SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE PRESS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE



Members of the Mongolian Guard Force put on an impressive display of their military and martial skills on Saturday. See the *Special Court Supplement* for more photos.

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:

Monday, 3 July 2006

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

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Awoko Monday, 3 July 2006

23-year-old former RUF disclosed the attack on Makeni

By Betty Milton Prosecution witness TF1-117 in the Special Court trial of members of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) has disclosed how the attack on Makeni was executed.

The 23 year old man explained that in 1992 at the age of 10 he was captured along with his mother and sister after their father had been killed in their village in Boajibu in the Eastern Province.

Narrating further the witness said, he was taken to Kono under the command of Augustine Gbao where the town was attacked and he was later sent to C.O Issa Sesay though they were not staying at the same place.

TF1-117 stated that C.O Issa Sesay, Augustine Gbao, and C.O Mosquito took them to Teko Barracks in Makeni where they stayed with Catholic Priest Father Victor who taught them many things.

He revealed that they were with Father Victor when they heard the rumour that the Government of Johnny Paul Koroma had been overthrown. This he said forced the RUF men to take up arms in a bid to rescue Johnny Paul.

"We tried to advance to Freetown in the company of Augustine Gbao, Superman, and General Bropleh – but we only stopped at the ADRA camp in Waterloo where we were informed that JP had used the Tombo axis as his escape route."

The 23 year-old went on "as we were retreating to Makeni, we were also engaged in looting as we had the code name 'operation pay yourself'. During this time we will commandeer vehicles as well as Hondas and also money from civilians, all the looting we did were in alliance with the AFRC juntas. At one point, we were told by C.O Mosquito that he is expecting some arms, which we will use to engage the ECOMOG forces. When the ammunition arrived from Liberia, it was C.O Issa who conveyed them and then distributed them to us and we started the advance on ECOMOG positions."

Adding, "my own commander was Augustine Gbao and we were to capture Tongo, advance to Kono. We went and laid a 15 miles ambush from Sewafe downwards to the Makeni axis. Our attack on Tongo was carried out with homes burnt, civilians captured and some killed. At the end the ECOMOG troops fell into our ambush a lot of them were killed and large cache of arms and ammunition were captured."

Continuing his evidence the witness said the troops who were coming from Kabala were led by SAJ Musa who was advancing towards Makeni which was the meeting point "Makeni was attacked but we were unable to capture the army Barracks since it was ECOMOG forces there and they had a Mohawk tank which was used to repel our forces."

He explained, "the first force who tried to capture the Mohawk were killed and we decided to launch an onslaught which we did successfully. Some ECOMOG soldiers tried to escape but were killed.

After the Mohark had been burnt, we then advanced to phase two to continue our onslaught on the Army Barracks and it was eventually captured, we then informed C.O Issa Sesay and I was promoted to RSM." The trial continues.

Human Rights charges hang over Taylor's son in America

Charles "Chuckie" Taylor, Jr., son of the fomer Liberian president, is due to be arraigned this week in Maimi on a US passport violation, but the justice Department should investigate him for his role in grave human rights abuses, Human Rights Watch says.

According to the information and research officer of the Human Rights Watch and other organizations, the Boston-born "Chuckie" Taylor- who has been in US custody since March 30- was involved in torture and crimes committed in Liberiafrom approximately 1997 through at least 2002. Federal law makes it a crime for a US citizen to commit such crimes abroad.

"Chuckie' Taylor is implicated in heinous abuses against Liberian," said Elise Keppler, counsel with the International Justice Program at Human Rights Watch.

"The Department of justice should investigate his links to these atrocities with a view to prosecuting him."

"Chuckie" Taylor led the elite

Anti-Terrorist Unit (ATU) during the presidency of his father, Charles Taylor, when it allegedly committed torture, such as various assaults, rape, beating people to death and burning civilians alive. Information collected by Human Rights Watch suggests that the ATU, a pro-government military unit, also committed crimes during Liberia's armed conflict from 1990 to 2003.

In the years that "Chuckie" Taylor headed the unit, these war crimes included extrajudicial killing of civilians and prisoners, rape and other torture, abduction, and the recruitment of child soldiers. "The US attorney in Maimi should ensure that federal law on torture and war crimes committed abroad doesn't just gather dust on the shelves," said Keppler.

"As far as we know, no one has ever been prosecuted under this legislation.

Investigating "Chuckie" Taylor would be a good start."

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To underscore the need for investigation and prosecution of "Chuckie" Taylor on torture and war crimes under federal law (18 USC sections 2340A and 2441), Human Rights Watch submitted a memorandum to the Department of Justice on serious abuses in which "Chuckie" Taylor is implicated. The memorandum includes Human Rights Watch's research and information from other human rights organizations, alone with other open source material documenting the evidence against him to date.

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Contd. page 2

Taylor Jr. in U.S. Custody

From front page

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The Patriotic Vanguard Monday, 3 July 2006

Special Court: Clearance for Hinga Norman Appeal

By Gibril Koroma

The judges of the trial chamber of the special court for Sierra Leone has given leave to Samuel Hinga Norman (CDF first accused) and Moinina Fofanah (CDF second accused) to appeal the chamber's recent decision on a subpoena on president Ahmad Tejan Kabbah.

The information is contained in a press release presently posted on the court's website and dated 28th June.

This opens the way for the Hinga Norman defence team to realize their dream of appealing the decision and if they succeed, to force president Kabbah to appear as a witness for the Norman defence.

Reverend Alfred SamForay, a vibrant Hinga Norman loyalist, recently revealed that the Norman defence would close their next presentations in September "with a bang" by not only appealing the recent court decision that turned down the subpoena, but will also bring in other top notch foregn witnesses like Nigerian army general Wan Mohamed, a former ECOMOG commander. They hope to use the Nigerian to prove that president Kabbah allegedly ordered the bombing of innocent civilians during the country's brutal war.



Running Africa.Com Friday, 30 June 2006 http://runningafrica.com/Commentary-06302006Ghadaffi Bongo.html

The Taylor Issue

Ghadaffi, Bongo make sound points But.....

By Thomas Kai Toteh

Libya's Colonel Ghadafi's utterances immediately after Charles Taylor was turned over to UN War Crimes Court might have created a thick cloud over the security of the detention facility, where the UN war crimes suspect was being held.

Libya's Moamar Ghadafi is slowly but certainly lobbying African Leaders to support his campaign against the extradition of former Liberian dictator, Charles Taylor and his subsequent transfer to The Hague in Netherlands.

The Libyan leader, immediately after Charles Taylor was extradited to Liberia and later turned over to the UN War Crimes Court in Sierra Leone, frowned on Nigeria's Obasanjo for what he termed, "Betrayal of African Solidarity." "This act was an unacceptable precedent that threatens all African Leaders...," Colonel Ghadafi warned.

Charles Taylor's presence in the African nation of Sierra Leone might have eased Colonel Ghadafi's agitation, but the recent relocation of the former African dictator and his scheduled trial in that European nation has aroused him to another action. This time, the forceful and one of African longest serving leaders has a partner. He is Gabon's Oman Bongo.

Oman Bongo, according to FrontPage Africa, was in Libya at the invitation of Ghadafi. While in Libya, Bongo and his counterpart discussed African and world affairs, but Charles Taylor's transfer to The Hague dominated their meeting. Oman Bongo has thrown his support behind Ghadafi to condemn those African Leaders, who they said violate Charles Taylor's political asylum right and African tradition." The two leaders must have made a sound observation when they said, "Handing Charles Taylor over to The Hague in Netherlands represents an insult and humiliation of Africa, which deprives it of its credibility in the eyes of the world."

Well, as the saying goes, "When your house sells you the street buys you." There are many circumstances that led to this episode. If Colonel Ghadafi's concern is genuine about the embarrassment the Taylor's fracas has caused Africans, then he is not alone. After the hullabaloo in all African communities around the globe for Charles Taylor to face trial, millions shared tears, other hunched in disgrace, and disbelief when Charles Taylor was returned to his homeland in handcuffs. Charles Taylor was not willingly turned over to the UN War Crimes Court in Sierra Leone and The Hague in Netherlands respectively by Olusegun Obasanjo and Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf. Colonel Ghadafi, in his defense against Charles Taylor's extradition and subsequent transfer to the UN War Crimes Court via the Sierra Leone, has always missed the point. In fact, the leaders Colonel Ghadafi continues to hold responsible for the socalled "Betrayal of African solidarity and credibility are Liberia's Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf and Nigeria's Obasanjo.

Before Charles Taylor escaped his asylum haven in Calabar, Nigeria, there were mounting international pressures on Liberia's Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf and Nigeria's Olusegun Obasanjo to bring him to face war crimes he committed during his arms struggle and when he was president of Liberia.

Liberia's Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, on numerous occasions, said, "Our government does not intend to prioritize Charles Taylor's issue now." She added that Charles Taylor's trial is an UN affair, "and is beyond our reach." Nigeria's Olusegun Obasanjo said, "When the Liberian government requests Charles Taylor, we will terminate his asylum."

Before Charles Taylor went into exile Liberia's capital was besieged by armed men from two rebel groups. Liberians were crying for intervention. Liberian babies, the elderly, pregnant women and children were desperate for any solution to end their sufferings. The whole world was alarmed by the imminent catastrophe facing some 2 million people.

West Africa, after the alternative that brought Charles Taylor to power in 1997, pulled out immediately. The onslaught of 2003 on Liberians in Monrovia was beyond West Africa's immediate attention. African Union (AU) was no where in the spotlight to rush to stop the carnage.

The credibility and solidarity of Africa and its leaders was critically reviewed in another round by western nations, United Nations Security Council, and the backbones for the UN: Britain and the US. During the review, the world's body and its strong facilitators concluded African leaders were killing their own people and African organization, AU is incapable of intervening.

France, Britain, and the United States of America went from consultations to consultations on finding an urgent solution for the onslaught in Monrovia and other parts of Liberia.

Charles Taylor is an alleged Libyan trained guerrilla whose policy Colonel Ghadafi denounced lately. But up to the time Taylor was ousted, and to present, the colonel has yet to reject or accept his role in Liberian 14 years civil war which took away over 200, 000 lives and devastated the lives of million others for ever.

Ghadafi is an influential leader in Africa who has the capability financially and militarily to have thwarted the atrocities in Sierra Leone before Charles Taylor was charged with war crimes and crimes against humanity. Charles Taylor's alleged imported war to that country cut off limbs of thousands of young and elderly.

"When your house sells you the street buys you" is a common saying that neatly fits the current situation. Colonel Ghadafi and his supporters are embarrassed by the humiliation of one of Africa's leaders. They feel Africa is insulted and degraded. But Since Africa's independence she and her people have been degraded and insulted by armed dictators. The credibility and solidarity of Africa and its leaders were critically reviewed when African leaders continue to deny their people the right to life, happiness, and free movements. Solidarity is a mutual agreement and support: harmony of interests and responsibilities among individuals in a group, especially as manifested in unanimous support and collective action for something. In 1990 Nigeria headed the ECWAS Peace Monitoring Group in Liberia. In 2003 Nigeria showed her solidarity with Liberia by sending troops to the UN Peace Keeping Force which is currently in Liberia.

Colonel Ghadafi failed to show his African solidarity by not sending a troop to Liberia in 1990 and in 2003. The world body stepped in to save Liberians, especially the children. And before the world body stepped in, Charles Taylor was already wanted for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

SomaliNet Friday, 30 June 2006

Liberia: Taylor's son under trial

Liberia's ex president is not the only one under trial. Like his father, son of Liberia's former warlord, Charles 'Chuckie' Taylor, is to be charged for atrocities against natives of Liberia during his stay in Liberia between 1997 and 2002.

"Chuckie Taylor is implicated in heinous abuses against Liberians. The Department of Justice should investigate his links to these atrocities with a view to prosecuting him," said Elise Keppler, counsel at the Human Rights Watch.

Liberians suffered greatly during the period "Chuckie" Taylor led Anti-Terrorist Unit (ATU). Liberia was still under the leadership of Charles Taylor. Liberians were raped, beaten and many lost their lives and families to the activities of ATU.

ATU was in support of Liberia's government during this time. It is also accused of involvement in war crimes during the time Liberia was undergoing war.

"The U.S. attorney in Miami should ensure that federal law on torture and war crimes committed abroad doesn't just gather dust on the shelves. As far as we know, no one has ever been prosecuted under this legislation. Investigating 'Chuckie' Taylor would be a good start," said Keppler on Chuckle's involvement in war crimes in Liberia.

The son of ex Liberia's president has been in US custody since March 30th.

Scoop Independent News

Sunday, 2 July 2006 http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/WO0607/S00005.htm

US: Investigate Ex-Liberian President's Son

Press Release: Human Rights Watch

(New York) – Charles "Chuckie" Taylor, Jr., son of the former Liberian president, is due to be arraigned next week in Miami on a U.S. passport violation, but the Justice Department should investigate him for his role in grave human rights abuses, Human Rights Watch said today.

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United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 1 July 2006

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

International Clips on Liberia

VOA 30 June 2006

Liberia's Capital to Receive Electricity after 14 Years of Civil War

By James Butty, Washington, DC

If all continues as planned, residents in two parts of Monrovia, Liberia, will have public electricity by July 26th, Liberia's 159th independence anniversary. It will be the first time since the beginning of Liberia's 14-year civil war that people will have access to power. President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf promised electricity in her first 150 days action plan. Harry Yuan is director of the Liberia Electricity Corporation and told Voice of America English to Africa reporter James Butty the project is on track.

International Clips on West Africa

BBC Last Updated: Friday, 30 June 2006, 14:17 GMT 15:17 UK

Ivory Coast rebel demands refused

By James Copnall, Abidjan

Ivory Coast's loyalist and rebel military leaders have failed to agree on most issues at a meeting in the rebel headquarters, Bouake. The New Forces rebels want back pay, to keep the military ranks they have awarded themselves, and an integrated or joint army command structure. The loyalist armed forces rejected all those points. Presidential elections are due in October but the likelihood is that they will not take place this year. They have already been postponed by a year.

Local Media – Radio Veritas (News monitored yesterday at 6:45 pm)

Supreme Court Sets Up Defence Judges for Poor Inmates

- The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Johnny Lewis yesterday commissioned four judges from the Magisterial Court of Montserrado County to defend the legal causes of poor inmates with funding and technical assistance from the U.S. government. He urged the public defenders to visit the prisons where most of their clients live. He announced that there were funds to support the work of 18 public defenders for 6 months.
- Also speaking at the commissioning ceremony in Monrovia yesterday, United States Ambassador Donald Booth said that having public defenders for poor inmates reflected fairness in Liberia's justice system.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Police Poised to Arrest Notorious Criminal

- Liberia National Police Acting Inspector-General Al Karlay said that the police were making frantic efforts to arrest a notorious criminal known as "Justice" who is the ringleader of criminals in Sinkor, a residential district of Monrovia.
- Col. Karlay said that the suspect had been mobbed and hospitalized but later fled his hospital bed and was at large.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Company Donates 1,000 Bags of Cement to Referral Hospital

- Theo Williams, Commercial Manager of the Liberia Cement Company yesterday presented a consignment of 1,000 bags of cement to assist in the renovation of John F. Kennedy Medical Center, Liberia's main referral Hospital.
- The Center's Chief Medical Officer Samuel Dopoe commended the company promised to set up a committee to monitor the use of donations. (Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

European Envoy Acknowledges Problems in the Judiciary

• During a meeting with Chief Justice Johnny Lewis at the Temple of Justice yesterday, European Commission Charge d'Affaires Godfrey Ruud said that Liberia's post-war judiciary system was confronted with logistical and financial problems which impede work for a functioning democracy in the country. (*Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio*)

Complete versions of the UNMIL International Press Clips, UNMIL Daily Liberian Radio Summary and UNMIL Liberian Newspapers Summary are posted each day on the UNMIL Bulletin Board. If you are unable to access the UNMIL Bulletin Board or would like further information on the content of the summaries, please contact Mr. Jeddi Armah at <u>armahj@un.org</u>.

BBC Online Monday, 3 July 2006

Senegal trial for ex-Chad leader

Chad's former President Hissene Habre will be tried in Senegal over alleged human rights abuses committed during his eight years in office.

Senegal's Abdoulave Wade made the announcement at an African Union summit in the Gambian capital, Banjul.

Belgium has also charged Mr Habre but Mr Wade agreed with the AU that Africa should dispense its own justice.

Mr Habre fled to Senegal in 1990 and denies knowledge of the alleged murder and torture of political opponents.

He ruled Chad for eight years before being deposed in 1990 in an uprising led by current President Idriss Deby.

Pressure

Earlier attempts to prosecute him in Senegal have been hampered by judicial rulings preventing him from being tried there.

In the absence of any prosecution, Belgium moved to try Mr Habre under its human rights laws, which allow nationals of any country to face charges within Belgium.

Eventually, Senegal referred the case to the AU to decide where to try Mr Habre.

The United Nations also pressured Senegal, issuing a 90-day deadline in May for Dakar to agree to a trial on its soil.

"Africans must be judged in Africa, that's why I refused to extradite Hissene Habre to Belgium," Mr Wade said, confirming his decision at the AU summit.

"We thought Senegal was the country best placed to try him and I think we must not flee from our responsibility."

He suggested that a special court would be set up in Senegal to handle the case with a wider African jurisdiction, and in co-operation with Chad's current authorities.

Campaigners happy

Those campaigning for Mr Habre's prosecution welcomed Senegal's decision.

"It's a great day for justice in Africa, because the continent's leaders have shown that no-one, not even an ex-president, can escape the law," said Reed Brody of Human Rights Watch.

Victims' representatives were pleased by the move, but injected a note of caution.

"After fighting for justice for 16 years, it looks as if we may get our day in court," said Ismael Hachim Abdallah, president of the Chadian Association of Victims of Crime and Political Repression.

"But survivors of Habre's regime are dying, and we can't wait forever. Senegal has betrayed us twice and we aren't taking anything for granted."

Abdoulaye Wade Senegal president

16





in Africa, that's why I refused

Associated Press Sunday, 2 July 2006

Srebrenica commander convicted

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands (AP) -- The U.N. war crimes tribunal imposed a light two-year sentence on the commander of the Muslim defenders of Srebrenica for failing to prevent murder and torture of Serb captives, but ordered his immediate release since he has already been detained more than three years.

Naser Oric, 39, was acquitted of direct involvement in the murder of prisoners in the early years of the 1992-95 Bosnia war, but the judges found he had deliberately ignored their mistreatment and failed to punish their killers.

He was acquitted of all charges related to the wanton destruction of Serb villages.

Oric, who Bosnian Muslims consider a war hero for his three-year defense of the Muslim enclave, smiled when he was told he was free to leave the U.N. detention unit in The Hague, where he has been detained since his surrender in 2003.

The judges found that during two periods in 1992 and 1993, Oric's troops beat Serb prisoners with wooden planks, iron rods and baseball bats, and pulled the teeth of some of them with rusty pliers -- beatings so severe that at least six of them died in custody.

Oric should have known the prisoners were at risk and taken steps to prevent their mistreatment, the judgment said. They dismissing his plea that his mind was focused on military operations to protect the Muslim population under siege by the Bosnian Serb army.

Oric delegated responsibility for the captives and then "he preferred to do nothing," the judgment said. "He never inquired about the fate of the prisoners."

But the judgment also said Oric's case was unlike any other the tribunal had dealt with, and the judges said they unanimously decided on leniency because of the untenable situation in the besieged town at the time.

"Conditions were abysmal and deteriorated by the day," the judgment said. Oric was responsible for a population swelled by refugees, without food and without the weapons or army to defend them. "It was a continuous uphill struggle that in the end achieved few results."

Oric's troops, in an offensive in April 1992 and later at the turn of the year, swept through towns occupied by the Serbs to get weapons and food to the enclave's starving inhabitants. The fighters were followed by hordes of civilians who joined in the looting and burning.

Some Serbs believe misdeeds by the Muslim troops provoked the July 1995 slaughter of more than 8,000 Muslims by the Bosnian Serb army -- Europe's worst civilian massacre since the Holocaust.

BBC Online Monday, 3 July 2006

Judges sworn in for Khmer Rouge

Judges for Cambodia's long-awaited Khmer Rouge genocide trials have been sworn in, a key step towards bringing former leaders to justice.

The judges - some Cambodian, others foreigners appointed by the UN - attended a special ceremony in the Royal Palace in Phnom Penh.

The trials are expected to start in mid-2007, though no date has been set.

Some 1.7m people are thought to have died during Cambodia's harsh Khmer Rouge regime, between 1975 and 1979.

Many people had begun to fear that the trials would never get off the ground.

Since Cambodia first asked the United Nations for help in 1997, the government has been reluctant to commit resources, and foreign donors have provided much of the funding.

In 2003, Cambodia and the UN agreed jointly to convene the trials, but many analysts said the process could be undermined by the dire state of Cambodia's judicial system, which was badly debilitated by the Khmer Rouge policy of targeting the intelligentsia for extermination.

But now a complex formula of majority voting by both Cambodian and international judicial officials has been devised, to try to ensure that tribunal decisions are backed by both sides.

The swearing-in ceremony "erases the negative speculation people have had in the past that there won't be any trial", said Reach Sambath, a spokesman for the tribunal administration office.

Seventeen Cambodian and 10 UN-appointed officials were sworn in during Monday's ceremony.

Two other international jurists will arrive at a later date. **Still free**

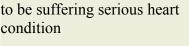
STILL FREE

Nuon Chea: 80, chief lieutenant to Pol Pot, most senior surviving member of regime

Khieu Samphan: 74, head of state 1976-79.

Pol Pot and Ieng Sary both married members of his family

leng Sary: Age unknown, foreign minister 1976-78. Said



Key Khmer Rouge figures

Khmer Rouge leader Pol Pot died in 1998. At present two former regime leaders, Ta Mok and Kang Keng Ieu, more commonly known as Duch, are in jail on genocide charges.

But others, including Pol Pot's "Brother Number Two" Nuon Chea, former head of state Khieu Samphan and former Foreign Minister Ieng Sary live freely in Cambodia.

18

Children were among the 1.7m

1255

Children were among the 1.7m Cambodians who lost their lives



Nuon Chea told the Associated Press on Monday that he would go before the tribunal if called, in order to clarify the past.

"I will be glad to go, so that people in my country and other countries will know the truth of what happened. Whatever they ask, I will tell them," he said.

Special Court Supplement The Mongolian Guard Force put on a demonstration of their military and martial arts skills for Special Court officials on Saturday, prior to leaving on rotation later this week.























