

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



Prosecutor Stephen Rapp talks to school children during Thursday's Outreach to Makeni. For more photos of the Outreach, see today's 'Special Court Supplement'.

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:**

Friday, 29 June 2007

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Ext 7217

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New UN Chair for Peace Building Commission assures turning plans for Sierra Leone

The new Chairman of the United Nations Peace Building Commission has said on Thursday that the main challenge facing the UN Peace Building Commission in the next year is the transformation of the plans and strategies for both Burundi and Sierra Leone into tangible results on the ground in the two countries.

Ambassador Kenzo Oshima of Japan who was elected on Thursday 27th June succeeded the outgoing chair, Ambassador Ismael Abraão Gaspar Martins of Angola. While assuming responsibilities of the chairmanship, he told journalists that the commission which was set up to help the fragile nations just emerging from war had made impressive strides since it began a year ago.

Since Burundi and Sierra Leone were chosen as the first two countries to receive assistance, detailed strategies were thus outlined for the two states in consultation with their respective governments and with other international and national organizations. But now is the time to "get things done," Mr. Oshima said. "We are not there yet but we are a good way to achieving those objectives", he assured.

The commission which was to continue working aggressively in helping Burundi and Sierra Leone,

has been tipped would be expanded to cover its roster of countries receiving support, Mr. Oshima added, and suggested that other African countries may be chosen first. He also said the commission would take up cross-border issues such as youth unemployment, the rule of law and security sector reform.

In his address on Thursday to the conclusion of the commission's first session, The UN Secretary-General Mr. Ban Ki-moon said he was "proud to be associated with the first year of the commission's important achievements. Mr. Ban stressed that any "efforts to consolidate peace and development must be based on the needs and perspectives of the countries themselves. The marriage of national ownership and international partnership is the key." The President of the General Assembly Sheikha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa congratulated the commission for undertaking "its sensitive tasks with seriousness and perseverance. It has firmly established itself as an important new intergovernmental body with a membership that reflects key UN bodies and stakeholders". Sheikha Haya called on the commission to establish a closer working relationship with other parts of the UN system, particularly the General Assembly.

UN News Service (New York)

Thursday, 28 June 2007

Security Council Urges Support for War Crimes Tribunal

By Amb. Johan Verbeke

The Security Council today called on the international community to maintain its financial support of the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL), saying the war crimes tribunal needs more help to complete its efforts to bring to justice those responsible for the worst crimes during the country's prolonged civil war.

In a statement read out by Ambassador Johan Verbeke of Belgium, which holds the rotating Council presidency this month, the 15-member body reiterated its strong support for the UN-backed SCSL and the progress it has achieved so far.

Earlier this month the trial of the notorious former Liberian president Charles Taylor began in The Hague, while last week the SCSL issued its first verdicts, finding three former rebel leaders guilty of multiple counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

"The Security Council particularly notes the contribution of the Special Court to strengthening stability in Sierra Leone and the subregion and bringing an end to impunity," the statement said.

The second international war crimes tribunal established in Africa, the SCSL was mandated to try those bearing the greatest responsibility for serious violations of international humanitarian and Sierra Leonean law within Sierra Leone's borders after 30 November 1996.

Mr. Verbeke said the Council recognized the Court's efforts to meet its completion strategy, particularly as it moves towards its final stage of work now that trials are under way and verdicts are beginning to be handed down.

"The Security Council emphasizes the vital need for further pledges of voluntary contributions in order to allow the Special Court to complete its mandate in a timely manner, and asks all United Nations Member States to consider making such pledges."

The Analyst (Monrovia)

Thursday, 28 June 2007

Taylor is Guilty! For Attempted Interfering With Witnesses

Taylor is no doubt hopping from one hurdle to another at the selection of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, now operating from The Hague. He has moved from protest against prison conditions to undue restrictions and now to conviction for manipulation.

As these obtain many expect that he would meet the nemesis of his 13-year misrule alone.

But now the UN Security Council has passed a resolution ordering a probe of Taylor's connection with Liberia's diamond industry four years after "Liberia, Taylor Inc." was effectively shutdown by the international community.

A positive find, observers say, may put the industry back in a UN slam or spotlight, prompting them to contend that Taylor's nemesis is still haunting Liberia. But is it?

The Analyst's Staff Writer looks the court's hurdles and the supposed implication of the Security Council's new order.

The President of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, Justice George Gelaga King, has upheld the new restrictions imposed on the war-crime indictee, former president Charles Taylor.

Guilty Verdict and Punitive Measures

"Finding that in accordance with provisions of Rule 47 (A) of the Rule of Detention and Rule 180 of the Regulation, the Acting Registrar has reasonable grounds for imposing the aforesaid restrictions and conditions. I hereby refuse to reverse the acting registrar's decision and dismiss the application of the defense."

This was the ruling of the President of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, George King, which was handed down on June 20, 2007 in Freetown, Sierra Leone.

This means that it is effectively established that on a trial note for 14 days, which apparently commenced on May 30 this year, any privacy between Mr. Taylor and his wife is prohibited by the Special Court until otherwise ordered.

It is not clear which of Mr. Taylor's wives the court's ruling was referring to or whether it is intended to refer to any particular woman of Mr. Taylor, who is said to have approved spousal relationships with several women.

The ruling of the court's president came in the wake of an application for the reversal of a 5-count restriction imposed on Mr. Taylor after the Acting Registrar of the Special, Court Herman von Hebel, decided that he (Taylor) was guilty of witness manipulation through visitors and communications.

Taylor's defense had argued that in its application on June 4, 2007 to the President of the Special Court for Sierra Leone that "Mr. Taylor has purportedly been found guilty of 'using its telephone communication to attempt interfering with witnesses... [and that this] conclusion was reached without due process or procedural safeguards... [and] is wholly improper ...," the defense contended.

The defense then concluded in its application: "[Accordingly] the registrar has exceeded his mandate; and Mr. Taylor... has been completely left in the dark as to the grounds allegedly justifying the restrictions on his right to communication and to receive visits...[and that the] accusations were filed ex parte.

The measures imposed by the [registrar] are disproportionate." The defense said it based its request to the special court president to reverse the decision of the acting registrar on Rule 47 (G) called "Rule of Detention".

Rule 47 (G) governs the detention of persons awaiting trial or appeal before the Special Court for Sierra Leone or otherwise detained on authority of the Special Court for Sierra Leone," according to the President's ruling.

The rule states, "A detainee may at anytime request the President to reverse a decision made by the registrar under this rule."

But the President King noted in his ruling upheld the decision of the Registrar that even though the defense has the right to apply for reversal of the restrictions imposed on Mr. Taylor's communication and visits, it failed to take due note of the rights of the Registry to provide security and oversee the welfare of all detained persons while they were at the detention facility.

He noted particularly the proviso of Rule 47 (A) of the "Rule of Detention" which he said states: "The registrar, acting on his own initiatives, or at the request of a Judge or Chamber, or the prosecutor may prohibit, regulate, or set conditions for communications including the monitoring of telephone calls and may regulate, prohibit, or set conditions on visits between the detainee and other person..."

The prohibition, regulation, or setting of conditions, according to the rule, may be necessary if there are reasonable grounds for believing that such communications and visits are for the purpose of attempting to arrange for the escape of any detainee from the detention facility.

Also, according to the rule, they are necessary if the visits or communications could prejudice or otherwise undermine the outcome of the proceedings against the detainee or other proceedings, if it could constitute a danger to the health and safety of any person and if it could be used by the detainee to breach an order made by a judge or a chamber or otherwise interfere with the administration of justice or frustrate the mandate of the Special Court.

Finally, the President's ruling quoted the rule as saying, the visits and communications could disturb the maintenance of the security and good order in the detention facility.

Besides the Rule for Detention, the ruling said, the defense failed to take careful note of Rule 180 of the April 13, 2006 Memorandum of Understanding signed between the International Criminal Court and the Special Court for Sierra Leone which restricted permission for visits to certain category of persons.

Rule 180, according to the ruling states: "Permission for visits other than those by counsel, diplomatic or consular representatives, representatives of the independent inspecting authority, and officers of the court shall be granted, unless...the registrar or the chief of custody officer has reasonable ground to believe that a detained person may be attempting to (i) arrange an escape, (ii) interfere with or intimidate a witness, (iii) interfere with the administration of justice (iv) or otherwise disturb the maintenance of the security and good order in the detention facility."

The President noted that having considered the complaint of the defense and carefully studied the Registrar's response, it found that he acted reasonably since his decision which is administrative and not the outcome of a criminal investigation cast a balance between the interest of the detainee and the detention facility.

He said the acting registrar, acting on the basis of the information provided in the two confidential annexes, which he found to be credible, rightly concluded on reasonable grounds that the detainee Charles Ghankay Taylor has used telephone communications to attempt to identify witnesses against him or interfere with witnesses.

It may be recalled that the Acting Registrar of the Special Court imposed a 5-count restriction on Mr. Taylor having obtained "reasonable basis to believe that the accused [Mr. Charles Ghankay Taylor] is using his visits and/or communications to, (i) to plan or orchestrate actions to attempt to identify witnesses against him; (ii) to directly contact individuals to determine if they are witnesses against him; and (iii) to establish a system of surveillance of homes and movements of persons whom the accused believe may appear as witnesses in this case."

On the basis of that finding, the Registrar on May 30, 2007 ruled that Taylor is

"(1) entitled to visits with members of his family, the defense team, an accredited spiritual advisor, special court staff, diplomatic or consular representatives, representatives of the independent inspecting authority, and accredited medical staff.

All other visits are prohibited, (2) that all authorized visits, except privileged visits, shall be monitored and audio recorded at the detention center of the ICC by a staff of the Special Court fluent in the language spoken by the accused, (3) that private visit between the accused and his wife are prohibited, (4) Taylor is entitled to communication through telephone to counsel and family members, and (5) all documents and correspondences of the accused, with the exception of privileged materials, shall be handed over to SCSL staff member for further verification before being given to the accused".

Taylor's Nemesis

The ruling of the President of the Special Court for Sierra Leone may seem all-Taylor affairs, but observers drawing into the spotlight a recent UN resolution that seems to tie the health of the Liberia diamond industry to the severing of its umbilical cords with Taylor say Taylor's nemesis will still be with him, but that they are still haunting Liberia.

The fear that UN Security Council may rescind the permit it gave Liberia to begin trading its diamond under the Kimberley Certification Scheme if the investigation it ordered traced Taylor's continued link with the diamond industry.

When that happens, observers say, then it is Liberia, rather than Taylor and his cohorts, many of whom are still in the country today and will suffer the backlash of his decade-long misrule both as warlord and civilian president.

Acting under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1760 (2007), June 21, 2007 asking the Secretary-General to establish, within one month, a three-member Panel of Experts.

The mandate of the panel is to conduct a follow-up assessment mission to Liberia and neighboring states, in order to, among other things, investigate and compile a report on the implementation and any violations of the measures outlined in resolution 1521 (2003).

That resolution calls for the creation of a similarly mandated Panel and imposes a travel ban on Mr. Taylor's inner circle, as well as any other individuals "posing a threat to the stability and security of Liberia and the subregion".

Last week's Council action followed a closed-door meeting held recently to consider the report of the previous Expert Panel, whose mandate expires today.

The Panel, which conducted assessments in West Africa and elsewhere between February and June, discovered that Mr. Taylor may have substantial hidden assets in Liberia and Nigeria, and that he retained ties to a large Liberian cell phone company.

Resolution 1760 (2007) sets out the specific objectives for the new Panel's assessment mission, including a further investigation of implementation and violations of Council resolution 1532 (2004), which calls on all Member States to freeze financial assets and economic resources owned or controlled by Mr. Taylor, his wife Jewell Howard Taylor, his son Charles Taylor Junior, and other associates, in order to prevent them from "using misappropriated funds and property to interfere in the restoration of peace in Liberia and the subregion".

The Panel is expected to assess the implementation of forestry legislation passed by the Liberian Congress and signed into law last October by President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, and to gauge the Government's compliance with the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, a mechanism established to keep "blood diamonds" from reaching world markets.

The experts are required to report back to the Council through its "1521 Committee", which monitors the United Nations sanctions regime on Liberia, by 6 December 2007 and to provide informal updates as appropriate before that date.

According to the experts' report (document S/2007/340), although Mr. Taylor claims to be indigent and has requested the Special Court for Sierra Leone to cover the costs of his trial on 11 counts of war crimes, there are "credible allegations" of investments in Nigeria that remain unfrozen.

The government of Nigeria did not permit the Panel to investigate those allegations. In addition, Liberia has not yet adopted legislation authorizing a freeze, and Nigeria apparently has not seized any Taylor assets, reports said.

New America Media

Friday, 29 June 2007

http://news.ncmonline.com/news/view_article.html?article_id=4d9eb1c2466404f5224f98bee0a50210

Taylor War Crimes Trial Could Help Stabilize West Africa

Editor's note: Former Liberian President Charles Taylor is currently on trial in The Hague, accused of backing a rebel group involved in crimes against humanity. Analysts watching the trial in West Africa and abroad say that if Taylor is brought to justice, it may spark reform throughout the region. Donal Brown is an editor with New America Media.

As the war crimes trial of former Liberian president Charles Taylor resumes this week in The Hague, close observers expressed confidence in the court's ability to hold the former head of state accountable for war crimes, and optimism about the potential ripple effects if he is brought to justice.

Taylor, the president of Liberia from 1997 to 2003, is facing 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity for actions during Sierra Leone's civil war. He is alleged to have backed the rebel Revolutionary United Front (RUF) in a blood diamonds scheme. Taylor allegedly secured diamonds from the RUF in exchange for arms and money, and the RUF brutalized Sierra Leone's civilian population to control diamond mining, murdering and maiming thousands in the process.

Michael Newton, a law professor at Vanderbilt University, who is traveling to The Hague June 26 to watch the proceedings at the International Criminal Court, says to bring such an individual to justice would help stem the trend in West Africa toward warfare that victimizes civilians and enlists child soldiers.

"I would hope, it (Taylor's trial) would have a stabilizing effect on the region," says Newton.

Taylor's alleged crimes include using axes and machetes to hack off limbs, using women and children as sex slaves, and kidnapping adults and children, many of whom were forced to work or fight in the war. Elise Keppler, a lawyer with Human Rights Watch, says the trial will have a deterrent effect all over Africa.

"To see a former head of state associated with murder and mayhem held accountable and not above the law shows the days of impunity are winding down," she says.

Speaking on SW Radio Africa from London, Zimbabwean exile Tererai Karimakwenda reported that those opposed to President Robert Mugabe are hopeful that the trial will establish a new standard of accountability for crimes against humanity, and that Mugabe will be tried for ordering the demolition of urban slums and the murder of thousands of Gukurahundi in Matabeleland in the mid-1980s.

In an editorial on June 4, the Analyst of Monrovia, Liberia emphasized the importance of a fair trial to strengthen the international court and promote peace in West Africa.

"Our fervent hope...is that justice, whatever it shall be, would evolve out of a transparent, sincere and evidentially fair litigation that reflects the reverence of due process and sanctity of law."

Taylor's defense team has complained that they did not have the same number of lawyers and investigators on their team as the prosecution and asked for a delay to the trial.

Once the trial began on June 4, Taylor dismissed his lawyer and complained that he had not been allowed

to consult the court's Principal Defender in person. The court granted one delay from April 2 to June 4, then another to June 25 to accommodate. Keppler sees this as clear evidence that the court is responding to the issues important to the defense.

Keppler also said the superior numbers for the prosecution do not mean that the defense is disadvantaged so long as they are granted the necessary time and resources to mount a credible defense.

It will not be easy for the prosecution to obtain a guilty verdict on all counts. They must show that Taylor knew about the crimes, that he had the power to prevent them and failed to act. They can also show he ordered some of the crimes and abetted the perpetrators.

Newton said the prosecution does not have to show Taylor was in control of the RUF but only that he aided and abetted them in their heinous acts. The prosecution might also argue that there was "a joint criminal enterprise" and present evidence of a common plan to destabilize Sierra Leone.

Newton said that reports that the British parliament expressed reluctance to incarcerate Taylor if he is found guilty should be discounted. Member states including Great Britain have signed a resolution agreeing to assist in incarcerating those convicted of war crimes.

If convicted, Taylor could be given a life sentence.

The Associated Press

Thursday, 28 June 2007

Taylor War Crimes Trial Delayed Again

THE HAGUE, Netherlands -- Judges on Thursday ordered the war crimes trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor delayed until Aug. 20 to provide time for a new defense team to prepare its case.

Taylor is accused of arming and funding Sierra Leone rebels who waged a campaign of terror in their country's 10-year civil war that ended in 2002. He has pleaded not guilty to charges including murder, rape, mutilation and conscripting child soldiers.

His landmark trial at the U.N.-backed Special Court of Sierra Leone started June 4 with the prosecution's opening statement and resumed last Monday.

But proceedings ground to a halt both times as Taylor first fired his court-funded lawyer, saying he wanted to defend himself, then failed to show up in court.

On Monday, presiding judge Julia Sebutinde ordered the court's principal defender, an official whose job it is to see that Taylor gets an adequate defense, to find him a new legal team by July 31.

She also directed him to appoint an interim defense counsel to represent Taylor for the first witness's testimony at hearings scheduled to run July 3-11.

But in a joint motion Thursday, both prosecutor Brenda Hollis and the interim defense attorney, Charles Jalloh, said it would be "in the interests of justice" to delay the trial's resumption until Aug. 20, when the new defense team should be in place.

Court spokesman Solomon Moriba told The Associated Press on Thursday that judges would explain the decision further at a brief hearing on July 3.

The Patriotic Vanguard

Wednesday 27 June 2007

At The Hague: Taylor Continues Delay Tactics

By Teddy Foday-Musa, at The Hague.

The absence of Charles Taylor at the second session of his trial at The Hague on Monday 25th June became the corner stone of legal arguments from both sides of the court.

The courtroom was however enveloped in another atmosphere of disappointment, when the judge made it clear that Charles Taylor, was again absent for the second session of his trial.

The trial chamber was left with no alternative but to slam an obligatory mandate on Mr. Taylor to appear in court at all times from now on. I bring you below a blow by blow narrative of what transpired on the 25th June at The Hague:

First session.

The key court officials

- Judge: Julia Sebutinde
- Prosecutor: Miss Brenda Hollis (Senior Trial Attorney).
- Defence: Vincent Nmehielle (Principal Defender for Taylor)

The case was called.

- The court session started at 9:00 am
- The judge entered and took her seat.
- At 9:02, the judge requested the court officials to call up the case.
- The judge further announced the absence of Mr. Charles Taylor.
- She also recognized the presence of the principal defender of Mr. Charles Taylor.
- During the opening of the trial on the 4th June, the registrar received an order from the judge to facilitate the travel of the principal defender to The Hague upon the request of Mr. Taylor. Therefore, Mr. Nmehielle(principal defender being in court was in fulfillment of that request.
- The Judge called for the appearances: "I would like to take the appearances."
- Miss Brenda Hollis was announced for the prosecution, while Vincent Nmehielle as the principal defender for Taylor.

It was at this point that the judge directed the question at Mr. Nmehielle, as to who will be addressing the court on behalf of Mr. Taylor, since he was absent. She ended up by asking also why Taylor was absent.

The principle defender, Mr. Nmehielle responded by saying that he got a call only this morning from Mr. Taylor , saying that he will not be present in court. "When I asked Mr. Taylor why he was not coming to court today, he told me that you all (Trial Chamber) know why he will not be in court today."

The Judge responded:

“But where did he get this idea from that we already know why he is not in court today?” She further went on to say “for the records, the Chamber is not informed, I wonder where he got the idea from.”

The judge, making reference to rule 60 stated that Mr. Taylor has voluntarily absented himself from proceedings. However, she requested the principal defender to make his submission on behalf of Taylor.

Submission by Principal Defender:

- He started his submission at 9:05.
- He stated that his point of departure will be his travel from Freetown to the Netherlands with regards to article 17.
- He stated that he left Freetown on 14th June and arrived in the Netherlands on the 15th.
- He said since then he has met with Taylor three consecutive times, the 16th, 17th and the 18th of this month.

At this juncture he was beginning to digress when the judge came in with a caution. He was reminded by the judge to restrict his presentation only to article 17, which was related to logistics in enhancing Taylor’s defence.

The principal defender noted the caution and continued with the following;

- That during the meeting with Taylor, he (Taylor) raised concerns about his getting a fair trial.
- That Taylor was very co-operative in presenting this issue
- That until this is addressed, he (Taylor) will choose to defend himself.

It was at this point in time that the judge came in by saying that the monitors were not working. She said this means that the public is not in touch with the current proceedings and that the problem should be rectified with immediate effect. Having said this, she ordered the principle defendant to continue.

The principal defender continued by stating that he has made it categorically clear to Taylor that representing himself will not be in his own good interest. However, he said that Mr. Taylor kept stressing that “he needs a defence team to match the capacity of the prosecutors in this enormous case...”.

Then the Judge asked him to clarify the kind of legal representation Taylor is asking for.

This is what Taylor wants:

- A leading senior counsel equivalent to a QC.
- A senior Counsel as an addition to assist the advocate on a day-to-day basis.
- That he has long since requested for a P5 but it was cut down to a P3 by the Registry.
- That he requested for a P4 prior to March but to no avail.
- That he requested for an Administrative Officer to be stationed at The Hague which was rejected.

On the whole, he was making a point of putting together a good defence team which implies enormous financial costs.

Mr. Nmehielle’s presentation almost fell apart when a question was directed at him by one of the judges. The question projected the fact that Mr. Nmehielle knew about all these problems three months before the June 25th session. He was therefore asked the question: “What have you done to address this problem?”

Mr. Nmeheille barely managed his way on this, but his answer was not satisfactory.

However, the judge requested him to tell the court about the replacement of counsel for Taylor, since Mr. Khan has been sacked by Taylor himself.

His answer:

- That the issue is a tricky one and needs to be handled with care.
- That upon his arrival, he only had two working days to replace somebody else with Mr. Khan.
- He said this was not fair on the side of the defence.
- He also stated that he has already contacted three leading counsels in the UK.
- That the only breakthrough he had with one of them, was a meeting scheduled for the 27th June.
- He further made the point that since this trial was scheduled for the 25th he cannot do more than the ordinary with a promise of talking to counsel on the 27th.

At this point, the judge made it clear that the Principal Defender's office was mainly established to provide Taylor with a very good defence team. However, she made it clear that the PD does not seem to be doing very well along this line. She stated the following reasons in support of her assertion:

- That the PD presented a list to Mr. Taylor with names of counsels three months ago. Therefore, if Mr. Taylor has rejected all of them, he should have thought of an alternative ever since.

In response, Mr. Nmehielle projected the financial constraints side of things. He said that the finances that are set aside for the defence team are not enough to motivate counsels. He said some of them are asking for more than what is available.

The judge reacted by telling him to cut his coat according to his size. She then called on the prosecutor to make a statement.

The prosecutor (Miss Brenda Hollis):

- She pointed out that the accused is manipulating the court in his favour.
- She buttressed her point by making it clear that the accused knew about these problems long ago, but only brought them up on the 4th of June (opening session).
- That one of his manipulative actions was to terminate the services of Mr. Khan who was representing him.
- She further said that in as much as Taylor is entitled to adequate representation, he is not entitled to hand-pick those who should represent him at the detriment of the court proceedings.

She suggested the following as a way forward:

- That the trial chamber deals with the issue of self representation suggested by Mr. Taylor, as it could be a way of delaying the proceedings
- That the former defence attorney of Taylor, Mr. Khan, should be recalled to take over the case, unless the chamber deemed it otherwise.
- That the principal defender himself should be part of the defence team.

This took us to the end of the 1st session at 10:25. We were required to come back for the second session at 11: 25.

The second Session:

The second session was designed for a "Way Forward". It started at 12:13 instead of the stipulated time of 11:25. The judge without wasting time presented the following:

- She started with an apology for coming in late.
 - She gave a summary of Taylor's letter written to the court on the 4th June (Opening day of the trial)
 - In this letter, she highlighted the fact that Taylor terminated the services of his lawyer and at the same time, said he will represent himself.
 - She said that the Trial Chamber has noted Mr. Taylor's absence as not only inconsistent with his proclamation of "Self-defence", but also tantamount to "Boycott".
 - That the Trial Chamber is in agreement with the Prosecution that Mr. Taylor should in person be in court.
- Then she read out the following resolutions taken by the Trial Chamber as the "Way Forward" for the Taylor trial.

The Way Forward:

- That Mr. Taylor is now put under obligation by the Trial Chamber to appear in court at all times.
- That if Mr. Taylor chooses to stay away from the trial, it will be considered as "Boycott of Court".
- That the idea projected by Mr. Taylor to represent himself, has been nullified by the Trial Chamber.
- That the Duty Counsel renders the accused legal services in relation to article 25.

The judge also presented directives to the Registry.

Long-term Directives to the Registry:

- That the Principal Defender should assemble a good defence team for Mr. Taylor, with the help of the registry.
- And that the team should be comprised of the following:
 - One lead counsel-45c
 - Two Co-Counsels-45c
 - A senior investigator at a P4 level.

The she made the following announcements:

- That the Trial Chamber will be in Freetown between the 12-19 July in order to pass the AFRC verdict.
- That they will be back on the 20th July.
- But then the ICC recess falls on the 20th which will not permit a court seating.

Adjournment:

The court was adjourned to the 3rd July 2007.

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 28 June 2007

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

International Clips on Liberia

Liberia to conduct first census in 23 years

Monrovia, Liberia_(dpa), June 28 - Liberians are set to be counted in a national census for the first time in 23 years, after war, insecurity and government mismanagement ravaged the nation, President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf said Thursday. "For more than 23 years, there has been no accurate data on the demographic variables of the country. All projections that have been made on the nation's demographic particulars are based on educated guesses," said Johnson-Sirleaf. The last census in 1984 under military ruler Samuel Doe showed Liberia had a population of about 2 million and the West African nation has been mired in dictatorial rule and conflict since 1985. A 14-year civil war erupted in 1989, killing more than 200,000, displacing thousands and ushering in the corrupt and harsh rule of former leader Charles Taylor, who dragged Liberia into poverty.

Pupils fight to help friend remain in UK

BRISTOL EVENING POST : June 27, 2007 -A Group of Somali pupils have launched a campaign to stop one of their school friends being deported back to war-torn Liberia. Mariama Jalloh, a 14-year-old City Academy pupil, is at the centre of a deportation battle with the Home Office. Her mother Kadijaut, 35, and eight-year-old sister Binta could also be forced to return to Africa. The family, who live in Kingswood, say they will go on hunger strike and starve to death rather than go back to Liberia. Now Mariama's Year 10 friends at the City Academy are trying to help fight her cause. They say it is unfair the Jalloh family should be made to return to Liberia - where Mrs Jalloh was tortured, beaten and abused and where her husband was murdered by rebels.

International Clips on West Africa

UN-Backed Initiative Aims to Bring Jobs to Rural Youth

Jun 27, 2007 (UN News Service/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- The United Nations International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) has announced a new \$10.9 million programme to bring small loans and jobs to the young people of rural Sierra Leone, benefiting 34,000 households in the West African country that saw the end of civil strife and the installation of an elected Government in 2002. The Rural Finance and Community Improvement Programme will establish rural financial services - using a model that IFAD has developed and applied successfully in Benin for 10 years - in the four remote eastern districts of Koinadugu, Kono, Kailahun and Kenema.

Local Media – Newspaper

US\$5.6 Million Needed to Conduct National Census in Liberia

(The Informer, The News, Daily Observer, Liberian Express, New Democrat and The Analyst)

- The entity spearheading next year's population and housing census, the Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS) said it needs US\$5.6 million to conduct census in Liberia.
- The Director General of LISGIS, Dr. T. Edward Liberty made the disclosure at a news conference Wednesday. Mr. Liberty said the 2008 census will be the first in 23 years.

- The last population census in Liberia was conducted in 1984 prior to the 1985 general and presidential elections. Results from that exercise, according to *The Analyst*, put the country's population at 2.5 million, but current rough estimates indicate that there are approximately three million or more people in Liberia.

UN Report Confirms Speculations of Rebel Recruitment in Liberia

(Heritage)

- The United Nations Panel of Experts Report has confirmed media reports of a clandestine operation by some unknown individuals to recruit Liberians, mainly ex-combatants, aimed at providing military support for Guinea.

Criminal Gangs on the rampage in Rural Liberia

(The Informer, The Inquirer, The News, Daily Observer, and Heritage)

- Security concerns have been reported in rural areas, especially Bong and Nimba Counties, where security guards and residents were reportedly attacked by armed bandits.

UNDP Gives US\$350 for Capacity Development in Liberia

(Heritage)

- The Liberian Government and the United Nations Development Programme have signed a project document aimed at empowering women to take up leadership roles and to encourage their active participation in decision making in Liberia
- The project entitled "Giving Women a Voice and Leadership Role in decision making and Peace Building", is estimated at US\$350 and would be funded by UNDP Democratic Governance Thematic Trust Fund and UNDP Liberia. The project will be implemented across the country.

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

Criminal Gang Wounds Two LPMC Security Guards in Bong County

- A criminal gang has raided the palm farm of the Liberia Produce Marketing Corporation (LPMC) in Gbarnga, Bong County, wounding two security guards.
- In a release, the Corporation said the attack; the fourth of its kind has instilled fear in the workers and has affected normal work on the farm.
- The management regretted the wave of attacks and called on the local authorities to arrest the situation as this could stall rehabilitation work being carried out by the management.

(Also reported on ELBS)

Minister Saytumah Debunks Claims of Disrupting Budget Debate

- The Minister of State for Financial and Legal Affairs, Morris Saytumah, has denied engineering the disruption of Tuesday's budget hearing.
- Minister Saytumah said though the hearing was disrupted but it was not on account of him, saying he was being used as a "pawn".
- The budget debate is expected to resume today after being called off on Tuesday.

(Also reported on ELBS)

Second Batch of 500 Army Recruits to Begin Training Next Week

- The second batch of 500 recruits of the new Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) is expected to begin training next week.
- The out-going Chief of the Office of Defense Cooperation of the U.S. Army assigned to Liberia, Daniel Honken made the disclosure at a reception held in his honour at the Defense Ministry in Monrovia.
- Col. Honken said the men and women of the first class are being trained to help move the country forward and praised defence authorities for the excellent working relationship while he supervised the AFL restructuring programme.
- He has been replaced by another American, Major William Ward.

JPC Secures Release of 37 Inmates

- The Catholic Justice and Peace Commission (JPC) yesterday secured the release of 37 inmates from the Monrovia Central Prison and said those set free had been in detention from 99 to 399 days without trial.
- The JPC last week filed a motion at Criminal Court "C" in favour of the defendants for failure to persecute them.
- The Commission said the release of the inmates is a plus for the country's criminal justice system.
- Dozens of other prisoners are being detained at the Central Prison for prolonged period without trial.

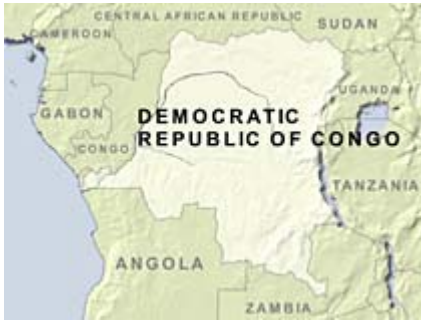
Voice of America

Thursday, 28 June 2007

Congo Court Clears Foreign Miners of War Crimes

By Joe Bavier
Kinshasa

A military court in Democratic Republic of Congo has acquitted three former employees of Australian mining company Anvil Mining Limited of complicity in war crimes by government soldiers in 2004. Judges said the charges against the miners and nine Congolese soldiers were unfounded. Joe Bavier is in the capital, Kinshasa, and has more for VOA.



Canadian Pierre Mercier and South Africans Peter Van Niekerk and Cedric Kirsten had been accused of willfully offering logistical assistance to Congolese soldiers during a short-lived armed uprising in mineral-rich Katanga province.

A U.N. human rights investigation said civilians were massacred in the town of Kilwa, near the southeastern border with Zambia, when government forces launched a counter-attack to retake the town after it had been seized by a group of 10 ill-equipped rebels in October 2004.

The Anvil company runs the nearby Dikulushi silver and copper mine and the company's trucks and planes were used by the army during the operation.

Anvil said its vehicles were requisitioned by the military and it had no choice but to hand them over.

Van Niekerk, former security director at Dikulushi, and Mercier, Anvil's country manager at the time of the uprising, both returned to Congo to stand trial. Kirsten, believed to have been out of the country during the uprising, was judged in absentia.

All nine Congolese soldiers also on trial before the military tribunal were acquitted of war crimes. But two officers received life in prison for the killing of civilians; two other soldiers received shorter sentences for lesser crimes.

Anvil CEO Bill Turner said in a statement that he was pleased the court had cleared the men, who the company has always maintained acted appropriately at the time.

Congo is still emerging from a 1998-2003 war in which rebel groups and foreign armies battled for control over the vast central African nation's abundant natural resources.

An estimated four million people perished during the conflict, mainly from hunger and disease. And parts of the country continue to suffer outbreaks of violence, despite a U.N.-backed peace process and polls last year that elected President Joseph Kabila as Congo's first democratically chosen leader in four decades.

Unlike neighboring Rwanda, which launched a tribunal in Arusha, Tanzania, to judge those responsible for the country's 1994 genocide, Congo has made little effort to shed light on the dark events of its recent history.

Many had hoped the trial of the miners and soldiers, which received logistical support from Congo's U.N. peacekeeping mission, would help put an end to the climate of impunity that still reigns in the country.

Human rights campaigners decried the replacement of the court's military prosecutor in February, claiming they feared the move was a sign of political meddling. And victims' supporters said they were disappointed by the trial's outcome.

Shortly after reading the verdict human rights lawyer George Katiamba, who represented the victims and their families during the six-month trial, said he hoped the case could be brought before the International Criminal Court in The Hague.

Special Court Supplement

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