

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



A schoolboy passes the baton to his classmate during a relay race at the National Stadium.

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:

Friday, 30 November 2007

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

“ Hinga Norman’s Death is Natural...” / *The Spectator*

Page 3

International News

The Case Against Mouamer Kaddafi : Will Charles Taylor Name and Shame Him ? / *Cocorioko*

Pages 4-6

2007 CHOGM Final Communiqué (Excerpt) / *New Vision (Uganda)*

Page 7

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary / *UNMIL*

Pages 8-9

Outgoing UN Envoy Urges Liberians to Prevent grievances turning into Violence / *UNMIL*

Page 10

The Spectator
Friday, 30 November 2007

“Hinga Norman’s death is natural...” Prosecutor

The Prosecutor of the Special Court of Sierra Leone has told the press that the death of late Sam Hinga Norman is natural.

He said the late Chief Norman met his death in Senegal when he was flown to that country for medical treatment. The death occurred on February 3rd this year.

continued page 6

“Hinga Norman’s death is natural...” Prosecutor

From front page

Parliamentarians who were eager to know the circumstances surrounding the death of the late man expressed concern. Hon. Sheriff of the All Peoples Congress noted that the special court should have educated Sierra Leoneans about the late man’s death.

Mr. Kamara explained that the Autopsy that was carried was done in the presence of some members of the late man’s family. He revealed that there were expert doctors to ascertain his death.

Others members of parliament also question that if the people of this country agreed that the special court should stop its operation, the prosecutor said it is indeed the people have the man-date. He noted that the only thing

was that, it was agreement between the government of Sierra Leone and Security Council. He said the issue of the special court was channeled to parliament and was approved. He disclosed that there is lot of money that spent for the establishment of the court.

He concluded that the special court was established to investigate and to try people who bear the greatest responsibility during the war in Sierra Leone. When asked fro aiding and abaiting is another crime as far as war is concerned.

The former president Alhaji Tajan Kabbah will not appear before the court for sponsored the Kamajor. He said it is legal for a government to fight an enemy. He maintained that those that committed atrocities are now before the law for trails.

Cocorioko

Thursday, 29 November 2007

The case against Mouamer Kaddafi : Will Charles Taylor Name and shame him ?

Written by Professor Hassan B. Seisay, Green Bay, Wisconsin, USA

As 2008 approaches the day of reckoning for Charles Taylor draws closer. Soon the former president of Liberia will have his day in court to answer to charges of multiple heinous crimes he allegedly committed against the citizens of Liberia and Sierra Leone. The Case Against Kaddafi: Will Charles Taylor "Name and Shame Him". As 2008 approaches the day of reckoning for Charles Taylor draws closer. Soon the former president of Liberia will have his day in court to answer to charges of multiple heinous crimes he allegedly committed against the citizens of Liberia and Sierra Leone. According to various documented accounts, rebel groups backed by Blaise' Campaore' of Burkina Faso, financed by Moammar Kaddafi of Libya and sponsored by Taylor, meted out unspeakable brutality and savagery on the citizens of Sierra Leone and Liberia during the civil wars in both countries. While Taylor is not facing trial for his heinous abuses of human rights and use of violence to hold on to power in his country, his actions in Sierra Leone will soon be subjected to intense international scrutiny in Geneva. Emphatically, I concur with famed Liberian journalist Abdoulaye W. Dukule's assertion that: AFTER CHARLES TAYLOR, the international community should go after MOAMMAR KADDAFI...AND BLAISE COMPAORE'.

The UN Panel of Experts Report on Diamonds and Arms in Sierra Leone "found conclusive evidence of supply lines to the RUF through Burkina Faso, Niger and Liberia." Without the money, recruitment of rebels and logistic support provided by the above, thousands of our compatriots would be alive today. For his involvement in the Lockerbie bombing that led to the deaths of about 300 people, Gaddafi paid his victims families \$3 billion. Imagine how much he owes Liberia and Sierra Leone for financing Charles Taylor and his rebel militias who killed and maimed nearly half a million people. All accounts indicate that Taylor through his support of Foday Sankoh's Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebel group contributed in the killings and destruction of major portions of Sierra Leone. At its peak RUF rebels, used arms supplied by Libya and transited to them by Taylor to maim, rape and amputate the limbs of hapless Sierra Leoneans. Nearly a million people were displaced from their homes and forced to seek refuge in neighboring countries. It is impossible to determine exactly the level of killings, mutilations, sexual abuse and enslavement of boys and girls perpetuated on Sierra Leoneans by the pro-Libyan RUF militia. In his opening remarks, David Crane, former founding Chief Prosecutor for the UN Special Court for Sierra Leone (2002-2005), accurately described the carnage saying, "what took place in Sierra Leone marks the limits of our language to communicate, and falls outside the realm of expression...[it's] "a tale of horror, beyond the gothic into the realm of Dante's inferno." Crane accused Gaddafi of plotting to destabilize Sierra Leone and Liberia, disclosing that, he "was behind the past decade of war in West Africa." Crane added that the Libyan leader "wanted to geopolitically control West Africa through surrogates such as Liberia's Charles Taylor and Sierra Leone's Foday Sankoh." Crane asserted that Gaddafi was "intimately involved in plotting to take down Sierra Leone," and had considered indicting him, but he decided against it. "Though Kaddafi would not be on trial," he said, "the case would name and shame him."

Sadly, Kaddafi was neither ashamed nor repentant of his actions in Sierra Leone and Liberia. He has openly criticized Nigeria for arresting and handing Charles Taylor to the United Nations Special Court in Sierra Leone for trial, and described it as "an unacceptable precedent that threatened all African leaders." Crane's failure to indict the Libyan leader provoked considerable anger, speculation, and left unanswered many questions. For example, since the rebel forces of both Taylor and Sankoh committed such horrible crimes against civilians with the complicity and financial support of the Libyan leader, why were the West African rebel leaders indicted by the UN Special Court and not Gaddafi? Why should the trainer, financier and purveyor of terrorism in the African continent, and particularly in Sierra and Liberia go unpunished? Why has the international community remained largely silent about Gaddafi's atrocities in Africa. How come his African victims have remained uncompensated compared to those in Europe? Even more startling, why should the Western powers protect an individual whose propensity for harming and killing fellow human beings has been so well documented? United Nations reports reveal that: "virtually all of the arms and money that fuelled the (civil wars in both Liberia and Sierra Leone) were supplied by Libya."

The thought that Kaddafi may have escaped prosecution because Western powers felt he was an asset to them for security and strategic purposes is deeply troubling. This calls for further investigation. On its face it defies logic and appears to be a double standard that does not promote international cohesiveness and law and order. When crimes against humanity are committed we should employ the same standards of investigation and punishment for the perpetrators, and not seek ways to justify or ameliorate their deeds. In announcing the move to renew diplomatic ties with Libya, US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice praised Kaddafi for his nation's : "excellent co-operation in the US-led war on terrorism." Similarly, President George Bush and former Prime Minister Tony Blair heaped unconditional praise on the Libyan leader for his "courage and statesmanship" in giving up his nuclear weapons program. David Welch, US Assistant Secretary of State rationalized that the American decision to renew diplomatic relations with Libya "came after a careful review of Libya's behavior, and "adherence to international norms." Since 1993, this assessment has been contradicted by numerous investigative reports including Amnesty International and the New York-based Human Rights Watch.

The effects of Kaddafi's actions that wreaked havoc on the civilian populations of Sierra Leone and Liberia, are not minimized by the assumption that Kaddafi may have been changing his politics in the eyes of Britain and America. Why then did he escape indictment for his deeds? The answer is simple. It appears Western powers sanitized the Libyan leader, turned a blind eye to his appalling human rights record, helped him to gain international respectability, and presented him to the world community as a reformed leader who merits acceptance by other civilized nations. Earlier, former President Ronald Reagan described Kaddafi as a "barbarian, zealot, and a "flaky" individual. In 1986 Reagan ordered an attack on Libya following the bombing of La Belle discoteque in West Berlin that caused American casualties. Reagan held Kaddafi responsible for terrorism aimed at America, and approved air strikes on the Libyan capital, Tripoli, that resulted in over one hundred people dead including Kaddafi's adopted daughter, Hanna Kaddafi. Egyptian president Anwar Sadat, once described the Libyan leader as 100% insane, while other Arab leaders suggested that Kaddafi's membership in the Arab League should be terminated. How Kaddafi was morphed by western powers from pariah to patron is a long and complicated diplomatic process. Bruce Jentleson, a State Department official in the Clinton administration said this to explain America's reversal of diplomatic direction: "the US didn't make this decision because Kaddafi underwent some full transformation; we still don't like him... but he wanted to stay in power and was willing to move on something important to us, so we struck a deal." Further, Jentleson indicated that Western leaders convinced Kaddafi that if he gave up his nuclear programs and "did a policy change, we would not do regime change." Jon B. Alterman, director of the Middle East Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington D.C. noted : "while some aspects of the Libyan leader's behavior remained objectionable, such as meddling in African politics it never challenged U.S. strategic interests." In other words, although the civil wars in Sierra Leone and Liberia financed by Gaddafi caused the deaths of more than half a million people, massive destruction of property, heinous rapes, displaced two million people, and resulted in immense hardship on the civilian populations of both countries, that unambiguous despicable record of human rights violations was not enough to maintain the diplomatic ostracism of Kaddafi. An exuberant Bush Official even proclaimed that Libya "is out of the terrorism business." The Los Angeles Times put it best in its defense of the new policy: "if any atrocious record on human rights were enough to land a nation on the [terrorist] list, then the U.S. would have to add China, Egypt and Uzbekistan and dozens of others." Gamal Nkrumah, son of the fiery Ghanaian Pan Africanist, writing in the Al-Ahram weekly, a leading Middle East newspaper, described what happened between Washington and Tripoli as "a marriage of convenience cemented by business ties." In short, when the rule of law, morality, human rights, and the so-called wider public and strategic interest collide, the latter prevails.

It is highly possible that the above rationalization and or justification may have influenced the Western powers slow reactions to the horrors in Darfur, Sudan, the Rwandan Massacres; and why the international community took such a long time to end "apartheid" in South Africa. Kaddafi knows too well the strong links in the geopolitical considerations by western powers between the economic, social, political and strategic matters, and how the West is beholding to him by its considerable dependence on Libyan oil. Accordingly, he has been unwavering in using his economic power to gain legitimacy in the eyes of the West. But how has Kaddafi been able to pacify Africa to avert any future investigation for his support of rebels in Liberia and Sierra Leone ? Again, Kaddafi uses his enormous economic power to soothe African nations that he has openly offended or undermined. Cash-strapped governments such as Sierra Leone, Liberia, Zimbabwe and Malawi receive meager financial aid from Tripoli, including sometimes boat loads of rice, obsolete ferries, weapons, and automobiles to be used by government personnel. Such aid is miniscule compared to the billions of dollars the Libyan leader has spent to reimburse European victims of his

alleged terrorist acts. He has become the self-appointed spokesperson of African causes such as human rights violations in Darfur, Chad, Somalia, and the plight of African would be migrants to Europe. Kaddafi also got Africa to violate sanctions the western powers imposed on Libya. Mandela visited Libya during the sanction period, and air travel between the rest of the continent to Libya were resumed despite the sanctions. Further in the late 90s, Kaddafi began a campaign that revived the principles of African unity, as stipulated by the founders of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), and these efforts resulted in the founding of the African Union (AU). Kaddafi seemed to have had an insight into the future, and succeeded in emerging as a true African son. How can a true son of Africa and a promoter of African unity be responsible for destabilizing states, or be held accountable for financing rebel activity in Sierra Leone and Liberia? Why should he (Kaddafi) be made to pay compensation to victims of civil wars in the referred countries? No African head of state has yet confronted him on the above. Rather, there is a surprising silence particularly from Liberia and Sierra Leone, and a seeming willingness by continental leaders to tolerate Kaddafi's highly questionable diplomacy in Africa.

This pro-Kaddafi support notwithstanding, the Libyan leader's activities in Sierra Leone and Liberia will take center stage in Geneva during Taylor's trial in 2008. And as in the past, there will be a number of important questions to ask. For example, why did David Crane the Chief prosecutor in the UN Special court in Sierra Leone consider it expedient to reveal in advance that even though the court had not indicted Gaddafi: "this has not been ruled out?" Was this meant to warn Kaddafi to change his ways or face the consequences? Or did the Libyan leader outwit Western powers by doing what he perceived they wanted done and thereby escape indictment. What other nations and personalities will be implicated in the wars of Liberia and Sierra Leone by Taylor's impending testimony? If Taylor agrees to "name and shame" Kaddafi for being a collaborator, the victims in Sierra Leone and Liberia have a chance for compensation from Kaddafi. Taylor would have validated what has been common knowledge about the source of financing for his crimes, and Taylor and Sankoh's victims will have a credible evidence to go after Kaddafi. To succeed the victims in Liberia and Sierra Leone must organize and be well represented in the same manner as Hissane Habre's victims in Chad. If Taylor decides not to "name and shame" Kaddafi, his and Sankoh's victims still have the basis for compensation because the case against Taylor is being prosecuted on their behalf. Certainly, the activities of Taylor and Sankoh were supported and financed by someone, some people or some foreign governments. Somebody provided the guns to rebel militias, and assisted the Revolutionary United Front rebels to sell their "Blood Diamonds" to European buyers. If and when he is properly cornered, Taylor would name names and avoid going down alone. In anticipation of that possibility, the victims ought to be organized, and demonstrate a presence through legal representation during the trial, to protect their own interests. In addition, the governments of Sierra Leone and Liberia should put considerable pressure on the UN Special Court that is investigating Taylor's atrocities to also consider the actions of his financier and alleged co-conspirator. They should emulate Kaddafi's effective bargaining tactics with the EU and Bulgaria in the matter of his citizen's who were allegedly injected with tainted blood containing the HIV virus. Kaddafi showed little mercy during the bargaining process with the EU and western powers on behalf of his citizen, and was richly rewarded. By implication, Kaddafi may agree to quietly compensate the Liberian and Sierra Leone victims without being "named and shamed" to minimize international criticism and condemnation. It is only when the above materializes that Kaddafi will espouse the true qualities of the nobleman and true son of Africa that he has always wanted to be.

By Professor Hassan B. Sisay,

History Department, St. Norbert College,

Green Bay, Wisconsin

New Vision (Uganda)

Saturday, 25 November 2007

2007 CHOGM Final Communiqué (Excerpt)

Commonwealth heads of government met in Kampala and below are the resolutions they made

-SNIP-

41. International Criminal Court and tribunals

Heads of Government stressed the importance of ending impunity for the perpetrators of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, and took positive note in that context of the work of the international criminal tribunals.

They called on states to contribute to the work of the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

Heads of Government of member countries that had ratified the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court emphasised their support for the Court and urged those states that had not yet done so to accede to the Rome Statute at the earliest opportunity.

-SNIP-

United Nations  Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 29 November 2007

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

International Clips on Liberia

There were no relevant stories on Liberia in the international media today.

International Clips on West Africa

11/29/2007 03:31:41

Ivorian president visits rebel-dominated north in sign of peace

Abidjan/Nairobi _ (dpa) _ Ivorian President Laurent Gbagbo made a symbolic visit to the formerly rebel-held north of the country to extend an olive branch ahead of polls set for next year, an official statement said Thursday. Gbagbo and rebel leader-turned Prime Minister Guillaume Soro were flanked by cheering crowds in Korhogo and insisted the visit was a sign of peace between north and south, which fought a civil war that broke out in 2002.

UPDATE 1-Ivory Coast rebels, army to disarm from Dec 22

By Loucoumane Coulibaly

KORHOGO, Ivory Coast, Nov 29 (Reuters) - Ivory Coast government troops and rebels controlling the country's north will start to disarm by Dec. 22 before forming a new national army, a foreign peace mediator said on Thursday.

France welcomes agreement on Cote d'Ivoire elections

PARIS, Nov 29, 2007 (Xinhua via COMTEX) -- France is pleased with the decision by Cote d'Ivoire's President Laurent Gbagbo and Prime Minister Guillaume Soro to hold parliamentary and presidential elections during the first quarter of 2008, the French foreign ministry said Thursday.

Local Media – Newspaper

There were no newspapers today due to a national holiday in Liberia.

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

Finance Ministry Sacks Employees for Dishonesty

- According to a release issued in Monrovia yesterday, the Ministry of Finance dismissed its Acting Director for Tax Enforcement Wellington Bedell, Administrative Assistant in the Office of the Assistant Minister for Revenue Ms. Stanelus Wesseh and Senior Inspector in the Small Tax Unit Putu Sayeh for practicing dishonesty in the discharge of their duties.

(Also reported on Star Radio, SKY FM, Truth FM and ELBS)

Finance Ministry Fines Businesses for Profiteering

- A Ministry of Commerce release said that the Ministry fined the Friendship Trade Incorporated more than US\$4,000 and the SK Blo Business Centre LD\$1,500 (Liberian Dollars) for selling copybooks above the Government's stipulated price and hiking the price of rice on the local market respectively.

(Also reported on Star Radio, SKY FM, Truth FM and ELBS)

Doss Says Government Responsible for National Security

- The Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Alan Doss said that the Government of Liberia has ultimate responsibility for national security while clarifying that some Liberia National Police Officers have been armed while others were being armed.
 - In an interview yesterday, Mr. Doss stated that security of the United Nations Mission in Liberia participates in night patrols with other security personnel with some being armed.
 - Concerning the recent killing of the Liberia Agricultural Company plantation manager, Bruno Michel, Mr. Doss indicated that although the fatal shooting of the Belgian was an isolated incident, such act could cast shadows on progress made in improving security in the Country.
- (Also reported on Star Radio, SKY FM, Truth FM and ELBS)*

Sweden Agrees to Scrap Liberia's Debt of US\$12m

- Speaking during the visit to Sweden of President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, the Swedish Prime Minister Frederik Reinfeldt announced that Sweden would cancel Liberia's US\$12 million bilateral debt, indicating his Country's desire for Liberia's development the next few years.
- According to a release issued by the Executive Mansion, the Swedish also pledged their commitment to Liberia's long-term development as well as to the work of Liberia's Truth and Reconciliation Commission as it is a core to sustaining democracy after years of conflict.
- The Swedish leader further disclosed his Government's support for Liberia's senior executive service programme which aims to build civil service capacity by repatriating Liberians from the diaspora.
- For her part, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf expressed her delight that the economic programmes which have been at the centre of Government's agenda have been recognized by Sweden. She added that she was happy that Sweden sees Liberia as a partner by placing the Country on its focus group of Countries and pledged to consolidate the progress made by her Government so far.

(Also reported on Star Radio, SKY FM, Truth FM and ELBS)

Government Rebuffs Brumskine's Claims

- Information Minister Dr. Laurence Bropleh said that the Government thought Cllr. Charles Brumskine's claim that it was fabricating a scheme to arrest him in the wake of the killing of the Liberia Agricultural Company (LAC) plantation Manager Bruno Michel was incorrect, and called on Brumskine to substantiate his allegation.

(Also reported on Star Radio, SKY FM, Truth FM and ELBS)

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. Weah Karpeh at karpeh@un.org.

Outgoing UN Envoy urges Liberians to prevent grievances turning into violence

Buchanan, Grand Bassa County, Liberia – UN Envoy, Mr. Alan Doss, has called on citizens of Grand Bassa County and all Liberians to work together to prevent grievances from turning into violence which could send the country backwards after more than 14 years of civil war.

Mr. Doss was addressing representatives of local communities living around the Liberian Agricultural Company (LAC) Rubber Plantation where the Belgian Plantation Manager, Mr. Bruno Michiels, was shot and killed about two weeks ago, amidst a tense dispute between the company and some local communities opposed to a fresh expansion of the plantation onto their land.



SRSG Doss speaking with community members living on the edge of the LAC Plantation

“Mistakes have been made and we must all learn from these mistakes,” the Special Representative of the Secretary-General said. “Let us learn from this terrible experience and say this is not our way and we will move forward, away from violence, and make this county and country a great place,” he added.

The UN Envoy condemned the violent events that resulted in the murder of the plantation manager. “We deeply deplore the loss of life, any life. This did not have to happen,” he observed, adding, “this crime must be thoroughly investigated and prosecuted”. However, he cautioned against any reprisals directed at local communities.

Liberia’s Justice Minister, Counsellor Philip Banks, who joined the SRSG on the trip stressed that those responsible for the murder must be found, charged and prosecuted according to the law. “This government stands for law and order. We need you to work with us for law and order,” he said. “Let us make sure that we do not go back to the years of violence and civil conflict.” He promised to present the people’s grievances to the government.



SRSG Doss speaking with LAC’s Deputy General Manager, Pascal Desmedt, as UNMIL officials Paul Egunsola and Idris Ibrahim listen

County Superintendent Julia Duncan Cassell also encouraged the local communities to pursue peaceful means when dealing with problems. “We are here to reassure you that peace is here to say. Bassa people are peace-loving people,” she said.

Also on the trip were Liberia National Police (LNP) Inspector-General, Ms. Beatrice Munah Sieh, local political leaders, and a number of UNMIL officials. The trip took the delegation from the County capital in Buchanan, to the LAC Rubber Plantation and then to a community town hall meeting with local communities from the Wee and Kpoegebahn Statutory Districts (former Electoral Districts Number 3 and 4).

The joint UNMIL/Government delegation also visited the offices of the LAC management where Mr. Doss expressed his condolences over the killing of their colleague. He also urged the plantation management to re-open the dialogue with the communities and pledged to put additional UNMIL security forces into the area if required.