The News, The Inquirer, National Chronicle, New Democrat)

- The media reports that the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General for Rule of Law, Henrietta Mensa-Bonsu has warned against mob violence in the country. Ms. Mensa-Bonsu gave the warning on Wednesday when she spoke at a one-day forum to address frequent attacks on the Police. The forum was intended to stem the tide of attacks on the LNP through out the country by helping to create public understanding of the process of the rule of law and the extent of the responsibility of the police in the dispensation of justice.
- In a report covering the period January to February 2008, over 50 violent attacks on the police were catalogued and in most instances police stations were set ablaze in some parts of the country. She blamed the attacks on the lack of proper public education on the functions and operations of the police coupled with the lack of logistics and low incentives.

“Pen-Pen” Riders, Police in Standoff....As Drivers annoy over alleged Police Extortion

(New Democrat)

- Police and “pen-pen”[motorcycle] riders Wednesday had a standoff around the New Bridge when the riders resisted demands for bribes from police officers assigned in the area. As a result of the fracas, the bikes were forcibly parked for what the police termed as traffic violations. One of the bike riders said the officers were always demanding more than the alleged violations.

Africa Partnership Station Delivers over US\$3M Worth of Medical Supplies

(The Inquirer, Heritage, New Democrat)

- The Africa Partnership Station has delivered more than US\$3m worth of medical supplies to Liberia. The supplies donated by the U.S. private sector will be given to the John F. Kennedy and Redemption Hospitals, the Logan Town Clinic, and a portion will go to the Ministry of Health for distribution to other health facilities in the country. US Ambassador Donald Booth disclosed that the APS is also offering services at various hospitals and clinics as well as training to the AFL leadership.
- Meanwhile, the APS also donated postal equipment to the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications to enhance its work. They would reconstruct the Logan Town road; renovate the Monrovia Demonstration High School, the Logan Town and Clay Island Clinics. President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf thanked the APS for the sacrifice and service in responding to the needs of the Liberian people.
- Meanwhile, the commander of the African Partnership Station named illegal fishing, human trafficking, drug smuggling and illegal migration as threats to regional security Captain John Nowell said the threats also jeopardize economic development and long-term stability. He said APS is seeking to cultivate African response through training to improve capability and capacities to secure maritime environment.

House Ratifies Firestone Agreement

(National Chronicle, Heritage, The Inquirer)

- The House of Representatives has concurred with the Senate in ratifying the amended Firestone agreement. At a special session yesterday, the House passed the new Firestone deal in which for the first time in 86 years, Montserrado County will get a thirty-three percent benefit from the US\$237 thousand rental tax due to be paid annually by Firestone.
- The House said Margibi County will take the remaining sixty-seven percent of the amount. Grand Bassa lawmakers Vinicious Hodges and Gabriel Smith said the county should benefit from the money because Firestone pollutes the Farmington River.
- The Farmington River divides Margibi and Grand Bassa Counties. Meanwhile, a Margibi lawmaker observed there are many minor issues in the ratified Firestone agreement that need to be considered. Representative Saar Gbollie said it was unfair for Firestone to state in the agreement that it would build bathrooms or safe latrines.

Road Rehabilitation Begins in Cape Mount

(The Inquirer)

- Ahead of the next cabinet retreat in Grand Cape Mount County, a scrap company operating in the county, Orbital Incorporated has intensified the rehabilitation of the road linking Tiene of the Congo Manor River Concession area. The 55 kilometre road project according to the Operations Manager of Orbital, Amandu Kamissoko is put at more than US\$100,000. Citizens from the county particularly those from Porkpa District where the project is base has welcomed the initiative.

Radio Summary

Local Media – Radio Veritas (News monitored today at 9:45 am)

UNMIL Releases New Report on Attacks against the Police

- The U.N. Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) has released a report that catalogued over 50 violent attacks on the Police.
- The report covering the period January to February 2008 said in most instances police stations were set ablaze in some parts of the country.
- The Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Rule of Law, Henrietta Mensa-Bonsu blamed the attacks on the lack of proper public education on the functions and operations of the Police coupled with the lack of logistics and low incentives.

ICRC Closes Tracing Program in Liberia after 18 Years

- After 18 years in Liberia, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has finally closed its tracing programme in the country.
- ICRC head of Delegation in Liberia, Ricardo Conti said the organization has completed its caseload of tracing up to 4000 families throughout the country and said more than 2000 children were reunited with their families under the programme.

(Also reported on Star Radio, Truth F.M. and ELBC)

Press Union Hold Police-Media Relations Dialogue Today

- The Press Union of Liberia (PUL) will today hold a one-day police-media dialogue amidst the intermittent tension between the two groups.
- The Union said the dialogue is aimed at discussing some of the vexing issues that highlight the friction between media personnel and the Police in the discharge of their duties.

(Also reported on Star Radio, Truth F.M. and ELBC)

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Star Radio *(News culled today from website at 8:35 am)*

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National Chronicle (Liberia)
Friday, 28 March 2008

OVER HER HUSBAND'S DEATH: **REGINA DOGOLEA OPENS UP!** **SEE STORY ON PAGE 6**



Special court judges



Jerome Verdier

REGINA DOGOLEA

The wife of the late Vice President, Enoch Dogolea, has been commenting to testimonies by witnesses who appeared at the recent Truth and Reconciliation Commission hearings in Monrovia and a prosecution witness at the on-going trial of the former President, Charles G. Taylor, in The Hague, regarding the death of her husband.

Regina Dogolea, in her response to the two witnesses, explained that her late husband became sick and, as his illness intensified, the government of Liberia arranged a flight and he was flown to Abidjan for urgent medical attention.

Reacting to critics that her late husband was beaten by security men of former President Taylor, which led to his untimely death, Mrs. Dogolea explained that the former vice president met his fate while undergoing medical treatment at a hospital in Abidjan. She said his body was immediately flown home for appropriate funeral ceremonies and burial by the toppled government.

Mrs. Dogolea also explained that following the death of her husband former President Taylor constituted a committee of inquiry to investigate what led to his death, adding that the committee has since carried out its work.

On a press release issued Thursday and signed by her, Mrs. Dogolea further said that during his tenure as Vice President at the Republic of Liberia, her husband enjoyed the full protection, support and cooperation of all security apparatus of the Liberian government.

She said at no time did any of the security officers assigned to our family complain about his being harassed, his life being threatened, or any attempt to beat him, saying that her late husband was never even intimidated to her that any security had threatened him.

Meanwhile, the Dogolea family has warned all these in the habit of using the peaceful demise of her husband as a means of defaming others' characters, making money of spreading falsehood, to desist from such and "let the soul of our husband and Father rest in peace".

The Inquirer (Liberia)

Friday, 28 March 2008

Dogolea's Wife Reacts To TRC Hearings

The widow of former President Charles Taylor's first Vice President, Enoch Dogolea, has reacted to statements made during witnesses' testimonies before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and the ongoing trial of Mr. Taylor in The Hague concerning her husband's death.

Madam Regina Dogolea warned that all those who are using the peaceful demise of her husband as a means of defaming other characters, money making or on the basis of spreading falsehood should desist and allow his soul to rest in perfect peace. She said that her attention is being drawn to attributes

undergoing treatment in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire.

She consented that former President Taylor set up a committee to probe into the death of her husband in an apparent effort of erasing the minds of the public that Mr. Dogolea was beaten and that the committee has long since completed its work noting that his body was flown back home where appropriate funeral ceremonies were arranged and was buried by the government.

Madam Dogolea spoke kindly of the support, cooperation and protection of all security apparatus during the tenure of her husband dismissing statements that security personnel assigned to her family complained about harassment, life being threatened or lest to speak of an attempted flooding on his person.



The late Vice Pres. Dogolea

New Vision (Uganda)

Thursday, 27 March 2008

Opinion

East Africa: Arusha Court of Justice Must Not Be Closed Down

Jerry Okungu
Kampala

An East African perspective

I AM an East African citizen living in Kenya but, the other week I was ashamed to have visited the Rwanda genocide trial premises at the Arusha International Conference Centre for the first time. this great institution has been with us for nearly a decade!

The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda is Africa's equivalent of a similar court based in The Hague. Whereas The Hague equivalent tries all cases connected with crimes against humanity, the Arusha Court was set up specifically to try suspects believed to have been the masterminds of the genocide that lasted 100 days and left nearly a million people dead in Rwanda over a decade ago.

Despite the fact that these Rwanda trials are far from over; in fact hardly half way through, the UN, the very body that set it up in the first place is bent on closing the complex down in the next nine months! A walk around the premises that included a conducted tour around the courtrooms and the library revealed that the UN invested heavily in building the infrastructure from scratch.

Like all UN facilities in New York, The Hague and Nairobi, this is an international institution that has the potential to support the fight against impunity when it comes to crimes against humanity.

In today's world, such violations of human rights are more prevalent in Africa than ever before. One only needs to remember the 21-year-old conflict in northern Uganda, South Sudan and the never ending inter-clan conflicts in Somalia and the raging genocide in Darfur to appreciate the magnitude of the problem.

Even though Charles Taylor is facing a similar trial in The Hague, the fact is that even in Liberia; Taylor is not the only culprit. There are many more perpetrators of crimes against humanity yet to be apprehended in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Ivory Coast, Uganda, Darfur and South Sudan.

The significance of the Arusha International Court is obvious to Africa and the world. It can serve as a perfect deterrence for regional warlords in Africa.

Its proximity to societies that are notorious for human rights violations makes it cheaper and cost effective to institute investigations, make arrests and transport suspects to the centre with speed.

Another thing; the fact that it is located in Africa makes it have that credibility that suspects are tried on familiar grounds where even witnesses do not feel intimidated by unfamiliar environments. A case in point is the Charles Taylor trial in The Hague.

Under the circumstances, witnesses have to be transported from Liberia and Sierra Leone to go and testify thousands of miles away at someone's cost. When they get there, the courtroom is a totally alien environment with mostly white or brown faces to contend with.

Language becomes an issue as some of the witnesses may not understand any of the European languages used in the trials. Under the circumstances, the chances of a suspect like Taylor feeling like being lynched by a predominantly white jury are very high.

Equally important is the fact that UN institutions like the International Court of Justice should be permanently decentralised. There is need for such a UN facility in every continent with unique facilities to deal with unique regional violations. As it is, the facility in Arusha employed close to 2,000 people at its peak. Plans to close it down have scaled this number to 1,000 employees with nearly 50,000 direct dependants.

The UN annual budget on this establishment has had significant impact on the economy of Arusha in particular and Tanzania in general and even neighbouring countries like Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda itself. In the process, the standards of living and poverty levels have gone down drastically.

More importantly, regional despots are beginning to wake up to the reality that they can easily find their way into Arusha or The Hague cells if they continue with their wayward ways.

As the UN plans to close down this critical facility, what do the African heads of state at the AU and the EAC level think? Will they just sit there and fold their arms as if nothing is happening? Can't they rise up and raise the issue with the relevant authorities at the UN to rethink their decisions?

Presidents Jakaya Kikwete and Yoweri Museveni; you are the current chairs of the AU and the EAC respectively. Can you rise up to the challenge and save the Arusha institution? I am sure your voices are loud and strong enough to be heard across the globe. Over to you, Your Excellencies.