

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



The Aqua Club, in Aberdeen

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:

Thursday, 3 April 2008

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

Local News

The Truth About the TRC Recommendations / <i>Concord Times</i>	Page 3
“Protect Rape Victims” – Magistrate Cautions Journalists / <i>New Citizen</i>	Page 4

International News

Isaac Mongor Ends Testimony - “He Was RUF’s C-I-C” / <i>New Democrat</i>	Page 5
Taylor’s Defense Doubtful / <i>The Analyst</i>	Page 6
In NPFL Administration and...Greaves Ranks Over Taylor / <i>National Chronicle</i>	Pages 7-10
Liberia: UN Report Recommends Government...Bolster Human Rights / <i>UN</i>	Page 11
UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries / <i>UNMIL</i>	Pages 12-14

Guest Writer

By Stuart Rogers & Francis Harding

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) in Sierra Leone was established as a result of the Lomé Peace Agreement (signed on 7 July 1999) between the Government of Sierra Leone (GoSL) and the Revolutionary United Front.

On 27 October 2004, the TRC published its final report, which aimed to help Sierra Leoneans to understand the causes and dynamics of the armed conflict. The TRC was keen to stress that many of the problems which gave rise to widespread violence continued to pose serious threats to the country.

The report also contains hundreds of recommendations which, according to the TRC would 'serve as a roadmap towards the building of a new society in which all Sierra Leoneans can walk unafraid with pride and dignity'. Recommendations were divided into four categories (in descending order of priority): 'imperative', 'work towards', 'serious consideration', and 'call on'.

At the launch of the final report, United Nations General Assembly President Juan Pang (Gabon) said that the recommendations 'had reflected the will and determination of Sierra Leone to rebuild unity and eradicate impunity'. However, almost 3½ years following the publication of the report, implementation of the recommendations has been highly uneven. This is of great concern to many citizens of Sierra Leone, and also to the wider international community.

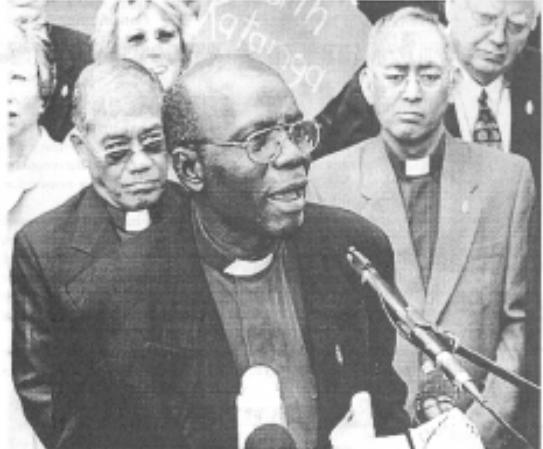
The truth about the TRC recommendations

out implementation process, or have simply not been implemented at all.

One significant reason for the slow pace of reforms is that important bodies such as the Constitutional Review Commission and Public Service Commission have yet to present their respective final reports to parliament. In addition, there are fears regarding the quality of their work, as both have failed to adequately engage with civil society. A fundamental problem is these bodies and those officially associated with them (i.e. certain parastatals and Ministries) have not publicly explained what



Mr Ping says 'recommendations reflected the will of Sierra Leoneans'



Bishop Humber was chairman of the TRC

It is deeply disappointing that even those recommendations considered the most important (i.e. 'imperative') have been implemented in a very inconsistent manner. It is necessary to point out that some of the other recommendations (e.g. with regards to right to information and reparations) are extremely important, and could convincingly be argued as warranting 'imperative' status. However, this article focuses on the status of implementation of the (officially designated) 'imperative' recommendations.

Undoubtedly, there have been some genuine achievements. For instance, a National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has been created to defend and promote human rights and, crucially, the nomination process for Commissioners is widely considered to have been open. Another major landmark was reached in 2006 with the adoption of a binding Code of Conduct for Judges and Magistrates. Further examples include the range of laws enacted last year to further the realisation of women's rights (the three pieces of legislation commonly referred to as the Gender Justice Acts) and child rights (the Child Rights Act).

It is important to note that serious questions remain regarding the enforcement of these instruments. Moreover, the majority of the 'imperative'

problems they are facing and what solutions are being developed to remain on track.

The stark fact is that there has been no tangible progress on a great number of 'imperative' recommendations. Such recommendations cover a range of issues, such as:

- * repealing undue restrictions on freedom of speech;
- * stopping arbitrary arrest and detention;
- * broadening representation on the Judicial and Legal Services Commission, and increasing representation on the Bar;
- * creating legally-

regulations governing the behaviour of the security services;

- * ensuring a minimum level of representation for women in all public elections;
- * ensuring that all laws with regards to children conform with international obligations;
- * ensuring that prosecution of corruption cases is free from political interference;
- * disclosing payments and expenditure related to extractive industries, and regulating mining companies;
- * achieving of, and formulating rules and procedures for access to, TRC documentation.

A common perception is that a lack of resources has hindered implementation of the TRC recommendations. There is an element of truth to this argument. The international community has failed to provide adequate support for implementation of the recommendations. But since the publication of the TRC's recommendations, the GoSL has not managed available resources in the most effective manner, as evidenced by dubious budgetary allocations and widespread corruption. Moreover, many recommendations do not actually require a huge

amount of resources to implement, suggesting a lack of political will on the part of the GoSL (past and present).

Perhaps it is of little surprise that there are so many gaps when one considers that two out of the three 'imperative' recommendations for a Follow-Up Committee - related to civil society representation and public communications - have not been met. Surely, these straightforward issues represent an obvious starting point for a sustained push to complete the task of implementation?



New Citizen
Thursday, 3 April 2008

“Protect rape victims”

- Magistrate cautions journalists

By Amadu Kargbo

Presiding Magistrate of juvenile and rape offences, Bankole Shyllon of court No. 3, on Tuesday 1st April 2008, issued a stern warning to journalists who fail to abide by the Media Code of Conduct especially that which relates to children who are rape victims.

Magistrate Bankole Shyllon raised the concern while deliberating on the matter relating to a 13-year old girl who was sexually abused by an accused, one Foday Koroma on 23rd March this year at New England in Freetown.

According to the Magistrate,

the rate at which names of juvenile rape victims are published in newspapers is posing a se-

rious threat and embarrassment to the victims contrary to the ethics of journalism citing a recent case in which a local

newspaper published the name and address of a rape victim.

It could be recalled that Magistrate Bankole Shyllon had earlier warned the media to refrain from disclosing the names of rape

victims in the matter involving a senior teacher of one of the renowned secondary schools in the west of Freetown who it was alleged sexually abused an underage female student of the same school.

New Democrat (Liberia)
Wednesday, 2 April 2008

Isaac Mongor Ends Testimony "He Was RUF's C-I-C"

Prosecution witness Isaac Mongor, Wednesday ended his testimony by insisting that former President Charles Taylor sent him to the RUF, a claim defense lawyers sought to dispute.

Defense Counsel Terry Muonyard said he doubted Mongor's claims of proximity to Mr. Taylor during the war years, and that the former President, now on trial for war crimes allegedly committed in Sierra Leone, did not send him to that country. Mongor, a former Armed Forces of Liberia Commander, said he was selected to train the RUF. (Excerpts of the exchange between the Defense and the witness, courtesy blog The Trial of Charles Taylor.)

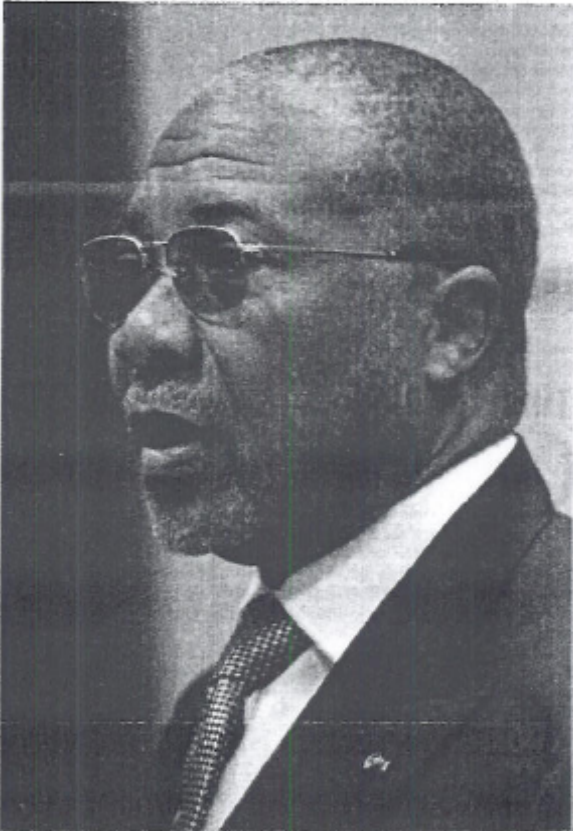
Def: Mr. Taylor's broadcast on the BBC about Sierra Leone tasting the bitterness of war was made in November 1990, not the middle. You're just using that as an excuse for why you were selected to train the RUF.

Wit: I disagree with you.

Judge Doherty: Which part do you disagree with?

Wit: That the broadcast was in November - that is what I disagree with.

Def: I have a detailed map available of the part of Nimba County that I was asking about this morning. [Distributes copies to the judges, prosecutors



Former Pres. Taylor, facing trial in The Hague

and the witness.] This is a map of the north-eastern part of Nimba County, where Nimba County borders Côte d'Ivoire. Do you see the town of Borpleh, here spelled Gborpleh?

Wit: Yes.

Def: If you go up along the border, the next town you come to is Loguatuo. That's the border town we were talking about, right? You told us this morning that you were captured somewhere between them, right?

Wit: Yes.

Def: Look back at Borpleh, and then look down at the town of Butuuu.

Wit: I see it.

Def: Using this map, I suggest to you that the area between Borpleh and Loguatuo was not captured by the NPFL until some months after they first invaded through Butuuu. What do you say about that?

Wit: (laughs) I'm laughing because you said it was 1990. In 1990, that was now at the rear of the NPFL. There was no fighting in that

Page 10

"He Was RUF's C-I-C"

area. It doesn't mean I was laughing at your question. I disagree with you.

Def: I want to make clear to you that I suggest what happened is: after Borpleh, the NPFL moved south to Tapeta. Then some time after that, the NPFL moved further south to Buchanan. Do you agree?

Wit: I did not disagree with the fact that the NPFL ever went to Buchanan. The particular group I fought with didn't go to Buchanan. The NPFL was divided in groups. There was a group that went from Tapeta to Buchanan. There was another group that went from Ganta to Gbarnga.

Def: Mr. Taylor went from Tapeta to Buchanan. I suggest he was not in Ganta or Gbarnga at all in 1990.

Wit: I disagree.

Def: From there he went to Harbel and was there for some time. Only when Gbarnga was safe and secure did he go there in late 1991. By that time you were in Sierra Leone.

Wit: I don't agree with your suggestion at all.

Def: You say you fought in Bong Mines. Who was the commander there?

Wit: Prince Quiwonkpa.

Def: Who was the commander in Kakata?

Wit: It was we and Pa Zobia. There was Francis Mawon (sp?)

[Muonyard confers with Taylor]

Def: Earlier I said that Cassius Jacobs wasn't commander of the bodyguard until 1994. I got that wrong - it was 1993. But by then you were well out of Liberia?

Wit: I was not there at that time.

Def: You said you were chosen to train the RUF because Taylor didn't want Special Forces training them. In fact there was a man called Gonkenu or Gankenu (sp?) or Gungenu or something like that among the trainees. Do you recall that?

Wit: I know that name.

Def: He was a member of the Special Forces who was training the RUF in Camp Nama, wasn't he?

Wit: He was not Special Forces.

Def: How do you know?

Wit: I was together with him.

Def: Who were Special Forces?

Wit: Those who trained in Burkina Faso and Libya - the ones who brought the war.

Def: What about Gio Devil?

Wit: Gio Devil - I know that name.

Def: He was in the Special Forces who was training the RUF in Camp Nama, wasn't he?

Wit: Gio Devil never trained RUF at Camp Nama.

Def: Let's move to your involve-

ment with the RUF. Your friend, John Karboh, introduced you to Foday Sankoh?

Wit: I knew Sankoh to be one of the Special Forces to be present on the Executive Ground. I later knew him through John Kargboh, one of my friends. They were tribesmen.

Def: It was Kargboh who introduced you?

Wit: I knew him before.

Def: Which Manson ground is this that you say you knew Sankoh from?

Wit: Gbarnga, at the Executive Ground. I used to see him go with Taylor at the front line. I didn't know him as Foday Sankoh.

Def: What did you call him?

Wit: Pa Morlai.

Def: You told us that Sankoh had a special relationship with Taylor because Taylor helped get him out of prison in Ghana.

Wit: Yes, I said that.

Def: When is it that you say that Foday Sankoh was in prison in Ghana?

Wit: Foday Sankoh did not give me a particular date. He said it was before they went to Libya to train. He told me Taylor fought to get his release.

The Analyst (Liberia)
Wednesday, 2 April 2008

Presidents Gbabo & Sirleaf

Taylor's Defense Doubtful



-Disclaims Witness' Declaration -But Witness Digs Into The Heels

The trial of former President Charles Taylor entered its second day yesterday following a two-week recess. Before then, several witnesses took the stand and testified against the former president, linking him to cannibalism and many other offenses. Now is the time for them (witnesses) to face both the defense and prosecution in cross-examination. Yesterday, prosecution began cross-examining one of the witnesses, Isaac Mongor, and now the defense of Charles Taylor is in the driver seat. But judging from the chronology of his testimony, the defense appeared doubtful of the truthfulness of the claims. The Analyst leaves through the latest from the Trial Chamber in The Hague.

Charles Taylor Defense has cast doubt on Mongor's claim that Taylor sent him to the RUF. Defense Counsel Terry Munyard expressed doubts during cross-examination of prosecution witness Isaac Mongor.

Beginning his inquiries, Defense Counsel Terry Munyard asked: "Mr. Taylor's broadcast on the BBC about Sierra Leone tasting the bitterness of war was made in November 1990, not the middle. You're just using that as an excuse for why you were

selected to train the RUF," but witness Mongor responded by disagreeing with Munyard. His expression of disagreement brought in Judge Doherty to ask, "Which part do you disagree with?" In response, witness Mongor

said he disagreed that the broadcast was in November - that is what I disagree with. At the same time, the Defense team of Mr. Taylor says prosecution witness Isaac Mongor

Cont'd on page 3

Taylor's Defense Doubtful

was never with Taylor in 1990 as he claimed in his testimony. Mongor had told the court that he was with Taylor during the virgin days of the revolution.

Def: Yesterday I was asking about your initial involvement with the NPFL. You said you had been captured in Nimba County, but didn't know the name of the village. Can you say where in Nimba County the village is?

Wit: I don't know the name of the

village.

Def: What part of Nimba?

Wit: On the road that goes towards the Ivory Coast border.

Def: Is this where you were trading?

Wit: Yes, that was the road I used when I was going and coming back.

Def: There is one main trading road that goes from Nimba County into Ivory

Coast, isn't there?

Wit: Not a single main road. There were roads that entered Ivory Coast.

Def: The two principal roads that enter Ivory Coast are in the north - one near Yekepa.

Wit: That's not the one I'm talking about.

Def: You're talking about the one at Loguatu, aren't you? You know Loguatu - that's the main trading road?

IN NPFL ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATIONS GREAVES RANKS OVER TAYLOR -DRAWS UP PRO AMERICO-LIBERIAN CABINET -LEAVES OUT INDIGENOUS LIBERIANS



Pres. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf



Harry Greaves



Charles Taylor



Tom Woewiyu



Jackson E. Doe



Alhaji Kromah



Sen. Prince Johnson



Charles Brumskine



Hep. Edwin Showe



Byron Tarr

There is a Liberian adage which states that "if the



Amos Sawyer

house doesn't sell you the street wouldn't buy you" is



Sen. Isaac Nyenabo

being made manifest in the National Chronicle's on going

investigation of those who actually finance the onslaught on innocent Liberians, hiding their blood stained hands and have returned to take up lucrative jobs, as a reward for the death of uncountable number of Liberian children and the destruction of countless families, while their families, their children and their grand children were out of harm's way, safely in the United States of America.

The LPRC Managing Director Mr. Harry Greaves, who have manage to adequately covered his blood stained hand, of his involvement in the senseless civil war which was dribbled with greed, for political power and wealth, has received a lucrative job (LPRC Managing Director) as a reward for financing the NPFL war machine and killing thousands of innocent Liberians, is finally being exposed to the Liberian people by Dr. S. Byron Tarr, also a key and active player in the cold bloody murder of innocent Liberians. According to a Front Page

Africa report: In the wake of reports that several leading actors in the Liberian civil war, including President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, have been reluctant to appear before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, damning new documents and communications obtained by FrontPageAfrica offer chilling new details about how many current and former government officials, plotted and planned to oust dictator Samuel Kanyon Doe from power, triggering a four-

rebel movement killed scores on its way to unseat Doe.

The communications, for the first time in years, shed light into the background of how the plot unfolded and how many of those who had fallen on the former dictator's dark side, undertook desperate measures in a bid to bring to an end a decade-old rule which had tormented thousands, killed hundreds, imprisoned many and humiliated and suffered scores of Liberians who came into Doe's way. More than twenty years later, despite a return to normalcy and peace many of those who plotted, planned and fought to bring an end to Doe's reign now appear unwilling to tell their side of a painful story.

Over the years, since Doe's fall, the quest to rid Africa's oldest republic of Doe slowly turned into a quest to rid Liberia of another dictator, Charles Chankay Taylor, a once fierce warrior now relegated to an inmate occupying a one-room shack at The Hague, where he is currently on trial for war crimes. Eventually, the quest to rid the country of Taylor's menace led to the formation of more splinter groups and more deaths, suffering and destruction. As Taylor languishes in jail, blamed for a civil war in Sierra Leone, the key actors in Liberia's own war, many of whom are now holding key positions in the post-war government remain quiet, unwilling or perhaps refusing to testify before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, an independent body set up to investigate the root causes of the Liberian crisis, document human rights violations and other abuses that occurred from 1979 to 2003 with a mandate to identify victims and perpetrators and make recommendations on amnesty, prosecution and reparation. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has already contributed USD \$500,000 to support the work of the TRC, bringing the total US Government support to US\$900,000 since the TRC was established in 2004. Broken promise highlights dilemma

For now, the task appears to be daunting and the possibility continues to grow that many of the original planners may never set foot before the commission while the likes of Sundaygar Dearboy, a popular musician and other lesser known actors draw head-

lines for alleged atrocities during the conflict.

To date, the TRC has heard numerous stories from ordinary people. Among them, Zico Dalieh, a programs manager of Gee Radio in Fish Town, River Gee County, who testified that several truck loads of arms and ammunitions concealed under bags of rice, were regularly transported by Abbas Fawaz, a Lebanese businessman and owner of the Maryland Wood Processing Industries (MWPI) from the Port of Harper in Maryland County across the Ivorian frontier to supply the rebels.

The company, Dalieh said, paid monthly salaries to the rebels and repaired vehicles used for their operation in La Cote D'Ivoire. "One day, arms and ammunitions concealed under bags of rice arrived in the company's trucks from Harper before Generals Benjamin Yeaten, Paul Vaye, Chuckie Taylor and others arrived to transport them across the Ivorian border for operation," recounted Mr. Dalieh, who headed the company's operation in River Gee at the time.

Details have also emerged from the massacre of 369 Civilians in Glaro, where in 2003; hundreds of inhabitants of the town in River Gee County were slaughtered. And then there's the accounts about the LPC, the rebel faction headed by George Boley, whose forces reportedly roasted dozens of captives and village inhabitants accused of witchcraft activities in Grand Gedeh County in 1994. An eyewitness, Albert Mowen, special assistant to the superintendent of Gbarzohm Statutory District said the fighters laid their victims on driers, made to roast animals, and burned them to death in blazing fires lit with wood.

For many of the victims of the civil war and the families they left behind, finding answers to questions which have haunted them for years remain a mystery - all too often - uneasy to forget. It was against the background that many were caught off guard last week, when Sirleaf, now the leader of the post war government, broke a promise she had earlier made that she would testify before the commission by suggesting that Liberia and its international partners would have to wait for her memoirs due to be published next year to hear her side of her involvement in the civil war.

It can be recalled that during the launching of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Public Hearings held on Tuesday, 8th January 2008 at the Centennial Memorial Pavilion, Sirleaf called on government officials and all Liberians to give the TRC their fullest support by responding to the TRC when

they are called upon to share their experiences and to tell what they know about the conflict. She cautioned them against allowing the TRC to use its subpoena powers. Sirleaf had promised to tell her story before the TRC at some point. But all that changed last week when Sirleaf, during the interactive phone-in radio program, "Conversation with the President," her first this year declared that her role will be outlined in a book she is due to publish later.

Prez Sirleaf still committed, Badio says

"Yes, I told them I would. But I don't want a spectacle; I don't want a scene which is what has been happening because as you also know I'm in the process now of releasing very early next year a book and the book is going to cover all of that. That's my retirement money. I'm not going to undermine it," she emphasized.

However, when FPA sought comment from the Executive Mansion in the wake of the letters and communications, Sirleaf's Press Secretary Cyrus Wieh Badio clarified the President's earlier statement and declared that despite the President's statement last week, her support for the TRC remains strong. "The President's support for the Truth & Reconciliation Commission and its work remains absolutely unwavering. Her continuous support for the success of the process is a well known fact which has repeatedly been acknowledged by TRC Commissioners themselves." According to Badio, the President's recent comment of not wanting to create a spectacle by her appearance must be viewed within the context of her repeated stance regarding her preparedness to appear, contrary to what critics may deliberately be reading into the comments to suit their own ends," Badio asserts.

Sirleaf's perceived change of tune puts her among the ranks of other major players of the civil war who have also refused to stand before the commission. Those include: Prince Johnson, Alhaji G. V. Kromah, Dr. George E.S. Boley, Sekou Damate Conneh, Richard Tolbert amongst others. Complicating matters is the fact that some leading members of the Legislature - Isaac Nyenebo, President Pro Tempore of the Senate and Edwin Snowe, a former driver to Taylor - are themselves former rebels and warlords. Jackson E. Doe, Minister of Transport and brother of the late dictator Doe was also a member of LURD along with Nyenebo.

Sirleaf's rationale

For many, the question about whether Sirleaf should appear - or not remains a no-brainer.

"That is a hard call. You look at the example of the South African model, it is one of the best that we have seen and I believe Nelson Mandela and others went before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, so why shouldn't the Liberian President if she had any involvement or have any knowledge of anything not set an example for the rest of the people to go before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Will that belittle her?", asks Bishop Bennie Warner, a former Vice President to William R. Tolbert. "I mean what is the rationale for her not going before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. If I was in that situation I think I would as an example, as a role model do that. That is what I would do. But I don't know her reason for not wanting to do that."

In reference to Sirleaf's assertion that she would offer her story through her memoirs, Warner says, "The book part is a different thing. The book part comes later. All of us are trying to write but in the meantime, she has an opportunity right now to face the people before the commission which she should. In addition to what might be read later on in the book. So I don't really understand her reason for not wanting to do that. I don't know."

Warner continues: "If she is to be transparent and truthful, I think she would come forth and give her statement and give her side of it. But when she refuses to do that it raises some suspicions that there may be something that she is hiding or something she doesn't want exposed at this stage. So it raises a lot of questions in the minds of people who want to be transparent and truthful. So I think that's what it is. I don't know enough to make a judgment but I can only say what I would have done. For the sake of peace and harmony and understanding and building a new Liberia, I think I would go before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and clear the doubts that may be there and any kind of suspicions. Unless I have something to hide or unless I have something that I don't want to reveal at this stage but will come in a book. When will that book come out? We don't know."

But Press Secretary Badio counters that "Any conclu-

cent comments suggest that she is shying away from the process, are wrong and misrepresentations, which may only be intended to divert attention from efforts the President has and continues to exert to ensure the success of the TRC as the Commission undertakes the difficult task of contrition, reconciliation and healing. "Her commitment to appear before the commission if and when called upon to do so, is a principle which remain firm and unchanged," says Badio.

Letters of War sheds some light

In the wake of the position of Sirleaf and other reluctant players' approach, the communications - including letters and communications from the early days of the efforts to oust Doe, obtained by FPA, sheds light on some of the players involved, their thought process, early squabbles in the efforts to establish a post-Doe government at the time and the efforts to raise money to unseat Doe.

Prior to the war which begun on Christmas eve of 1989, Doe had survived numerous coup plots and assassination attempts, the most fatal being the November 12, 1985 coup led by one of Doe's original revolutionaries, Thomas Quiwonkpa. Quiwonkpa came so close but yet so far and his non-violent approach failed to knock Doe off his executive chair. As the planners returned to the drawing board, the only possible means at their disposal proved to be a rebel invasion approach. It was a plan that took months in the making and would eventually change the face of a nation once regarded as the most peaceful setting on the African continent.

Greaves, now head of the Liberia Petroleum Refinery Corporation (LPRC), was shouldered with the responsibility of raising money and as the treasurer of the Association for Constitutional Democracy (ACDL).

In a letter addressed to Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Simpson Jr. and dated April 9, 1990, only four months after the war had begun, Greaves wrote: "As I write you, the NPFL has captured and is holding a large swathe of land stretching from the Ivorian boarder down as far as Bong County."

FPA has gathered that similar letters were sent to several Diaspora Liberians, soliciting funds for the plot to unseat Doe.

Greaves continued: "A few weeks ago they overran a military barracks at Wadru in Grand Gedeh, which was being used to train new recruits for Doe's army, and immobilized the Ganta-Harper road.

Lately, word has reached us that NPFL forces are descending upon Gbarnga, capital of Bong County and a mere three hours' drive from the nation's capital, Monrovia. All independent reports indicate that the NPFL advance is gaining momentum, and it seems now just a matter of time before the action reaches Monrovia, the seat of Doe's government and the probable site of the final battle - if that is, Doe chooses to fight rather than run away in his new \$20 million Boeing 707."

According to Greaves' letter, the plotters had been striving for the replacement of Doe's government with a genuinely democratic government, grounded in Liberian constitution and legitimized through free and fair elections. Greaves letter continues: "M/Sgt. Doe's track record convinces us that these goals cannot be achieved while he is head of the government. That view appears to be shared by the vast majority of Liberians, including the victims of the current conflict. For all independent reports, we have received from the refugee community emphasize the fact that they too feel that they will not be able to return to their peaceful lives until the brutal reign of terror of M/Sgt. Doe is over."

For Greaves, it was important that the "current initiative not falter or fail." The memories of the aftermath of November 12, 1985, are still fresh in many of our minds. We remember all too well the terrible price that was paid — by combatants as well as non-combatants — at the hands of Doe's murder machine. That lesson must not be repeated."

Power struggle, greed set in - Divisional issues in '90

But the faltering of the plan appeared already set for failure - long before it even began. While many held the belief that the split between the plotters was based on Taylor's quest to eliminate all those viewed as a threat, it seemed many of the original planners had their

sights set on naming a Cabinet while the rebel onslaught was miles away from Monrovia. As a result of the failure of political leaders to come together, many prominent Liberian politicians lost their lives during the early days of the war. One of the first victims to fall was Jackson Doe, the man widely believed to have won the 1985 elections. And later, Gabriel Kpoteh, a school teacher whose Liberian Unification Party also ran and lost the '85 elections.

Woewiyu: Virginia (USA) meeting paved way for Jackson Doe's death

According to Tom Woewiyu, a founding member of Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia, Jackson Doe's death was due to the failure of political leaders scrambling for power.

"It was known that Ellen was going to emerge as the head of a political coalition. In February or March of 1990, there was a meeting in Virginia at Taylor Major's house. I had called this meeting because it was understood from the beginning that Ellen would lead a coalition of all of the political forces, bring them together in order for us to determine how a government of cooperation would emerge. But when we went to that meeting there was a lot of confusion with Sawyer and others complaining that Sirleaf and others were aware all along about the '89 invasion but because it is going to get out of hand, everyone were now trying to take a step back. Tipoteh came from The Hague and everybody was there except Boimah Fahnbulleh. So it was determined then to put everything to rest," Woewiyu says.

According to Woewiyu, the reason why Sirleaf says she held her knowledge of the war plans from the rest of the group because it was still in the planning stages. Woewiyu says Sirleaf

informed the group that now that they had reached a political point, it was important for all to come together since the rebels were saying that a government of coalition should be established. But Woewiyu says Taylor only emerged into the forefront after the political leaders failed to come to an agreement on the political arrangement to end the bloodshed.

"After that whole effort failed that is when Taylor took control. But nobody wanted him there. Not the U.S. government, not the political leaders or anyone. Everybody knew that this had to be done." But Woewiyu says Sirleaf insisted that the political leadership be given to the Liberian Action Party with Jackson Doe as the leader.

After the meeting, Woewiyu says he and Sirleaf went to the home of the late Chris Maxwell along with Clarence Simpson and tried to convince him (Woewiyu) that there was no need for a government of coalition and the government should be given to LAP. But Woewiyu says he refused. "I told them we were just at this meeting where all the political leaders agree that a coalition government would be formed and take Doe's place. Now you all want us to give the government to LAP?" But to his surprise, Woewiyu says Sirleaf went behind his back and told the rest of the group that he (Woewiyu) had agreed that the government should be given to LAP. "I had called Taylor on the radio telephone and told him what had happened, that we went to that meeting and everybody was there and we all were prepared for the coalition but Sirleaf insisted. In a meeting at Maxwell's home that the government should be given to LAP." That Woewiyu says led to the death of Jackson Doe.

How Jackson Doe Died

Woewiyu says when Jackson Doe came out of Fendall and went to the NPFL side, Taylor actually told him to announce to the world Jackson Doe was with the NPFL. "If he wanted to kill Jackson Doe, he would not have done that. So I informed everybody

that Jackson Doe was with the NPFL but his (Jackson Doe's) own Gio people concluded that since there was an insistence that the government should be given to LAP, he should not be allowed to live and Jackson Doe was killed," Woewiyu says.

An eye witness, who was around the events leading to Jackson F. Doe's death explains that Doe and Mr. John Gbarmee Sanh, a founding member of the party and Deputy Minister of Labor during the administration of Dr. Amos Sawyer sought refuge at the home of two former senior staff members of the National Port Authority on Dupont Road, Monrovia in late June 1990.

The eyewitness who prefers anonymity for this report said, when NPFL fighters arrived on Dupont Road in early July 1990, Mr. Jackson Doe, Gbarmee Sanh and their host were taken to Kakata in NPFL-held territory where Mr. Jackson Doe was greeted with cheers by some NPFL fighters mainly of the Gio and Mano ethnic groups. The eye witness who was on Dupont Road and also in Kakata said some of the fighters called Jackson Doe "our President". The following day according to the eyewitness, some NPFL fighters arrived and said Charles Taylor wanted to meet Jackson Doe. Mr. Doe was then taken away by these fighters while Mr. Gbarmee Sanh, Mrs. Doe (wife) along with their hosts from Dupont road was taken to Buchanan, Grand Bassa County. In Buchanan, Mr. Sanh was arrested and tortured by NPFL fighters and was later released while Mrs. Doe was manhandled by some of the fighters. According to the eyewitness, about three weeks later, two NPFL Libyan trained commandos told them while visiting their displaced home in Buchanan that Charles Taylor order the execution of Jackson Doe because he refused to recognize Charles Taylor as President. Mr. Gbarmee Sanh who was a long-time friend of Jackson Doe reportedly wept the rest of that fatal day after the fighters left. Sahn took good care of Mrs. Doe until he Sam left for Monrovia and was appointed by Dr. Sawyer as Deputy Minister of

Labor, the eyewitness concluded.

The struggle among politicians was a key concern raised by Dr. Byron Tarr, a founding member of the Liberian Action Party, which many believed was robbed of the 1985 elections, in a letter to Sirleaf dated November 1991.

Two months after Greaves' letter soliciting funds, Dr. Tarr's letter to Sirleaf points to some early concerns by the plotters to stir division among the key players - even before Doe was killed. As a candidate for Senator for Montserrado County, Sirleaf had won her seat in the '85 elections, but refused to accept the post in protest of the election fraud alleged against Doe's National Democratic Party of Liberia.

Dr. Tarr, who as the letter suggest was in Mbane, Swaziland at the time, wrote:

"Dear Ellen: Most of what appears below was written on June 8. I decided to forward the thoughts to you - after our telephone discussion Sunday because specific names are not as important as the reasoning (or failure to reason) which might have influence selection. After reflecting on our discussion, your question about my plans - whether I would remain in LAP or join LPP - I became much troubled. Here are some of the things that trouble me. Is there an element or group perceiving itself as purer than others? If the little view of politics - exclusion is maintained, it might be that a contest for the soul or core of LAP - which really is a phantom, is undertaken. I would guess that with the sting gone out of the code "socialists or communists," LAP could easily be split up

and of course UPP would reap all the benefits of such a split."

Tarr continued: "Let us not forget that tribalism and violence have been introduced into Liberian politics. The implications for this development for whatever one perceives them to be require a careful approach to any post-Doe political activities. (B) Doe's excesses notwithstanding, the problems associated with and arising from Montserrado domination of Liberia which inspired the democracy movement in the 1970s must not be brought back or ignored. (C). Even if the expression, in terms of logic, is nonsensical, that the soul of LAP is a phantom should be clear. In 1985 and after, a not insignificant share of the party's achievements were due to cooperation with those not present at the creation of LAP."

"Not a single Liberian untouched," Dr. Sayon says

Dr. Patrick Sayon, one of the original members of the ACDL concurs:

"The ACDL was very aggressive in pushing for conditions that we thought would be ideal for the democratic reconstruction of Liberia but the group split and so Ellen, Byron and one or two others went in one direction and Sawyer, myself went in the opposite direction. Part of the split had to do with whether we took a position that neither supported one group or the other but that we would lay out a position that was for and in the interest of the country and not a particular group or a particular individual and that position is still my position," Dr. Sayon says.

For Dr. Sayon, one of his main concerns have been associated with the risks factor. "I can say this - having experienced and this is one time I will run the risk of generalizing but I don't think there is a single Liberian who was untouched by the crisis of 1980 straight on to 1994 or 1996."

As a result, Dr. Sayon asserts that all Liberians

Cont'd on Page 4

can draw lessons and it has been his hope that Liberians would pledge to themselves, not any party, not any particular group. "But we should all look inside of us and look at other people and I have a feeling that the pain we bear is as great as the pain other people around us bear and it is for us - from that experience to create a better society for those coming after us. We owe that to ourselves. So at this point my hope is that - and I've talked to a few people, what do we do?"

The concerns raised by Tarr and Sayon apparently stem from what many players in the plot felt at the time was a unilateral effort by Greaves to selectively appoint a select group of people, mostly Americo-Liberians, similar to the True Whig Party format which ruled Liberia for decades, to Cabinet positions. Tarr wrote:

"Remember Doe's first address to the nation? The problem with it was that pronouncement was not correlated with behavior. Harry's paper prepares the basis for asymmetry between words and behavior. That is my distinct impression after reading Harris' proposal for the Cabinet. I am afraid after reading Harry's proposal for the Cabinet. I am afraid one cannot dismiss the paper and nomination so easily. Is the proposed agenda to be seen as Harry's? or a joint effort with you? With Richard's (Richard Tolbert - now NIC chairman)? With Jim's (Jim Holder). These questions are raised because Levi, who was in your office, was not consulted."

Tarr continued: "One notes that neither you, Jackson, Ed Kesssely, nor Kpolleh is listed for a Cabinet position. Is that to mean anything? You, Jackson and Kpolleh are proposed to head commissions. What is the logic behind the suggestion? Why is Kesssely left out? Matthews took himself

out of consideration, so as far as, one hopes, an interim government is concerned, there could be no role for him. If Harry had not consulted anyone, one could readily conclude that his Cabinet proposals represent naivety. But consultations, as Harry did, followed the traditional habit of "Monrovia" people consulting among themselves. Levi was in your office, but he was only given a completed copy. This guy stayed home, and in my opinion, carried on after we left. He tells me you thought the failure to show him a draft was possibly because of his MOJA connections. Boley practiced the politics of exclusion starting in April 1980; that led us to a ten-year reign of terror. Are we going to follow that path again?"

Tarr said the proposed Cabinet gave him fears. "Four of the proposed ministers - Dunn, Tarr, Sherman and H. Dennis left Liberia, did not have any involvement in starting or prosecuting the civil war. Doe might be removed because of that civil war! Another group - Vinton, Bedell, Shannon, Knuckles, Cooper remained in Liberia, but did not take any position indicative of a commitment to democratic values. Vinton and Knuckles worked consistently for the regime. Supuwood is proposed as an alternate to Banks, Winston and Robert Tubman."

Tarr asserted: "Look at the geographic distribution. For now, let's look at the places of origin (forget that everyone on the list, except those out of Liberia, lives in Monrovia. Dunn, Woosiyu, Brown and Tarr are from Bassa; Vinton is from Cape Palmas; Banks, Holder Sherman, Divine, Knuckles, King, Cooper, Dennis and Grimes are from Montserrado; Nganana, Jallah and Kesssely (by marriage), Lofa; Carlon, Cape Mount and Kpolleh, Bong. Gwaikalo is the only person from Nimba. Presuming that Taylor

(Montserrado) is slated for President, is that what we want? Are we keeping Grand Gedeh's conquered territory? What about the other counties?"

FrontPageAfrica has gathered that not all of the names listed on Greaves list may have been aware.

"What I remember basically is that it was probably Harry Greaves who put it (the Cabinet list) together. I remember distinctly that I and others were surprised because obviously there was no consultation. He probably felt that 'the following persons assuming we get rid of Doe, this is what a Cabinet should look like. I did not know what to make of it,' says Dr. Elwood Dunn, Professor of Political Science at the University of the South in Sewanee, TN and a former Minister of State for Presidential Affairs during the Tolbert regime. Dunn was out of the country at the time of the 1980 coup and spared execution.

For Tarr, the circulation of personal documents might better be minimized in those difficult and tense times. "Doe's success in consolidating his power arose when 'individuals' acted; these efforts often lead to expression of disagreements, and African leaders are inclined to exploit the apparent division that results. Rather, 'personal opinions' prepared without consultation and then widely circulated for reactions might be useful, but 'personal documents' discussed with selected members or presumed members of a group and then circulated as personal, are likely to create difficulties for those not included among the consulted. The question becomes whether in fact to regard the document as personal or as that of those consulted. The problems are compounded when such documents are naive or insensitive to feelings and perceptions. Such documents might undermine all efforts at uniting the various groups whose cooperation is essential to commencing solving our monumental problems."

Tarr lamented the fact that none of those who were doing the actual fighting, nor their known close allies are

listed for any position. "What does one think of Dokie, Yusa and Duopu? Surely, they may not be one's friends or have international savvy, but is it likely that given what happened, those fellows will agree to trust their welfare into the hands of a group of common denominator is "Educated abroad; extensively traveled? Does one think that the Gios and Manos Would - or Should accept a government brought into power through the blood of their fighters and civilians that did not include anyone they may feel (or perceive) they have easy access to and affinity with?"

Dunn: It 'bolls down to political opposition'

United Nations News Centre

Wednesday, 2 April 2008

Liberia: UN report recommends Government action to bolster human rights



2 April 2008 – Legal prohibitions of all forms of violence against children, more resources for rural education and better human rights training for national police are among the recommendations in a new United Nations report on Liberia.

The report, compiled by the UN Mission in Liberia (**UNMIL**), covers the human rights situation from May to October 2007 in the West African country, which has made significant strides of late in recovering from a devastating civil war.

The report focuses mainly on economic, social, civil and political rights violations, sexual and gender-based violence, as well as inadequate detention and educational facilities, following the integrated approach of the country's poverty reduction strategy.

"This strategy aims to integrate a human rights-based approach in programmes or policies by the government in order to promote the fulfilment of all human rights be they economic, social, cultural, civil or political," the report states in its introduction.

Among the violations of rights highlighted in the report are three cases in which parents allegedly attempted to sell their children in order to buy food.

The report cites instances of corruption in the criminal justice system, involving Liberia National Police (LNP) officers, court officials and prisons authorities.

Other issues of concern include poor detention conditions, the reported operation of private detention facilities and sexual and gender-based violence, including rape and forced marriage.

Recommendations of the **report** include ensuring that the right to education is ensured through the allocation of more resources, with emphasis on schools located in rural parts of the country.

Specific changes in the legal codes are advocated, including prohibitions against corporal punishment and female genital mutilation, in addition to collaboration with the Human Rights and Protection Section of UNMIL to train LNP personnel in rights issues.

UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries 2 April 2008

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

Newspaper Summary

LNP Dismisses 70 Police Officers – Victim Assaults two Senior Officers

(Heritage, The News, New Democrat, Public Agenda, The Inquirer, the Informer)

- The Liberia National Police (LNP) has dismissed 70 officers of the Police Support Unit. The officers were dismissed for accumulating constant absence without leave.
- At the same time, one of the dismissed officers on Tuesday assaulted the Chief of the Police Support Unit (PSU) and Assistant Commissioner of Police, John Kemoe seriously injuring him on the head.
- The dismissed officer, Nathaniel Mulbah, also assaulted the Chief of Personnel at the LNP, Jartu Golafaley on her face.

DSRSG Says Rape Has Serious Consequences in Liberia

(The Informer)

- Speaking at the launch a regional Anti-Rape Campaign in southeastern Grand Gedeh County, the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Rule of Law Ms. Henrietta Mensa-Bonsu says rape has serious and harmful consequences in Liberia. The DSRSG spoke to the high incidents of sexual and gender-based violence, especially rape, indicating that the statistics for rape have not declined in the country since 2006.'

Rapist Freed in Buchanan for Delay in Trial

(Daily Observer)

- At least six cases involving rape and gang rape were dismissed by the Second Judicial Circuit of Grand Bassa County owing to the failure of the private prosecutors to appear before the court for the prosecution. The paper said the defendants, who were all indicted since May 2006, did not have their cases heard up to March 2008.

Global Witness Issues Early Warning over 'Rush' to Log Liberia's Forest

(The Analyst)

- Global Witness, a renowned international advocacy institution, has warned that a 'rush' to log Liberia's forest could jeopardize the reform process. The warning follows speculations that several logging companies want to do business in the country and that Liberia's Forestry Development Authority (FDA) is contemplating granting them permits.

Mob Violence leaves one Person Dead on Bushrod Island

(New Democrat)

- Unidentified men beat and killed a man known as Peter Chea Monday night on Bushrod Island near, Cemenco. The paper quoting residents said the man was a businessman but other reports indicate that he was mobbed to death after he could not clearly say where he was from and what he was doing in the community at the time some residents inquired from him. The report said this led to suspicion of the deceased being a robber resulting into him being mobbed by the group.

NEC Fines Liberty Party for Violating Electoral Laws

(The News, The Inquirer, Heritage)

- A National Elections Commission (NEC) press release issued in Monrovia Tuesday said the Commission has fined the opposition Liberty party the Liberian dollar equivalence of US\$2,500.
- NEC said the party's utterances and actions during the by- elections in Margibi, Grand Bassa and Nimba counties were in violation of provisions of the electoral laws and called on the Party to pay the fine within seventy-two hours or risk suspension of its operation.
- Meanwhile, the Liberty Party has challenged the decision of NEC and has taken an appeal to the Supreme Court.

Radio Summary

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

National Elections Commission Fines Opposition Liberty Party

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

Dismissed Police Officer Brutalizes Two Senior Officers

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

CARE Announces Plans to Return to the Country

- Speaking at a news conference Tuesday, two officials of Care International, Dr. Helene Gayle of the U.S. and the Nederland National Director, Guus Eskens announced the return of the group to Liberia after some 25 years.
- The two said the decision to return to the country follows improvement in the security situation in the country.
- CARE International, a leading humanitarian organization dedicated to fighting poverty and social injustice in nearly seventy countries left Liberia in 1983 due to insecurity after working in the country since 1961.

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

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

President Sirleaf in Ivory Coast for Bilateral Talks

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has left the country for Ivory Coast for a two day official visit.
- An Executive Mansion statement said during the visit President Sirleaf will discuss issues of sub-regional cooperation with Ivorian President Laurent Gbagbo and will also participate in an "Invest in Africa Forum."

Unknown armed men raid Rehab Community

- Unknown men armed with AK-47 rifles, pistol and other deadly weapons have raided the ELWA Rehab community outside Monrovia.
- The armed robbers burst into the home of one Francis Yoryor and stole several valuables including wedding band, money, computer and a car.
- Francis told Star Radio the men, eleven in number, put his household at gunpoint before sweeping everything. According to him the armed men wore wigs and other hairstyles and were mostly youths.
- Francis reminded government that unless job opportunities are provided to help get young people off the street, fighting armed robbery would be a mere joke.
- He said arming the Police was not wrong but it would only create more confrontation with armed robbers if ex-combatants remain jobless.

Two Senators call for stiff penalty against illegal land dealers

- Two members of the senate are seeking stiff penalties against illegal land dealers and surveyors. Senators Gloria Scott and Frederick Cherue requested the Senate to amend Chapter 15 of the Penal Law of Liberia.
- They said if amended anyone found illegally selling land in the country would be arrested and dealt with in keeping with law.

- Senators Scott and Cherue also want surveyors who knowingly surveyed a piece of land for two different parties to be punished in accordance with law.
- The bill from the two senators has been sent to the Senate committees on Judiciary, Claims and Petition. The committees are to review the bill and advise the Senate plenary in two weeks

Lassa Fever kills two pregnant women in Grand Bassa

- Health authorities in Grand Bassa County say two pregnant women have died from Lassa fever. The County Health Officer of Grand Bassa told Star Radio the incidents took place in January and February this year in Compound Number Three.
- Dr. Jerry Brown said these are the first cases of Lassa fever in Grand Bassa for over ten years now. Dr. Brown said during visits to Compound Number Three he noticed unhealthy environment that could host rats that transmit Lassa Fever.
- He said the health team and county authorities have begun an awareness campaign and are planning a clean up campaign in the area. Dr. Brown said if preventive measures are not taken, the people could be at risk as the drug to treat the disease is not in the county.
- The health official also confirmed that a third pregnant woman who died late last month is suspected to have died from Lassa Fever.
- He said result of a specimen test is expected to establish whether the death was the result of the disease.
