

**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, 4 December 2009

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

Thursday, 3 December 2009

Taylor denies that his NPFL fighters took People's property

Liberia's former President Charles Taylor has denied allegations that his fighters forcibly took people's property during the country's 15-year civil war. Mr. Taylor said those who attempted confiscating people's belongings were dealt with by him. But Prosecuting Attorney, Brenda Hollis, accused him of misleading the court.

Mr. Taylor also rejected suggestions that arms and ammunition were supplied to his rebel group, the NPFL, by Libya. Mr. Taylor has been closely questioned about the period during which he was preparing the revolution that overthrew President Samuel Doe in 1989-90. He said that by the time he launched his invasion of Liberia, his NPFL fighters had acquired all the arms and ammunition they needed. This was a moment of tense exchange between the former Liberian leader and prosecutor Brenda Hollis. It was all over alleged looting and seizure of property by the NPFL fighters loyal to Mr. Taylor when they entered Liberia.

Mr. Taylor said although most fighters did not live in their own homes, the NPFL followed customary practices of asking local Chiefs to provide lodging, while other residents simply offered the use of their homes to the Front.

Mr. Taylor also disclosed that he received one million US dollars from Taiwan which he said was used to finance his Presidential campaign and setup the Charles Ghankay Taylor foundation.

Meanwhile the judges have granted a request from the prosecution to introduce fresh material which will challenge some of the evidence given by Mr. Taylor in his defence.

The trial of Mr. Taylor continues in The Hague, The Netherlands.

The Exclusive
Friday, 4 December 2009

Taylor Grant Liberian Citizenship To Sierra Leone Rebels

- Prosecutors Question

Prosecutors today questioned former Liberian president Charles Taylor on his decision to grant

Liberian citizenship to Sierra Leonean rebel forces who relocated to Liberia in December 1999 after falling out with the Sierra
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Taylor Grant Liberian Citizenship To Sierra Leone Rebels

From front page

Leonean rebel group's hierarchy.

Mr. Taylor has long stated in his direct-examination that when Sierra Leone's notorious rebel commander Sam Bockarie became a hinderance to the peace process in the country and eventually fell out with Revolutionary United Front (RUF) leader Foday Sankoh, West African leaders took a decision to get Mr. Bockarie out of Sierra Leone and have him relocated to Liberia. As Mr. Bockarie departed Sierra Leone for Liberia, hundreds of his loyal rebel fighters

followed him to Liberia. Prosecution witnesses have testified that Mr. Bockarie relocated to Liberia on the invitation of Mr. Taylor. The former Liberian leader has denied these assertions. Mr. Taylor has stated that upon arrival in Liberia, Mr. Bockarie and his rebel followers were all granted Liberian citizenship before Mr. Bockarie's followers were recruited into Liberia's Anti-Terrorist Unit (ATU).

During his cross-examination to

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Taylor Grant Liberian Citizenship To Sierra Leone Rebels

From page 4

day, prosecution counsel Mr. Nicholas Koumjian asked Mr. Taylor under what authority he had granted Liberian citizenship to Mr. Bockarie.

"Under the constitution of Liberia and long standing practice," Mr. Taylor responded.

When the Liberian constitution was presented to Mr. Taylor, the former president referred the court to Chapter 4, Article 27, sub-sections (b) and (c) and explained that "the constitution does not spell out exactly but statutes are enacted." The former president read sub-sections (b) and (c) of the above Article of the Constitution which provide that:

b) In order to preserve, foster and maintain the positive Liberian culture, values and character, only persons who are Negroes or of Negro descent shall qualify by birth or by naturalization to be citizens of Liberia.

c) The Legislature shall, adhering to the above standard, prescribe such other qualification criteria for and the procedures by which naturalization may be obtained.

Mr. Taylor told the court that "based on those provisions and the legal advise that i received and based on long standing practice from President Tubman, I had the right to grant citizenship."

Mr. Koumjian referred Mr. Taylor to a document titled An Act to Establish Citizenship and Naturalization Law of 1973 and amended in 1974.

Mr. Taylor immediately raised concerns about the document, saying "I don't know when this document was published. Laws are amended but at the time i was president and the legal advise that was given to me was this particular practice and so i'll want to look at the Title 3 of the Liberian Code of Laws of 1956.

Justice Julia Sebutinde intervened to say that the 1973 Act (as amended in 1974) makes clear that Title 3 had been repealed and was replaced by Title 4.

Reading from Article 21 of the 1973 Act (as amended in 1974), Mr. Koumjian explained that sub-sections (a) and (b) make clear that a person becomes qualified for naturalization as a Liberian citizen if he has maintained continued lawful residence in the country for at least two years, and that the person has resided in the country from the day of filing the petition to the day the citizenship is granted.

"I am not a lawyer. I was president. I was given legal advise by my lawyers. So it's unfair for me to answer questions on these legal documents when i am not a lawyer," Mr. Taylor responded.

Mr. Taylor further explained that exceptional circumstances gave the president the power to grant citizenship to certain persons and that "it was within the context of peace in Sierra Leone that these exceptional circumstances arose."

Mr. Koumjian also read provisions of Liberian laws that for a person to be lawfully admitted into the country, he must have "been and still is of good moral character in accordance with the constitution of Liberia."

"Do you consider Mr. Bockarie to be of good moral character?" Mr. Koumjian asked Mr. Taylor.

"I cannot pass that judgment. Under normal circumstances, I'll say no but under exceptional circumstances, I am not in a position to make that judgment," Mr. Taylor responded.

When asked by the presiding judge Justice Richard Lussick to give a more direct answer to the question, Mr. Taylor said "I'll say he was a person of good moral background."

*Also read this story on
www.exclusivepress.net*

Taylor Responded

Prosecutors yesterday questioned former Liberian president Charles Taylor on his decision to grant Liberian citizenship to Sierra Leonean rebel forces who relocated to Liberia in December 1999 after falling out with the Sierra Leonean rebel group's hierarchy.

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nation that when Sierra Leone's notorious rebel commander Sam Bockarie became a hinderance to the peace process in the country and eventually fell out with Revolutionary United Front (RUF) leader Foday Sankoh, West African leaders took a decision to get Mr. Bockarie out of Sierra Leone and have him relocated to Liberia. As Mr. Bockarie departed Sierra Leone for Liberia, hundreds of his loyal rebel fighters followed him to Liberia. Prosecution witnesses have testified that Mr. Bockarie relocated to Liberia on the invitation of Mr. Taylor. The former Liberian leader has denied these assertions. Mr. Taylor has stated that upon arrival in Liberia, Mr. Bockarie and his rebel followers were all granted Liberian citizenship before Mr. Bockarie's followers were recruited into Liberia's Anti-Terrorist Unit (ATU).

During his cross-examination today, prosecution counsel Mr. Nicholas Koumjian asked Mr. Taylor under what authority he had granted Liberian citizenship to Mr. Bockarie.

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"I cannot pass that judgment. Under normal circumstances, I'll say no but under exceptional circumstances, I am not in a position to make that judgment," Mr. Taylor responded.

When asked by the presiding judge Justice Richard Lussick to give a more direct answer to the question, Mr. Taylor said "I'll say he was a person of good moral background."

The former president, however, added that "I did not look at that. I did not evaluate him on that background but the circumstances on which he entered Liberia."

Mr. Koumjian further read that the president can waive the two years residency requirement for naturalization but the person for whom the provision is waived will still be required to "make and file a petition with his own handwriting" and sign a declaration that he does not favour anarchy and wishes to become a citizen of Liberia.

"Did Mr. Bockarie sign a declaration?" Mr. Koumjian asked Mr. Taylor.

"I don't know. I had an advise from the Ministry of Justice that I had the authority to do this. I had to assume that they filed a declaration of intention," the former president responded.

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Asked further whether Mr. Bockarie took an "oath of allegiance" as required by law, Mr. Taylor said that "I'll assume that he did so with the appropriate agencies of government."

In proving their case that Mr. Taylor occupied a position of superior authority over RUF rebels, prosecutors have led evidence on the relationship that existed between the former Liberian president and RUF commander Mr. Bockarie. Prosecution witnesses have testified that Mr. Bockarie consulted Mr. Taylor before undertaking any major operation in Sierra Leone and that based on the former president's advice, Mr. Bockarie sent rebel forces to attack the diamond mines in Sierra Leone as well as the country's capital Freetown in 1998 and 1999 respectively. Witnesses have further testified that when Mr. Bockarie fell out with the RUF leadership in December 1999, Mr. Taylor invited him to Liberia because he had better use for him. According to witness' testimonies, Mr. Taylor sent Mr. Bockarie to attack Ivory Coast and when the rebel commander attempted to return to Liberia after his assignment in Ivory Coast, he was executed by Liberian forces on Mr. Taylor's orders. Mr. Taylor has dismissed these claims as "lies."

Also in cross-examination today, prosecutors sought to present several documents to impeach Mr. Taylor's credibility as a witness. This action was taken pursuant to the Trial Chamber's decision issued yesterday which granted the prosecution's request to submit "new documents" but only to impeach Mr. Taylor's credibility. The judges added that every document will be dealt with on a "case-by-case" basis. The judgment further ordered that any "new document" that

goes to point at the guilt of the accused must be disclosed to the defense before it can be used. When the prosecutoin attempted to use certain documents today in order to impeach Mr. Taylor's credibility, the former president's defense counsel raised objections after objections, arguing that the said documents pointed to the guilt of Mr. Taylor and must therefore be disclosed to the defense before they can be used. On almost all of the objections, the judges ruled in favor of the defense, stopping the prosecution from using said documents. The documents included records from the Liberian Bank for Development and Investment (LBDI) suggesting that Mr. Taylor had money stored in the bank, newspaper report on Mr. Taylor's 1997 wedding with names of his close associates who served as his Best Men and Grooms Men, as well as new literature which pointed to the use of child soldiers by Mr. Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL). These documents, the judges agreed with the defense, were "probative to the guilt of the accused." The documents were eventually withdrawn by the prosecution.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Taylor's defense counsel raised concerns that the prosecution were conducting Mr. Taylor's cross-examination like a "relay" wherein lead prosecutor Ms. Brenda Hollis will conduct the cross-examination on particular days while Mr. Koumjian will step in on other days. Mr. Koumjian explained that Ms. Hollis had stayed in the office to put together the documents that were to be disclosed to the defense.

Mr. Taylor is on trial for his alleged role in supporting RUF rebels who waged an 11-years rebel war in Sierra Leone. Crimes committed by the rebels ranged from amputation of civilian limbs, to rape, recruitment of child soldiers and murder. Mr. Taylor is accused of involvement in a joint criminal enterprise with the RUF rebels. He has denied all the allegations against him.

Taylor Claims Peacemaking Role in Sierra Leonean Conflict

By Alpha Sesay

THE HAGUE – The accused former Liberian president, Charles Taylor, has told the Special Court for Sierra Leone in the Netherlands that in 1999, he hosted Revolutionary United Front (RUF) leader Foday Sankoh, his deputy, Sam Bockarie, and Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) leader, Johnny Paul Koroma, for a meeting in Liberia.

Taylor was answering questions Thursday under cross-examination by the prosecution.

The meeting, Taylor said was geared towards reconciling the differences that existed among the rebel commanders. Taylor explained that after the signing of the 1999 peace agreement between the RUF and the government of Sierra Leone, there was 'bad blood' between the RUF and the AFRC, and that such differences needed to be resolved in order to make the peace agreement successful.

This, Taylor said, was the reason why he hosted the rebel commanders in Liberia. Prosecution counsel, Nicholas Koumjian, stepping in for the indisposed Brenda Hollis, who fell ill on Tuesday and could not recover to continue Taylor's cross-examination, suggested to Taylor that he wanted to help the rebel commanders reconcile their differences in order to restore a military regime in Sierra Leone.

"Did you invite Foday Sankoh, Sam Bockarie and Johnny Paul Koroma to Liberia for reconciliation on how to return to military power in Sierra Leone?" Koumjian asked Taylor.

Taylor responded with a resounding "No."

The AFRC, which was formed by members of the Sierra Leone Army (SLA), overthrew the elected government of Sierra Leone in 1997 and formed a merger with the RUF. The AFRC/RUF junta regime ruled Sierra Leone until 1998 when they were forcefully removed from the



country's capital by West African peacekeepers. In 1999, the government signed a peace agreement with the rebel forces in the Togolese capital, Lome.

Taylor agreed with Koumjian on Thursday that when the three rebel commanders met in Liberia, the government of Sierra Leone was not represented there.

"Why not invite the government of Sierra Leone?" Koumjian asked.

"Because the government of Sierra Leone was not part of the issues between them. There was bad blood between the SLA and the RUF, and their purpose was to sort out that bad blood," Taylor answered.

Sierra Leonean president, Ahmed Tejan, Kabbah "was kept informed" of the meeting between the rebel commanders in Liberia, Taylor said.

He has reiterated and maintained throughout his testimony as a witness in his own defense that he was a peace mediator, and that he did not help Sierra Leonean rebel commanders to plan a military takeover of Sierra Leone. The former president also told Special Court for Sierra Leone judges that his fighters did not enter neighboring Guinea to attack the Guinean government but went there on "hot-pursuit" missions after rebel forces fighting to unseat his Liberian government ran into Guinea.

The Torchlight
Friday, 4 December 2009

TAYLOR'S LAWYER BECOMES KHMER ROUGE PROSECUTOR

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia — The Khmer Rouge genocide tribunal said Wednesday that it has appointed a new international prosecutor whose most recent job was defending former Liberian President Charles Taylor at his war crimes trial.

Andrew T. Cayley of Britain, who has also served as a prosecutor at international war crimes courts, was named to the post left vacant in September by the resignation of Canadian co-prosecutor Robert Petit, the tribunal said in a statement.

The tribunal, known as the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia, incorporates mixed teams of foreign and Cambodian judges, prosecutors and defenders. Political wrangling between the two sides has led to many delays, and allegations of corruption among the tribunal's Cambodian staff have hurt the tribunal's credibility.

A verdict is expected early next year in the tribunal's first trial, of Khmer Rouge prison chief Kaing Guek Eav, also known as Duch, who is charged with crimes

against humanity, war crimes, murder and torture.

The brutal 1970s rule of the Khmer Rouge left an estimated 1.7 million people dead from torture, execution, disease and starvation.

The tribunal is also holding four former senior Khmer Rouge leaders in custody, and they are expected to be tried next year or later.

Cayley has spent the last two years in private practice, during which time he defended Charles Taylor, the tribunal said. Taylor, accused of providing arms to Sierra Leone rebels in exchange for diamonds mined by slave laborers, ended 13 weeks on the witness stand earlier this month at the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

Cayley earlier served as senior prosecuting counsel for the International Criminal Court investigating crimes in Darfur and the International Criminal Tribunal investigating war crimes in the former Yugoslavia, it said.

The tribunal also said American Nicholas Koumjian was appointed reserve co-prosecutor.

Standard Times
Friday, 4 December 2009

Sierra Leone Has Demonstrated Its Ability to Provide Reparations: Challenges Ahead

International Centre for Transitional Justice & Centre for Accountability and Rule of Law

In a recent progress report on the reparations process in Sierra Leone, the International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ) concluded that Sierra Leone has taken important steps to provide reparations to victims of the civil war. During the first registration process, the National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA) registered 29,733 victims and provided an interim grant to 20,107 of them, plus surgery for some victims that were in extreme need. Funds for the grant were provided by the Peace Building Fund with the technical assistance of the International Organization for Migration and the participation of national and local civil society representatives. This effort demonstrates that it is possible to provide reparations to victims and that Sierra Leone knows how to do it.

The program was extended to all the districts including the western area, but did not effectively reach every community because of time and resource limitations. As such, many victims, especially in rural areas of the eastern regions of the country, and presumably many women, were not registered. In addition, the interim payments and other measures delivered might be welcomed by many victims, but still fall short compared with what was recommended by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and to what victims need. The ability of this program to contribute in a greater manner to the future implementation of a more comprehensive program was hampered by the emphasis given by the Peace Building Commission to complete the registration of victims in seven months and in disbursing and by providing an interim payment that was not included in the measures recommended by the TRC.

ICTJ therefore encourages the Sierra Leone's government to launch a second registration effort that could be geared toward reaching a greater number of victims and identify those who will be prioritized for reparations, given the available resources. It also encourages the government to provide health care and psychosocial support for those victims registered. Mohamed Suma, ICTJ consultant in Sierra Leone and executive director for the Centre for Accountability and Rule of Law said, "We are confident that if the government shows commitment and devotes resources to continue the reparations effort, it will receive support from the international community. That would require for the government to specify which parts of its reparations strategy it can undertake with its own resources, and which parts it will seek help for from the international and donor community." He added that "providing reparations to victims will help heal the wounds of Sierra Leone's society and will contribute to its social and political development."

"This is a significant step that might encourage other countries in West Africa to assume their responsibility in responding to the rights and needs of victims, and that could also encourage the donor community to support these efforts," said Suliman Baldo, ICTJ Africa Director.

About ICTJ

The International Center for Transitional Justice works to redress and prevent the most severe violations of human rights by confronting legacies of mass abuse. ICTJ seeks holistic solutions to promote accountability and create just and peaceful societies.

About CARL-SL

The CARL-SL (formerly the Sierra Leone Court Monitoring Programme) is an independent Sierra Leonean organization dedicated to enhancing accountability and the rule of law in post-conflict Sierra Leone.

Contacts

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Annex: Conclusions and Recommendations of the Report

This report calls for:

- *An additional effort to register victims:* Reparations in Sierra Leone cannot be meaningful if victims are excluded. In particular, victims of sexual violence and those residing in rural areas, that have been traditionally excluded from the social, political and economic life of the country, but that were seriously affected by the civil war, must be included in the process.

- *Implementation of a long-term reparations program:* The framework defined by the Year One Program was a very important starting point, even though the partial registration effort and the delivery of discrete reparations done by that program fell short as a first stage for implementing meaningful reparations, especially in areas like health care, pensions and education where a long-term commitment is necessary, and does not satisfy the recommendation of the TRC.
- *Financial and organizational contributions by the Government of Sierra Leone:* The Year One Program has not received significant financial support from the national government, which contributed only 246,000 USD (a limited 8.2% of the total cost); nor has it received assistance from domestic agencies, like the Health Ministry, that would seem ideal partners given their expertise and overlapping commitment to public health. The lack of a clear financial commitment, funding a comprehensive program as a continuation of this seed effort, has eroded the sense of certainty that a reparations policy requires. It is important that the Sierra Leonean government invest in the program not only to ensure that it is implemented – there is little precedent of international donors funding reparations programs – but also to fulfill its state duty to repair victims of human rights violations.
- *Enhanced efforts to build partnerships with civil society and victims' groups:* In executing both long- and short-term programs, it is essential that NaCSA build strong partnerships with civil society and victims' groups. Civil society and victims' organizations can facilitate effective reparations programs by representing and engaging victims in more remote parts of the country, by facilitating community memorialization and psychotherapy efforts, by conducting outreach in locally sensitive ways and by directly providing necessary services. Victim participation will be critical to the success of the reparations program that is about to be launched. Victims should be involved at every stage of the reparations process in order to encourage a feeling among victims that they have a voice in the process and to foster confidence and social and political trust in a post-conflict society, where mistrust and suspicion persist.

To make this possible it is needed that:

1. The Government of Sierra Leone:
 - a) Allocate resources for the continuation of the implementation of reparations, based in the 5 year strategic plan developed by NaCSA and the recommendations of the TRC. Such program should include at least the provision of health care and educational support to all victims identified in 2009 that are entitled to those programs. It also should start the implementation of this program in 2010, to guarantee the positive effects of what was achieved on the Year One Project. Only by implementing reparations based in the work done by the Year One Project the government will be able to provide confidence to the PBC and the PBF that such project had served as an initial impulse for Sierra Leonean society to provide effective reparations to victims.
 - b) Launch a second effort to register victims based in the lessons learned during the Year One Project. It should include an outreach effort that could guarantee getting to all victims and providing confidence in the process, as well as an effective verification process.
 - c) To define a long term reparations program that include all the remaining measures included in the 5 year strategic plan and the recommendations of the TRC, particularly in regard to providing pensions, to start being implemented in the fiscal year 2011 with those victims registered during 2009, and to later incorporate those victims registered by the second registration effort. This effort should include funding strategies following the recommendations of the TRC in regards to special taxes for mining or other extractive activities, debt relief and a public and transparent debate on the national budget.
2. The Peace Building Commission:
 - a) To develop a strategy that could support the efforts of the Government of Sierra Leone to continue implementing reparations, engaging in direct negotiations that could include the definition of the concrete efforts to be asked to the Government that could provide guarantees to donor countries of the sustainability of the strategy.

Sierra Express Media

Thursday, 3 December 2009

Access to Justice, a Recipe for Sustainable Peace in Sierra Leone

Author: Richard B Bockarie -



Following the end of the war, and it is evident in the report of the truth and reconciliation commission, a popular chorus echoed by many people claimed that the incapacity of the justice system to deliver required justice to people was one of the main causes of the civil conflict. *(Photo: Richard Bockarie)*

The Problem Still Lurking Around

Sadly, the problem still remains and is sickening to note that it is still causing untold damages to the genial social and political co-existence in the country and hence a possible breeding of a situation that held the country to ransom for over tens years.

As it is, if the functional frailties and specious tendencies that characterize the country's justice system post-conflict era as it were in the pre-conflict times are not judiciously addressed, one could mince to say that the country might relapse into the dudgeon of conflict and socio-political brawl that besieged the country's growth and development.

The truth is, the enhanced delivery of justice is definitely what precludes the tendencies for Sierra Leone to relapse into conflict to which's repercussion Sierra Leoneans are no strangers to.

It is a definite truth as has been stated time and again that it only a diligent reformation of the Justice Sector that could ensure the peace consolidation process in Sierra Leone and as such must not be with in a shoddy way.

What Needs to be Done!

Access to justice means that justice must not be centralized, functioning Courts established at various level and in various parts in the country accessible to all to hear and adjudicate the existing backlog of cases (one of the greatest impediment to justice delivery) speedily. This will also mean that there is improved functioning of the Courts so that they have the capacity to speedily dispose of new cases and prevent new backlogs from being created, which will obviously improve justice delivery and reduce Human Rights abuses that lurks around the dispensing of justice in the country.

Achieving access to justice also constitutes a proper functioning Law Officers' Department and Prosecutorial system that has the capacity to prosecute the existing backlog of cases, speedily charge and prosecute all new cases and prevent new backlogs from being created while improving justice delivery; this will serve as interface between the now precarious situation in the justice sector and a serene dispensation of justice in the country.

Donor and technical support to the government of Sierra Leone for the achievement for such a project is very invaluable as no price will commensurate the increased to access to Justice for all, particularly Women and Juveniles and those in the remote provincial lock-hoods. This is the only thing that will serve to prevent relapsing into the dark ages of conflict the blighted existence in the country.

Thanks to its support, the United Nations Development Programme has since the end of the war instituted two programmes that are tailored towards the achievement of impartial access to peace and a reformation of the justice sector as a whole. In furtherance of ongoing UNDP support to the Government of Sierra

Leone in reforming and reviving the Justice Sector in Sierra Leone, the Access to Justice Initiative has also been implemented alongside the Peace Building Fund support to Justice Sector Reform Project. According to the UNDP, the Access to Justice Initiative ties in with the special niche of UNDP in supporting justice and related systems so that they work for those who are poor and disadvantaged.

While the PBF support to Justice Sector Reform Project focuses on reforming and reviving the Justice sector, the Access to Justice Initiative has played the complementary role of supporting processes and activities that enhance access and promoting a speedy, cost effectiveness and efficiency in the delivery of justice.

Although such support is manifest between the government and its development partners, much still remains to be done in actualizing the essence of such projects. The clogging of cases which many have attributed to entrenched corruption in the judiciary continues to be a major hurdle to accessing justice in the country. Magistrate courts are still sparsely distributed in the country making accessibility to them a mammoth task. The law officers department in the country still remains ill-equipped to properly and speedily prosecute cases which definitely tells us much needs to be done to ensure that justice in the country is made available and accessible.

Charlestaylortrial.org

Thursday, 3 December 2009

Judges Order Prosecutors to Disclose To the Defense All New Documents They Intend To Use In Cross-Examination of Charles Taylor

By Alpha Sesay

Special Court for Sierra Leone judges today ordered prosecutors to disclose to the defense all new documents that they intend to use in the cross-examination of former Liberian president Charles Taylor who is responding to charges that he was involved in a joint criminal enterprise with rebel forces who waged an 11-years rebel war in Sierra Leone.

In delivering the Chamber's ruling, presiding judge Justice Richard Lussick said that the prosecution's "piecemeal disclosure of individual documents" was unacceptable.

"This cannot be allowed to continue and the Chamber needs to set out a disclosure regime," Justice Lussick said.

Today's order came in the wake of Monday's decision by the judges in response to prosecution's request to use "new evidence" in the form of documents to impeach Mr. Taylor's credibility as a witness in his own defense. In the decision, the judges ordered that documents which are meant to impeach the credibility of Mr. Taylor can be used by the prosecution without the need to disclose the documents to the defense. These documents will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis, the judges ordered. The judges further ordered that all documents which have probative value to the guilt of the accused must be disclosed to the defense before they could be used by the prosecution in cross-examining Mr. Taylor.

When cross-examination resumed this morning, Mr. Taylor's defense counsel objected to the use of a bundle of bank documents which prosecutors sought to cross-examine Mr. Taylor on in order to establish that Mr. Taylor was not truthful in his direct-examination about various bank accounts which he is alleged to have had before his detention by the Special Court for Sierra Leone. Mr. Taylor's defense counsel said the team had not been given sufficient time to study the bank documents. Mr. Taylor's defense asked to be given until Monday to study the documents. The judges granted the defense application.

Lead prosecutor Ms. Brenda Hollis, addressing the judges, agreed that to avoid further misunderstanding of the judges' order, all documents, whether intended for use to impeach Mr. Taylor's credibility or to point at Mr. Taylor's guilt will be disclosed to the defense.

Addressing all the parties, Justice Lussick made the following orders:

1. All such documents should be disclosed to the defense by close of business day on Tuesday, and
2. Prosecution should give 24 hours notice to the defense of documents it intends to use for cross-examination on a particular day."

Mr. Taylor is on trial for his alleged role in supporting RUF rebels who waged an 11-years rebel war in Sierra Leone. Crimes committed by the rebels ranged from amputation of civilian limbs, to rape, recruitment of child soldiers and murder. Mr. Taylor is accused of involvement in a joint criminal enterprise with the RUF rebels. He has denied all the allegations against him.

Mr. Taylor's cross-examination continues on Monday.

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 3 December 2009

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

International Clips on Liberia

Advocacy Groups Decry Profiteering by Vulture Funds in Liberia

WASHINGTON (Africa Action)- - Leading global development and Africa advocacy groups reacted with outrage today to news that a London court recently awarded two Vulture Funds a \$20 million judgment against Liberia. This amount of money represents the country's entire education budget and 150% of their spending on health in 2008. On November 26, the British High Court announced that Vulture Funds Hamsah Investments and Wall Capital were to be awarded \$20 million based on a default judgment received in 2002 by previous creditors in New York courts. The Vulture Funds had recently acquired the loan to Liberia on the secondary market. The original credit, dating back to 1978, was estimated to be worth \$6 million, but it had been in default since 1984. Advocates point out that Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's government has demonstrated its commitment to start fresh by clearing its past debts, even those incurred by dictatorial governments and used to fuel and finance the 14 years of civil war. In 2007, Liberia paid off its arrears to the World Bank and African Development Bank, and in April of this year successfully negotiated a \$1.2 billion buy-back of its commercial debt. Under the aegis of the World Bank, the process was widely acknowledged by creditors to be fair and open. However, Hamsah Investments and Wall Capital were the only two private creditors that refused to participate.

Prosecutors Question Charles Taylor On His Decision To Grant Liberian Citizenship To Sierra Leonean Rebels

Dec 03, 2009 (CharlesTaylorTrial.org/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- Prosecutors today questioned former Liberian president Charles Taylor on his decision to grant Liberian citizenship to Sierra Leonean rebel forces who relocated to Liberia in December 1999 after falling out with the Sierra Leonean rebel group's hierarchy. Mr. Taylor has long stated in his direct-examination that when Sierra Leone's notorious rebel commander Sam Bockarie became a hindrance to the peace process in the country and eventually fell out with Revolutionary United Front (RUF) leader Foday Sankoh, West African leaders took a decision to get Mr. Bockarie out of Sierra Leone and have him relocated to Liberia. As Mr. Bockarie departed Sierra Leone for Liberia, hundreds of his loyal rebel fighters followed him to Liberia. Prosecution witnesses have testified that Mr. Bockarie relocated to Liberia on the invitation of Mr. Taylor. The former Liberian leader has denied these assertions. Mr. Taylor has stated that upon arrival in Liberia, Mr. Bockarie and his rebel followers were all granted Liberian citizenship before Mr. Bockarie's followers were recruited into Liberia's Anti-Terrorist Unit (ATU). During his cross-examination today, prosecution counsel Mr. Nicholas Koumjian asked Mr. Taylor under what authority he had granted Liberian citizenship to Mr. Bockarie. "Under the constitution of **Liberia** and long standing practice," Mr. Taylor responded.

Guinea

Guinea: Evidence of new arrests, harassment and illegal detentions by security forces

CONAKRY, Guinea, December 3, 2009/African Press Organization (APO)/ — Guinea's security forces are continuing to arrest and harass activists and others, following a massacre during a political protest on 28 September, Amnesty International found during a recent visit to Guinea. Mouctar Diallo, vice-president of Guinea's national human rights commission, was arrested on Thursday 26

November. Amnesty International discovered that Diallo is being detained in military Camp Alpha Yaya, for "endangering the security of the state". The Amnesty International delegation that returned from Guinea on Tuesday also found cases of over 40 people who attended the rally and whose whereabouts are still unknown. This includes dead bodies that were identified in photographs and film footage taken at the stadium but were not subsequently found at any of Conakry's hospitals, morgues, mosques or military camps including Camp Alpha Yaya Diallo. The whereabouts of others who attended the rally is now unknown. Amnesty International fears that they may have been killed or subjected to enforced disappearance.

Sierra Leone

Sierra Leone to send 160 troops to Sudan's Darfur region

FREETOWN, Dec 03, 2009 (Xinhua via COMTEX) -- Sierra Leone will send 160 military personnel to join the African peacekeeping mission in Darfur, Sudan, the military said on Wednesday night. Deputy Chief of Defense Staff of the Sierra Leone Armed Forces Brigadier Robert Koroma told a press conference in the capital Freetown that the contingent will leave for Darfur on Dec. 17 and that it includes 30 personnel from the engineering division. He said the development followed what he described as "a successful assessment of a pre-development visit of officers of the department of peace keeping from the UN headquarters in New York." According to the deputy chief of defense staff, "all the necessary logistics have been sent well in advance" and a farewell parade will take place tomorrow Friday Dec. 4, where the Head of State who is the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces, Ernest Bai Koroma, will review the troops." Currently, **Sierra Leone** has 25 military officers serving in various UN missions in countries, which also include East Timor, Nepal and Lebanon, as military observers and staff officers.

Ivory Coast

Burkina Faso hosts Ivorian crisis resolution meeting Thursday

Ivorian President Laurent Gbagbo has urged protagonists to the Ivorian crisis to forget about the date (which has now been shelved) and focus on the job that remained to be done towards holding a successful presidential election in his country, PANA reported from here Wednesday. Gbagbo explained that there was the need to first correct the irregularities of the provisional voters' list before issuing a revised list and then the polls.

Speaking to journalists about the date of the presidential election in his country on his arrival in the Burkinabe capital where he will take part in a meeting of the Permanent Consultation Framework (CPC) on the Ivorian crisis on Thursday, Gbagbo said some 1.33 million voters had been registered by the Independent Electoral Commission (CEI).

"My own mother does not have her name on the provisional lists. Even the wife of one candidate cannot find her name," he said, adding that "people should not be worried about these lapses which would soon be corrected." The Permanent Consultation Framework is an instrument provided for in the Political Agreements of Ouagadougou (APO) under the sponsorship of President Blaise Compaore of Burkina Faso, to get Cote d'Ivoire out of the crisis that began in 2002. During his stay in the Burkinabe capital, Gbagbo will also attend the first African conference on decent work.

Local Media – Newspaper

LACC Orders Albert Bropleh Charged And Prosecuted

(Heritage, The Inquirer, Daily Observer, The Analyst, The News)

- The Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) has recommended that the Former Chairman of the Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA) be formally charged and prosecuted.
- In a letter to Justice Minister Christiana Tarr, the LACC recommended that Mr. Albert Bropleh be charged and prosecuted for acts of corruption in line with Chapter 15 Subchapter F of the New Penal Law of Liberia.
- A LACC release issued said the decision to charge and prosecute Mr. Bropleh followed months of tedious evidence-gathering by the Commission, which indicates that Mr. Bropleh engaged in acts of corruption as defined under Part Two of the LACC Act.

Advocacy Group Wants Indicted Officials Resign

(The Analyst, The News)

- The Forum for the Establishment of a War Crimes Court in Liberia has renewed call for all public officials indicted by the TRC report to honorably resign from Government.
- The group's embattled Chairman Mulbah Morlu said unless some initial actions are taken, the culture of impunity will continue to flourish.
- Mr. Morlu disagreed with lawmakers who believe the TRC report needed the input of their constituents before a final determination can be made.
- He argued President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf must go ahead and implement the report in line with the TRC act.
- But in reaction, Deputy Information Minister Cletus Sieh said Mr. Morlu's argument was immaterial and confusing noting that was illogical to call for the President's resignation and at the same time expects her to implement the TRC report.

US Office of Security Cooperation Identifies With AFL Soldiers

(Heritage)

- The Office of the Security Cooperation (OSC) at the US Embassy near Monrovia has commenced series of activities at the Edward Beyan Kesselly Military Barracks outside Monrovia aimed at educating the soldiers about the danger HIV/AIDS poses to their survival.
- The OSC in collaboration with the Community Empowerment Programme (CEP) Tuesday, December 1, 2009 organized a programme at the barracks to explain to the soldiers about the effect of HIV/AIDS on the population.
- The celebration of World AIDS Day at the military barracks followed a series of HIV/AIDS sensitization programmes with the soldiers for several months at the barracks.
- The 23rd Infantry Brigade Commander LTC Daniel K. Moore, Sr., who spoke at the programme called for a comprehensive prevention mechanism to be put in place to fight the killer disease.
- OSC's HIV/AIDS Programme Coordinator Mona Sankoh underscored the importance of HIV/AIDS prevention in the military.

HIV/AIDS Prevention Is Key To Health Delivery -NACP Boss Stresses

(The Informer)

- The Program Manager of the National AIDS Control Programme (NACP) Dr. Benjamin Vonhm says the provision of quality treatment to people living with HIV/AIDS is significant to improving their living conditions.
- Dr. Vonhm said the NACP is collaborating with its international partners including the World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNAIDS and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to ensure that the much needed attention be given to people infected by the virus.

President Sirleaf Says Discipline, Punctuality Still Lacking In Public Officials

(The News, New Democrat)

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf says discipline and punctuality are still lacking among her officials of government.
- President Sirleaf described discipline and punctuality as some of the basic elements of good governance but said her officials are still far from these virtues.
- The President's statement followed the lateness and failure of some key government officials to attend the opening session of a public sector reform forum.
- The three-day forum taking place at the SKD Sports Complex is under the auspices of the Governance Commission (GC) and the Civil Service Agency.
- In her opening remarks, The GC Acting Chairman Elizabeth Mulbah called for collective effort by everyone to identify the challenges facing the Liberian public sector.
- Commissioner Mulbah said the forum under the theme "Building a national public service for better performance and quality service for the Liberian people" was organized to complement and coordinate a well-structured reform program.

West African Religious Leaders Brainstorm To Resolve Guinean, Ivorian Crisis

(The News)

- West African religious leaders have converged in Monrovia for a three-day consultative meeting to discuss strategies that would lead to an immediate intervention in the Guinean and Ivorian crisis.
- Delegates at the 9th Regional Consultation of the West Africa Inter-Religious Coordinating Committee (WAIRCCC) and the African Council of Religious Leaders-religions for Peace (ACRL-RFP) were drawn from eight sub-regional countries including Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria, Benin and Senegal.
- The consultative meeting runs from December 1-3, 2009.

Americans To Invest US\$3.8M In Construction Industry In Harper

(The News)

- A group of five Americans has disclosed plans to invest US\$3.8 million in building construction industry in Liberia.
- The Americans are in Monrovia holding discussions with government officials and are expected to visit Harper, Maryland County were they would invest the money.

UN Boss Lauds Liberia's Nimba Intervention

(Daily Observer, The Analyst)

- Precisely two years following Liberia's eligibility for UN Peace-building assistance, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has lauded the positive contributions of the 'Emergency Window' Peace-building efforts conducted in Nimba County.
- Secretary General Ban's commendation implicitly underscores the significance of promoting sustainable peace by encouraging grassroots participation and greater local ownership.
- The Platform for Dialogue and Peace (P4DP) under Interpeace is premised on the principle that following 14 years of war, efforts aimed at fostering peace, institutional building and socio-economic development need to be cemented in new or renewed social relations that emerge from individual and social transformation.
- The P4DP Programme Coordinator and Head of Interpeace in Liberia, James Suah Shilue said the P4DP project acknowledges the commendation of Mr. Ban and remains more energized in its preparedness to work towards the vigorous nationwide reconciliation of the Liberian society.

Tension At UP's Headquarters

(The Inquirer)

- Tension is said to be brewing between the youths and executives of the ruling Unity Party for allegedly neglecting the party.
- At the party's headquarters in Monrovia Wednesday, the youths vented their anger at the executives for what they termed complete disregard for the party's constitution.
- They said this time around, they will not compromise the interest of the party on grounds that there have been several negotiations to find a way forward for the upkeep of the party but said these resolutions are yet to be implemented by stalwarts of the party.

Fresh 'Guns' Against Taylor Allowed, Court Rules For New Evidence

(New Democrat)

- The trial of former President Charles Taylor has jumped into a dramatic stage, with the judge ruling Wednesday to allow "fresh documents" against the accused.
- This suggests that documents not previously submitted in evidence against Mr. Taylor can now be submitted.
- The prosecution began recalling its witnesses this week with the aim of discrediting Mr. Taylor.

TRC Releases Final 'Edited' Report

(The Informer, The Analyst)

- The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) has announced the release of the edited version of its final report.
- The TRC release said the report contains 21 chapters and about 1,500 pages published in three volumes.
- Volume One is a preliminary report, Volume Two a consolidated final report and Volume Three appendices, supplemental and specialized reports.
- An additional volume consisting of 10,000 pages of testimonies from TRC witnesses during hearings are yet to be published.
- The TRC said the report provides historical analysis of the conflict in Liberia, the root causes and 142 recommendations.
- Eight of the recommendations are for public sanctions and prosecution while other eight relates to economic crisis.
- The remaining total of 126 recommendations relate to a wide range of public interest issues including public integrity, corruption and human rights.

Local Media - Star Radio *(culled from website today at 09:00 am)*

TRC Releases Edited Version Of Final Report

LACC Orders Albert Bropleh Charged And Prosecuted

(Also reported on Truth FM, Sky F.M., and ELBC)

GC Opens 3-day Public Sector Reform Forum In Monrovia

(Also reported on Truth FM, Sky F.M., and ELBC)

Advocacy Group Wants Indicted Public Officials Resign

Immigration Bureau Says Senators Massalay, Momoh Committed no crime

- The Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization (BIN) says it has so far incriminated no one following the deportation of the ten Liberian pilgrims from Mecca.
- The BIN clarified media reports that Commissioner Chris Massaquoi incriminated Senators Abel Massaley and James Momoh of Grand Cape Mount County is false.
- A BIN release said the allegation was erroneously carried in a local daily.
- The release said the two senators confirmed being the organizers of the trip to Mecca but condemned the imposters and alterations made in their passports.
- According to the release, the investigation into the deportation of the ten Liberian pilgrims from Mecca was ongoing and no one has been held liable.

Radio Netherlands Worldwide

Friday, 4 December 2009

Karadzic in new challenge over court-ordered lawyer

By International Justice Desk



*The Hague,
Netherlands*

Bosnian Serb wartime leader Radovan Karadzic is to make another attempt to challenge the nomination of a court-appointed lawyer at his

genocide and war crimes trial, a legal adviser said Thursday.

"On Friday, Dr Karadzic will file a motion challenging the appointment of Richard Harvey as counsel in his case and asking that the appointment be vacated," the adviser, Peter Robinson, told AFP in an email.

He added that, at Karadzic's request, he would meet the news media on Friday outside the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in The Hague "to speak about these issues and answer any of your questions."

Ten days ago, the UN tribunal denied Karadzic leave to appeal the nomination of the London-based lawyer, saying that to do so "would hinder, rather than materially advance the proceedings".

Karadzic, 64, is charged with 11 counts of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity for his role in the 1992-95 Bosnian war in which around 100,000 people died and 2.2 million were forced to flee their homes.

Arrested on a Belgrade bus in July last year after 13 years on the run, he risks life imprisonment if convicted of crimes that include the Srebrenica massacre of over 7,000 Muslims and the 44-month siege of Sarajevo.

Karadzic boycotted the first three days of his trial that opened on October 26, demanding more time to prepare his defence, which he is conducting himself.

That forced the adjournment of proceedings, and led the judges to rule on November 5 that Harvey be assigned to Karadzic to take over if he continues his boycott.

They also ruled that the trial resume on March 1, to give Harvey enough time to prepare.

In a legal career dating back to 1971, Harvey has dealt with a number of domestic and international criminal and human rights cases -- including two before the ICTY in which he defended Kosovo Albanians accused of war crimes, according to a biography on the website of his practice Garden Court Chambers.

ISRIA

Thursday, 3 December 2009

UN USA - Remarks by Ambassador Rosemary A. DiCarlo, U.S. Alternate Representative to the United Nations, on the International Criminal Tribunals for the Former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, in the Security Council Chamber

Rosemary A. DiCarlo
Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations
U.S. Mission to the United Nations
New York, NY
December 3, 2009

Thank you, Mr. President. Let me begin by congratulating you, Mr. President, on assuming the presidency of the Council in December and assuring you of my delegation's full cooperation during this busy month. Let me also thank Ambassador Mayr-Harding and the delegation of Austria for their excellent stewardship of the Council last month.

I would like to welcome the Tribunal Presidents and Prosecutors back to the Council and thank them for their assessments. The United States commends the representatives and staff of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia for their work to bring the perpetrators of some of the world's most heinous crimes to justice. We particularly appreciate the efforts of ICTR President Byron and ICTY President Robinson, Prosecutors Brammertz and Jallow and Registrars Dieng and Hocking. We salute their continued dedication to the cause of justice as they prepare for the closure of the Tribunals. An efficient closure that continues to support the victims and ensures that they receive a measure of justice for these crimes will require difficult, dedicated work.

Mr. President, the United States believes it is important to create a residual mechanism to manage the necessary functions of the Tribunals after the completion of their pending trials and appeals. We thank the Secretary-General for his report on the administrative and budgetary aspects of such a mechanism, which will help decision-makers develop an effective, cost-efficient one. We urge both Tribunals to continue to strive to complete their work by the earliest possible date, and we thank the Security Council Working Group chaired by Austria for its efforts to address and resolve residual issues.

Mr. President, we must remember why the tribunals were established - to identify and hold accountable those responsible for some of history's worst crimes. We must not lose sight of the historic importance of this task, and we must work to establish residual mechanisms that do not allow the 13 outstanding ICTY and ICTR fugitives to escape justice.

Individuals indicted by the Tribunals who remain at large must be apprehended and brought to justice without further delay. We call on all states to fulfill their legal obligations to cooperate with the Tribunals and to take the necessary steps to ensure that the remaining fugitives are apprehended.

In particular, let me underscore the need to reinforce efforts to bring the ICTR fugitive Felicien Kabuga to face international justice. We are concerned that the Government of Kenya has not responded to the Tribunal's requests for certain government records relating to Kabuga's assets and has not provided details to support the claim that Kabuga has left Kenya. We urge Kenya to act immediately on the Tribunal's recommendations and to take effective steps to deny Kabuga access to his support networks.

The United States acknowledges Rwanda's desire to receive transferred cases from the ICTR. We commend the Prosecutor's support for that effort, as well as the work by the Rwandan government and others to build up capacity in the Rwandan legal system to make such transfers possible. We welcome the transfer last month of eight individuals convicted by the Special Court of Sierra Leone to Mpanga prison in Rwanda—an achievement that highlights Rwanda's growing capacity and commitment to meeting international standards. The ICTR's ability to transfer cases to Rwanda and other states as appropriate is a critical step toward meeting the Tribunal's completion

strategy.

Mr. President, the United States commends states' efforts to cooperate with the ICTY, but vital duties remain unmet. The two remaining fugitives Ratko Mladic and Goran Hadzic must be arrested and transferred to the Tribunal to face justice.

Cooperation with the ICTY remains a fundamental obligation for all states in the region. We commend the Government of Serbia for its improved cooperation, and we urge it to continue to do everything in its power to locate, arrest, and transfer Mladic to the Tribunal. The arrests of Mladic and Hadzic are important for the successful completion of ICTY's mandate, for Serbia's full Euro-Atlantic integration, and for the cause of justice and accountability.

Regarding Croatia, we welcome Croatia's efforts to respond to the Trial Chamber's September 2008 order to deliver artillery documentation from Operation Storm or engage in a credible investigation into its fate. We believe that the Government of Croatia's latest, ongoing investigation and establishment of a Task Force are significant steps forward in Croatia's cooperation with the ICTY. At the same time, we encourage the Croatian authorities to explore additional measures, such as using outside expertise and more aggressive investigative techniques that might help recover additional documents.

Mr. President, Bosnia-Herzegovina has made great strides to cooperate with the Tribunal and ICTY has done a commendable job in supporting the development of domestic courts. But last month the High Representative for Bosnia-Herzegovina informed us that domestic war crimes prosecutions and reform of the justice sector have suffered due to the inability of leaders to reach political decisions that advance national goals. We note the critically important work that international judges are doing in that country and support the extension of their mandates beyond December. International judges and prosecutors have worked tirelessly to bring justice to the victims, regardless of ethnicity.

Mr. President, let me again thank the Presidents, Prosecutors, Registrars, and Tribunal staffs for their dedication. Their work remains critically important to the fight against impunity and for stability and reconciliation in the regions involved.

Thank you Mr. President.