

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



Photos from yesterday's Appeal Chamber Judgment in the CDF case can be viewed in 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 Outreach and Public Affairs Office

as at:

Wednesday, 29 May 2008

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

Local News

Appeals Chamber Overturns Convictions, Enters New Ones... / <i>SCSL Press Release</i>	Pages 3-4
Surprise and Anger as Judges Increase Sentences / <i>Awoko</i>	Page 5
More Jail Terms for CDF Leaders / <i>Concord Times</i>	Page 6
2 CDF Men Jailed 152 Years in Total / <i>Independent Observer</i>	Page 7
Prosecutor Applauds Lengthy Jail Term / <i>Independent Observer</i>	Page 8
Amnesty Condemns Justice System / <i>Concord Times</i>	Pages 9-10
UN Supports Training of 100 Police Prosecutors / <i>Awoko</i>	Page 11

International News

Appeal Court Increases Sentences on Sierra Leone Militiamen / <i>AFP</i>	Page 12
S. Leone Court Raises Jail Terms for Militia Chiefs / <i>Reuters</i>	Page 13
Court Lengthens Terms for Sierra Leone War Criminals... / <i>AP</i>	Page 14
Prosecutors Win Appeal of Sierra Leone Militia Leaders' Short Sentences / <i>VOA</i>	Pages 15-16
HRW Praises Sierra Leone Sentencing / <i>UPI</i>	Page 17
War Crimes Ruling Bolsters Victim Protection / <i>Human Rights Watch</i>	Pages 18-19
Key ruling by Sierra Leone Tribunal / <i>Radio Netherlands</i>	Pages 20-21
Following Dramatic Testimonies in Taylor's Trial / <i>The News</i>	Pages 22-23
Carter Camp Massacre / <i>New Democrat</i>	Page 24
"We're Revolutionary Bros." / <i>New Democrat</i>	Page 25
Stephen Rapp, the Taylor Billions (Liberia Needs Every Penny) / <i>The Monitor</i>	Page 26
Ex-Defense Minister Faces TRC / <i>Daily Observer</i>	Pages 27-28
UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries / <i>UNMIL</i>	Pages 29-30

Special Court Supplement

Photos From Yesterday's CDF Appeal Judgment	Pages 31-32
---	-------------



Special Court for Sierra Leone

Outreach and Public Affairs Office

PRESS RELEASE

Freetown, Sierra Leone, 28 May 2008

Appeals Chamber Overturns Convictions, Enters New Ones, and Increases Sentences for Former Civil Defence Forces Leaders

The Special Court Appeals Chamber, in a majority Judgment, today overturned convictions imposed by the Trial Chamber against Moinina Fofana and Allieu Kondewa for collective punishments and against Kondewa for recruiting of child soldiers. The Appeals Chamber, by a majority, also entered two new convictions against both men for murder and inhumane acts as crimes against humanity.

In the Judgment, the majority of the Appeals Chamber upheld Trial Chamber convictions of the two men



on counts of murder and cruel treatment as war crimes, but increased their sentences substantially. Fofana, who had been sentenced by the Trial Chamber to concurrent sentences totalling six years, has now been sentenced to fifteen years. Kondewa's total sentence was increased from eight to twenty years.

The Judges considered nine grounds of appeal by the Prosecution and six grounds by Allieu Kondewa. Moinina Fofana did not appeal his conviction or sentence, but he was a respondent to the Prosecution appeals.

The Appeals Chamber majority reversed acquittals by the Trial Chamber on counts 1 and 3 of the indictment, for murder and inhumane acts as crimes against humanity, granting the Prosecution's appeal that the CDF had directed attacks against a civilian population, and not just against military targets.

The Appeals Chamber, again by majority, sustained war crimes convictions on counts 2 and 4 for murder and cruel treatment, but increased the sentences. The Judges, however, unanimously overturned Kondewa's conviction for murder in Talia.

On count 5, pillage as a war crime, the majority of the Judges sustained the Trial Chamber's conviction of Kondewa based on acts committed in Bonthe District, but said the Trial Chamber erred when it convicted him of acts committed in Moyamba District.

The five Judges unanimously upheld the Trial Chamber's acquittal of the two men on Count 6, acts of terrorism as a war crime.

The majority of the Appeals Chamber reversed the two men's convictions on Count 7, collective punishments as a war crime, concluding that the Trial Chamber had erred in its definition of the crime.

The majority also reversed Kondewa's conviction on Count 8, for the enlistment of children under the age of 15 as combatants.

The Appeals Chamber, by a majority, held that the Trial Chamber erred in considering political motives or fighting in a "just cause" as mitigating factors in sentencing.

Dissenting opinions were read out by Justice George Gelaga-King on convictions and sentencing, by Justice Jon Kamanda on sentencing, and by Justice Renate Winter in relation to the enlistment of child soldiers, collective punishments, and politically mitigating circumstances.

#END

The Special Court is an independent tribunal established jointly by the United Nations and the Government of Sierra Leone. It is mandated to bring to justice those who bear the greatest responsibility for atrocities committed in Sierra Leone after 30 November 1996.

INFORMATION FOR MEDIA - NOT FOR ADVERTISING

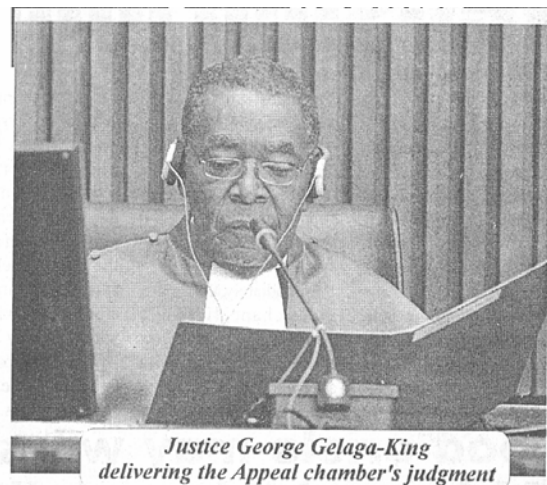
Produced by the
Press and Public Affairs Office
Special Court for Sierra Leone
Mobile: 232 76 655732
Email: SCSL-pressoffice@un.org

Visit our website at www.sc-sl.org

Awoko

Thursday, 29 May 2008

Surprise and anger as judges increase CDF sentences



Justice George Gelaga-King
delivering the Appeal chamber's judgment

Surprise and anger as **Judges increase CDF sentences**

By Kelvin Lewis & Betty Milton

The five judges of the Appeals Chamber of the Special Court for Sierra Leone yesterday Wednesday surprised the accused, their relatives and even the defence lawyers when they substantially increased the sentences of the two accused persons – Moinina Fofanah and Alieu Kondewa.

The two had been convicted on 4 and 5 counts respectively by the trial chamber and sentenced to serve 6 and 8 years jail terms respectively.

The two were arrested on the 29th May 2003 and today marks their 5th year in detention. Given the trial Chamber sentences Moinina Fofanah who was given a 6 year sentence was surely hoping that he would have to serve only a year before being freed, while Alieu Kondewa would have had to serve a further three years (initial 8 years) before being freed.

Perhaps this was why Fofanah's lawyers did not lodge an appeal. Kondewa's lawyers however did lodge 6 grounds of appeal and the Appeals chamber judges upheld 4 and dismissed 2. The prosecution however lodged 9 grounds of Appeal against both Fofanah and Kondewa. The judges in

their wisdom dismissed 6 and upheld 3.

Most importantly, the Judges dismissed the earlier conviction of Kondewa on count 8 which dealt with the recruitment and use of child soldiers. They changed the verdict from guilty to not guilty and subsequently freed him. This left both Fofanah and Kondewa to account for four counts of which they were confirmed guilty.

Hopes had been raised that since the judges had quashed one conviction and freed the accused (Kondewa) then the sentencing would at least be tilted in the favour of the accused.

This was not to be, as the judges shockingly increased the jail terms for Fofanah from 6 years to 15 years and Kondewa from 8 years to 20 years.

Alieu Kondewa's lawyer Yada Williams said "We really feel cheated ... the sentencing bit of the judgement doesn't make sense to us and we think it's a miscarriage."

For his part prosecutor Stephen Rapp reading a prepared statement said "We are pleased that the Chambers judges increased the length of the sentences imposed by the trial chamber. Today's sentences reflect the gravity of the offences committed by these individuals

lesser sentences would not have adequately recognized the deaths and injuries inflicted on the victims or provide the necessary signal that impunity is at an end for grave violations of humanitarian law."

The judges however were split with the two Sierra Leonean judges dissenting on a number of the decisions.

Justice John Kamanda in his dissenting opinion said that he was opposed to the increase of the sentences.

Justice George Gelaga-King who is also the presiding Judge was very hard in his dissent and for him Kondewa should be freed of all charges.

Austrian born Judge Renata Winter also had a dissenting opinion. Lawyer Yada Williams said his client Alieu Kondewa who was said to be the Chief Priest of the kamajors was "completely incensed he feels dejected he doesn't seem to be able to make sense out of what was done ... and for the little that he could understand he is really really incensed with them."

He lamented further that this was a sad day "... for a man who sacrificed his life, the life of his family to fight for the restoration of democracy, the very war that was supported by the international community."

Concord Times
Thursday, 29 May 2008

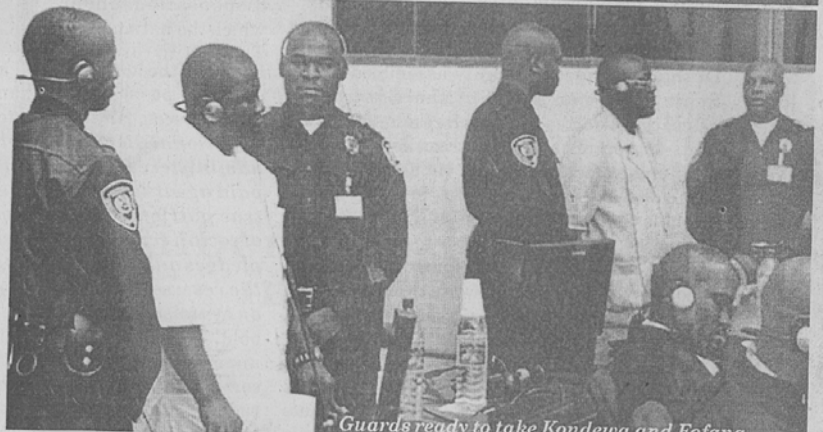
MORE jail terms for CDF leaders

By **Olusegun Ogundeji**
Appeals Chamber of the Special Court for Sierra Leone yesterday increased jail sentences for two former Civil Defence Forces (CDF) leaders after their convictions by the Trial Chamber in October 2007

were overturned.

Moinina Fofana had earlier been sentenced to concurrent jail term totalling six years but this increased to fifteen years while Allieu Kondewa's eight year term was also increased

Contd. page 3



Guards ready to take Kondewa and Fofana

More jail terms for CDF leaders

From page 1

to twenty years.

The jail terms are to take effect from May 29, 2003 when they were arrested. In a statement presented to journalists in his office after the judgement, Prosecutor Stephen Rapp expressed his team's pleasure at the convictions.

"We are pleased that the Appeals judges increased the length of sentences imposed by the Trial

Chamber," he said.

Rapp added that lesser sentences would not have adequately recognize the deaths and injuries inflicted on the victims or provided the necessary signal that impunity was at an end for grave violations of humanitarian law.

The accused were tried for 8-count charges covering unlawful killings, physical violence and mental suffering, looting and

burning, terrorizing the civilian population and collective punishments and use of child soldiers.

Dissenting opinions were read out by Justice George Gelaga-King on convictions and sentencing by Justice Jon Kamanda on sentencing, and by Justice Renate Winter in relation to the enlistment of child soldiers, collective punishments, and locally mitigating circumstances.

2 CDF men jailed 152 years in total

The Appeal Chamber by majority revised the sentences for Fofana and Kondewa and entered the following terms of imprisonment: for Fofana 15 years (murder as a crime against humanity), 15 years (murder as a war crime), 15 years (inhumane acts as a crime against humanity), 15 years (cruel treatment as a war crime) and 5 years (pillage), and ordered the sentences to be served concurrently.

The Trial Chamber sentences Kondewa 20 years (murder as a crime against humanity), 20 years (murder as a war crime), 20 years (inhumane acts as a crime against humanity), 20 years (cruel treatment as a war crime) and 7 years (pillage).

The sentences will be served concurrently, meaning that Fofana will serve a total sentence of 15 years, and Kondewa will serve a total of 20 years.

Dissenting opinions were read about by Justice George Gelaga-King, Justice Renate Winter, and Justice Jon Kamanda

Justice George Gelaga King further went on to say that the trial of the three former leaders of the Civil Defence Forces (CDF) opened on 3 June 2004. CDF National Coordinator Sam Hinga Norman, CDF Director of War Moinina Fofana, and CDF Initiator (or High Priest) Allieu Kondewa were each charged with eight counts for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

During the course of the trial the Judges heard testimony from 75 Prosecution witnesses and 44 witnesses

for the Defence. Closing arguments took place on 28-30 November 2006.

On 22 February 2007, after the close of trial proceedings but before the delivery of the Judgment, Sam Hinga Norman passed away. The Trial Chamber terminated the proceedings against him on 21 May 2007.

In August 2007, by a majority Judgment, the Trial Chamber convicted both Fofana and Kondewa on four counts of war crimes, with convictions for murder, cruel treatment, pillage and collective punishments. In addition, Kondewa was convicted on a fifth count for conscripting child soldiers.

The Trial Chamber acquitted the two men on three counts of crimes against humanity. In its majority judgment, the Chamber ruled, in view of the fact that the CDF had been established to defend the civilian population; the Prosecution had not established that the crimes constituted widespread or systematic attacks targeted against civilians.

The Appeals Chamber considered nine grounds of appeal by the Prosecution. These included the acquittal of both men for crimes against humanity and Fofana's acquittal for the enlistment of child soldiers. Kondewa appealed on six grounds, arguing that he should not have been found criminally responsible for the crimes alleged in the indictment.

Fofana did not appeal, but he was a respondent to the Prosecution appeal.

Independent Observer

Thursday, 29 May 2008

Prosecutor applauds lengthy jail term

After the judgment had been read the prosecutor Stephen Rapp held a press conference at the office of the prosecutor at the special for Sierra Leone Freetown and told journalist that

The prosecution welcome today's convictions of the CDF leaders by the Appeals Chamber. Once again the judges of the Special Court have upheld the rule of law and recognized the suffering of the people of Sierra Leone and the horrific crimes committed during the civil war.

He further went on to say that "they are pleased that the Appeals judges increased the length of sentences imposed by the Trial Chamber. Today's sentences reflect the gravity of the offences committed by these individuals. Lesser sentences would not have adequately recognize the deaths and injuries inflicted on the victims or provided the necessary signal that impunity is at an end for grave violations of humanitarian law.

"These convictions demonstrate that all the sides in war are to be held responsible for their actions. As I

said when announcing our decision to appeal from the sentencing judgment of the Trial Chamber, 'The pain of awful crimes inflicted on innocent civilians is every bit as terrible when done by defence forces as by rebel groups.

The strikes of the machetes and of the bullets did the same damage to human flesh. There can be no justification for the international killing or the cruel treatment of innocent unarmed civilians."

Concord Times
Thursday, 29 May 2008

Amnesty condemns justice system

By Tanu Jalloh

A new report has claimed that detention facilities in Sierra Leone did not meet international standards; meanwhile, there remained a serious lack of trained judges, magistrates, defence lawyers and prosecutors.

Amnesty International's Report published on May 28, 2008 observed that this has resulted in long delays of trials, and extended periods of pre-trial detention, in some cases of up to six years.

"We found that prison

Contd. page 3



Law Court Building

Amnesty condemns justice system

From page 1
inmates had been awaiting trial for up to two years, and 90 per cent of the detainees interviewed did not have legal representation."

This verification was corroborated by a taxi driver who served a six-month jail term in the maximum prisons in Freetown under such terrible conditions for merely breaking traffic rules in 2003.

"I think my problem was that no body could come to my aid, not even the vehicle owner. My family was far away in the provinces," he claimed.

Recently a UN report also found that the country's prisons were vastly overcrowded - Pademba Road Prisons, designed to house 350, housed over 1,000 inmates.

However, the human rights organisation praised public order policing during the election period, saying it was largely successful.

"Violent incidents were

few and police were reported to have conducted themselves within international standards on policing and human rights."

Director of police media and public relations Inspector Ibrahim Samura said Amnesty International must have recognised the role of the police in the provision of security services generally.

"We were able to ably police the 2007 elections because there was coordination between the police and the partnership boards we have established throughout the country. We also have a special police unit called the crowd control unit that was very instrumental in providing security," he said.

However, the organisation also observed that sixty years after the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by the United Nations, people are still tortured or ill-treated in at least 81 countries, face unfair

trials in at least 54 countries and are not allowed to speak freely in at least 77 countries.

Women's rights

In June, parliament passed a child rights bill. However, the bill was passed only after provisions criminalizing female genital mutilation (FGM) were dropped. Approximately 94 per cent of the female population undergoes FGM.

Parliament passed bills on domestic violence, intestate succession and the registration of customary marriage and divorce in June. These were seen as a victory in the strengthening of women's rights in rural areas. Nonetheless, women continued to face widespread discrimination and violence, compounded by a lack of access to justice.

A gender protection task force was established. Led by the non-governmental organization International Rescue Committee, it included representatives of civil society and government.

Awoko

Thursday, 29 May 2008

Thursday May 29, 2008

Awoko newspaper

UN supports training of 100 police prosecutors

A three-week training programme is being organised by the police, and supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone (UNIOSIL), through funds from the UN Peacebuilding Fund.

The training programme began on Monday for 100 personnel of the Legal and Justice Support Department of the Sierra Leone Police.

As an integral aspect of the UN Peacebuilding Fund towards reforming the justice sector of Sierra Leone, the ultimate objective of the training is to build the capacity of the prosecutorial system to

speedily prosecute existing backlog of cases and prevent new backlogs from being created, thereby improving justice delivery for the people.

The 100 participants, who include 80 Prosecutors and 20 Investigators in various police divisions across the country, will undergo knowledge and skills training on international and regional human rights systems, particularly in the areas of human rights relating to accused persons, essential duties of prosecutors, as well as the criminal justice system.

The programme will involve the participation of experts from the Police Prosecution Unit, the Office

of the Director of Public Prosecution, UNDP, UNISOL, the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone and private practitioners.

Speaking at the opening ceremony at the SLP Senior Officers Mess in Kingtom, the UNDP Country Director, Bernard Mokam said "this training is an integral part of the work of UNDP as relates to the prisons, judiciary, national human rights institutions and civil society organizations, all of which combined form an important national framework for a regime of rule of law, human rights and social justice."

He continued by noting that, "the training cannot be

viewed in isolation from the broader objective of supporting the justice and security sectors, and the overall governance and development strategies of the Government and UNDP."

The Inspector General of the Police, Brima Acha Kamara, stated that, "emphasis must be focused on developing the skills of the Sierra Leone Police so that they can become a professional force. The training programmes which have been recently conducted have brought evident improvements in the service delivery of the police. We hope that this training can build on those improvements further."



Cross section of police prosecutors at the training

Also speaking at the opening ceremony, UNIOSIL Officer-In-Charge, Gebremedhim Hagoss stated that, "No foundation can be laid for sustainable peace, stability and economic development in any country emerging from conflict if it is not grounded on justice and the rule of law."

He went on to note that

the role of the UN system would be that of support and not substitution. "Our assistance to the Government is to identify, support and empower domestic reform constituencies, especially national stakeholders to develop their own reform vision and agenda.

That is why the UN supports this training programme," he said.

Agence France-Presse

Wednesday, 28 May 2008

Appeal court increases sentences on Sierra Leone militiamen

FREETOWN (AFP) — A United Nations-backed appeals court for Sierra Leone on



Wednesday sharply increased sentences on two former leaders of notorious pro-government militias convicted of war crimes.

Moinina Fofana and Allieu Kondewa, convicted in August 2007 by the Special Court for Sierra Leone, had their sentences increased from six to 15 and from eight to 20 years respectively.

Fofana and Kondewa led the pro-government Civil Defence Forces (CDF) which recruited traditional hunters to fight rebels during the 1991-2001 civil war in the west African state.

The prosecution, which had originally sought 30 years for each, had appealed on the grounds that the initial sentences were too lenient.

As a parallel force to the regular army, the CDF fought rebels of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) and the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) in a war that claimed some 120,000 lives, according to UN estimates.

In the main trial, the special court justified the relatively lenient sentences compared to the 45- to 50-year terms slapped on some AFRC rebel leaders on the grounds that there had been mitigating circumstances, including the CDF's role in restoring democracy.

Many locals believe the CDF and its Kamajor fighters helped to rein in the brutal RUF rebels and protect villagers in the vulnerable hinterland of the diamond-rich country.

Set up in 2002 under a treaty between the Sierra Leone government and the United Nations, the Special Court is prosecuting those accused of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Three foreign judges from Austria, Nigeria and Sri Lanka sitting at the appeals hearing supported the increased sentences, while two judges from Sierra Leone opposed them, saying they wished to uphold the earlier sentences.

Reuters

Wednesday, 28 May 2008

S.Leone court raises jail terms for militia chiefs

By Christo Johnson

FREETOWN, May 28 (Reuters) - Sierra Leone's U.N.-backed Special Court more than doubled jail terms imposed on two former pro-government militia chiefs convicted of war crimes during the 1991-2002 civil war.

Moinina Fofana and Allieu Kondewa had their prison terms raised from six to 15 years and eight to 20 years respectively by the appeals chamber of the court in Freetown on Wednesday.

The two were leaders of the Civil Defence Forces (CDF) that defended former President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah's government from rebels during the war.

The increased sentences were welcomed by human rights campaigners who had been disappointed by the terms handed down by the trial chamber on Oct. 9.

The pair were convicted in August of war crimes, including murder, cruelty and pillage committed during the Sierra Leonean conflict, which was notorious for atrocities carried out on civilians by drugged soldiers, often no more than children.

In Wednesday's ruling, the appeals judges rejected the trial chamber's argument that the accused, in fighting for the government against the rebels, had contributed to the restoration of the rule of law and democracy in Sierra Leone.

The increased sentences for the CDF leaders brought their punishments more in line with prison terms handed out last year by the court against leaders of the rebel Armed Forces Revolutionary Council, which toppled the government in 1997.

"The lesson is that it doesn't matter which side you're fighting on, if you commit a war crime, you will be punished accordingly," Patrick Fatoma, the court's outreach coordinator, told Reuters by telephone.

New York-based Human Rights Watch said the appeals ruling was important to ensure justice for all victims of human rights abuses, irrespective of the motives of the perpetrators.

"This decision rightly affirms that there is no excuse for attacking and mutilating civilians regardless of the purpose in fighting," Elise Keppler, HRW's international justice senior counsel, said in a statement.

More than 50,000 people were killed in the civil war. (For full Reuters Africa coverage and to have your say on the top issues, visit: <http://africa.reuters.com/>) (Additional reporting by Pascal Fletcher in Dakar; Writing by Pascal Fletcher; editing by Alistair Thomson and Robert Woodward)

Associated Press

Wednesday, 28 May 2008

Court lengthens terms for Sierra Leone war criminals convicted of killings, mutilations

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone: A U.N.-backed war crimes court on Wednesday more than doubled the prison terms for two ex-militia leaders convicted of overseeing hundreds of killings and mutilations during Sierra Leone's 11-year war.

An earlier ruling sentencing Moinina Fofana to six years and Allieu Kondewa's sentence to eight years was far too light, the judges ruled. Fofana's term was increased to 15 years, Kondewa's to 20.

The two men were leaders of the pro-government Civil Defense Forces, or CDF, which used a network of tribal-based hunters known as the Kamajors to fight various rebel groups during Sierra Leone's 1991-2002 war.

The CDF is accused of murdering more than 200 civilians and rebels — and for gruesome acts such as driving stakes into women's genitals and using the entrails of victims to mark roadways.

However, many Sierra Leoneans see the CDF as key to restoring order to a war-ravaged country, and judges said the earlier, lenient sentences were meant to reflect that.

Wednesday's ruling calling the original sentences "manifestly inadequate" was a win for the prosecution.

"Whether the CDF was fighting to restore the legitimate democratically elected government is immaterial," presiding Judge George Gelaga King said in reading the ruling.

The court's three foreign judges ruled for longer sentences while its two Sierra Leonean judges — including Gelaga King — dissented. The dissenters argued that the group's "primary objects" were rebels and military posts, not civilians.

Sierra Leone's Special Court was set up after the end of the war to hold accountable those most responsible for atrocities committed during the fighting.

During the war, various groups burned villages, chopped off people's hands with machetes and went on campaigns of rape. The same court is prosecuting former president Charles Taylor in The Hague in the Netherlands for his role in atrocities.

In July 2007, the court sentenced three former rebel leaders to 45- to 50-year prison terms, the first punishments handed down by the war crimes tribunal since it was set up five years ago.

Voice of America
Thursday, 29 May 2008

Prosecutors Win Appeal of Sierra Leone Militia Leaders' Short Sentences

By Howard Lesser
Washington, DC

An appeals panel of the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone has overturned some convictions against two pro-government Civil Defense Forces (CDF) leaders, but more than doubled their sentences and added new convictions against them. Prosecutors, disappointed by last August's six and eight-year jail terms given Moinina Fofana and Allieu Kondewa, took their case to the appeals chamber of the Special Court in Freetown. Yesterday, the defendants saw their respective sentences boosted to 15 and 20 years, but also witnessed one murder charge and an enlistment of child soldiers accusation dropped against Kondewa. The two fighters' earlier acquittals for crimes against humanity, however, were reversed, and they now will also serve time for a separate murder charge and for committing inhumane acts.

Attorney Elise Keppler is Counsel in the International Justice Program at Human Rights Watch. She says that the significance of Wednesday's appeals court decision is its rejection of a defense contention that Fofana and Kondewa deserve shorter sentences because they had been fighting to restore order and bring democracy to Sierra Leone.

"The decision by the appeals chamber was significant in rejecting the notion that because the perpetrators were fighting for democracy, that that was somehow an excuse or an acceptable justification to commit war crimes and crimes against humanity," she said.

For court chief prosecutor Stephen Rapp the initial court sentences fell short of reflecting the nature of the crimes. But the trial chamber justified the lighter jail terms last August by noting the CDF's efforts to restore order in Sierra Leone during a brutal armed conflict. Attorney Keppler says that previous verdict overlooked a longstanding principle that even in conflict, victims must receive equal protection under the law, no matter who their attackers or what their motives are.

"That ruling really goes against the grain of fundamental principles of international humanitarian law, which is that civilians should be protected regardless of why perpetrators are fighting. And had the (appeals) court gone the other way, it really would have risked victim protection, whereas instead, this decision is consistent with international law and really solidifies and bolsters victim protection for victims all over the world," she noted.

Sierra Leone's civil war lasted from 1991 to 2002 and involved three warring factions, the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC), and the Civil Defense Forces local militia. The Special Court was formed in 2002 with both international and Sierra Leonean jurists deliberating cases against suspects from all three groups who bear the greatest responsibility for high crimes committed between 1996 and the end of the war. Its highest profile case is being prosecuted at the International Criminal Court in The Hague against former Liberian president Charles Taylor, who is accused of fueling the war in a neighboring country. Keppler says that trial has been progressing smoothly.

"More than 20 witnesses have been put forth since January. And while the trial got off to a slightly bumpy start initially, due in part to concerns raised about resources available to the defense, since the new

defense team was put in place and had time to prepare, things have really been moving along quite efficiently,” said Keppler.

The Human Rights Watch attorney says there are expectations of Taylor’s trial lasting for another 12 to 18 months, but it could extend even longer. The mandate of the Sierra Leone Special Court is not open-ended. International funding is needed to maintain its operations and its life term is due to expire at some unspecified future date. But Keppler says that “from the work that Human Rights Watch has done to evaluate the progress of the Special Court, our sense has been that the Special Court is really doing quite a lot to bring justice for the abuses committed in Sierra Leone, and this (appeals court) decision is consistent with this direction.”

United Press International

Wednesday, 28 May 2008

HRW praises Sierra Leone sentencing

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone, May 28 (UPI) -- A New York-based human rights group is praising a war crimes court in Sierra Leone for rejecting sentence reductions for militia leaders accused of atrocities.

The trial chamber in the Special Court for Sierra Leone reduced the sentences of two militia leaders, Moinina Fofana and Allieu Kondewa, accused of atrocities against civilians because they were fighting for a democratic government. The appeals chamber, however, rejected that ruling.

"This decision rightly affirms that there is no excuse for attacking and mutilating civilians regardless of the purpose in fighting," said Elise Keppler, a lawyer for Human Rights Watch.

The court, relying on over 100 witness testimonies, found the men guilty of sexual violence and other atrocities committed in a regional conflict that erupted in the 1990s. Each of the men faces 15 to 20 years in prison.

Human Rights Watch said it is "unprecedented" for an international court to consider political motivation when considering sentencing, noting previous tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda rejected similar claims.

Human Rights Watch

Wednesday, 28 May 2008

Press Release

War Crimes Ruling Bolsters Victim Protection

The decision by Sierra Leone's war crimes court to reject sentence reductions for two convicted militia members because they fought for a "legitimate cause" is crucial in ensuring justice for all victims of human rights violations, Human Rights Watch said today.

The appeals chamber of the United Nations-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone handed down its judgment on May 28 in the sentencing of Moinina Fofana and Allieu Kondewa. They were leaders of the government-supported Civil Defence Forces during Sierra Leone's brutal armed conflict that ended in 2002.

Both men were convicted of war crimes involving extreme acts of violence such as mutilations against civilians. The trial chamber of the court had reduced their sentences on the grounds that they had engaged in the conflict to secure democracy. The appeals chamber rejected that portion of the ruling. Consistent with this and other findings, the appeals chamber increased Fofana's sentence from six to 15 years and Kondewa's sentence from eight to 20 years.

"This decision rightly affirms that there is no excuse for attacking and mutilating civilians regardless of the purpose in fighting," said Elise Keppler, international justice senior counsel at Human Rights Watch.

Human Rights Watch has analyzed why motives behind waging war are not an acceptable basis to mitigate sentences in a memorandum.

The Special Court trial chamber found the defendants guilty of very serious violations of international humanitarian law following testimony from more than 100 witnesses who described barbaric crimes that included mutilations, targeting, and deliberate killing of unarmed men, women, and children, and the murder of women who had sticks inserted and forced into their genitals.

"The ruling reinforces the principle that all parties in a conflict must abide by the same rules and be subject to the same punishment," said Keppler. "To do less would provide victims unequal protection under the law depending on who their attackers are."

It is unprecedented at international courts for the political motivation of a perpetrator in taking up arms to be accepted as a mitigating factor in reducing sentences, Human Rights Watch said. The international criminal tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda previously have rejected similar claims.

"The Special Court has been an important force in bringing justice for horrific crimes committed in Sierra Leone," said Keppler. "This decision is a further step in that direction and strengthens similar decisions by other international criminal courts."

Background

The Special Court is charged with bringing to justice those who bear the greatest responsibility for grave crimes committed since November 1996, including war crimes, crimes against humanity, other serious violations of international humanitarian law, and certain violations of Sierra Leonean law. Created in 2002 through an agreement between the United Nations and the Sierra Leonean government, the Special Court

represents a significant new model of international justice, often referred to as a "mixed" or "hybrid" tribunal.

Sierra Leone's Special Court has thus far tried eight individuals associated with the three warring factions during the conflict - Revolutionary United Front, Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC), and Civil Defence Forces - in Freetown. Liberia's former president Charles Taylor is being tried by the Special Court, for crimes allegedly committed in Sierra Leone, at the facilities of the International Criminal Court in The Hague. Taylor's trial was relocated from Liberia due to security concerns in the region.

The only other trial in which a judgment has been handed down is in the AFRC trial. In a judgment affirmed on appeal, the three defendants were convicted of war crimes and crimes against humanity and sentenced to 45 and 50 years.

Radio Netherlands

Tuesday, 27 May 2008

Key ruling by Sierra Leone Tribunal

By Sebastiaan Gottlieb* in Freetown

Are they the good guys or the bad guys? The people of Sierra Leone are beginning to have their doubts about the reputation of Moinina Fofana and Allieu Kondewa, on whom the Tribunal in Freetown is due to pass judgement on Wednesday 28 May.

They are two former fighters of the Civil Defence Force (CDF), one of the hostile parties in the country's long and bloody civil war. Many in Sierra Leone regarded these men as their liberators. Tomorrow the judge is due to rule on their appeal.



Fofana and Kondewa were initially sentenced to six and eight years respectively for atrocities committed during the bloody civil war that ravaged Sierra Leone from 1991 to 2001. The Tribunal's prosecutor believed the punishment was not harsh enough and decided to appeal the sentence.

Serious doubts

Dutch lawyer Michiel Pestman defended Moinina Fofana at his first trial. He has serious doubts about how the Sierra Leone Tribunal operates and is highly critical of the charges brought against his client. He regards the crimes of which Fofana is accused as far less serious than those of the other suspects who appeared before the tribunal.

These others were rebels from two militias - the RUF and the AFRC - that were supported by Charles Taylor, then president of neighbouring Liberia. Michiel Pestman explains his position:

"There is a lot of criticism of the tribunal's policy on prosecution. They picked three suspects from each group that played a role in the conflict. And I have the strong impression that their main reason for charging three members of the Civil Defence Force was so that they could not be accused of bias at a later stage. But the crimes of which my clients stand accused bear no comparison to the crimes of the other suspects. You really cannot put them in the same category."

War crimes

In the view of a large section of the population, the fighters of the CDF led by Sam Hinga Norman defended the country against the rebels backed by Charles Taylor. Yet these "good guys" have also been charged with war crimes. They were found guilty of torturing the supporters of enemy militias during the civil war.

But now, the people of Sierra Leone think differently about the two suspects, says Patrick Fotoma of the Tribunal's Outreach Programme, a department that works to explain the Tribunal's work to the man on the street: Patrick Fotoma says:

"I want to say that the perception has shifted from the overwhelming support that nothing should have happened to the CDF. I think we have made a lot of progress. Because, when we started doing Outreach, many people asked us, 'why are you wasting money on the special court when this money could have been used building roads and helping amputees and helping displaced people and building houses that were burned down?'"

He continues:

"Today these are not the questions they are asking us. They are asking us 'why are you not indicting more people, because a lot of atrocities went on in this country?' To me this is a shift in people's perception about the court. Now they realise that the court has a role in building peace and in starting development. Without peace and without the rule of law, there can be no development so I see a shift in perception about the work of the special court and its mandate."

The Dutch registrar at the Sierra Leone Tribunal, Herman van Hebel, sees the forthcoming appeal sentence in the case against the two CDF fighters as an important symbolic ruling, he explains:

"The important thing about this sentence is that whichever side of the war you were on at a certain point it has to be made clear that some acts are against the law. It is unacceptable that people, who fought on the side of good, according to some, should be less liable to punishment than others. A rape is every bit as illegal if it is committed in the name of a so-called "just cause". And I think that, in this respect, the Tribunal has focused on all parties and in particular on the people who played the greatest role within these parties."

Tomorrow, the Sierra Leone Tribunal will deliver its verdict on the two CDF suspects. After this, the only remaining case to be heard in Freetown is that of the former fighters of the RUF. For security reasons, the trial of former Liberian president Charles Taylor is being held in The Hague.

* RNW translation (dd)

The News (Liberia)
Thursday, 29 May 2008

—Following Dramatic Testimonies In Taylor's Trial

Amidst death threats, former Liberian President Moses Blah is back home following speculations that he would not return to the country due to fear of reprisal from supporters of ex-President Charles Taylor.

Mr. Blah returned Monday from The Hague, Netherlands, where he testified in the war crimes trial involving ex-Liberian President Charles Taylor. His dramatic testimonies at The Hague prompted angry reactions from a number of associates of Mr. Taylor, including former Maritime Commission Benion Urey who has threatened lawsuit against Mr. Blah.

There were also media reports that the family of Mr. Blah had been threatened as a

result of his explosive testimonies which appeared to have linked Mr. Taylor to crimes committed in neighboring Sierra Leone.

Former President Blah told this paper via telephone Wednesday that he was suffering from cold, but his health remains generally stable. Mr. Blah said he needed time to rest due to long flight.

Asked about security around his domicile,

Cont'd on page 6



Ex-Liberian President Charles Taylor



Former President Moses Blah

MOSES BLAH

the former Liberian leader said President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf had ordered SSS Director to increase the presence of state security personnel around him and at his residence. According to him, the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) has also reinforced security at his residence and around him and family as well.

Mr. Blah testified at The Hague about a week ago after he was subpoenaed by the war crimes court. He was considered an inner circle of Mr. Taylor whose testimonies were said to have been vital to the prosecution.

Before traveling to The Hague, Mr. Blah said he would not crucify his former boss, but tell the truth.

In one of his testimonies, he told the court that the RUF often cut off civilians' arms and legs with machetes. He said Mr. Taylor rejected complaints from RUF rebels about atrocities committed by his men.

Mr. Blah told the court that RUF rebel leader Foday Sankoh personally complained to Mr. Taylor about the rape, looting and killings committed by Liberians helping the RUF.

"He [Mr. Taylor] said this kind of thing must happen when you're fighting war," Blah said.

Former President Blah also explained how RUF commander "Musquito" was killed in Liberia by Taylor's men led by Gen. Benjamin Yeaten.

Mr. Blah earlier said the commander of one of Mr Taylor's units in Liberia "had a habit of eating fellow human beings".

He said he saw Nelson Gaye roast a human hand on a fire and ate it with boiled cassava.

Mr. Blah mentioned that Mr. Gaye's Marine unit was one of Taylor's forces, which he was told should not be pursued if they committed atrocities.

In court, former President Blah provided a detailed insider's account of the early days of the civil war.

He said he was one of the first 20 or so rebel fighters who received training at a military base in Burkina Faso and later Libya.

Blah told the court that he was not making up stories against his former boss, and that even if an electric machine is used to look in his head, he would still recount what he had said.

Taylor faces 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity which he denied. Mr. Blah, who briefly succeeded Mr. Taylor as president in 2003 – after rebels forced him into exile – is the most senior figure to have testified in The Hague. **By Sheriff Z. Adams**

New Democrat (Liberia)
Thursday, 29 May 2008

VOL.15 NO.101

MAY 29, 2008

PRICE: L\$3,000

Carter Camp Massacre

Survivor: Death If We Told The Truth



A survival of the Carter Camp Massacre, which hundreds of civilians were hacked to death, has told the Truth and Reconciliation Commission that former President Charles Taylor and some of his officials threatened she and others with death if they told the truth. She said they were programmed to place blame of the massacre on the Armed Forces of Liberia or they would be killed.

Ms. Helene Kpa, testifying yesterday, said Ms. Musuleng Cooper later became Taylor's Foreign Minister, told them to lie and then sent a pick-up for the women and children.

Ms. Kpa said they were told by the UN-appointed Waco Commission, chaired by a Kenyan, that they

10 NEW DEMOCRAT

Carter Camp Massacre

met NPFL rebels 45 miles in what was then Mr. Taylor's territory, adding that NPFL rebels abducted them after killing over 500 civilians and took territory they (NPFL) occupied. She said they were told to inform UN investigating team that the shooting on the camp came from the direction of Harbel, where AFL troops were stationed, when this was not the case. She said the NPFL rebels stormed the camp and began indiscriminately shooting civilians, many

women and children, and that over 500 people were killed in hail of bullets.

The witness said upon reaching Gbarnga, Mr. Taylor personally met them, threatening them that anyone who told the Waco Commission otherwise than the scripts they were given would be killed. She said one of Taylor's commanders, Melvin Subanie, also threatened them with death if they told the truth.

New Democrat (Liberia)
Thursday, 29 May 2008

"We're Revolutionary Bros.

STORY : JOE K. ROBERTS

Blah, Back, Dismisses Urey's Threat

Out Of America Deportee Hangs Himself

Former President Moses Blah, back home after giving a stunning testimony against former President Charles Taylor, has dismissed legal threats against him from former Maritime Commissioner Benoni Urey, declaring, "Don't mind Urey. He's my friend. We are revolutionary brothers."

He said he has been assured that anyone taking him to court will be dragged before the Sierra Leone Special Court and charged with contempt.

Blah testified before the court that he was tortured and that Liberian fighters fought in the Sierra Leone war.

But he said he has no direct knowledge of weapons and diamond transactions between Mr Taylor and the RUF rebels, nor their contacts. He however said he saw the slain body of RUF commander Sam Bockarie in a pick-up which Mr Benjamin Yeaten, described as second only to Mr Taylor in terms of power, drove to his house with the message, "I have the



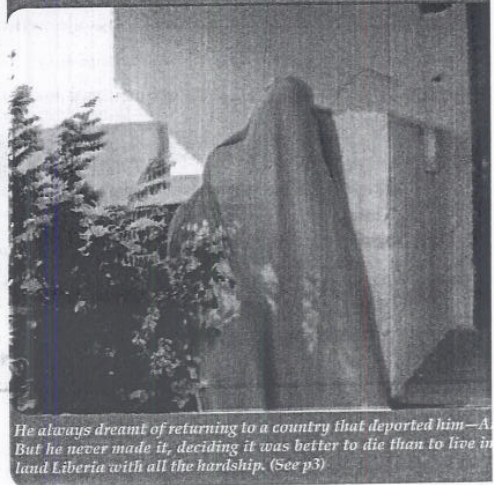
FORMER PRES. MOSES BLAH



MR. BENONI UREY

mission in the pick-up." Prior to his return last Saturday, Mr Blah expressed fears for his safety, saying he had received several threats and that his daughter was attacked. He said former Maritime Commissioner Benoni Urey, who had described him as "a complete criminal", and that he has "commit-

ted the most heinous crimes ever" in this country, had also threatened court action against him. Mr Blah's home is however under the protection of UNMIL soldiers. Lead Prosecutor Stephen Rapp, talking to journalists, promised Mr Blah and his family will be fully protected.



He always dreamt of returning to a country that deported him—Africa. But he never made it, deciding it was better to die than to live in land Liberia with all the hardship. (See p3)

The Monitor (Liberia)
Thursday, 29 May 2008

Stephen Rapp, the Taylor billions

{LIBERIA NEEDS EVERY PENNY}



Moses Zeh Blah, Stephen Rapp's tiger type witness must now be out of the witness at the court in The Hague giving the prosecution reasons to hold Charles Taylor responsible for the mayhems associated with the civil war executive by the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) of Foday Sankor.

Prior to Blah's trip for his "black blizzard" at the United Nations backed court for Sierra Leone, Mr. Rapp, the Chief Prosecutor of that court, cut some days in Monrovia to among other things thank the Ellen's government for her measured contributions aimed at aiding the court to nail Charles Taylor to the already prepared gates of the cage in the land of the English for crimes allegedly committed against Sierra Leoneans. During this particular visit, Mr. Rapp took time to inform the Liberian public that he has discovered more than US\$5 billions in Citibank in the Federal Republic of the United States of America.

Mind you Mr. Rapp is reportedly frozen the account and is thinking widely already about using said monies for reparations in favor of the government of Sierra Leone.

Additionally, this post 911, the time the United States government takes no chance at where monies are travelling to and fro in fear of the fact that same could be used to



nurse activities of terrorist vampires around the world. Take also that this account knowingly has, as Mr. Rapp says, been operated by the former Liberian President Charles Taylor.

Certainly Mr. Rapp as the Chief Prosecutor must be a man of impeccable integrity and as such, his facts could be life. This is why Liberia cannot wait but seize the opportunity to get further engaged with this man who is already a friend and receiving all the support from Liberia in prosecuting the former President.

Why grapple over kitchen change like \$276 million for a fiscal year budget 2008/2009 when one fifth of what Mr. Rapp has discovered could fast track the Ellen government's development agenda.

What else could immediately beneficial tactic at kicking Liberia above the poverty zone then going after Rapp to secure this money? Achieving this would also save the President the obvious risk associated with air travels running to line up potential investors for Liberia. With this money secured for Liberia, investors will come asking to help Liberia make money out of this money in grandeur styles.

Meanwhile, sounder minds will be at a lost how Charles Taylor have worked his way around the US home land security to have operated this Citibank

account moving monies here and there even as late as 2002 and 2003. By this time, the United States might have already issued a fait confiscating all of Taylor's assets in the Americas.

But Mr. Rapp is an American; a lawyer at that. This American man has served at various levels of his home government to have a catch for what he wants, like this Taylor account at the Citibank. Another crucial push point about Rapp is that he and Taylor are borne to the same star and those who have passion for astrology could go further at tying the two to a trait. The fact of the matter is that while records his birth at January 29, 1848, Rapp reads his at January 26, 1949, just a year later.

While Liberian could chase the fairy princes, on as soon Liberia would rise above poverty at the retrieve of Taylor's alleged \$5 billion dollars plus, the whole idea that very Taylor could be worth a billion cannot keep drops of early morning dews? A closed relative of the Arthington wind wonders from whence all these monies could have amassed at Taylor when his entire family has always been this poor till he became President. He went on to say that even Gen. Abacha of the whole Nigeria was not worth more than \$3 billion; he doubted how much could a boy (Taylor) who worked his way through school doing odd jobs eye such purse? But how much more than Democrat Rapp of Iowa could such a poor village man at the skirts of Monrovia know what a friend of Kaddafi could have pocket from 1989 till 2003?

In the midst of all of these, contemporary philosopher say the world remains in a flux and all man could do is to be still and know what comes next.

Anything to the contrary, man's life comes at immediate risk especially as the weapons of mass destruction go on demanding global attention even as natural calamities make their tours. And here is the challenge vis-à-vis, the emergency of the lucrative new industry of inventive crimes and creative justice. But Liberia as old as she is would be a fool to continue to fall completely to the woes of the new actors on the African stage.

Mr. Rapp, an American, was previously Chief of Prosecutions at the United Nations-International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) from May 2005. In this position, Mr Rapp was responsible for supervising the prosecution of military, government and political leaders responsible for the Rwandan genocide in trials at the ICTR in Arusha, Tanzania.

Prior to that, Mr. Rapp served as Senior Trial Attorney of what has been called the "Media Trial," against the principals of RTLM radio and the editor of the Kangura newspaper. In December 2003, the Trial Chamber pronounced each of the defendants guilty of Genocide, Direct and Public Incitement to Commit Genocide, and other crimes.

Prior to his service at the ICTR, Mr. Rapp was United States Attorney for the Northern District of Iowa from November 1993 until May 2001. Prior to service as US Attorney he was in private practice of law in Waterloo, Iowa. He also served as a Staff Director and Counsel at the US Senate Judiciary Committee and as an elected member of the Iowa Legislature.

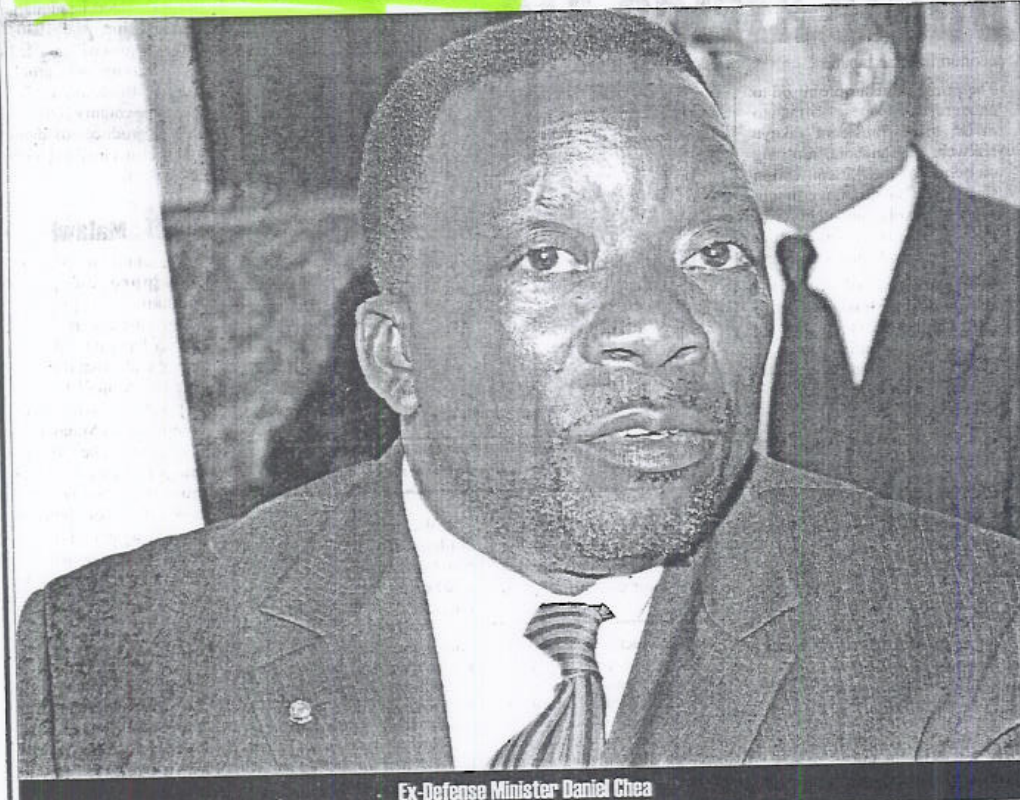
Daily Observer (Liberia)
Thursday, 29 May 2008

www.liberianobserver.com

Ex-Defense Minister Faces TRC

For Bodyguard's Death

By J. Alfred Chea
from Kakata, Margibi County



Ex-Defense Minister Daniel Chea

The mother of a former fighter killed while serving as bodyguard to Daniel Chea, Charles Taylor's Defense Minister, says she will like to see the ex-army chief before the TRC, adding that she is not asking for retribution.

Madam Hawa Pewee says she wants the ex-Minister to explain the circumstances of her son's brutal death and locate his burial site.

The former bodyguard was reportedly killed on Sinoe highway while traveling with his former boss.

According to TRC Commissioner Pearl Brown-Bull, the former Defense Minister would be cited to testify on Friday in Kakata, Margibi County.

Commissioner Bull, who is the oversight person of the TRC for Margibi, indicated, at a well-attended TRC hearing in Kakata Tuesday, that the ex-Minister's appearance was predicated upon a request of a witness, Hawa Pewee, to meet face-to-face with ex-Minister Chea for her to know the circumstances under which her son, James Bartor Jr., was killed while serving as a bodyguard to the ex-Minister.

See pg 10

Ex-Defense

The weeping mother told the TRC hearings that her son was forcefully recruited into the erstwhile rebel group, National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL), after he had been severely tortured by the recruiters.

According to the witness James later disarmed to the West African Peace Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) prior to the 1997 elections that catapulted Charles Taylor's National Patriotic Party (NPP) into the leadership of the country.

In 1998, the witness intoned that upon the inauguration of the Taylor-led government, her son James applied for membership into the then Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) after which he was assigned to the then Defense Minister Daniel Chea as bodyguard.

"When my son was assigned to ex-Minister Chea, he informed the Minister that he (Minister Chea) needed to see and know me as mother. So, Daniel Chea sent for me and I met with him at his Pipeline Road house. The Minister, after giving me a bottle of soft drink, said to me: 'Ma, your son James is assigned with me. Nothing would happen to him,'" the grieving mother further quoted the former defense boss at the hearings which were attended by hundreds of citizens and residents of Kakata, including students, local officials, women, youth groups, chiefs and elders as well as representatives of international media outlets.

Further explaining her ordeal, Madam Pewee asserted that a few months after her son had taken assignment with ex-Minister Chea, a girl, (name not given) who she said was a friend James, told her (mother) that James was killed at Sinoe Highway while he and Minister Chea were heading for Buchanan, Grand Bassa County, and his corpse was taken to a local hospital in Monrovia.

"I went to the hospital with my brother, daughter, and other family members but we never saw the body," she added.

"For this reason, we went to Daniel Chea's house at the Pipeline Road in Monrovia. We stayed there for four days under the sun and in the rain just to see him and to tell us how my son died. But Daniel Chea refused to meet with me. He later ordered his soldiers to get me out of his yard," the woman maintained. "The house that Daniel Chea previously welcomed me in and offered me the soft drink was the same house in which he refused to meet with me after the death of my son," Madam Pewee declared.

"I don't want anything from Daniel Chea. I just want to face him at the TRC to explain how my son, James Bartor Jr., died and where he was buried. My son was everything to me," she stressed.

In her reaction, Commissioner Bull said the death of James Bartor Jr. would not go in vain and that Mr. Chea would be made to appear before the TRC Friday to address himself to the witness's testimony.

Failure on the part of anyone to honor citation by the TRC whether at home or in the Diaspora, such person or persons risk the Commission's subpoena as a last resort.

The TRC, as part of its statutory mandates, also brings together alleged perpetrators and victims in the decade-long brutal Liberian conflict with the intent of facilitating their reconciliation.

The TRC also has the duty to scrupulously investigate widespread human rights abuses and other heinous crimes that characterized the Liberian conflict starting from 1989 to 2003.

United Nations  **Nations Unies**

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries
28 May 2008

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

Newspaper Summary

House of Representatives Investigates President Sirleaf's Impeachment Petition

(New Democrat, The News, Heritage, Daily Observer, National Chronicle)

- The House of Representatives has ordered its Security and Judiciary Committees to look into the impeachment request of aggrieved former soldiers. The former soldiers petitioned the House to impeach President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf for allegedly violating the Constitution by dissolving the AFL. The House took the decision Tuesday following a reading of the impeachment petition in plenary. Montserrado County Representative, Dusty Wolokollie had earlier called for the rejection of the petition saying it lacks basis and was unacceptable.
- The House however said there was a need to look into the petition of the former military personnel.

Liberia's Finance Minister Gets Top IMF Post

(National Chronicle, The Inquirer, New Liberia, New Vision, Heritage, The Informer, The News)

- The media reports that President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf Tuesday announced that Finance Minister Antoinette Sayeh would be assuming the position of Director of the African Department of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in early July this year. According to a release, the President believes the appointment is in recognition of the excellent progress her government has made in restoring Liberia's international credibility over the past two and a half years. President Sirleaf said heading the IMF African Department would allow Madam Sayeh to continue her support for Liberia's macroeconomic reform program.

Detained Journalist Speaks From Prison - Denies Allegation of Rape and Sodomy

(The Inquirer, New Vision, Heritage)

- Detained Journalist Bill Jarkloh has for the first time written from prison, denying allegations of rape and sodomy. Bill said in the letter the charges were brought against him in order to destroy his professional career and his future. He appealed to his colleagues in the media to do him justice by trying to get his side of the story, instead of publishing what he called one-sided story.
- The detained journalist urged his reporters to try to reach him at the Monrovia Central Prison or his fiancée Korpo Kortimai for his side of the story. According to him, he has noticed from publications both on the internet, newspapers and radio that none of his professional colleagues tried to get his side of the story.

Jury Selection in Economic Sabotage Case Gets Stringent

(The News, The Inquirer, National Chronicle)

- Prospective jurors summoned by Criminal Court 'C' have started leaving to avoid the rigorous selection process embarked upon by state and Defense lawyers. Correspondents said few of the aspiring jurors refused to answer when their names were called for examination to avoid the process.

- The court on Monday summoned 57 aspiring jurors for Defense and state lawyers to select eleven more qualified persons to serve on the panel. Last Friday, Prosecution and Defense lawyers exhausted the list of 27 aspiring jurors without getting a full panel of qualified petit jurors because most of them could not write figures and spell simple words correctly.
- Under the new Judiciary law, a qualified juror is a Liberian who has reached the age of 21 and can read and understands English.

Drama at Capitol as Two Female Representatives Trade Barbs
(Heritage)

- Two female Representatives, Alomiza Barh of Montserrado and Elizabeth Williams of Rivercess Counties on Tuesday allegedly engaged in harsh exchanges outside the House Chambers to the displeasure of many of their Legislative colleagues including staff of the Capitol Building.
- According to the reports, the quarrel started after the House emerged from an Executive Session. Journalists on the scene said all attempts to get Representative Barh to comment on the quarrel proved futile but staff of the Representative's office said the exchange was simply legislative discussion. For her part, Representative Elizabeth Williams told reporters that the quarrel was triggered by a response from Barh regarding her absence from the Female Legislative Caucus meeting held recently but declined to comment on the insults.

Radio Summary

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

Lawmakers Probe Impeachment Petition Against President Sirleaf

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

Vice President Boakai Stresses Regional Stability

- Speaking when a five-member team from the Election Commission of Guinea paid him a courtesy call, Vice President Joseph Boakai urged Liberians and Guineans to work together to ensure peace and security in the sub-region.
- Speaking earlier, the head of the Guinean delegation said Liberia had an excellent election and Guinea wants to learn from the experience.
- Guinea is expected to hold Parliamentary elections at the end of this year.

Finance Minister Gets Key IMF Post

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

AFELL Dismisses Judge Ware's Claim

- The Association of Female Lawyers of Liberia (AFELL) has clarified that it is not the prosecuting arm of government as is perceived by many.
- In a release issued in Monrovia the group said it is a non-governmental organization comprising professional female lawyers who render pro-bono legal services to advance the cause of women and children in Liberia.
- AFELL's statements are in reaction to Judge William Ware's description of the group and Gender Ministry as "noise makers" who are doing little to prosecute rape cases.

Special Court Supplement
Appeals Judgment in the CDF Case
Wednesday, 28 May 2008



