

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



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:

Thursday, 3 November 2011

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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Local NewsDiscipline Breaks Down.../ *Standard Times*

Pages 3-4

International NewsUN-Backed Court Cautions Sierra Leone Against Interference / *Africa Review*

Page 5

Top 5 Intriguing Extradition Cases / *Global Post*

Page 6

Continued Support is Needed for Justice in Sierra Leone/ *Open Society Justice Initiative*

Page 7

Russian Convicted in Arms Conspiracy Plot / *CNN*

Pages 8-10

Standard Times
Thursday, 3 November 2011

DISCIPLINE DREAMS DOWN...

'MIKE TYSON'



Acting Director
of Prisons, Mr.
Bilokamara

AT CENTRAL PRISON

It appeared as if it was the former American Heavy Weight Champion, Mike Tyson that had materialized at the Central Prison

compound located at Pademba Road to engage his counterpart for a celebrity trophy organized by authorities of the department, but

after a brief observation of the competitors by the audience, it would be discovered that it was not Mike Tyson, but senior officers who

wanted to transform themselves to celebrities.

The transformation led to a breakdown of law and order, not any

visit of Mike Tyson to the Central Prison.

It was on Tuesday Morning 1st November, 2011, when two senior officers demonstrated unappreciable level of unprofessionalism and behaviour akin to a jungle display.

The officer in charge (O/C) Pademba Road Prison, Assistant Director of Prison Mr. Charles Lamin Ngobeh and his colleague Mr. Turay showed distrust for each other that led to the struggle of supremacy, political connection and strength.

Mr. Ngobeh had claimed to have sought permission from the Regional Commander of Western Area Mr. Ransford Williams to conduct a visit to the Prison Store.

After his visit he was confronted at the gate by Mr. M.S. Turay who wanted to find out what he had gone to do at the Store.

Explanation was not enough to dismiss Mr. Turay's suspicion nor was he able to convince him that he made no contact with prisoners before and after the visit to the store. **▼ PAGE 23**

DISCIPLINE BREAKS DOWN...

'MIKE TYSON' AT CENTRAL PRISON

FROM PAGE 1

Mr. Turay could not suppress his suspicion and allegedly accused him of being one of the prison traffickers, working in collaboration with prisoners. Sources say, he was also not able to compose himself though admonished by other officers to revisit his conduct and behaviour to a senior colleague working at the same establishment. "I will give you a slap on your jaw" Mr. Ngobeh threatened.

The unfortunate incident took place in the presence of Junior Prison Officers and Prisoners, who automatically became their audience as they lost in wonder seeing very senior officers exchanging words and going the extent of putting up a fight. The Regional Com-

mander, Western Area Mr. Ransford Williams was forced to intervene when he noticed that the situation was beginning to deteriorate.

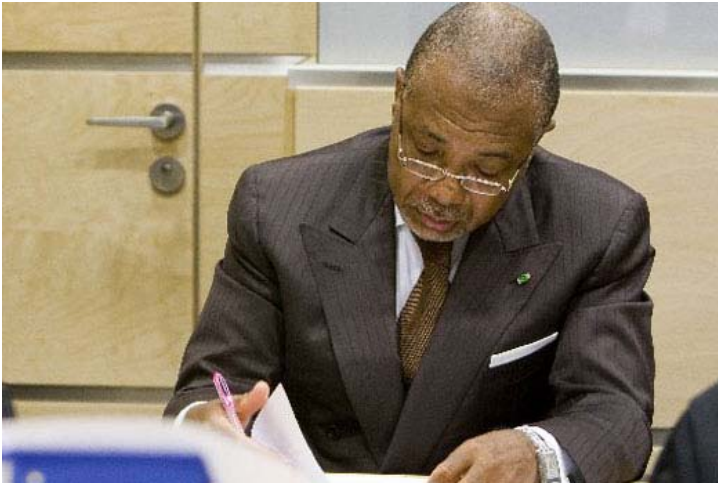
He immediately brought it under control and reported the matter to the Acting Director of Prison Mr. Bilo Kamara. Mr. Ngobeh has served as O/C Pademba Road Prison, Regional Commander South and North and is to travel anytime from now to Darfur. With this quantum of experience, he was expected to demonstrate maximum courage and professionalism and not the reverse. Since the matter was brought to the attention of the Acting Director of Prison, Mr. Bilo Kamara nothing seemed to have been done to put an end to this type of behaviour from senior officers.

Africa Review

Thursday, 3 November 2011

UN-backed court cautions Sierra Leone against interference

By KEMO CHAM in Freetown



Liberia's Charles Taylor is awaiting a court verdict at The Hague over his role in the Sierra Leonean civil war [FILE | AFRICA REVIEW |](#)

The Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL), set up in the aftermath of the country's civil war, is warning the Sierra Leone government against interfering with its matters.

Following publication of a protest letter purported to be from eight Sierra Leone

prisoners calling for their relocation from a Rwandan prison, family members at home mounted a campaign with the government over the issue.

And now in a letter addressed to the West African country's Minister of Justice, the Freetown-based court warned the government not to interfere in the case, warning that any such attempt would amount to committing an offence.

In 2009, through an agreement between the UN and the Rwandan government, the men who had been convicted by the special court for committing grave atrocities during the civil war were transferred to Kigali's Mpanga detention facility, where they are serving between 15 and 52-year jail terms.

In a nine-page letter addressed to key institutions in the country, the convicts had complained of "blatant disrespect" for their human rights, among allegations of denial of basic services in accordance with the arrangement of their transfer to the East African country.

Accused government

They also accused the Rwandan prison authorities of subjecting them to the same ill-treatment allegedly meted to Rwandan genocide convicts, who are said to be serving at the same facility.

Additionally, family members in Sierra Leone are concerned about the cost involved in visiting their jailed relatives in faraway Rwanda.

"As a government, our position on this matter is to adhere to the letter by the Special Court," Information and Communication minister Alhaji Ibrahim Ben Kargbo said, anticipating a court complaint.

Global Post

Wednesday, 2 November 2011

Top 5 intriguing extradition cases

3. CHARLES TAYLOR

Former Liberian President Charles Taylor is currently on trial at The Hague facing 17 counts of violating international humanitarian law for allegedly backing brutal rebel forces in neighboring Sierra Leone.

Taylor's rule of Liberia ended after six years in 2003, when he resigned from his post and sought political asylum in Nigeria, according to The News.

The extradition request was not the first of the kind for Taylor, however.

Taylor had fled to the United States in 1984 after the Liberian government accused him of embezzling more than \$900,000 in government funds, according to PBS. He was detained in a Boston prison while the US government considered the extradition request from Liberia, but Taylor escaped the prison one year later.

According to PBS, it is believed that Taylor lived in Libya for the next four years, and received shelter and military training from Muammar Gaddafi.

After Taylor's eventual return to Liberia and rise to power in 1997, Taylor allegedly began selling arms to rebels in Sierra Leone in exchange for diamonds, BBC reports. The arms sales aided the rebels in continuing their fight against the Sierra Leone government by "conducting brutal sweeps through civilian areas, chopping off the arms, legs and noses of thousands of suspected government supporters, including women and children."

He was indicted for war crimes in 2003 by a United Nation's tribunal in Sierra Leone, and arrested in 2006 while trying to cross from Nigeria into Cameroon, according to The International News.

Open Society Justice Initiative

Tuesday, 1 November 2011

Continued support is needed for justice in Sierra Leone

Press Release

New York-The Open Society Justice Initiative is calling on the international community to address urgent issues facing the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL), as it prepares to wind down operations in coming months.

Pending the end of the current trial of Charles Taylor, the former Liberian president, the SCSL has prosecuted eight of those most responsible for crimes against humanity, war crimes, and other serious violations of international humanitarian law committed during the conflict in Sierra Leone. In addition to enhancing prospects for lasting peace and security, it has also created awareness among Sierra Leoneans that a credible justice system can work to hold powerful people accountable.

However, the legacy of the Special Court is in danger of being undermined if greater attention is not paid to pressing issues that require urgent national, international, and donor support over the next six months, in advance of the court's closing, following the conclusion of the Taylor proceedings.

A new report, *Legacy: Continuing the Work of the Special Court for Sierra Leone*, based on research and interviews conducted by staff of the Open Society Justice Initiative from July 2007 to September 2011, identifies seven key remaining legacy and residual issues that require urgent national and international attention, most of which must be undertaken before the SCSL closes. These issues include: conducting outreach on legacy and residual issues, ensuring the timely establishment of the Residual Special Court, implementing the proposed uses for the current SCSL facilities, articulating archive access and preservation policies, finalizing and funding the national witness protection unit, integrating SCSL jurisprudence into national law, and prosecuting lower-level perpetrators in the domestic courts.

The SCSL will be the first of the international tribunals set up since the end of the Cold War to close its doors.

It began operations in 2002 and has issued judgments against high level members of the warring factions: the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC), and the Civil Defence Forces (CDF). The Taylor trial is the only SCSL case to be tried outside the country-in The Hague, the Netherlands-due to concerns that holding his trial in Sierra Leone would be a threat to security in the West African region.

The Open Society Justice Initiative has been regularly monitoring events at the trial of Charles Taylor at www.charlestaylortrial.org. Closing arguments were presented in March and a judgment is expected by around the end of this year.

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CNN

Thursday, 3 November 2011

Russian convicted in arms conspiracy plot

By Mick Krever, CNN



New York (CNN) -- Convicted Russian arms dealer Viktor Bout could face life in prison after a federal jury returned guilty verdicts Wednesday on four counts related to a conspiracy to kill Americans, acquire and export anti-aircraft missiles and provide material support to a terrorist organization.

Bout's attorney, Albert Dayan, said the verdict will be appealed.

"I still stand by my position that Viktor was wrongfully accused," said Dayan. "The jury has spoken but his position is still that he's innocent."

Widely dubbed "the Merchant of Death," Bout was often referred to by U.S. and U.N. officials as among the most notorious of global arms traffickers.

Bout's lawyer: 'We intend to appeal'

Bout guilty conspiring to kill Americans

'Merchant of Death' on trial

He had pleaded not guilty to all the charges.

Dayan said during the trial that the former Soviet air force officer was not involved in illegal arms sales, and that federal agents had baited Bout into selling the weapons alongside a deal to sell airplanes.

But Preet Bharara, the U.S. attorney for Manhattan, called the Russian tycoon "a very dangerous man" in a statement Wednesday. "He aimed to sell those weapons to terrorists for the purpose of killing Americans."

The heart of the case stemmed from a 2008 sting operation in Thailand by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency.

Undercover agents posing as Colombian rebels attempted to buy large caches of weapons, according to a 2008 federal indictment.

Both the United States and the European Union identify the rebel group -- the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC -- as a terrorist organization.

The agents tried to purchase 700 to 800 surface-to-air missiles, thousands of AK-47s and landmines, telling Bout that they wanted the arms "to kill Americans," the indictment said.

Bout responded, it said, by saying he "was going to prepare everything the FARC needed."

During closing arguments Tuesday, Assistant U.S. Attorney Brendan McGuire called the evidence against Bout "overwhelming," pointing to alleged ties with various armed conflicts.

"He did everything he could to show that he could be a one-stop shop" for FARC, said McGuire.

Prior to his arrest, the DEA had struggled to draw Bout out of his Russian homeland, which is long thought to have sheltered and defended him.

Undercover agents met with Bout's associates the world over, from Curacao to Copenhagen, in an attempt to set up a meeting with their target, according to the indictment.

He was extradited to the United States in 2010 following his arrest and a protracted court proceeding in Thailand.

The Russian businessman has also been accused of assembling a fleet of cargo planes to traffic military-grade weapons to conflict zones around the world since the 1990s.

According to the indictment, he was suspected of creating front companies that used his planes to deliver food and medical supplies, as well as arms.

His alleged trafficking activities in Liberia prompted U.S. authorities to freeze his American assets in 2004 and prohibited U.S. transactions with him, it said.

Less than a year later, the Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control placed 30 companies and four people on a specially designated list that carried similar actions against them.

Bout has maintained that he operated legitimate businesses and had acted as a mere logistics provider. His exact age is unclear, but he is believed to be in his late 40s or 50s, with his age in dispute due to different passports and documents. The U.S. attorney's office said it had no confirmed age.

Critics have accused Bout of providing arms to rebels in several countries and fueling bloody conflicts in places such as Liberia and Sierra Leone.

In 2000, then-British Foreign Office Peter Hain branded him "Africa's chief merchant of death" at a time when Bout is believed to have supplied arms to officials in Sierra Leone, a former British colony then embroiled in civil war.

"With today's verdict in the Southern District of New York, one of the world's most notorious merchants in illicit arms has finally been held to account for his heinous criminal profiteering in death and destruction," said DEA Administrator Michele M. Leonhart in a statement

The 2005 movie "Lord of War," starring Nicolas Cage, is considered to be largely inspired by Bout's life.