

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



Boys pull the rope on an Independence Day “Lantern”  
to rock DHL’s airplane.

**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:**

Tuesday, 29 April 2008

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

Tuesday, 29 April 2008

# “Reporting Taylor’s trial is challenging”

## - *Liberia Info. Minister*

By *Betty Milton*  
in *Liberia*

**D**uring a three day training program on reporting the trial of Charles Taylor former President of Liberia and Special Court indictee, the Liberian Minister of Information Dr. Lawrence Bropleh has told journalists that reporting the trial is challenging and it will

have serious implications on the trial if not reported accurately. Speaking at the opening session held at the Crystal Ocean-view Hotel in Monrovia Liberia the minister noted that the trial has a lot of implications for the international criminal justice system and so therefore in reporting the trial the journalist should not include an opinion in his report but report only the facts. The Minister pointed out that one becomes a law abiding citizen before he or she becomes a journalist and so therefore

*Cont on Page 7*

## **“Reporting Taylor’s trial is challenging”**

*From Page 2*

everything they do should be in accordance with the law. The media he went on should not be seen as propagating information that he is guilty when he is still facing trial because “Charles Taylor should be seen as an innocent man until proven guilty by the court. This is not child’s play,” he emphasised “this is the trial of somebody’s father, uncle and one time President of this country and it should be seen as such,” adding “this government is committed to see that their former President has a free and fair trial”.

The Minister maintained that

infant mortality is one of the dreaded diseases which kill a lot of children in Africa and this leads to less capacity enhancement.

He noted further that these disease are related to poverty, therefore he called for capacity enhancement “which will lead to capacity building” On the training session itself, the Minister said that the training was seen as a good beginning, “because it will improve knowledge and

understanding of international criminal justice.” Outlining the purpose of the training, Afua Hirsh coordinator for Advocate for International Development said that “the eyes of the international community are fixed on this trial and the main people who are more concerned about the trial, that is Liberians and Sierra Leoneans don’t have access to the trial.”

She hoped that “this training will help greatly on reporting the trial and also it will help them (journalists) contribute in access to international criminal justice.”

## ISSUES

# Yenga: The only way forward is through negotiation

There are behind the scene suggestions that Yenga situated in the Kissiteng chiefdom in the Kailahun district, might have been tangled in a deal between the APC regime of late Siaka Stevens and the Guinean government of Sekou Toure of blessed memory. This might not be unconnected with the fact that Sekou Toure, in the early sixties, laid claim to parts of Kono. The argument would support the inexplicable development wherein the Guinean authority established a military base in Yenga.

The action of the Guinean government gives the critics the credence to their suggestions since the issue is about half a century starting from the Siaka Stevens era. Therefore, Yenga can be seen as one of the political blunders of the then APC regime.

No doubt, both Presidents had mutual understanding some of which might not fulfill the aspiration of their people. Now that both leaders are out of the political scene, the issue still continues to be a threat to the peace and security of both states.

Even currently, political analysts share the belief that there seems to exist an understanding between President Lansana Conte and President Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma that the two countries cannot go to war, no matter the provocation to Sierra Leone.

The previous government under former President Alhaji Dr. Ahmad Tejan Kabbah engaged the government of Guinea in a bid to resolve the impasse but that did not yield positive results. Instead the government of Guinea actually claimed that the Yenga corridor belonged to the Republic of Guinea. The SLPP government then asked the President of Liberia to mediate. Moves were taken to establish the ownership of the Yenga corridor. However in 2007, through the intervention of Her Excellency Dr. Eleen Johnson-Sirleaf it was established that Yenga belonged to Sierra Leone. This was accepted by both Sierra Leone and Guinea. At a meeting of the former President of Sierra Leone, the Prime Minister of Guinea and the President of Liberia at Yenga, it was agreed that Yenga should be returned

to Sierra Leone. As this was close to 2007 elections, the handing over did not take place. Eight months after elections, Yenga and its environs still remain part of Guinea.

The people have realized that fighting cannot resolve their problems, as the only way forward is for peaceful negotiation and not violence. An organization comprising of Kissi tribe, in the three Mano River Union countries known as Makona River Union, was born.

The main objective of this organization was to lobby for a negotiated return of the Yenga corridor to Sierra Leone. In 2006, the organization drafted a communiqué in which they agreed that the Kissi team in the three countries would work

contingent was settled in the moa Barracks in Kailahun District. Guinea however strengthened its troop presence along the boarder areas with Sierra Leone. One such area that received huge troop reinforcement is the Guinean town of Nougowa sharing boarders with Kissi Teng chiefdom in the Kailahun District. This move was to forestall any spill over of the conflict into Guinean territory. In 1997 rebels of the RUF joined the AFRC to overthrow the democratically elected government of Sierra Leone. The RUF left the bushes and occupied most of the towns. Koindu, on the Guinean border was among the towns under the control of the rebel forces. Guinea saw it necessary to create a buffer zone

strengthen its troops in Yenga particularly as most parts of Kailahun District including Koindu where more or less under the control of the RUF. These areas were not disarmed by then, so the Guinean troops continued to maintain the buffer zone it had created in Sierra Leonean territory by sending in more and more weapons and troops.

Between 2001 and 2002, the government of Sierra Leone, completed the disarmament of all former fighters and undertook the repatriation of its citizens to their original towns and villages. However in 2002 the government officially declared the war over. These developments encouraged many people to return to their homes.

However, when the people of Lilema and Yenga returned

chiefdom began to realize that Yenga and Lilema were under Guinean occupation. Things became clearer when Guinean soldiers started asserting their authority at the crossing point. Sierra Leonean citizens were subjected to various kinds of ill treatment from Guinean soldiers on Sierra Leonean soil. This confirmed the Guinean occupation of Yenga. The Guinean troops now occupy Yenga, Lilema, Pengobendu, Sokoma and Korossu all in the Kissi Teng Chiefdom. The military presence is high and heavily armed. Located in strategic and secluded positions are heavy weapons such as war tanks. The soldiers are engaged in agricultural activities, planting trees and food crops.

The real owners of the land (the Sierra Leoneans) do not have access to their land as the Guineans have established their authority. The few Sierra Leoneans who brave it to live among the soldiers live in perpetual fear. The situation in Yenga has negative psychological, social, economic and political impact on the people of Kailahun District in particular and the country in general. To prevent the situation from further deterioration the government of Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma should re-negotiate with the Guinean government. The Government should pursue vigorously a non-violent resolution of this crisis by studying closely a status report on the negotiations that were undertaken by the previous government and make recommendations on how to re-engage the negotiation process.

Now that the assurances of the Guinean authorities that Yenga belongs to Sierra Leone looks like a mere ploy to buy time, while they continue to consolidate their personnel and authority in Yenga. The government must fast-track the search for justice if negotiations fail through United Nations, Security Council or an International Court of justice.

The Government should pursue vigorously a non-violent resolution of this crisis by studying closely a status report on the negotiations that were undertaken by the previous government and make recommendations on how to re-engage the negotiation process

with their various governments to ensure that their governments do not infringe on the rights of Kissi people in any of the three countries. This communiqué did not see the light of day as it failed to receive the support of the government of Guinea.

During the eleven year civil war in Sierra Leone, Guinea was the first country to render military assistance. Guinean forces arrived in 1991 and stayed through out the conflict. The larger part of the Guinean

in Sierra Leone. Guinean forces from Nongowa crossed over into Sierra Leonean territory and occupied Yenga and Lilema, two areas situated on the border with Guinea.

In 2000, rebel forces launched an attack on Guinea. They entered Guinea using the Liberian border corridor. The troop that attacked Guinea, even though they were believed to have come from Liberia, had in their midst fighters of the RUF.

This situation encouraged the Guinean government to

they found out that they could not access their lands as their towns were already occupied by the Guinean forces.

When the people returned to Koindu and its environs (excluding Yenga and Lilema) every one was of the opinion that the Guinean presence was just a temporary action and that they would soon leave. However when the Guinean contingent were withdrawn from all other areas in Sierra Leone except the Yenga corridor, the indigenes of Kissi Teng

Now that the assurances of the Guinean authorities that Yenga belongs to Sierra Leone looks like a mere ploy to buy time, while they continue to consolidate their personnel and authority in Yenga. The government must fast-track the search for justice if negotiations fail through United Nations, Security Council or an International Court of justice

Patriotic Vanguard website  
Saturday, 26 April 2008

## Freetown: Taylor defence meets with civil society and school children

- Saturday 26 April 2008.

By Isatu Gbla.

The defence lawyer for the former president of Liberia Charles Taylor who was indicted in 2006 by the Special Court for Sierra Leone and is now standing trial at the international court of justice at the Hague was recently in Freetown to talk to members of civil society and school children.



The lawyer, Terry Munyard, at the YWCA in Freetown said the purpose of the meeting is get the views of civil society on the ongoing trial of Charles Taylor at the Hague. He said the defence has a very small team and they only have two investigators in Freetown while the prosecution has over twenty investigators in Freetown.

He also said Taylor is innocent until he is found guilty by the court.

He added that the matter of Charles Taylor is different from that of Foday Sankoh and Hinga Norman, because none of the witnesses that have already testified admitted to ever seeing Charles Taylor in Freetown and that the whole case is political.

Speaking about Taylor's health Munyard said his client is in good health more than what would be expected for a sixty-year old.

The trial of Mr Taylor will continue at the Hague even if the special court is closed, he revealed.

Meanwhile a prosecution witness in the ongoing trial at the Hague recently stated that Taylor fully supported the RUF with men and materiel and that the the RUF was an exact replica of Taylor's murderous NPFL.

Photo: Charles Taylor arriving at the Hague in 2006.

# He Armed Us To Overthrow Kabbah

## -Witness Accuses Taylor-

The top Sierra Leone erst-while junta, the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) combat commander, continuing his testimony, says former President Charles Taylor informed them he provided the weapons to overthrow President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah, preceded by a joint junta RUF rule that ended in a spiral of atrocities. Mr Taylor is on trial for allegedly backing the rebels.

Testifying Thursday, Alimamy

Sesay detailed meetings he said were held with Mr Taylor, who they referred to as the Pa. (Excerpts of the testimony)

Pros: Who boarded the plane to Liberia?

Wit: Abdulai Mustafa, Bazy, Bomb Blast, myself, Captain Blood, George Johnson - Junior Lion, [others].

Pros: What kind of plane was it?

Wit: It was a special flight that we met at Lungi.

Pros: Where in Liberia did the plane take you?

Wit: We landed at Roberts International Airfield in Liberia.

Pros: What part of Liberia?

Wit: It is far from the city. They drove us to the city.

Pros: How far?

Wit: Maybe 20 miles.

Pros: Where you met at Roberts Airfield?

Wit: Yes.

Pros: Who met you?

Wit: They came in two jeeps. I can't recall their names. They were men in coats. They said they were special bodyguards of President Taylor.



CHARLES TAYLOR IN COURT

# He Armed Us To Overthrow Kabbah

**P**ros: Do you remember any of their names?  
Wit: No. I didn't know them.  
Pros: Where did you go?

Wit: They took us to the Boulevard Hotel in the city. When we arrived there, we met somebody - big, tall - who identified himself as Momoh Gibba, the ADC to the president. He took us to the reception in the hotel. They had made all the necessary arrangements. He called the manager of the hotel and said these were Taylor's guests. We were free to have anything we wanted, but no alcohol.

Pros: Did he say anything else?  
Wit: He said he would contact us later. That we should take baths and rest. We should feel free in the hotel. He said vehicles would come and we would meet with Johnny Paul, then go to meet Taylor.

Pros: Where is the Boulevard Hotel?

Wit: In Monrovia.

Pros: Did he say where the vehicles would come from?

Wit: He said a vehicle would pick us up to take us to see Johnny Paul Koroma. Then they would tell us when we would meet with Taylor. He just told us that and to stay in the hotel. He said whatever else we want, we can get.

Pros: Did a vehicle come and take you to Johnny Paul Koroma?

Wit: Yes, the next day two cars came with registration plates that said "Guest 1" and "Guest 2". They picked up the 11-man delegation.

Pros: Do you know where the vehicles came from?

Wit: The driver said they were take us to see Johnny Paul Koroma where he was staying.

Pros: Did the driver say who sent him?

Wit: He said the ADC, Momoh Gibbah, said he should pick us up and

Koroma where he was lodged.  
Pros: What happened?

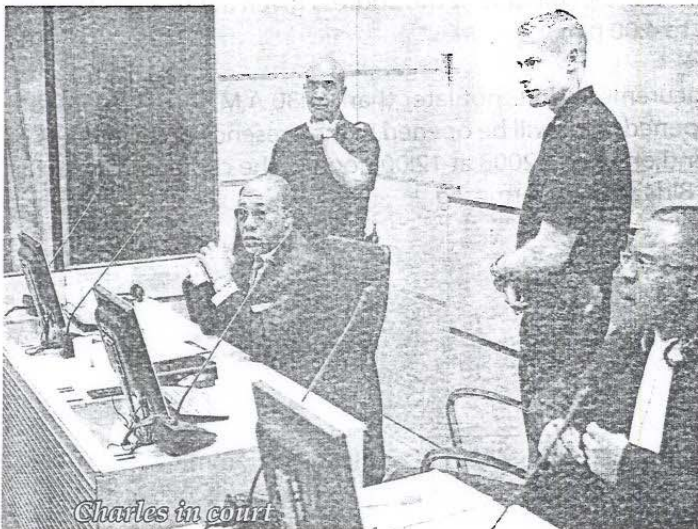
ing care of him. The area was well protected by bodyguards.

Paul said he was very happy to meet with us. He said nothing had hap-

Pros: Did he explain why Taylor was concerned?



Justices at the Enclave



Charles in court

take us to Johnny Paul.

Pros: Where were you taken?

Wit: They call the area of Monrovia "Seaside". We met with Johnny Paul

was an SLA officer. We sat down and had a meeting with Johnny Paul Koroma. Johnny said these were special guards from the president tak-

Pros: What happened in the meeting?

Wit: We had a discussion. When we were sitting together, Johnny

Wit: Guards were there. They said they were the ATU. We met Jumoh Jalloh (ph), Major Kattah (ph) who

Pros: Special guards from which president?  
Wit: Charles Taylor.

pened to him, and now that we've come, what do we want to happen? Bazy said we'd been left out of the Lomé Accord, and even you did not get an appointment - that was the reason we were concerned and captured the UNAMSIL people - because we wanted to be reinstated into the army.

Pros: How do you know about this discussion?

Wit: The delegation went together to speak with Johnny Paul. Johnny Paul said we should not speak loudly because he said there were some RUF boys moving up and down. He said he did not have control.

Pros: What did he mean?

Wit: He said there were some RUF guys patrolling in the parlor. So he told us that since this was the problem, he would make necessary arrangements. He said we should select some men to see Taylor because Taylor was concerned. He said all 11 men could not go. He told us that it was true he hadn't any appointment in the government, but he'd seen a vacancy - the CCP Chairman for the Consolidation of Peace - he would prefer to take that appointment. He said when we meet with Taylor, he would explain so that that could be sent to Freetown and we could have that appointment. The meeting ended, we ate, and we returned to the Boulevard Hotel.

Pros: These were the RUF men who were with who?

Wit: Johnny Paul. He said they came with him, apart from the special guards Taylor sent.

Wit: Yes, he said Taylor was being pressured over the arrests. Taylor did not want the division.

Pros: What division?

Wit: We'd gone over the air that we were left out of the Lomé Peace Accord. Taylor didn't want that to result in a division between the two groups.

Pros: Taylor didn't want a division between which two groups?

Wit: He said the Pa does not want any division between the RUF and the SLA. Taylor wanted us to resolve the issue once and for all.

Pros: Who was the Pa?

Wit: He was referring to President Taylor.

Pros: After this meeting, did your group leave?

Wit: Yes, we went back to Boulevard Hotel. We had a meeting. Bazy chose himself, Junior Lion, Major \_\_\_\_\_, myself and Bomb Blast to go meet Taylor. Five of us went and the other six stayed.

Pros: Did the group selected go and meet Taylor?

Wit: Later those two vehicles came again. This time Johnny Paul was in Guest 1. We boarded Guest 2 and we went to Taylor's mansion.

Pros: Do you recall where the mansion was?

Wit: It's in Monrovia. It's the office of the president.

Pros: Did you meet anyone when you arrived?

Wit: Momoh Gibbah received us and took us to a conference room where we waited.



New Democrat (Liberia)  
Friday, 25 April 2008

## Taylor's Lawyer Barks: Trial Is Political

**D**efense counsel for former President Charles Taylor, currently touring the region, says the trial of their client accused of war crimes allegedly committed in neighboring Sierra Leone is political.

Mr. Taylor is accused of war crimes and crimes against humanity, amongst them rape, murder and torture.

Mr. Terry Munyard who left Liberia Monday for Sierra Leone was quoted by a local daily in that country as saying Wednesday that the trial of his client was political.

Speaking at an outreach session organized by the Special Court in Freetown, Mr. Munyard said other nationals have committed the same crime Taylor was accused to have committed but they have not been prosecuted in any international criminal court.

"International criminal courts should be made for anyone that is found wanting," he said.

He said the defense team of Taylor was very small and that they were open to lots of restrictions from the prosecution adding, "We have very little resources to carry on with the trials." "The prosecution is making their case on two evidences which are linkage witnesses and crime based witnesses," he explained noting, however, that the defense team does not intend to challenge the prosecution's crime based witnesses.

Munyard said they would be submitting to the prosecution that some of the linkage witnesses were bags of lies, adding that "Taylor is in good health to go ahead with the trial." Legal assistant Logan Hambrick said they were experiencing problems of witness inducement by the prosecution, a development he said would undermine the credibility of those testifying in the court.

National Chronicle (Liberia)  
Friday, 25 April 2008

# TAYLOR IS NOT YET FOUND GUILTY

## -Says Information Minister

A 3-day international training for Liberian and Sierra Leonean journalists on re-

porting the trial of ex-President, Charles Taylor, at the Hague has begun in

Monrovia.

The training program brings together 35 journalists from

Liberia in print, broadcast and community-based media institutions, with 15 from neighboring Sierra Leone.

*Cont'd on Page 6*

### **Despite Supreme Court Order:**

## VERDIER FIRMS ON BULL'S SUSPENSION

### -Senses "Political Interference"

The Chairman of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), Cllr. Jerome Verdier, says he remains firm on his indefinite suspension

of fellow commissioner, Pearl Browne Bull, though the Supreme Court issued him a writ of prohibition ordering the reinstatement of

the suspended commissioner; James Harding Giahue reports.

During the Wednesday TRC public hearings in Bopolu City, Gbarpolu County, the chair-

man was taken by surprise upon the arrival, for the first time since the hearing began in that county, of commission Cllr. Bull, accompanied

*Cont'd on Page 6*



Former Pres. Charles Taylor

### TAYLOR

At the start of the program held at the Krystal Ocean View, Mamba Point, Minister of Information, Dr. Laurence Bropleh, said ex-President Charles Taylor is yet innocent of the crimes levied against him by the Special Court until he is proved guilty by that court. He said the Sirleaf government is committed to the due process for all its citizens, including Charles Taylor.

Dr. Bropleh said Taylor as former President should be given the due process culminated with free, fair and transparent trial under the law.

He thanked the organizers of the training program and called on the media to report accurately and free from bias in the ongoing trial of Taylor.

The training is geared towards widening journalists' knowledge, improving their reportage skills and equipping them with requisite techniques on the international criminal proceedings of Charles Taylor at the Hague.

## Jamaica Gleaner (Jamaica)

Sunday, 27 April 2008

### Courtenay Griffiths - Tough-talking advocate

published: Sunday | April 27, 2008



COntributed

Courtenay Griffiths QC, on graduation day from the University of Coventry.

#### Avia Collinder, Outlook Writer

Courtenay Griffiths has little use for diplomacy and smooth talk in his career. The Queen's Counsel, one of the most senior advocates in London's criminal court, more popularly known as the Old Bailey, is uniquely positioned to comment on the nature of the security problems which affect Jamaicans both in the United Kingdom and in his country of birth, Jamaica.

In doing so, he dishes out some hard truths.

The tough-talking lawyer is also an expert in international criminal law, and has written and lectured extensively on all aspects of the criminal justice system.

Recently in Jamaica for the annual Norman Manley Lecture of the Norman Manley Law School, University of the West Indies, which aims to highlight issues of national and international public concern, Griffiths suggested that, in seeking to rein in the problems of crime locally, Jamaicans should not overlook the impact of poverty on inner-city communities and the relative absence of the educational opportunities which could break the cycle of deprivation.

In an interview with **Outlook**, he said, "In Jamaica, it is a fact that unemployment affects certain population groups, especially in the inner city. It is inevitable that this degree of deprivation will be reflected in behaviour."

In London, he says, there are Jamaican communities which are similarly affected by gun culture, but a significant difference between the two societies is the response of the criminal justice system.

#### Jamaica's international image

"Jamaica has an image internationally of seeking to crack down largely on gun-related crime. Its constabulary has an image of brutality and total disregard for human rights. At the same time, the force is an underserved and under-financed state institution."

The advocate has a particular interest in civil liberties. Among the many notable cases in which Courtenay has been involved, he regards the following as being the most noteworthy: *R v Silcott & others* (The Blakelock murder trial); the Brighton Bombing in which a bomb was detonated in the section of the Grand Hotel where many politicians, including then Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, were staying for the British Conservative Party conference. The noteworthy cases also include the Harrods Bombing - a blast that killed six persons in 1983; the Canary Wharf bombing, the Risley Riot; the Dartmoor Riot; Johnson, Davis and Rowe; *Goswell v Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis* (for a while, this case recorded the highest award of damages made by a jury against a police force); and the Damilola Taylor murder trial. There were also *R v White and Hanson* (the murder of the Chelsea banker) and *R v Brown and Carty* (the murder of the city solicitor).

Nowadays, he is constantly in The Hague in Amsterdam representing ex-Liberian leader Charles Taylor, who has been charged with crimes against humanity. Griffiths is the lead counsel of the new defence team appointed by the Special Court for Sierra Leone to represent Taylor.

Taylor, who was president of Liberia from 1997 to 2003, is being tried on 11 counts of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other serious violations of international law committed during Sierra Leone's conflict, including murdering and mutilating civilians, using women and girls as sex slaves, and abducting both adults and children and making them perform forced labour or become fighters.

Taylor is charged on the basis of his alleged role as a major backer of the Sierra Leone rebel group, the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), and close association with a second warring faction, the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council.

## Roots

Courtenay Griffiths was born in Kingston, Jamaica, into a large family which went to England in his early years. He was the son of a poor carpenter and the first member of his family to attend university.

"Coming from such a background, it was easy to develop an inferiority complex when dealing with colleagues. However, I have always had a great deal of confidence," the lawyer states.

Between age 11 and 18 <sup>1/2</sup>, Courtenay was the only black child in the schools he attended.

"In such an environment, I was forced to come to terms with myself. It came to me that racism should not be allowed to prevent me from reaching goals. Racism is the problem of the racists and is often used to distract individuals from their true purpose."

## Education

At 18, he left Coventry where he grew up, to study law at the London School of Economics, and was called to the Bar directly from university. He acquired, he said, an essential understanding of political and social context to the practice of criminal law during time spent as legal assistant to the Greater London Council's Police Support Committee, and as a Revson Fellow at the City College in New York.

Returning from the United States, he practised in West Yorkshire and other suburban areas, where the sight of a black man in a white wig and black gown often generated looks and sentiments of amazement.

Not even the juries would listen. He would have to employ special tactics to break the ice; one favourite was:

"Members of the jury, it is me sitting here with my black face and white wig, looking for all the world like a pint of Guinness. I have a good head too."

The jury would collapse with laughter and, from thereon, things would proceed smoothly.

In his earliest years of sitting behind the white QCs in court, it struck him, he said, that few of them had any understanding of the racial dynamics affecting minorities, and he promised himself - with each travesty viewed - that he would make the effort to see that the resulting miscarriage of justice would be repeated decreasingly.

Today, he chairs the Public Affairs Committee of the Bar Council, and worked for several years as chair of its Race Relations Committee.

As lead attorney on many subsequent cases involving minorities, he has been able to keep his pledge to defend them.

He is also enthused about representing Charles Taylor, who deserves a good defence, he states, in a court in which the normal rules of evidence do not apply and in which witnesses are paid to speak.

It is a challenge worthy of the advocate who says that, although Jamaica is a small island state, its best and brightest can make their mark on the world in international tribunals and other similar fora.

Courtenay Griffiths is married to Angela, a woman of mixed Sierra Leonian and Irish extract.

### **Family understanding**

She has come, he says, to understand that "who I represent in court does not have a great deal to do with who I am. I am able to distance myself from what I do."

The lawyer is father to children Donna, Paul, Marcus and Adam.

Griffiths is an adherent of the Rastafarian faith. "You don't have to grow your hair to be a Rasta. It's in your heart, not how you look," he states. He is a passionate collector of Jamaican music with a collection dating back to the 1950s.

He believes that the enormous creativity exhibited by Jamaicans in music and other areas in less than one century after the abolition of slavery bodes well for the culture.

"We are a small island with a population of just over two million and we have come to influence the whole world."

Griffiths strongly believes that international criminal law will be one of the expanding areas of law in the 21st century and advises those who wish to follow his example to consider the field.

Where the matter of local crime is concerned, the solution lies not in talent - of which we have plenty - but in political will and the resources - for want of which we appear to be beggared.

"(Lack of) Education is often the root of this kind of deprivation (poverty which leads to crime). The government here does not appear to have the level of resources to provide the lift that youngsters need," he laments.

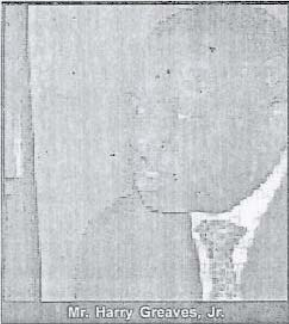
The Parrot (Liberia)  
Friday, 25 April 2008

# ELLEN, GREAVES CONCEDE FUNDING NPFL

*-Described Support as "Dip In Ocean"  
-As Innocent Blood Spilled, Properties Damaged*



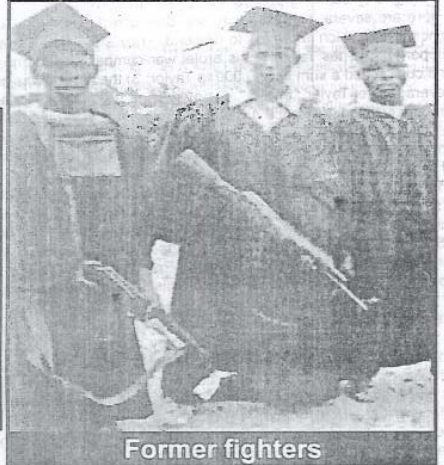
Pres. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf



Mr. Harry Greaves, Jr.



Former Pres. Charles Taylor



Former fighters

**A**S Liberians struggle to overcome the repercussions of the bloodletting civil crisis that engulfed the country for over a decade and rendered

many widows, widowers, peasants and orphans, some of the initial sponsors of the nightmare, with "pride and dignity" have described their financial support to the dreaded

National Patriotic Front of Liberia(NPFL) as a 'dip in the ocean'. Indicating that there is a measure to the destruction and number of lives several hundreds bullets took

away, Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf who sometimes in the past confirmed holding secret meeting with Charles Taylor in the Ivory Coast before the latter launched his

deadly rebellion into Liberia has described her early support as 'dip in the ocean'. Making comment on the

concern raised by members of the Association for Constitutional Democracy in Liberia (ACDL) an US-

**Cont'd on Page 6**

THE PARROT, FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 2008

**ELLEN, GREAVES**

based Liberian group on Madam Sirleaf's secret meeting with Taylor in the Ivory Coast and the contribution of US\$ 10,000 to help fund the Taylor led war, the current Liberian leader described the money as "dip in the ocean", neglecting the level of destruction and precious life weapons purchased with US\$ 10,000 could carry out.

Be it a dollar or more, the intent of giving the money to Charles Taylor to augment his strength to remove the democratically elected government of President Samuel K. Doe through the barrel of the gun is what Liberians are expressing frustration over.

The formation and source of support for the dreaded National Patriotic Front of Liberia which launched a bloody rebellion against regime of former President Samuel K. Doe and subsequently led to the emergence of several splinter groups that dragged the Liberian crisis to nearly 15 years of bloodbath remains hidden even as the Truth and Reconciliation process seen as the best option to dig out the odds and reveal the principal actors and what was responsible for the Liberian crisis so as to find the means of attaining genuine peace and reconciliation continues.

Over the years, fingers have been pointed at prominent Liberians amongst them those who resided in the United States of America where Taylor mysteriously left his Boston, Massachusetts prison cell to start the process of recruiting and sourcing funding to launch his devilish rebellion against the peaceful and innocent people of Liberia.

Liberia's President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, former Defense Minister of the defunct NPFL Tom Woewiyu and present-day LPRC Managing Director Harry Greaves have been some of the Liberians in the spotlight for aiding and abating Taylor in the launch of the rebellion which led to the death of nearly 250,000 innocent and defenseless Liberians.

The Association for Constitutional Democracy in Liberia (ACDL), an organization which was a conglomeration of educated and high profile Liberians residing in the United States at the time, is been accused of making initial funding to Taylor in the tune of US\$ 10,000, a huge sum of money at the time given the level of destruction and havoc weapons purchased with such money could cause.

Madam Ellen Johnson in an interview published in the January/March 2000 edition of *The Perspective*; an online news media admitted that ACDL paid US\$ 10,000 to Taylor in order to support the selfish quest of overthrowing the Government of Samuel Doe.

Madam Sirleaf in the interview described the money as insufficient and a "drop in the bucket" to the Taylor rebellion indicating that the money could not buy sufficient arms and ammunitions, something political pundits termed, as bizarre and shame on the part of the now Liberian President.

"As you have reported before, a few of us, members of the Association for Constitutional Democracy in Liberia (ACDL) then operating in Washington DC, with the strong persuasion of one of our members, Tom Woewiyu, did try to be of assistance to Mr. Taylor when his rebellious activities seemed headed in the direction of a strong response to protect people in Nimba County from an overreaction of the Doe regime to their invasion of the country. . . We raised the grand sum of \$10,000, hardly an amount that could do very much. In fact, it was a mere drop in the bucket. The fact that the sum was so paltry explains why we had so little leverage over Taylor and why he paid so little attention to us, especially when we started raising questions about reports of human rights violations by his troops. Initially, we had committed ourselves to try to do more. But within six months or so, i.e. around the middle of 1990, we had withdrawn any support and any connection with Mr. Taylor and his group on account of the serious atrocities which were taking place, some affecting long standing political allies of ours". Madam Sirleaf told the online media.

Prior to the statement by Madam Sirleaf, she was accused by other members of the ACDL of holding secret meeting with Taylor in the Ivory Coast without their consent and she did not deny attending the meeting, but argued that it was unplanned, and hence prior notice could not have been given.

Mrs. Johnson-Sirleaf contended, and others agreed, that she and any other member of ACDL had a right to membership in other organizations and to meet with whomsoever without giving ACDL prior notice.

According to an article written by Patrick L. N. Seyon in early 1990, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, Grace Minor, Harry Greaves, Jr., Tom Woewiyu, and others sought to have ACDL endorse Taylor and his group.

Seyon revealed in his article that majority of ACDL's members took the position that if the organization was opposing political rule from the barrel of the gun under Samuel Doe, then it could not endorse or support Charles Taylor, who was also seeking to seize political power through the barrel of the gun.

ACDL members argued, accordingly, that endorsing or giving support to Taylor

would have been contradictory to the association's fundamental operating principles.

In reaction to Patrick Seyon's article, one of the accused, today Managing Director of Iterative LPRC Harry Greaves admitted that he and others initially supported the NPFL during the early days of the formation of the rebel group but described it as a mistake.

Greaves in his article "We All Make Mistakes - All Of Us Except, Of Course, St. Patrick"; admitted that he was one of the members of the ACDL that raised the US\$ 10,000.

He justified that US\$ 10,000 was insufficient to buy arms and waged war on the Liberian people indicating that the money was raised covertly by the ACDL.

"I don't intend to get into any long drawn out debate with Patrick over the degrees of blame that should be assigned to various players in the tragedy that has befallen our beloved country these past 10 years. History will be the judge of that. I merely want, for the record, to lay out the facts, some of which he may be ignorant of because he came into ACDL late in the game and did not exert himself sufficiently to be in the know about all its activities. For, you see, ACDL operated at that time on two tracks and at two levels: one overt (political); the other, covert. Patrick was not privy to the covert operations and I have no intentions of divulging the names of those who were. Suffice it to say that, in view of Mr. Doe's refusal to bow to the wishes of the Liberian electorate as expressed in their overwhelming rejection of him at the polls in 1985 and his continued harassment of the Opposition during the post-election period, all options were on the table. Charles Taylor just happened to have been the first to obtain the resources, human and material, to make good on his threat to remove Doe forcibly". Greaves stated in his response to Patrick Seyon. Greaves stated that there are many Liberians to be blamed for the civil war indicating that those who were recruited into the various militias, fought and, and committed atrocities in the name of these militias, were Liberians and when the war was over, those who voted Taylor into office were, again, Liberians.

The assertion by Madam Sirleaf in the interview with the *Perspective* where she admitted holding secret meeting with Taylor in the Ivory Coast and also helping to raise the initial US\$10,000 given Taylor to commence the process of waging the war through Nimba County fur-

**TRC Turns Legal 'Battle Front'**

incidents that took place at the TRC, to be exact the reported confrontation of two

ther corroborate allegations against her by many including Tom Woewiyu who also served as member of the ACDL. "No wonder why President Sirleaf was constrained to rescind her case against Tom", a political pundit who begged for anonymity averred.

Quite recently, during the visit of US President George W. Bush to Liberia, the United States Embassy in Monrovia in a profile of the Liberian leader commemorating the visit stated that Madam Sirleaf initially supported the NPFL bloody rebellion against the people of Liberia.

After the US Embassy profile of President Sirleaf, several Liberians were of the view that she would use the revelation by the US Government to voluntarily appear before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to explain her role and ask for forgiveness. Also Mr. Harry Greaves was recently accused by the *Chronicle* Newspaper for playing a role in the NPFL something that has brought so much anger upon the latter as though the paper has made a story against him.

Greaves described the newspaper report as false and misleading and has since threatened law suit against the *Chronicle* Newspaper. The question that now lingers on the minds of critical thinkers is; will Greaves still maintain his stance to sue the *Chronicle* with such huge evidence against him been published by the *Parrot*? Liberians will be watching.

When this Paper contacted Mr. Greaves via his mobile phone, he admitted to initially funding the NPFL as stated above but argued that the amount was just too small to substantially assist in purchasing arms and ammunitions for the war fought by Taylor and his men, describing it as "dropping a dip of water in the ocean".

However, political observers have described Greaves' reaction to the allegation as inhuman and careless adding: he makes no difference from his friend Taylor. "We are watching to see him and his likes appear before the TRC in the not to distant future. The fact that money was given to Taylor no matter the amount to wage war against the innocent people of Liberia some of whom were maimed, amputated, killed and subjected to all forms of dehumanization by Taylor and his super-killers—Greaves and others who participated in the raising of money for Taylor's onslaught should take some of the blames and stop finding silly excuses". John Sumo age 52 intimated.

See full text of the Patrick Seyon article and Harry Greaves Response on page 4.

commissioners at a hearing in the South-east and the alleged U-turn of witness David

Sayweh against Sundaygar Dearboy, the Commission has been struck with rigmarole, as suspended Commissioner Pearl Brown Bull files a petition with the Supreme Court for a stay order on her Dismissal.

Liberians are now wondering whether the TRC will meet its expected goals amidst claims and counter claims characterizing the hearings.

Latest reports say most of the commissioners are embarrassed by the action of Commissioner Bull, something that has led to the disruption of hearings.

Critical thinkers are of the belief that such happenings at the TRC in the full glare of the public has the propensity to discourage the Liberian

people about the TRC hearings process on grounds that their hopes are being dashed by the very Commission who should be working towards reconciling them and healing the wounds incurred by the nation during its decade long civil upheaval.

Liberians across the divide are calling on the Government of President Johnson Sirleaf to quickly look into the TRC and find an amicable solution to the ongoing confusion which is actually obstructing the workings of the TRC, adding, the TRC is all that the Country has in terms of attaining genuine peace reconciliation; noting that when it fails, the entire Country fails.

More details on the TRC saga in our subsequent editions.

**Priorities Dumped**

Secretary Ban Ki-moon in his address to the Liberian national Legislature said he came to the country to ascertain the level of progress made in the peace process and also see the improvement in the achievement of good governance.

The UN chief made specific mention of the Governance Economic Management Program (GEMAP) initiated by the United Nations to help in the management of the country's resources following years of callous pillaging of state resources.

Following the UN Secretary General's message, the stage was now set for the government of Liberia through the National Legislature and the Vice President to present the needs of the Liberian people to the visiting guest.

The Speaker of the House of Representatives, Alex Tyler in statement delivered appealed to the United Nations to consider lifting the sanction placed on some Liberians nearly eight years ago.

As though there were no immediate and urgent need of the Liberian people, the speaker reechoed the call for the lifting of the UN sanctions which was again not given attention by Mr. Ban Ki-moon.

From all indications, one can deduce that the lifting of travel ban from Taylor's Associates is far from now given the two but consistent responses from Former Secretary General Kofi Anna and Current UN SG Ban Ki-moon that the issue of lifting the travel ban is far above their domain intimating that the matter squarely rest in the purview of the UN Security Council; **Fredrick P. W. Gaye Reports.**

The travel ban victims some of whom are Lawmakers, and others glued to radio, very hopeful while Speaker Alex Tyler who presided over the joint session, requested the UN Boss to review the travel ban imposed on Taylor's associates and ensure that the victims are given due process.

The travel ban victims and their respective families' members were happy, listening to Speaker Tyler pleading

on behalf of them, apparently thinking that BAN Ki-moon was going to grant the lifting of the travel ban or give satisfactory comment about it.

However, Liberians reacted to Speaker Tyler's plea differently, as some see the move as one in the right direction while others view that the Speaker's move was induced and not in the interest of the General public. They argued that the Speaker has got a whole lot to plea about most especially the State security that continue to be invaded by armed robbers, and the issue of economic hardships currently confronting the Liberian people.

Howbeit, the Speaker appeal did not fall on a fertile soil, as the UN Secretary-General, in his response to the Speaker's request told the victims to register their concerns to the UN Security Council, something political pundits and legislative observers described as snubbing the Speaker and the travel ban victims he pleaded for.

The UN Secretary-General informed journalists that sanctions have been imposed on some individuals before and the victims took forward their grievances to the requisite body and it was heard and subsequently resolved; admonishing the ban victims to follow suite!

"The Security Council has the power to impose sanctions, and there is a committee responsible to review restrictions", BAN informed the victims.

BAN's statement implies that if these travel ban victims failed to reach a convincing conclusion with the UN Security Council, they will continue to indefinitely be on the UN's ban.

Meanwhile, Montserrado County Representative Dusty Wolokollie has informed reporters that Speaker Tyler plea for the sanctions victims was his (Speaker's) personal opinion, because according to him, the Speaker did not bring the issue to session for deliberation.

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Daily Observer (Liberia)  
Friday, 25 April 2008

# Over 500 Massacred in Fassama

*Crawling Baby Thrown into Blazing Fire*

*By J. Alfred Chea  
in Bopolo*

Tears, weeping and sorrow effectively overwhelmed hundreds of listeners on Wednesday at the ongoing public hearings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Liberia in Bopolo City, Gbarpolu County, when several witnesses gave graphic and chilling accounts of the massacre of more than 500 people including women, children and the elderly in Fassama Town in 1993.

Witnesses Allen Ziana and Jacob Geeton told the hearings that after the cold-blooded killing of the people by the disbanded armed rebel group, National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL), some residents of Fassama town who, by the grace of God, survived the massacre later buried 350 of the dead in a mass grave.

He also disclosed that several corpses that could not be buried were dumped into 10 pit

*See pg 10*

## Over 500

latrines.

Witness Ziama, who was also former Belleh District Commissioner, said the NPFL rebels, dressed in outworn clothes, used guns, cutlasses and other deadly instruments in the execution of the act.

The witness narrated that before the massacre in 1993, Fassama, which is the biggest town in Bopolo District, was under the control of another armed insurgent group, United Liberation Movement for Democracy in Liberia (ULIMO).

He said the killings were done after NPFL, in a fierce gun battle, captured the town from ULIMO and accused Fassama residents of being in sympathy with, and giving support to their 'enemies'.

The former District Commissioner recalled that prior to the NPFL military onslaught in 1993, ULIMO used Fassama as its battalion headquarters.

According to witness Ziama, among the dead were Principal Lender Gayflor, Vice-Principal Robert Smith and an instructor of mathematics all of Fassama Public School.

He said though several ethnic groups were residents of Fassama, the Belleh ethnic group at the time dominated the town's population.

Other witnesses told the TRC hearings, also attended by officials of the United States Embassy in Monrovia, that besides the mass and indiscriminate killing of hundreds of Fassama residents during the 14-year Liberian armed conflict, the properties of the town people were pillaged and looted by various armed groups including NPFL, ULIMO, Lofa Defense Force (LDF), Liberians United for Democracy in Liberia (LURD), and former Government of Liberia militia, including the then presidential elite, Anti-Terrorist Unit (ATU).

Witness Jacob Geeton, a father of 12 children, also electrified the huge gathering with grief and sorrow when he, among other things, disclosed that during the NPFL attack on Fassama in 1993, a crawling baby, whose mother ran away for her precious life, was picked up by the NPFL fighters and thrown into a blazing fire.

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

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

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**UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries**  
**28 April 2008**

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

**Newspaper Summary**

**Government Embarks on Campaign to Make Armed Robbery Non-Bailable**

(The News, New Democrat, Heritage, The Inquirer, The Informer, Liberian Express)

- The media reports that Government is seeking a legislation aimed at making armed robbery a non-bailable offense in the country. Making the disclosure during the launch of "Operation Thunderstorm" - a campaign aimed at dealing with the upsurge in armed robbery, Justice Minister, Cllr. Philip Banks said if the legislation is passed it would serve as a deterrent. Minister Banks said "Thunder Storm" would be carried out by the Liberia National Police and would be backed by all state security agencies in the country and the UN Police. He said residents of the various communities would see and feel the presence of the Police and other state security agents twenty-four hours a day. Meanwhile, the News newspaper reports that government has ordered the re-arming of the police to contain the rising wave of armed robbery.

**24 Liberian Returnees Back Home From Ghana**

(The News, Heritage)

- The Liberian government has announced the return of 24 Liberian refugees from Ghana who were deemed as illegal residents by Ghanaian authorities. The 24 refugees were among 30 Liberians who were slated for deportation by the Ghanaian government for allegedly breaching Ghana's Public Order Act. They had been living in that country for the last 18 years.
- According to a press statement, Deputy Minister for Public Affairs at the Ministry of Information, Gabriel Williams, the Government of Liberia welcomes its citizens home and assured them that the relevant agencies would work out modalities to ensure that the returnees receive the needed support for resettlement.
- The release, however, indicated that the return of the Liberian refugees does not form part of the Tripartite Agreement signed between the Governments of Liberia and Ghana, and UNHCR which only applies to legally registered refugees. It said the voluntary repatriation under the tripartite agreement is presently underway and it would apply to a total of 25,000 refugees registered with the UNHCR.

**Talking Drum Completes Community Radio Station Project**

(The News, Daily Observer, The Inquirer)

- The Search for Common Ground Talking Drum Studio Liberia announces the completion of the construction of a community radio station and its subsequent turn over to the people of Grand Cape Mount County. Search for Common Ground Liberia said the radio station was built in the town of Senje with the power transmission of 1000 watts.
- This radio station was constructed at the request of the people of Grand Cape Mount County in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between their Board of Directors headed by Mrs. Maddaline Fahnbulleh and the Search for Common Ground some years ago, a release said. She told the people of Cape Mount that the radio was built with support from the Rhode

Island based Foundation for West Africa, the Canadian Government, Action Aid Liberia, the Cape Mount Community and the Search for Common Ground which implemented the radio construction project. The radio is made of modern studio facilities, a state of the art antenna field and a good looking building.

## Radio Summary

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

### **US\$375M Traced To Former President Taylor – Says Chief Prosecutor**

- The Prosecution in the trial of detained former President Charles Taylor said it has made significant progress to identify and uncover his hidden wealth.
- In an interview, The Special Court Chief Prosecutor Stephen Rapp said analyses of bank records have led investigators to identify US\$375 million in offshore accounts traceable to Mr. Taylor.

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

### **Government Seeks to Make Armed Robbery Non-Bailable**

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

### **AFL Graduates Another Batch of 500 New Soldiers**

- The Security Sector Reform Programme over the weekend graduated 510 soldiers of the new Armed Forces of Liberia from its Initial Entry Training.
- In an interview, the Chief of the Office of Defense Cooperation, Lieutenant Colonel William Wyatt said the number represents 23 females and 487 males. The training lasted for nine weeks.
- Lieutenant Colonel Wyatt said the graduation of the soldiers now brings the new AFL strength to 1300.

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

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## The News (Liberia)

Monday, 28 April 2008

### **"Taylor Must Be Treated Innocent"**

Monrovia

As defendant Charles Taylor answers to charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity at the Special Court for Sierra Leone in The Hague, Liberia's Information Minister has cautioned the media in Sierra Leone and Liberia to treat Taylor as innocent until the court determines otherwise.

Liberian Information Minister Dr. Laurence K. Bropleh told about 50 Liberian and Sierra Leonean journalists that Mr. Taylor was a former head of state, and as such, the media should not be seen as propagating sentiment either for or against the accused.

The Liberian and Sierra Leonean journalists gathered at the Krystal Overview Hotel in Mamba Point to participate in a three-day media training on International Tribunals and International Criminal Proceedings organized by the Advocates for International Development (A4ID) in collaboration with the International Center for Media Studies and Development in West Africa (INCEMSADWA).

Speaking at the opening of the training which basically centered on "Reporting the Taylor Trial in a Balanced, Fair and Objective Context", Minister Bropleh said media coverage on Taylor's trial demands optimal professional and ethical standard.

"The stories you write, the interviews and questions you ask, and the analyses you provide, indeed, have serious implications in our both countries," Bropleh noted.

He wants the media to see itself as a critical linchpin to the agenda of making post-conflict Liberia and Sierra Leone success stories.

Dr. Bropleh called on the media in both countries to devise a mechanism whereby there can be monitoring and evaluation of both media coverage during the trial in The Hague.

"We can establish an independent group to assess the performance of the coverage during the trial and its impact on the publics in Liberia and Sierra Leone," Dr. Bropleh suggested.

He observed that the media training was significant because, according to him, it will improve their knowledge and understanding of the working of international justice system.

He assured the Liberian government's commitment to due process and a free and fair trial of all of its citizens including Mr. Taylor.

Mr. Taylor stands accused of an eleven count charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity including murder, terror, rape, sexual slavery, as well as conscripting child soldiers into armed forces, among others.

Taylor has since denied the charges and pleaded not guilty.