

**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:**

Friday, 31 October 2008

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

### Why ECOWAS Was Divided Over Taylor?

As the Herculean UN-backed Special Court or Sierra Leone's trial of former Liberian 'Warlord' and ex-President Charles Taylor is wrapping up its findings in the Hague, Netherlands with the verdict to be rendered soon, one intrigue that persistently lingers in the minds of many people is why ECOWAS and African leaders' were generally divided with regards to supporting Charles Taylor's rebel cause? Many French-speaking countries favoured Taylor, while the ECOAS English-speaking states generally toed the anti-Taylor line.

Certainly the fact of the matter is that after over 30 years since the crisis in Liberia broke out, certain people who are not very much abreast with the realities, due to the information Limbo may begin making their own individual conclusions out of their figments of imagination. Some of them have even erroneously began stating that at the onset of the Liberian rebel war, ECOWAS leaders were divided, with the English-speaking states supporting Charles Taylor, while the ECOWAS French speaking countries embraced the incumbent Liberian President at the time, the later President Samuel K. Doe.

To set the record straight, this is a distortion and misrepresentation of facts that should not be condoned. The English speaking ECOWAS countries were overwhelmingly in support of President Samuel Kanyon Doe, most probably on the grounds that if Taylor is given the chance to accede to power through armed struggle, that is to say rebel-war or 'the barrel of the gun' in gross violation of constitutional provisions, many other rebel leaders will be encouraged to emerge, to wage internal insurrections that would eventually paralyze the entire sub-region.

The above school of thought was spearheaded by the Nigeria President at the time, General Ibrahim Badamosi Babangida, a personal friend of President Doe. One symbolic landmark of the fraternal ties between

Babangida and Doe of Liberia was that Nigeria granted over a million dollars to Liberia for the establishment of the Ibrahim Babangida Graduate School of Government and International Affairs for post graduate studies in political science at the University of Liberia; and this happened during a historic state visit that the Nigerian leader made to Monrovia upon the invitation of Doe. General Babangida also made a similar high profile State visit to Sierra Leone.

After Sergeant Samuel Doe's military overthrow of President William R. Tolbert in April 1980, there was a serious deterioration of the bilateral relations between Liberia and Sierra Leone; something that was highly cemented by President Siaka Stevens and Tolbert culminating into the formation of the Mano River Union between the two English-speaking neighbours. But once President Joseph Saidu Momoh ascended to power, the Liberian and Sierra Leonean leaders again normalized Liberia and Sierra Leone relations within the framework of the Mano River Union, to the extent that when Charles Taylor rebels invaded Liberia in December 1989, the APC regime in Sierra Leone was among the first countries to condemn the rebel attack. Sierra Leone also played a pivotal role in the setting up of the ECOWAS supported interim Government of Dr. Amos Sawyer, the mobilization of ECOMOG troops in Freetown and their eventual deployment to the Prince Johnson controlled free Port of Monrovia section of Monrovia.

Prince Johnson a former Liberian Army soldier who hails from Nimba county the base of the anti-Doe rebellion like ex-corporal Foday Sankoh one of the battlefield Commanders of Charles Taylor's rebel movement who underwent guerilla training in Libya. But once the NPFL contingent led by Johnson first over-ran most of Monrovia in June, 1990 Prince Johnson broke away from Taylor to form the Independent NPFL, thereby posing a serious threat to both Samuel Doe's Government troops and

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### Why ECOWAS Was Divided Over Taylor?

Taylor's main NPFL faction. This was why ECOMOG tried to use Johnson as a dependable ally against Charles Taylor's renegade rebels, the only faction that refused to abide by an ECOWAS dictated ceasefire.

The ECOMOG troop contributing states were initially: Nigeria, who footed the lion's share of the bill, including the provision of military hardware and logistics. Essentially after the Ghanaian commander of the first constituted ECOMOG contingents that entered Liberia, General Arnold Quainoo made a colossal blunder that led to the capture and execution of President Doe on the 9<sup>th</sup> September, 1990 ECOMOG was from that moment always headed by a Nigerian Army Field Commander. Gen. Quainoo was replaced by General Joshua Dogonyaro. Other ECOMOG troop contributing countries apart from Nigeria and Ghana were Sierra Leone, Guinea and the Gambia.

As Field Marshal Prince Johnson, now a Senator in the Liberian Legislature recently disclosed before the Liberian Truth and Reconciliation Commission (LTRC), both the Ivory Coast and Burkina Faso were aligned to Charles Taylor or one reason or the other. Reports had it that when Sergeant Samuel Doe deposed the well entrenched ruling class in Liberia on the 12 April 1980; he went ahead with the summary execution of

several top Government officials including ministers, and legislators of the ousted regime, and even the son of the late President Tolbert, who was senator A. Benedict Tolbert who happens to be the son-in-law of President the late Ivorian President Felix Houphouet-Boigny etc.

Because of the late Ivorian leaders high influence among French speaking ECOWAS countries many of whom consider Abidjan, the Ivorian capital the nerve center of the francophone west African sub-regional commerce and politics; not only did President Boigny financially supported Charles Taylor's rebel cause to overthrow Samuel Doe, but offered diplomatic assistance to Taylor among French-speaking states, such as Togo, Benin, Mali, Burkina Faso etc. He also granted considerable material and logistic support including the recruitment of dissident Liberians in the Ivory Coast for eventual training at camps in Burkina Faso and Libya.

This was why at the initial stage of the Liberian crisis, Charles Taylor was able to wield considerable diplomatic edge among ECOWAS states not only for delaying every peace process and peace accords that were signed in the sub-region meant to return peace and normalcy to both Liberia and Sierra Leone, but to buy time to continue to plunder the mineral resources of both countries for sale in exchange for arms and ammunition to prolong the rebel war.

Standard Times  
Friday, 31 October 2008

# \$3 million reparation in limbo

The much talked about Three Million Dollars meant for the reparation of war wounded civilians is at the moment a dream yet to come true. War wounded civilians, who suffered as a result of the eleven-year-old war launched by the Revolutionary United Front are now faced with an unpredictable future, not knowing when funds would be made available to them.

The Three Million Dollars allocated to kick-start the process has been tucked somewhere unknown to them. The money is to be used to prepare them for a six-year

project, which would help the war wounded a long way to put the sufferings behind their backs. Although, it would not cure the wounds already sustained, but would improve their lives.

Mr. Buya Kamara, Director of the Reparation Unit at NaCSA informed Journalists yesterday at a press conference that the money expected to kick-start the programme is not yet available. However, he said that preparations are in process, citing work already done; such as printing of cards and laying the ground work. "We are working" Mr. Kamara said.

The reparation programme for war wounded civilians, it would be recalled; was part of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission recommendations.

It is not known when the start-up funds would be made available to the victims. About 75% of the \$3 Million should go towards education of children of the families of the war wounded, and other needs while the 25% for administrative arrangements. NASCA it is reported has constructed a number of housing units for some of the victims.

Awoko

Friday, 31 October 2008

# West Africa defence chiefs meet in Guinea

A meeting of West Africa defence chiefs has opened in the Guinean capital, Conakry, with the country's Prime Minister, Mr. Ahmed Tidiane Souare, praising the professionalism and dedication of the region's armed forces, which contributed to the prevailing atmosphere of peace and security in the region.

According to a statement from the ECOWAS Commission, the Prime Minister also acknowledged the complementary role of the increasing commitment of

member states to human rights and dialogue.

He said that the improving security situation had contributed to reducing the proliferation of arms in the region, further helping to consolidate regional peace and security.

Souare urged the meeting, the last statutory meeting of the chiefs for 2008, to focus on strategies for consolidating peace and concord in the region so as to provide an atmosphere conducive for the harmonious development of the region and its peoples.

Earlier, the ECOWAS

Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, Col. Mahamane Toure, urged the region's security agencies to commit themselves to the defence of democracy, peace and security.

While the region is enjoying the return of peace and security in the region, the Commissioner said new security challenges had emerged in the form of narcotics, trafficking in persons and small arms.

He warned of the dangers to the society by

the trafficking in drugs and the income from such sources, pointing out that this has been compounded in Guinea Bissau by the outbreak of cholera.

Col. Toure also briefed the chiefs on the efforts by the ECOWAS Commission to secure enough ratifications to ensure the implementation of the ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons to check the proliferation of such arms in the region.

He said that six of the required eight ratifications had been secured and urged

the chiefs to further assist in the campaign for ratification.

The two-day meeting of the Committee of Chiefs of Defence Staff, one of the ECOWAS instruments for promoting regional peace and security, will among others agree on an information and communication strategy for the ECOWAS Standby Force (ESF) and the restructuring of the logistic depot in Sierra Leone.

The restructuring will

involve its re-designation as an ECOWAS Logistic Facility and as a unit under the ECOWAS Department of Peacekeeping and Security. In addition, it will be managed by professional staff who will be headed by a manager. The meeting will also discuss a proposal for a US\$3 million logistic field training exercise in 2009 for the ESF to test the logistic capacity of the force for peace support operations.

During the meeting, the Chiefs will participate in some of the activities to mark the 50th anniversary of Guinea and the creation of its armed forces.

## BBC World Service Trust

Friday, 30 October 2008

### Report from The Hague

Former Liberian President Charles Taylor is in detention in the Dutch City of The Hague. But does he still enjoy something that resembles presidential immunity? Is Mr. Taylor still driven in a convoy as he used to do during his presidency in Liberia? As Joseph Cheeseman reports, Mr. Taylor still enjoys some level of presidential immunity even though he's a detainee.

CHEESEMAN: It was 4:30pm Netherlands time, and the day was Wednesday, the temperature was about 11 degrees Celsius when one of Dutch security details assigned to Mr. Taylor stepped out of the fence of the International Criminal Court and halted vehicles and pedestrians moving before the ICC building.

Every moving thing before the ICC stood still under the biting cold and suddenly the black small car conveying Mr. Taylor rushed out of the fence and drove away. The rushing car of Mr. Taylor almost hit a cyclist who didn't know why we were stopped.

Mr. Taylor is driven in a convoy, but not as long as it used to be when he was President in Liberia. This time there are only two cars in the former Liberian leader's convoy, and he still carries siren, but this time not as a president, but as an international prisoner.

Mr. Taylor is accused of war crimes and crimes against humanity in an indictment that runs from November 1996 to January 18, 2002.

Meanwhile, the Prosecution's 79<sup>th</sup> witness, a 60 year old Sierra Leonean man with two hands amputated, was driven to the witness stand in a wheel chair today Thursday.

Mr. Mustapha Mansaray first told the Judges his Uncle Gibril Turay, a farmer, was dispossessed of his farm produce and later beheaded by the rebels in a Sierra Leonean village called Moala in Pujahun District.

WITNESS: and once he had been beheaded the head was jumping for about five minutes and the head was talking even before he died finally.

KOUMJIAN: Were you present when your uncle was decapitated?

Witness: Yes.

CHEESEMAN: After Mr. Mansaray called the name of his dead uncle, Defence lawyer Morris Anyah quickly rose to his feet said and the Prosecution had violated the principle of disclosure. Mr. Anyah said the Prosecution document given the Defence did not carry the name of Mr. Mansaray's dead uncle so the evidence about the decapitation should be omitted.

The Prosecution told the Judges they made full disclosure to the Defence. Having listened to legal arguments from both sides, Justice Julia Sebutinde delivered the ruling of the Special Court.

JUSTICE SEBUTINDE: 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. This is his right under the statute. We also recognise that in this case this was not done, as is the

duty of the Prosecution to have done so. However, we believe that 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.

CHEESEMAN: From his wheel chair, Mr. Mansaray punched the air with the remains 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 the town of Tombodu in 1998.

WITNESS: Then they pushed the mortar close to me. They started chopping off our left hands. Then I laid my hand on it.

KOUMJIAN: What happened after you put your hand on the mortar?

WITNESS: Then Staff Alhaji chopped it. After he had chopped it off he told me again to put this one. Then he chopped it. At that time gunmen were behind us just to prevent anyone from escaping because he said if anyone attempted to escape that person should be shot. Then I put this other hand. Then he chopped it.

KOUMJIAN: What happened to the other men?

WITNESS: Then they pushed the mortar towards the other man and they chopped off his two hands too. then they put Mr Sorie's hand too on the mortar, Staff Alhaji. Then he cut it. Then he put the other one there again. Then he cut that too. Then he went backwards. Then he fell down. Then he died.

CHEESEMAN: The Prosecution witness, Mustapha Mansaray, who had his hands amputated, was also paralyzed by stroke. Before concluding his testimonies, Mr. Mansaray blamed his paralysis on Charles Taylor. He said Charles Taylor announced on the BBC that Sierra Leone would taste the bitterness of war. Mr. Mansaray told the Court his amputation leading to stroke was his share of that bitterness spoken of by Charles Taylor. The witness told the Judges the rebels that entered his town spoke Gio, Gola and Vai. The Prosecution 80<sup>th</sup> witness took the stand shortly before the adjournment of Taylor's trial today Thursday.

**BBC**

Thursday, 30 October 2008

### **Liberia ex-leader's son convicted**

By Will Ross

BBC West Africa correspondent

Chuckie Taylor led a notorious anti-terror unit while his father ruled Liberia  
A Miami jury has convicted the son of former Liberian President Charles Taylor for torture and conspiracy.

"Chuckie" Taylor - who was born in the United States as Charles McArthur Emmanuel - faces a possible life sentence for the crimes.

They were committed between 1999 and 2003, a period when he was in charge of a notorious Liberian military unit.

The case was the first test of a 1994 US law allowing the prosecution of citizens who commit torture overseas.

Charles Taylor is awaiting his fate at a court in The Hague - he denies 11 counts of crimes against humanity and war crimes.

Chuckie Taylor is due to be sentenced on 9 January.

### **Torturing group**

Both father and son have fallen from positions of great power and, if Charles Taylor is found guilty, both would face the prospect of lengthy spells behind bars.

Charles Taylor Snr faces war crimes charges in The Hague

When his father seized power in Liberia in 1997, Chuckie Taylor moved to the country and was made the head of the notorious Anti-Terrorist Unit (ATU) while in his early 20s.

This elite pro-government military division was widely feared in Liberia and there is no doubt it was responsible for the torture of many people.

The crimes were especially brutal when the unit was cracking down on a rebellion which began in 1999.

At his US trial, Chuckie Taylor was accused of committing or conspiring to commit executions, imprisoning a group of individuals in a hole in the ground, burning victims and administering electric shocks.

The Miami jury made a direct link between some incidents of torture and the defendant, who is now 31.

### **Milestone for justice**

Defence lawyers had said many of the witnesses lied in a bid to win political asylum in the US or to settle political vendettas.



We now look to the Department of Justice to bring more cases like this one.

Human Rights Watch, the US-based watchdog, described the verdict as a milestone for ensuring justice for atrocities.

"Never before has torture committed abroad been prosecuted in the United States," said Elise Keppler, senior counsel for Human Rights Watch's International Justice Program.

"We now look to the Department of Justice to bring more cases like this one."

A Liberian minister told the BBC the verdict sent a message that nobody - regardless of how powerful they are - can get away with unspeakable crimes.

Liberia is currently trying to heal from years of war and at nationwide hearings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, victims are recounting the heinous crimes that tore the country apart.

## Human Rights Watch

Thursday, 30 October 2008

### U.S. - First Verdict for Overseas Torture

#### PRESS RELEASE

Today's verdict in the US trial of Charles "Chuckie" Taylor, Jr. for torture committed in Liberia is a significant step to ensure that victims see justice and that perpetrators do not expect sanctuary in the United States, Human Rights Watch said. The jury in the trial, which has been taking place at a Miami federal court since September 29, found the defendant guilty on all counts today.

Chuckie Taylor is the son of former Liberian President Charles Taylor, who is on trial for war crimes by the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone. Chuckie Taylor was charged with torture and conspiracy to commit torture between 1997 and 2003 while he headed Liberia's notorious Anti-Terrorist Unit (ATU) during his father's presidency.

The Taylor case is the first brought under a 14-year-old federal law that allows the United States to bring charges against a person accused of torture abroad if the accused is in the United States or is an American citizen (18 USC § 2340A).

"Today's verdict is a milestone in ensuring justice for atrocities," said Elise Keppler, senior counsel for Human Rights Watch's International Justice Program. "Never before has torture committed abroad been prosecuted in the United States. We now look to the Department of Justice to bring more cases like this one."

Taylor, Jr., an American citizen born in Massachusetts, was taken into custody on March 30, 2006, while trying to enter the United States from Trinidad. He was initially charged with passport fraud and pleaded guilty. On December 6, 2006, the day before his sentencing, he was indicted on torture charges.

For a more detailed discussion of the charges against Chuckie Taylor for torture and other issues in the case, Human Rights Watch has prepared a question and answer document on the trial.

Cases involving atrocities committed abroad are complex to investigate and try, but they are sometimes the only available means to bring perpetrators of grave human rights violations to justice. Following many years of conflict, Liberia's courts have yet to try individuals for atrocities committed then, although a truth and reconciliation commission has been established. No existing international tribunals have the mandate to prosecute past crimes in Liberia.

"The decision handed down today has major significance for victims in Liberia," Keppler said. "Prosecutions for human rights violations committed abroad can play a vital role in ensuring perpetrators of the worst crimes are held to account. Today's verdict is a signal to torturers around the world to beware."

During the trial, the parties called more than 20 witnesses to testify. Prosecution witnesses included victims, former bodyguards and members of the ATU, and US government employees involved in investigating the crimes. Defense witnesses included residents of the area where the alleged incidents occurred who testified that they never saw Chuckie Taylor commit torture and that they were not aware of the alleged incidents.

Until last year, torture was the only serious crime that could be prosecuted when committed abroad in cases in which neither the alleged perpetrator nor the victim is an American citizen. In December 2007, the Genocide Accountability Act made it a federal crime for anyone in the United States or for any American citizen to commit genocide anywhere. Similar legislation on recruitment of child soldiers was signed into law on October 3, 2008.

"Laws that make human rights violations committed abroad a prosecutable offense in the United States have increased in recent years," Keppler said. "The Department of Justice should make sure that when the appropriate cases arise, they make use of these laws."

The extraterritorial torture statute is also applicable to US officials. Human Rights Watch has urged the Department of Justice to conduct a criminal investigation of senior officials implicated in torture of detainees abroad.

### **Background on the Anti-Terrorist Unit**

Charles Taylor created the ATU shortly after his inauguration as Liberia's president in 1997. The ATU was initially used to protect government buildings and the international airport and to provide security for the presidency and some foreign embassies. However, following the emergence of an insurgency aimed at unseating then-President Taylor in 1999, the ATU's responsibilities were expanded to include combat and other war-related duties.

Information available to Human Rights Watch suggests that while Charles Taylor, Jr. headed the ATU, the unit committed torture, including violent assaults, rape, and fatal beatings and burning of civilians. Information available to Human Rights Watch also suggests that the ATU committed war crimes, including extrajudicial killing of civilians and prisoners, rape, and other torture, abduction, and the recruitment of child soldiers.

## **UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries 30 October 2008**

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

### **Newspaper Summary**

#### **U.S. Gives US\$7M for ERU Headquarters**

(The Informer)

- The U.S. Government has provided US\$7 million for the construction of the headquarters of the Emergency Response Unit (ERU) of the Liberia National Police. Speaking Wednesday at the groundbreaking ceremony, U.S. Ambassador to Liberia, Linda Thomas-Greenfield said the U.S. through the Department of State Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs is providing the fund for the project. Also speaking at the programme, Police Inspector General, Beatrice Munah Sieh-Brown expressed gratitude to the governments of the U.S. and Ireland for their support to the unit.
- The building which is due to be completed in June 2009 will house the ERU command, provide training, weapons, communications and other equipment for the development of the unit.
- Recently, the U.S. Government donated a consignment of arms and safety equipment to the ERU. The UNDP has also donated more than 40 vehicles to the Liberia National Police for use by the ERU as part of the Irish Government's assistance in strengthening the police and helping to fight crimes in the country.

#### **More Gender-Based Violence Cases Reported .... says UN Police Commissioner**

(The Informer)

- UN Police Commissioner, Mr. Henrik Stiernblad says statistics available show that instances of gender-based violence are now being reported more frequently in Liberia compared to the past. Speaking in Sanniquellie, Nimba County, when he handed over the rehabilitated Sanniquellie Police Station and a newly-built Women and Children Protection unit attached to the police station, Commissioner Stiernblad stressed the importance of women speaking out and reporting crimes of gender-based violence, even if a family member or close relative is involved in the reported crime.
- The rehabilitation and construction of the LNP's facilities which were funded by the government of Norway and implemented by the UNDP, is part of Norway's capacity building and institutional support to the LNP in strengthening the rule of law in post-war Liberia.
- The Women and Children Protection unit is among several police stations being built and rehabilitated by the Norwegian government throughout the country to assist the LNP in the fight against crimes affecting women and children.

#### **Nine Ghanaian Sailors Sentenced to 10 Years Imprisonment**

(The Inquirer, The Informer, National Chronicle, Heritage, New Democrat, Daily Observer)

- The media reports that Criminal Court "C" at the Temple of Justice has sentenced nine Ghanaians to 10 years imprisonment after they were found guilty of trafficking cocaine. The nine Ghanaians were arrested early this year by a French naval vessel with 90 barrels of cocaine worth US\$ 500 million dollars. They were later turned over to government for prosecution. Judge Emmanuel Kollie in his ruling said the men were being sentenced in accordance with the law. The men have also been fined US\$100,000 to be paid before the vessel, Blue Atlantic anchored at the Freeport of Monrovia be removed. Lawyers representing the Ghanaians have announced an appeal to the Supreme Court.

## **President Sirleaf Marks 70th Birthday with a Renewed Commitment to Service**

(Daily Observer, New Vision, New Democrat, The Inquirer)

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf on Wednesday marked her 70th birthday with the formal launching of the Ellen Johnson Sirleaf Academic Challenge. Speaking at a ceremony to mark the event at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the President expressed hope that the exercise will reignite the quest for academic excellence among Liberian youths as they prepare for the future. The Liberian leader, an Executive Mansion release says, thanked the youth groups for celebrating with her on her natal day and called on them to work harder as they prepare to take over the mantle of leadership.
- The program, which was interspersed with songs and remarks of commendation for the Liberian leader, also featured an inaugural academic challenge between St. Teresa Convent and the William V.S. Tubman High School. President Johnson Sirleaf was also presented gifts by the Mano River Youth Parliament, Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA), the Development Advocates, the Federation of Liberian Youth (FLY) and the Ministry of Youth and Sports. The program was organized by the Federation of Liberian Youth in collaboration with the Mano River Union Youth Parliament.

## **Liberian Journalists, Former BBC Editor Testify Before TRC**

(Daily Observer, Public Agenda, The News, New Vision, Heritage, New Democrat)

- A former TV anchor of the Liberia Broadcasting System (ELBC), Kwame Clement has provided a detailed account before the Liberian Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) on the circumstances surrounding the death of his former workmate, Charles Gbeyon who was killed in the aftermath of the failed 1985 coup invasion. Journalist Clement and the late Charles Gbeyon were working with the state-owned LBS when the late General Thomas Quiwonkpa and his men staged the failed invasion.
- Journalist Clement, who is now based in the United States but arrived last week to give his testimonies before the commission said, "I was in prison when I received information that Charles had died. I think his death made it possible for me to live because after his death there was a huge public outcry", he added with emotions.
- Also appearing before the commission Wednesday was Isaac Bantu, a Liberian journalist formerly with the BBC who was accused by Senator Prince Johnson of taking his money and not publishing an interview he had with him. Mr Bantu accused the former INPFL General of being a "liar" saying Mr. Johnson cannot buy his integrity.
- The former BBC Editor, Mr. Robin White who also testified at the TRC media hearings said interviews with former President Charles Taylor was intended to expose the kind of man he was and also to get the truth from him.

## **EPA Hold Roundtable on Land Management**

(The Inquirer)

- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today Thursday held a one-day workshop for sustainable land management project. The workshop will be held under the theme: "Mainstreaming and Capacity Building for Sustainable Land Management in Liberia". According to an EPA statement, the three-year sustainable land management project is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Government of Liberia and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The workshop is part of efforts by Liberia to meet its obligation to implement the UN's convention to combat desertification to which Liberia government is a signatory.

## **Libya Ready for Massive Investment in Liberia**

(The Inquirer)

- The Chargé d'Affaires of the Libyan People's Bureau of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Aymen T. A. Shah, on Tuesday, October 28, 2008, told an audience of fellow diplomats, government officials, lawmakers and others that his country plans to carry out massive investment in the country, saying that Libya is pleased with the level of economic and diplomatic relations with Liberia. Mr. Shah spoke at programmes marking the 39<sup>th</sup>

celebration of the Great Al-Fateh Revolution of the Libyan Jamahiriya. He told the gathering that the Libyan government plans to construct a rubber factory in the country that would produce semi-finished rubber products for domestic consumption and export.

## **Radio Summary**

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

### **Court Sentenced Nine Ghanaians to 10 Years Imprisonment**

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

### **US\$7M for ERU Headquarters**

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

## **Forum on Sustainable Land Management Takes Place in Monrovia Today**

### **Supreme Court Set Date Assignment for Senate Leadership Tussle Case**

- The Supreme Court has assigned argument into the leadership crisis that has engulfed the Liberian Senate for next Tuesday.
- Recently, the “embattled” Senator Pro-tempore, Isaac Nyenabo and the National Democratic Party of Liberia (NDPL) took the Senate to the Supreme Court for what they termed as his illegal suspension from the leadership of the Senate.
- Following that, the Justice in Chambers, Jamesetta Wolokollie later ordered the reinstatement of Mr. Nyenabo something the Senate is yet to do citing constitutional implications.

## **Truth F.M.** *(News monitored today at 10:00 am)*

### **LWSC Announces Plans to Extend Services to Rural Liberia**

- The Liberia Water and Sewer Corporation (LWSC) has announced plans to expand its water supply to rural Liberia.
- The corporation said the pending expansion project is in keeping with the growth of its capacity.
- In an interview, LWSC Managing Director, Hun-bu Tulay said the rural expansion will commence in Zwedru Grand Gedeh County and that it will cost more than US\$200.000 to provide safe drinking water for that city.

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## African Press Agency

Thursday, 30 October 2008

### **Journalist confirms Sierra Leonean rebels were trained in Liberia**

Liberia-TRC-Rebels

APA-Monrovia (Liberia)- A Liberian journalist working for the Cable News Network (CNN) William Burke, has confirmed that the disbanded Sierra Leonean rebel group, the Revolutionary United front (RUF) was organized and trained in Charles Taylor's rebel headquarters of Gbarnga in 1990.

Burke who was captured and taken to Taylor's rebel headquarters when the war entered the capital Monrovia in 1990, said he was in Gbarnga when the training began and talked to Foday sankoh who later became leader of the RUF rebel movement.

He was testifying Wednesday at a special Thematic TRC hearing for journalists which ended Wednesday.

The Thematic hearing brought together foreign journalists, including former BBC Focus on Africa Editor Robbin White as well as Liberian journalists resident in the United States.

Charles Taylor is currently undergoing trial at the International Court of Justice in the Hague on 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity for his role in the Sierra Leone conflict.