

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



Special Court Team Captain Mohamed Jalloh and Registrar Herman von Hebel hoist the championship trophy after the Special Court's 4-1 victory over the U.S. Embassy on Saturday

**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:**

Monday, 3 November 2008

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

Monday, 3 November 2008

# Special court crown Zain champions

The Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) football team Saturday defeated American Embassy 4-1 to win this year's Zain mobile phone network cooperate tournament.

Two goals from striker Sadiu Turay aka Tombo, with one from Alpha Bangura saw SCSL took an early 3-0 lead in the first half.

Alpha Bangura rounded the score line to 4-0 in the second half before Sahr Kamnoh header gave American Embassy a consolation.

SCSL striker, Tombo after the match told Concord Sports that they deserve to be crown as champions

He said: "Since the competition commences, our 4-0 victory against Sierra Leone Commercial Bank was a good signal that we are going to clinch this year's title."

"We played for the title, we've got the squad to be champions and we are now crowned as the truly champions."

The other match of the day saw IMATT defeated Union Trust



Bank (UTB) 3-1 on post game penalty to be crowned as third place champions.

## Cocorioko

Sunday, 2 November 2008

### **More inconsistency at Taylor's trial**

Another dramatic event over inconsistent evidence at the trial of former Liberian president Charles Taylor happened between Charles Taylor's Defence team and a prosecution witness, Gibril Sesay. It followed a similar inconsistency between an account given in court by a prosecution witness and an earlier one he had given in a video interview.

Sesay told the court that eight rebels raped his wife and later stabbed her to death in his presence and the presence of his children. He said that after his amputation he dropped and was helped by his children. However, the video recording shown in court by the defence revealed a different account of what happened after his amputation in 1998.

Asked then what had happened to him, Sesay said in the video that following a rebel attack on Koidu eastern Sierra Leone, he and several others were camped in a forest in a village called Wonedu.

Once they got information that the west African peacekeepers, ECOMOG, had arrived in Koquima, he and his wife and children came out of the bush and went to Penduma where they decided to rest. Sesay said in the video that he lost contact with his children as he attempted to return. He said he managed to reach the ECOMOG base who treated his and took him to Makeni. Asked whether he saw his wife and children afterward, he said "No, it is only my younger brother who is with me here".

After showing the video in court, defence lawyer Courtenay Griffiths QC asked Sesay why there was a difference between his testimonies in court and his previous interview in the video recording. He replied "I was not sensible enough at that time. I was not in a right frame of mind. It was only because we were being counselled, that was when I was able to give a clear explanation of what had obtained."

Despite the witness's persistent claim that he was not in his right frame of mind when he had the interview at the Connaught Hospital, Mr. Griffiths said Mr. Sesay had not told any truth in the three appearances he had made in the trials of members of the rebel RUF, the AFRC and now Charles Taylor.

Meanwhile, a 39-year-old Sierra Leonean woman who encountered the rebels in Tombodu in Kono district also took to the witness stand. Kumba Bindi told the court that the rebels that entered her village spoke in Liberian English. Another witness, Abubakarr Mansaray who was only presented to the defence for cross-examination, said he could not remember most of the evidence he had given in the AFRC trial in 2005 in Freetown. He said he thought he had come to Holland to testify against the AFRC again. He could not recognise in court the Prosecution lawyer that met with him when he arrived in Holland.

## BBC World Service Trust

Monday, 3 November 2008

### **Paralysed amputee blames Taylor**

By Joseph Cheeseman

A 60-year-old wheelchair-bound amputee man has blamed his condition on the former Liberian president Charles Taylor. The 79th prosecution witness Mohamed Mansaray was testifying at the trial of Mr Taylor at the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone in The Hague.

He said Charles Taylor had announced on the BBC that Sierra Leone would taste the bitterness of war and that his amputation and subsequent paralysis were testament to tasting that bitterness.

Giving a chilling account of his experience, he told the court that his uncle, Gibril Turay, a farmer, was dispossessed of his produce and later beheaded by the rebels in a Sierra Leonean village called Moala in Pujahun District. In what he said happened to his face, Mansaray said the head kept jumping and blabbing for about five minutes before losing life.

Defence lawyer Morris Anyah quickly rose to his feet saying the disclosure of the uncle's name was a violation of the principle of disclosure. He said the Prosecution document given to the Defence did not bear the name of Mr. Mansaray's dead uncle so the evidence about the decapitation should be omitted. But the prosecution told the judges that they had made full disclosure to the defence.

Having listened to legal arguments from both sides, Justice Julia Sebutinde delivered her ruling on the matter. "Mr Anyah, we do acknowledge that the accused has a right to have full disclosure of this name that you've just named, in addition to the incident of decapitation. We acknowledge that this is the right of the accused in order to help him prepare or enable him to adequately prepare" she said, adding that this was a right under the statute. She said it would be "drastic to simply strike out this evidence given the fact that the incident itself was disclosed to you... in this case we will not strike out the evidence altogether."

From his wheel chair, Mr. Mansaray clenched the fist of his amputated hands as he testified to how he and five other men were systemically amputated by a rebel commander identified as Staff Alhaji in 1998 in Tombodu, Kono district. He said they chopped off his hands by placing them on a mortar starting with the left. He said there were armed rebels surrounding them in case anyone attempted to escape until all five had their hands chopped off with a machete.

Courtesy: BBC World Service Trust

## BBC World Service Trust

Sunday, 2 November 2008

### **More harrowing accounts at Taylor's trial**

Written by Joseph Cheeseman

Fofana said after burning his children to death, the rebels gave him and four other men heavy loads to carry to Tombodu where they amputated him and set 53 people on fire until they burned to death. "All the doors were locked. They poured petrol on the house. We could hear people screaming in the house while the house was burning and the house burnt down completely and there was silence," Fofana told the court.

The 75th prosecution witness told the court his three children, Mohammed, Kiadiatu and Dauda, as well as his aunt were set ablaze in a house in Peima, eastern Sierra Leone.

Fofana said after burning his children to death, the rebels gave him and four other men heavy loads to carry to Tombodu where they amputated him and set 53 people on fire until they burned to death. "All the doors were locked. They poured petrol on the house. We could hear people screaming in the house while the house was burning and the house burnt down completely and there was silence," Fofana told the court.

He said they were tied to an orange tree nearby where they listened to the screaming until the 53 people burned to death. Amidst tears which he wiped off the stump of his amputated hands as he sat directly facing the Judges, the witness said that after the rebels had burned the 53 people alive, their commander, Staff Alhaji gave orders that the five of them previously tied to an orange tree be amputated and sent to report to then president Tejan Kabbah because they had voted for him.

He said a rebel commander named Rambo, whose duty it was to amputate hands, took a mortar. "I was the first person. I was untied and taken close to the mortar [and] both of [my hands] were cut off" he said. Defence lawyer, Morris Anyah pointed out "inconsistencies" in Fofana evidence.

The Defence played in open court a video recording of an interview with the witness in Freetown after his amputation where he had given a different account of his children. In that video, he was asked about the whereabouts of his wife and children to which he responded, "I left them in the bush... I cannot tell [where I left them]... At the time those guys went and attacked us in the bush, I cannot tell you, I cannot understand."

When asked why the contradiction in his testimonies and the interview, Mr Fofana said he was not in a right frame of mind when the interview was conducted. He maintained that his three children were burnt to death. Courtesy: BBC World Service Trust

United Nations  Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

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**UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries  
31 October 2008**

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

**Newspaper Summary**

**Government Thrashes Reports of dissident activities in Country**

(New Democrat, The Inquirer and National Chronicle and The News)

- The Liberian government has dismissed rumour of rebel activities taking place in any of the 15 counties.
- According to Information Minister Laurence Bropleh, the security sector reform and UNMIL Peacekeepers are in full control of security in the country.
- He said they have been in contact with superintendents of the counties and there are no reports of attempts to threaten the current peace in the country.
- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf on Friday appeared on her usual live radio programme, "Conversation with the President" at which time she reechoed that the security situation was good and that there was need for fear.

**Drugs Disposal Exercise Creates Pandemonium in Monrovia**

(New Democrat, The Inquirer and National Chronicle and The News)

- Pandemonium broke out in Monrovia and surrounding communities Thursday when reports filtered that fighting has broken out in Brewerville, outside Monrovia.
- The reports alleged that armed men have infiltrated the ranks and files of UNMIL and that heavy explosion could be heard.
- In an interview, Brewerville City Mayor, Lucinda Eastman Herbert dismissed reports that fighting had occurred in Brewerville but that some explosion had taken place.
- Mayor Herbert said the explosion was caused by discarded medical equipment set on fire by the National Drugs Service (NDS) without notice to the authorities.
- The chain of explosion created panic and forced residents to run helter-skelter. Calm has since returned to Monrovia and surrounding communities.
- Meanwhile, the National Drugs Service has claimed responsibility for the panic created on Thursday saying it regrets the situation.

**Chuckie Taylor Convicted for Overseas Torture – Risks life Imprisonment**

(The Analyst, Public Agenda, The News, New Democrat)

- Reports lifted from international wire services and aired on local radio stations said a federal jury on Thursday convicted the son of former Liberian President Charles Taylor in the first case brought under a 1994 U.S. law allowing prosecution for torture and atrocities committed overseas.
- Charles McArthur Emmanuel, also known as Charles "Chuckie" Taylor Jr., was convicted of torture, firearms and conspiracy charges on the second day of jury deliberations. He faces life in prison, with sentencing set for 9 January next year.
- Prosecutors said Chuckie led a violent security force, the Anti Terrorist Unit (ATU), in Liberia while his father served as President of Liberia. The ATU later turned its energy toward training fighters and cracking down on political opponents, according to court papers. Prosecutors accused Taylor of taking part in atrocities and directing subordinates to torture victims using hot irons, guns, knives and electrical devices from 1999 to 2002.

- Miami U.S. Attorney R. Alexander Acosta said the case, investigated by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and FBI agents who traveled the globe finding victims and witnesses, will serve as a model for future prosecutors involving foreign torture allegations.
- His father, Charles Taylor, is on trial before a United Nations tribunal in The Hague on charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity for allegedly overseeing the murder, rape and mutilation of thousands of people during Sierra Leone's bloody decade-long civil war.

## Radio Summary

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

### **President Sirleaf discusses domestic issues on live radio interactive programme**

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf today addressed a number of domestic issues on the live radio interactive programme, "Conversation with the President".
- The issues included recent audits conducted by the General Auditing Commission and actions taken by the President following the audits.
- The President also highlighted progress on infrastructure development, particularly road rehabilitation.
- Friday's edition marked the end in a series of radio programs featuring the President.
- Another series featuring government ministers and heads of public corporations and other autonomous agencies is set to begin next month.
- "Conversation with the President" was initiated by President Sirleaf more than two years ago to interact with citizens across the country.

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

### **US Jury Convicts Son of Ex- Liberian President for Overseas Torture**

(Also reported on ELBC, Truth FM, Sky FM, ELBC)

### **Explosions Cause Fear in Monrovia but Government says no need for fear**

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

### **Government Dismisses Invasion Report**

## **Star Radio** (News monitored today at 9:00 am)

### **Government Suspends Accreditation of NGOs**

- Government has temporarily suspended the accreditation of Non-Governmental Organizations in the country until December 31.
- The Minister of Planning, Amara Konneh said the ministry uncovered a fraudulent receipt of payment for over US\$100,000 to an NGO for accreditation.
- According to Minister Konneh, the government took the action in collaboration with Civil Society Organizations and local and international NGOs.
- Meanwhile, the Planning Minister has announced that the government and representatives of Civil Society and Non-Governmental Organizations have launched an NGO forum.
- The Minister said the NGO forum to lift Liberians out of poverty would take place in Monrovia on November 13.

### **Grand Gedeh Debunks News of Dissident Activities in the County**

- A Joint Security operation has launched an investigation to verify reports of dissident activities in the forests of Grand Gedeh County.
- Quoting security sources, correspondents say the operation was launched Wednesday.
- Residents said the news of dissident activities in the county has the tendency to give Grand Gedeh County a bad image, terming the reports as a work of detractors.
- Speaking at a news conference on Thursday, Grand Gedeh Senator Isaac Nyenabo also dismissed the reports and assured that Grand Gedeh would not be used as a point to undermine the peace of Liberia.

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## African Press Agency

Sunday, 2 November 2008

### **Liberia: Taylor family says son's conviction politically motivated**

A spokesman of the Taylor family on Sunday described the conviction of Chucky Taylor, former Liberian President Charles Taylor's son by an American court, as "politically motivated".

Mr. Sando Johnson, a former legislator during the Charles Taylor regime, told reporters in the Liberian capital Monrovia Sunday that the United States tried and convicted Chucky Taylor because he refused to testify against his father.

Sando Johnson said Chucky who was born in the United States of an American mother, was no longer a United States citizen.

"By wearing Liberian military uniform, it was clear that Chucky had renounced his American nationality and was no longer answerable to American laws," Sando Johnson argued.

The Taylor family however said it was compelled to accept and live with the guilty verdict brought against Chucky.

Chucky Taylor was recently tried and found guilty under a 1991 law that forbids American citizens from committing atrocities outside of the United States.

He was found guilty of torture and other abuses while he served as commander of the once-feared Anti-Terrorist Unit (ATU), during his father's tenure as president of Liberia.

## Daily Nation (Kenya)

Friday, 31 October 2008

### **Will a Sierra Leone-type tribunal work in Kenya?**

By PETER MWAURA

Situated on Jomo Kenyatta Avenue in the middle of Freetown is a lavish and sprawling purpose-built courthouse surrounded by a 12-foot-high concrete wall with razor wire.

Patrolled by UN troops, it is the Special Court for Sierra Leone, set up to end impunity, promote reconciliation and bring to public account perpetrators of the brutality and serious crimes committed during the devastating 1991-2002 civil war in the West African country.

The court is a judicial experiment. It uses local and international judges as well as the local and international law to try “persons who bear the greatest responsibility” for the violence.

It is this judicial model that the Waki commission borrows from for its No. 1 recommendation — setting up a special tribunal to “seek accountability against persons bearing the greatest responsibility for crimes, particularly crimes against humanity, relating to the 2007 General Elections in Kenya.”

The commission borrows the Sierra Leone judicial hybrid nature and structures, but the burning question is if the tribunal will work in Kenya.

The Freetown court is accused of being too expensive, drawn-out and insensitive to local sentiments, as well as netting only the top leadership, leaving out the actual violence perpetrators.

In particular, it is criticised for not making a distinction between “attackers” and “defenders”.

The verdict of history on the special court is still not yet out, and it is not certain if it has achieved, or will achieve, its goals.

Since it became operational in 2002 it has indicted only 13 people, nine of them high-level personalities, and five have been convicted.

The court will also not be able to try all the people “who bear the greatest responsibility” — many will go scot-free. And it is unlikely that it will try more than 30 people before it winds up in 2010.

The court has been criticised also for arresting and prosecuting Hinga Norman, the former deputy defence minister and head of the civil defence forces popularly known as Kamajors, who fought alongside government soldiers against the rebels.

The Kamajors were charged with torturing and killing civilians during the war.

Norman’s arrest sparked controversy over the court’s legitimacy and mandate. Many Sierra Leoneans look upon him as a hero who fought off the dreaded rebels.

Thus, the court’s impact on the culture of impunity in the West African country remains uncertain.

It is not certain either if the court will leave a legacy to serve as a model for ensuring accountability for serious crimes committed in other countries.

The court has particularly been criticised for gobbling up funds and having little to show for it.

It was originally set to complete its work in three years, but its operations are now scheduled to end in 2010, when it will have cost more than \$200 million (Sh15 billion).

Many Sierra Leoneans are critical of this massive expenditure, and they wonder if the money could not have been better used to provide for the thousands of atrocity victims?

Similar questions, and others, may be raised in Kenya if the special tribunal is set up.

The Waki panel should have given more thought to its recommendation to make sure that the Sierra Leone model can be implemented in the Kenyan circumstances.

It did not, for example, give a thought as to how the tribunal may be funded. Although the Sierra Leonean special court was established with the help of the United Nations, it does not belong to the world organisation.

It is funded through voluntary contributions, most of them from the US and Britain.

The commission does not provide for public outreach. People need to know and understand the tribunal and the principles that will guide its operations.

The public has to buy the idea itself, or the court may not achieve its goals.

And it is not enough for the Waki panel to threaten to send a “sealed envelope” containing the names of suspects to The Hague to be tried at the International Criminal Court if the tribunal is not set up.

The threat could come to nothing.

The Panel of African Eminent Personalities, with whom the commission has entrusted the “sealed envelope”, has no legal standing.

The panel cannot act on behalf of Kenya or the Government. Cases may go to the ICC only via a member state or at the initiative of the prosecutor or the UN.

Special Court Supplement  
Zain Football Championship Match: Special Court 4, US Embassy 1  
Saturday, 1 November 2008





