

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



PRESS CLIPPINGS

**Enclosed are clippings of local and international press on the Special Court and related issues obtained by the Press and Public Affairs Office
as at:**

Monday, 4 February 2008

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

Monday, 4 February 2008

Human rights commission gears up for operations

The Human Rights Commission in Sierra Leone has started a massive capacity building project for its newly recruited staff over the weekend.

According to the commission's deputy chairman Edward Sam, the training will continue this week until Thursday.

He said the training is an induction programme for the new staff who will be primarily looking at the

functions of the commission, the history and its establishment. These new recruits would also be embellished in the chronology of human rights.

During the initial orientation of the various sessions of induction, the commission's chairperson Jamesina King presented an overview and functions of the commission.

She highlighted the Lome Peace Agreement and other peace negotiations that led up to the formation of the commission.

She talked about the various studies by international researchers for the need of a national human rights commission to fulfill the needs of the Paris Principles and the functions of the commission in their protection of human rights.

Commissioner Edward Sam took the new recruits into the dense chronology of human rights in Sierra Leone from pre-colonial days through independence, post independence up to the war and up to the conclusion

of the 2007 elections.

Reverend Moses Kanu, one of the erudite commissioners who is also a mover and shaker in the religiosity of Sierra Leone and was the coordinator for the TRC reconciliation project for Western Area, shared the experience of the Inter Religious Council which was entrusted with the

Herculean task by the TRC to preside over the reconciliation phase of its work after the war.

Mr Joseph Stanley, another commissioner, instructed the new recruits in handling human rights violation, how to handle complaints and investigations and also staff's obligations under human rights laws.

"The objective of this intensive training is to adequately prepare the new staff in the effective performance of their duties," the commission's deputy chairman stated. This training came few weeks after the commission had developed a plan of action for the year in which it set up ambitious goals. Key among them is the scrupulous and vigilant monitoring of the human rights violations in the country.

Concord Times
Monday, 4 February 2008

An Encounter

By Lausana Gherie

Lunch with Gen. Butt Naked

I had badly wanted to meet with Joshua Milton Blahyi, formerly General Butt Naked, after reading his sensational testimony to Liberia's Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). I had arrived in Liberia a week after the TRC began its hearings, and was staying at the Royal Hotel in Sinkor, a once pretty residential area of Monrovia. Blahyi had volunteered to the Commissioners and the Liberian public (the hearings were public) the startling information that he had killed 20,000 people during Liberia's war. He was now an evangelist, a very ostentatious one; and his confession, he made clear, was meant as a sign of contrition.

About a week later I got an email note from my friend Stephen Ellis asking whether I could buy him a copy of Blahyi's book, *Trading Priesthood for Priesthood: A Testimonial Account of a Liberian Brutal War General and Traditional Priest that dramatically met Christ and is now a Christian Ambassador*. I hadn't known about the book, so I dialled one of the numbers Stephen gave me as contact for the book. Blahyi himself answered the phone. He said that the books were not available in Liberia because President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf had told him not to bring the books into the country for sale - they were published in Nigeria, and were on sale mainly in Ghana and the US. He said he was angry about the President's decision; I was baffled about it myself, until I started reading a torn copy of the slight volume. Here Blahyi is describing something that he and his gang (about 36 naked but armed teenagers) routinely did during the war:

My soldiers and I moved to the frontlines on the new

bridge and started the ritual by opening the little girl's back and plugging out her heart. I shared the little girl's heart with my soldiers. After we ate, I requested my boys to go to the river and bring some water for me to wash my hands...

I told him I would very much like to meet with him all the same. He promised to call me. That day I had met with Abdoule Dokule, a famous Liberian journalist who edits the online journal *Perspective*; the paper had become prominent during the Charles Taylor era for its incisive attacks on that regime. Dokule and I met for lunch at Mamba Point Hotel. He told me he had a copy of Blahyi's book, and he was meeting him after our meeting. He said he'll pass on my wish to get a copy of the book to Blahyi. The next day, just before lunch time, Blahyi called. He was in a garage not far from our offices, so would I pick him up? I said I would. A few minutes later I drove to the garage. As Blahye emerged to enter the car, a group of men, total strangers it seemed, came smiling to him. They praised his candour and outspokenness, and Blahye embraced one of them, his face beaming with satisfaction: he had become something of a celebrity. We drove to Beirut Restaurant, run by a matronly Lebanese woman, in downtown Monrovia. The setting was almost surreal: the elegant, well-maintained restaurant; the drab, degraded surrounding; the easy, relaxed ambiance in a desperately harsh city that has sucked in so much blood so recently.

Blahyi is physically striking. He is very well-built, his muscles indicating an ascetic body-building obsession. He is good looking without being handsome. But in

spite of myself I couldn't see him in this purely physical way: I couldn't help seeing in the mischievous, vapid face a bottled up viciousness: I feared the accretion would wear out quickly under close scrutiny: I was slightly scared. Blahyi, however, appeared un-awed but somewhat fidgety, as though anticipating disapproval or scepticism. He told me he is 37, and he looked it. When I ordered mango juice he quickly said that's what he wanted as well. He said he doesn't take alcohol. This looked to me like an affectation, a cute desire for approval, an attempt to strike a serious pose. I thought I had encountered this kind of pose before - in Sierra Leone, in 2003, when, in a corner of a small downtown bar I had wanted to buy beer for Augustine Gbao (soon to be indicted and arrested by the UN-created Special Court for Sierra Leone). Smiling in a disarming, cordial way, Gbao had turned down the offer, saying he doesn't drink, and accepting soft drink instead. So this detail seemed routine (a British military observer had written of how a red-eyed, drunk and blustering Gbao, while still a commander in the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) army, had raided a UN post in northern Sierra Leone and held soldiers at gun point, precipitating one of the biggest disasters in UN's peacekeeping history.)

But Blahyi went further. He insisted on having only French fries, though I ordered liver.

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Author

Moses Blah Claims Death Threat



former President Moses Z. Blah

By Alloyicious David

The NEWS has learnt that some unknown persons have threatened to assassinate former President Moses Z. Blah and his family if he did not abandon plan to testify against indicted war crimes suspect Charles Taylor in The Hague.

Some unknown persons have reportedly circulated leaflets about the death threat.

A copy of the leaflet which is in the possession of this paper indicates: "You Moses Blah who called yourself former president, 'we are after you day by day for your special court connection."

The leaflet posted on a building added

that Mr. Blah was preparing to proceed to The Hague to give evidence against his former boss, Taylor.

The unknown writer (s) also noted that they can establish that Mr. Blah has hosted individuals from the Special Court and that he received money to testify in The Hague.

The leaflet did not name the individuals Mr. Blah hosted at his residence.

However, Mr. Blah has disclosed that he has no intention to testify against Mr. Taylor.

Blah is calling on the Liberian government and UNMIL to provide him adequate security protection.

Samuel K. Doe, Sen. Senior Senator then noted,

I Will Only Testify If...

-Moses Blah

BY Patrick K. Wrokipon
 "I do not have any intention to testify against anybody in Liberia except I am forced to or if the law demands me to do so, but for me to voluntarily get up and say I am going to testify against any body in this country for any reason, it will not be so."

The above was the direct response of former Liberian President, Moses Blah when he spoke to this paper yesterday.

Answering a question as to whether he would take up the offer should he be called by the prosecution

council at the Sierra Leonean Special War Crime Court sitting in the Hague, to testify against his former boss, President Charles G. Taylor who is now facing trial in the Hague for allegedly

Defense Takes Recruitment

As efforts continue by the Security Sector Reform (SSR) and authorities of the Ministry of National Defense to recruit personnel in the new Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL), new dimensions have been

committing war crimes and other crimes against humanity and against the people of Sierra Leone.

News report that surfaced earlier this week claimed that some unknown persons have issued threat on the life of

Cont'd on Page 10

extended to several higher institutions of learning in the country.

On yesterday authorities of the Ministry of Defense,

the team

I Will Only Testify If...

Cont'd from front Page

the former President. The report alleged that an anonymous leaflet, which was reportedly discovered at the residence of the former President threatened to have him assassinated should he agree to testify against former indicted Liberian President, Charles Taylor.

But when he spoke to this paper yesterday on these alleged claims, former President Blah in response to a question from this paper as to whether he was ever contacted to testify against former President Taylor said, "No, nobody has requested me to do so."

Asked whether he had any intention to do so, former President Blah said, "Not at all."

He confirmed that a leaflet was discovered around his residence but added that he does not know where such threats have come from.

The former Care-Taker President, who took over the mantle of

authority of the country after former President Taylor resigned and was taken into exile in Nigeria, said at the moment an investigation was ongoing to determine the source of the leaflet. Asked whether there is much security being provided to protect his life from the alleged threat, Mr. Blah said he was heavily guided by the law as he put it, soldiers of UNMIL and personnel of the Special Security Services (SSS) among others are stationed at his residence to provide him with security.

According to him these security forces have been at his residence ever since he turned over the Presidency providing him with security protection stressing that this has been so, because he, as an individual who played a key role in pursuing former government of Liberian fighters to disarm, it was suspected that one day, he could be targeted.

The Inquirer (Liberia)

Friday, 1 February 2008

I Will Only Testify If - Moses Blah

By Patrick K. Wrokpoh

"I do not have any intention to testify against anybody in Liberia except I am forced to or If the law demands me to do so, but for me to voluntarily get up and say I am going to testify against any body in this country for any reason, it will not be so."

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Answering a question as to whether he would take up the offer should he be called by the prosecution counsel at the Sierra Leonean Special War Crime Court sitting in the Hague, to testify against his former boss, President Charles G. Taylor who is now facing trial in the Hague for allegedly committing war crimes and other crimes against humanity and against the people of Sierra Leone.

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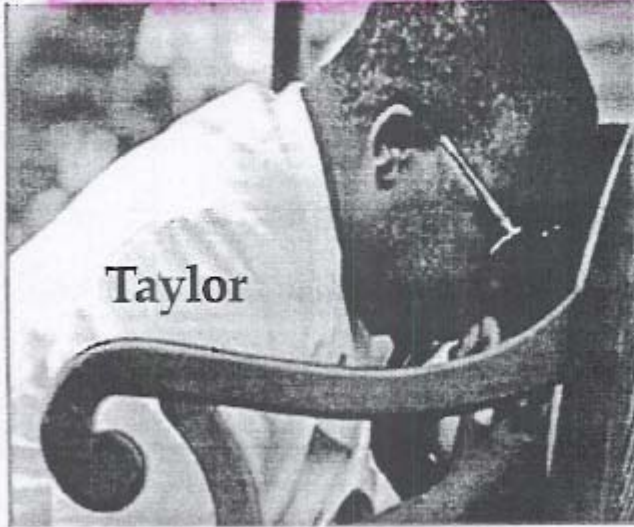
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New Democrat (Liberia)
Thursday, 31 January 2008

Secret Witness Under Marathon Questioning



For the fifth day, a witness testifying against ex-President Charles Taylor is answering questions from the prosecution, which began last Thursday.

Known only as TFI-371, with an unknown nationality for safety concerns, the witness is giving evidence of Taylor's alleged RUF connections, according to Court sources.

The trial continued in closed session yesterday. The courtroom was locked with curtains drawn to hear the testimony of Prosecution witness, TFI-371.

Monitors and journalists were informed by court personnel that the Prosecution was still conducting its direct examination of TFI-371, which began last Thursday afternoon. The Defense's cross-examination was expected to begin at some point this afternoon, also in closed session, and continue until at least tomorrow. (Courtesy, Blog: The Trial of Charles Taylor)

The Inquirer (Liberia)

Friday, 1 February 2008

Prince Johnson Sets Condition To Appear Before TRC

By Morrison O.G. Sayon

Prince Johnson, former leader of the defunct National Patriotic Front of Liberia (INPFL) now Nimba County Senior Senator, says he is prepared to appear before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) only if those who instigated the 1980 coup d'etat and killed President Tolbert are made to appear before the Commission.

Reacting to a statement from the TRC that he failed to appear before the TRC to explain about the death of Samuel K. Doe, Sen. Johnson stated emphatically that at no time did he refuse to appear before the TRC. He wondered, "How can I appear before the Commission when no one has accused me yet?"

The Nimba County Senior Senator then noted, "If I do not appear before the TRC, my character will be at stake. I'm willing to appear only if my name is called by victims but not people from the TRC who want to cause problem in this country."

He said prior to its hearing, the TRC sent out statement takers to every part of the country and even abroad to hear from people who were grossly affected by the war and now that the TRC has opened officially, they are expecting these victims to come out with names of those who carried out those atrocities in the country.

"If I refuse to appear before the Commission whenever my name is called then I will be putting my future and character at stake but if my name is called then I will appear to defend my character," Sen. Johnson said. He said it should not be the TRC to cite him for the death of the late President Doe when in fact he has since reconciled with the Doe family.

He further noted, "There were other people who came before me and killed President Tolbert, many of them are in government today, why is it that the TRC is not inviting these people to explain their role in the death of President Tolbert and the execution of the thirteen government officials who were all civilians?"

He then wondered, "There are people who constituted the 17 men of the AFL who killed Tolbert that morning who are in the very Legislature that I'm in presently, why is the TRC not talking about inviting these people? The TRC talked about investigating matters from 1979, why are they now starting from the 90s?"

Sen. Johnson said the families of Doe who are victims should have complained to the TRC but have forgotten about the matter. "If you are interested in the death of Doe, why are you not interested in Tolbert's death? He said the people of Nimba County are unhappy about his name being in the media by the TRC noting, "The people of Nimba were the direct victims under the Doe regime. They were killed in their numbers by the Doe government and I came to redeem my people."

"If the TRC is interested in knowing the death of a sitting president, let them start from Tolbert. Let the Tolbert people begin to appear and explain their roles in his death then I will have no choice but to also appear before the Commission," the former rebel general added.

Sen. Johnson stated further that his appearance before the TRC will cause many big names to come out. He added that it was an international conspiracy that led to the death of Doe. He said the death of Doe was initiated by the international community and Liberian politicians as well as Church leaders in the country.

Sen. Johnson disclosed that the international community including the then UN Secretary General, OAU (now AU), Chairman and the ECOWAS Chairman were all in The Gambia to form an interim government when in fact Doe was still a sitting president.

Sen. Johnson said he was being used by ailing Archbishop, Michael Francis and some Liberian politicians to remove President Doe so as to make way for former interim President, Amos Sawyer.

In conclusion, Sen. Johnson said, "I'm a target; this is witch-hunting and I will resist it; you can put rope on my neck and hang me but I will never appear when others who should have appeared before my turn have not been invited."

The Sunday Times (UK)

Sunday, 3 February 2008

School report shoots holes in boy soldier's bloody memoir

Bryan Appleyard

DOCUMENTS found on Friday at a school in Sierra Leone may destroy the credibility of a best-selling book by a child soldier in the 1990s civil war.

The discovery is the latest in a series of revelations casting doubt on the story told in Ishmael Beah's *A Long Way Gone*, which has sold 650,000 copies in the United States and has just come out in paperback in Britain. The book is a brilliant account of the war through the eyes of a child and has become the primary text of campaigners against using children in war.

Beah, 27, who has become a Unicef advocate, said he stood by his story. "I don't worry about it. For me, my story is accurate and I presented it accurately and I stand by it. I'm not worried about it."

Speaking before the emergence of the latest document, he indicated the attacks were motivated by jealousy. "If you go round waving a book in Sierra Leone and asking, 'Who knows this person?', somebody is going to say, 'Of course, that's my son or could be my brother'."

His story began in January 1993 when his village, Matru Jong, was attacked by rebel forces. Beah, then aged 12, escaped into the bush. He spent almost a year on the run before being handed an AK-47 by a government commander. He was 13 and for the next two years massacred his way around the country, high on various drugs.

Asked last week how many people he had killed, he said: "I've no idea. I really don't know. I was in it for quite some time; each day of the war, we were fighting or there were exhibition killings. When we captured prisoners, it wasn't like real war, where you take them to prison. We lined them up and . . . It was a way of indoctrinating new recruits."

The new documents, obtained by Peter Wilson, a London-based correspondent of the newspaper *The Australian*, are academic records of Beah's school. They show his marks for the period ending March 1993, indicating that he did not leave the school when he said he did.

They seem to confirm what Wilson had already discovered - that the attack on Matru Jong actually took place in January 1995. Since Beah is known to have been picked up by Unicef in January 1996, he can have been on the run and/or been a soldier for only a year.

Wilson has also investigated an account in the book of a fight between boys from rival factions at a Unicef rehabilitation centre in Freetown that reportedly ended with six dead. Unicef has been unable to find evidence of such an incident. But it said it was "not aware of any discrepancies in Ishmael's story. It is our view that even one day as a child soldier is one day too many".

Beah said: "Whose word do they [the press] have for saying it didn't happen? They said there was an official in government who said he didn't want to disclose his identity. They said if this thing happened they would have known about it. Then I think to myself - Sierra Leone, do they know how many children were killed in the war? Does the government know or care about that? Of course not."

Wilson suggests that “at every step of the way Ishmael was given incentives to exaggerate”. In Freetown a Unicef nurse encouraged him to tell his story and rewarded him with a Walkman. He won a trip to New York in 1996 with his graphic descriptions of life in the war. There he met Laura Simms, a writer he now calls his mother, who helped him to make his narratives more vivid. Finally, while he was studying at Oberlin college in Ohio, a creative-writing teacher spotted his literary gifts.

Beah is angry about the inquiries into his story. His father was killed in the fighting and he points out that reports that his father was still alive were found to be false.

“They never actually apologised for dragging me through that emotional thing . . . Every other day now, I go on The Australian’s website and they have a new instalment. This is what I think: they went and they didn’t find anything so they tried to find something else just to discredit me.”

The Jakarta Post.com

Monday, 4 February 2008

The possibility of indicting Soeharto after his death

Jennie S. Bev, San Francisco Bay Area

Soeharto has died after more than 20 days of being hospitalized. While his family members, close friends and cronies are expressing their grief, more than one million people who have lost loved ones are waiting anxiously for the news that he -- even after his death -- will be held accountable for his alleged crimes against humanity: the genocide of at least 500,000 during the 1960s, 183,000 during the East Timor occupation and 100,000 in West Papua.

This 86-year old former dictator of Indonesia, who had ruled for 32 years, was very impressive. Not one entity in the world has been successful in bringing him and his allies to justice for all the wrongdoings he allegedly committed against humanity.

In Javanese tradition, a leader's charisma stays until, or even after, he has died. It is common knowledge that many Indonesian leaders, particularly politicians, who belong to this ethnicity practice kejawen, Javanese mysticism.

Mystical reasons aside, there were and are political and legal obstacles to bringing Soeharto to justice.

First, due to his influential power during the New Order, he was able to maintain ad nauseam charismatic influence after he had been removed from power. Current political leaders lack the political will to bring him to justice, reportedly due to his "generosity" and "ability to win friends" by sharing wealth and engaging in other political maneuvers. In short, if they had brought him down, they would have brought themselves down too.

Second, he escaped a series of Indonesian criminal lawsuits since 2000 for his alleged grand corruption acts, on the grounds of ill health. No domestic impartial investigative commission or truth commission to create an authoritative record of his responsibility for crimes against humanity has been formed either. And it is common knowledge the Indonesian judiciary requires a major overhaul due to its impotence and corrupt officials.

Now, with more impossibilities than possibilities to have Soeharto prosecuted for his alleged crimes against humanity, there is still a light at the end of the tunnel provided there is a moral force strong enough to pressure international law bodies to take part.

In general, there are two courts with jurisdiction to prosecute such cases: the International Criminal Court and the International Tribunal Court. The former is a permanent court, while the latter is an ad hoc.

The International Criminal Court, which was established on July 1, 2002, following the signing of the Rome Statute by 102 countries, including Indonesia, is the first choice, provided that it would apply to Soeharto's case.

Unfortunately, it does not apply retroactively, which precludes it from prosecuting any crimes occurring prior to 2002, even though it is currently conducting investigations in Congo, Darfur, Sudan and Uganda. Indonesia intends to ratify the Rome Statute this year to serve as a deterrent for future crimes.

The International Tribunal Court, an ad hoc court formed under the supervision of the United Nations Security Council, might be the last hope. On Jan. 22, 2008, Michael P. Scharf, a member of the international team of experts that provided training to the judges of the Iraqi High Tribunal, and also a trainer of judges and prosecutors of the UN Cambodia Genocide Tribunal and a professor and director of Frederick K. Cox International Law Center at Case Western Reserve University, said, "Since Nuremberg, where Adolf Hitler's deputy, Martin Bormann, was prosecuted though he was already dead, international law has frowned on prosecutions in absentia".

He added that the best solution would probably be to set up an international and domestic investigative commission or truth commission to create an authoritative detailed record of his crimes against humanity. Alternatively, after his demise, such records could be used against his chief lieutenants. As such, trials would reveal Soeharto's involvements in ordering or condoning their actions.

Ad hoc tribunals have been formed for the former Yugoslavia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone and Cambodia, which can be used as a model for Soeharto's case.

The road to hold Soeharto accountable for his alleged crimes against humanity is an uphill one. The light at the end of the tunnel, however, can be magnified by concerned citizens of the world who work together in pressuring the UN Security Council and Indonesia's current president and new president, whoever comes to power after the 2009 election, to listen to their consciences and set a precedent that such titanic atrocities will not happen again in Indonesia and the world.

The writer is a columnist, doctoral candidate, former law lecturer and a graduate of the University of Indonesia law school. She can be reached at jenniesbev.com.

New Democrat (Liberia)
Tuesday, 8 January 2008

"We've More Evidence Than Necessary..."

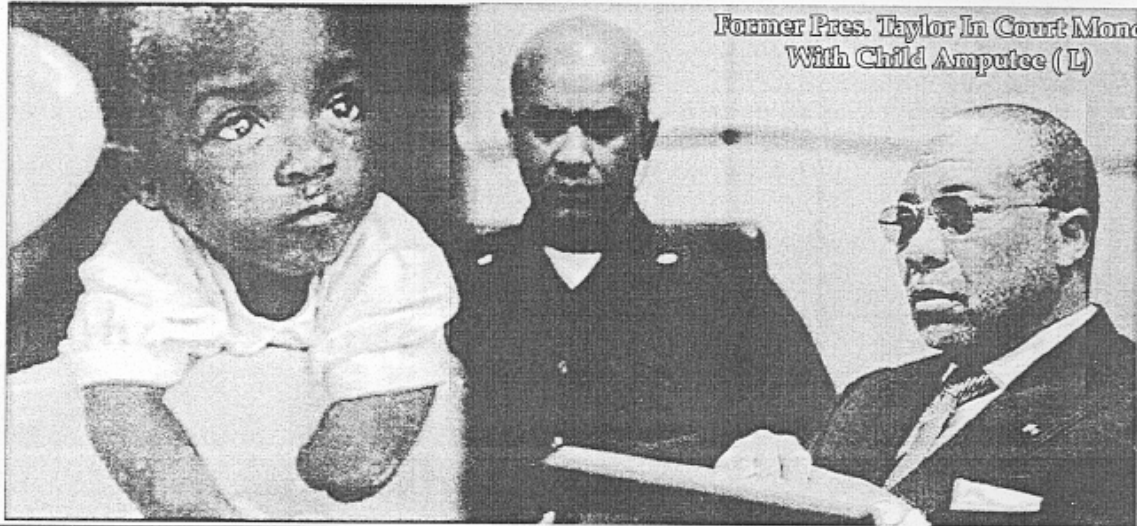
Footage Of Amputee Victim Shown At Taylor Trial

Dismissing claims of lack of evidence tying Charles Taylor to atrocities in Sierra Leone, Chief Prosecutor Stephen Rapp says there is more evidence than necessary to convict the former Liberian leader.

Meanwhile, a video footage of amputees in Sierra Leone has been shown in court following the presiding judge, Uganda's Julia Sebutinde. Overruling of the defence's objection.

Reuters reported late Monday that prosecutors began their war crimes case against Liberia's Charles Taylor on Monday with footage of a Sierra Leonean whose hands were cut off by rebels, and

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Former Pres. Taylor In Court Monday
With Child Amputee (L)

"We've More Evidence

testimony on the diamond trade that funded a brutal war.

Prosecutors showed scenes from a documentary in which a Sierra Leonean diamond miner described how his hands were hacked off by laughing RUF rebels who later torched his house, killing his wife and children sheltering inside.

Prosecutors also called as their first witness Ian Smillie, a Canadian expert on the trade in conflict diamonds or "blood diamonds," smuggled out of Africa and used to buy arms.

"Diamonds are the most concentrated form of wealth on earth," Smillie said, adding diamonds from Sierra Leone were of much higher value than those from neighboring Liberia, worth around \$200 per carat compared with \$25-30 per carat.

The chair of Sierra Leone's amputees' association told the BBC they would press for reparations from states that sponsored Sierra Leone's rebellion.

"We have more evidence than necessary," Mr Rapp, an American, told the BBC in an interview Monday shortly before the trial could commence. He said one of the witnesses, amongst several linkage witnesses, to tes-

tify against Mr Taylor is an insider who has worked with Mr Taylor dating from the 1980s to the time of his as President of Liberia.

Regarding the charge of rape and whether the prosecution can prove a case against Mr Taylor, he said it is inconceivable that a sitting president would leave his office in Monrovia or rape women in Sierra Leone. But he added that the Prosecution's case is that it has evidence indicating that Taylor organized, funded and directed the crimes. He said such evidence will come from documents and individuals who themselves participated in the crimes but are prepared to testify against Mr Taylor. Prosecutor Rapp: "This is an important test for international justice ... it will have ramifications throughout the world." Prosecutor Stephen Rapp said on Friday of the trial he hopes will end decades of impunity for African strongmen. "There have been other cases involving chiefs of state that have not gone well ... But I am confident that we can present the case and show that it is possible to hold a chief of state responsible in a fair and just trial."

They expect a judgment by the end of 2009, though an appeal would likely stretch into 2010.

New Democrat (Liberia)
Tuesday, 8 January 2008

Several Shun Taylor Trial Prayer

As Loyalists Ask God For Fair Taylor Trial

Dozens of former officials of former President Charles Taylor Sunday gathered at a Congo Town Baptist church where they prayed for their beloved one to receive fair trial and triumphantly return home. But nearly all opposition party leaders and government officials invited to pray along did not participate.

President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, officially invited, said she had prior engagements that prevented her from attending. Cllr. Varrey Sherman said he would pray in private for the former President.

The prayers and sermons were largely political, with some pastors saying Taylor should not bear the brunt for the alleged collective crimes



Former Pres. Taylor Estranged wife Jewel Taylor offering prayers

of others. Taylor is charged with bearing the responsibility for crimes committed in Sierra Leone. He is accused of financing and directing the country's erstwhile revolutionary United Front for Democracy in Sierra Leone.

Though Mr. Mulbah gave reasons for the secession of other political parties, he read out two letters from the Government and Cllr. Sherman, in which they expressed regrets of not being able to join them due to prior engagements.

Mrs. Jewel Howard Taylor said she was not disappointed over the absence of

See Page 10

Several Shun Taylor

political leaders and the government from the service. Asked whether she thinks her husband would be set free, she said she believes God will intervene on his behalf.

In a rather political statement, the First Baptist Church Pastor, Rev. Joseph G. ... described the current political leadership group of rebels saying "is just one reeling state power from another rebel."

The News (Liberia)
Tuesday, 8 January 2008

As Taylor Trial Resumes:

WAR CRIMES FIRST WITNESS TESTIFIES

The war crimes trial of accused former Liberian President Charles Taylor resumed Monday with prosecution first witness taking the stand.

The trial at The Hague comes six months after he boycotted the opening session in June 2007 and called the trial a "charade."

Mr. Taylor was seen in court dressed in a dark blue suit swinging left, right in the chair he sat in. The former Liberian leader appeared passive as he watched his trial.

Yesterday, prosecution produced its first witness in person of Canadian author Ian Smillie, who is considered an expert in the trade of blood diamonds (so-called because funds from their sale fuel African rebel groups).

He testified for the prosecution, explaining how the trade in 'blood diamonds' exacerbated the conflict.

Taylor, who was president of Liberia from 1997 to 2003, is charged with five counts of crimes against humanity, including murder, sexual slavery, violence and enslavement.

He also faces five counts of war crimes, including acts of terrorism and torture, and



Former Liberian President Charles Taylor appeared in court on Monday at The Hague. one count of other serious violations of international humanitarian law. widespread murder, rape, and mutilation. The United Nations and the Sierra Leone Government established the Special Court for Sierra Leone in 2002. The United Nations decided to move Taylor's trial from

Sierra Leone's capital, Freetown, to The Hague last year because of concerns that Taylor's presence would harm stability and security in the Western African subregion.

The trial opened in June 2007, but Taylor boycotted the first session, saying he could not expect a fair trial.

In a letter read out to the court by his defense counsel, Kerim Khan, Taylor said he could not take part in what he called "this charade that does injustice to the people of Liberia and the people of Sierra Leone."

In the same letter, Taylor also dismissed Khan from the case and asked to represent himself. However, British lawyer Courtenay Griffiths now leads Taylor's defense team.

Mr. Taylor is the first African head of state to go on trial for war crimes before an international tribunal. For the benefit of the public, we bring you full account of prosecution's first witnesses in person of Ian Smillie (IS). The following are legal interactions at The Hague:

The trial began at 9:00 in The Hague, (8:00 in Sierra Leone and Liberia), but there is a

Cont'd on page 3

WAR CRIMES

half hour delay in the video and audio feed, so we still have about ten minutes before we can know what's happening.

Charles Taylor appeared in court Monday morning, and that the first prosecution witness is expected to be an expert on diamond and weapons trafficking in West Africa. He will be followed by a victim witness, and then an "insider" witness whom the prosecution says is a former associate of Charles Taylor.

Prosecution witness Ian Smillie has been sworn in. The prosecutor is asking Ian Smillie to describe his background.

IS: After finishing my education, I taught English, French and history in a secondary school for one year in the eastern Sierra Leonean town of Koidu, Kono District.

Pros: Did you observe any mining?

IS: Koidu was a mining center in Sierra Leone, almost like the Wild West. Thousands of people had come to dig for diamonds.

Pros: What did you do after that year?

IS: I worked in Nigeria from 1968-1971.

Pros: What were your subsequent jobs?

IS: Describes a work history with various Canadian NGOs. From 1983-1989, worked as an independent consultant on development issues, working for the Canadian government, UN agencies, African and other NGOs. Starting in 1999, started to work with Partnership Africa-Canada on the diamond issue in Sierra Leone.

Pros: What is a kimberlite dyke?

IS: Dykes are where the kimberlite never reached the surface. Kimberlite dykes are in Tongo Field, near Kenema. Kimberlite fissures are similar. Kimberlite pipes in Sierra Leone are concentrated around Kono.

Pros: Tell us about mining in Sierra Leone.

IS: Beginning in 1950s, SL government allowed licensing of artisanal diamond mining - small mining by hand using only a shovel and sieve. Beyond licensed mining, there was a lot of illicit mining using these techniques. Industrial mining digs down into the kimberlite pipes, which requires major capital investment. Semi-industrial mining means that diamonds are below the surface, requiring modest investment in equipment such as bulldozers.

Pros: What are tailings?

IS: Remains of mines. The Sierra Leone Selection Trust equipment only picked out diamonds larger than a particular size. The tailings from that mining can be re-mined for the smaller diamonds.

11:30 (with half hour delay): Court is back in session.

Pros: Question for Smillie. Tell us about the organization CUSO that you worked for, as a teacher in Koidu and elsewhere.

Smillie: It's the Canadian University Service Overseas (CUSO), similar to the American Peace Corps, which sends young people overseas to assist developing countries.

Pros: Was information in the clip we've just seen accurate?

IS: Yes, it was general, but accurate.

Pros: Is there a linear relationship between the number of carats a diamond has and its value?

IS: Value increases exponentially with size, and there are other factors such as color and clarity. A five carat diamond is worth much more than five one-carat diamonds. The cut of the diamond also determines its final value, but this generally doesn't affect the value of rough diamonds unless its apparent that a good cut wouldn't be possible with a particular rough diamond. Two general categories: industrial diamonds and gem diamonds.

Pros: How are diamonds created?

IS: All through volcanic action and pressure in the earth. Can be very small - ranging from half the size of the courtroom to half a kilometer wide. Kimberlite pipes can be found intact, such as those in Canada, South Africa. Diamonds were all formed 50 million years ago. In some places, the top of the pipe has washed away, and those diamonds that are washed away by rivers are called alluvial diamonds. In some cases the rivers no longer exist. In Namibia, the diamonds have washed into the

ocean, so mining is done on the ocean floor off the coast. In Sierra Leone, Liberia, etc., alluvial diamonds are scattered over hundreds of square kilometers. Sometimes diamonds are sitting on the surface, or just below.

Judge Sebutinde: What is the relevance? Does any of this relate to the indictment?

Pros: There are kimberlites in Sierra Leone, important for judges to understand how mining is years ago. Related to indictment because prosecution will show that campaign of terror was used to control illicit diamond mining - important to understand how diamonds are spread out.

Sebutinde: OK, but keep it short.

To Smillie: Can you describe how diamonds go from mining to retail?

IS: A lot of small miners in Sierra Leone, Congo, etc. Miners sell to dealers who sell to exporters, who send them all around the world.

Pros: What is Belgium's role?

IS: Used to be main center of polishing. That's no longer the case, but Antwerp remains main hub of diamond trade. Much of the polishing is done in India.

Smillie: Expert panel's report doesn't list all meetings. Some people we met with were very nervous and requested anonymity about their meetings with the panel.

The prosecution is requesting to play another clip from the documentary "Blood Diamonds". The defense is objecting to the clip being played because Smillie doesn't appear in the clip, so the witness can't speak to it. Pros: Clip is about the diamond industry, and the witness is qualified to say whether they are accurate. Judge Sebutinde: Why is the clip necessary - why can't Smillie just testify to the facts if he's an expert? Pros: visual is helpful in understanding how diamond mining works, etc.

The clip provides an overview of diamond mining worldwide, how they're processed and traded. More than half of all diamonds are sold in the United States. History of diamond mining in Africa during the 19th century. The clip describes how diamonds are created in "kimberlite pipes" in the earth's crust.

Pros: Question for Smillie: have you spoken with people in the diamond industry?

Smillie: Yes, extensively at all levels.

Pros: What is the World Diamond Council?

Smillie: Made up of diamond traders like DeBeers and retailers. The industry group was established to work on the Kimberly Process. NGOs meet often with members of the World Diamond Council.

Pros: Do you know the individual in the clip named Saul Goldberg?

Smillie: I don't know him personally, but the Goldberg company is a widely respected New York diamond company. Judge Sebutinde has just interrupted to announce that the proceedings will pause now as scheduled for 25 minutes, set to resume at 11:00. With the delayed audio and video feed to the press room here, that means we'll continue our coverage at 11:30.

Pros: Now I want to ask you about arms shipments listed in the report of the expert panel. First, how did the panel work?

IS: We worked as a team on some aspects, or in smaller groups.

Pros: Are you familiar with the UN arms embargos affecting SL and Liberia at the time your panel was formed?

IS: Yes, there was a complete embargo on Liberia, and an embargo on all shipments to parties in SL except for the government.

Pros: Who is Leonid Minin, mentioned in your report?

IS: He flew arms to Liberia and throughout the region. Has subsequently been arrested for many offenses, including drug trafficking and passport fraud.

Pros: The report discusses various flights of an aircraft owned by Minin. What was your source?

IS: There were two sources. The Angola expert panel told us about this plane taking a large shipment of arms to Burkina Faso. We wanted to find out what happened to those weapons. Our air traffic control expert went to Spain to review flight logs for this aircraft, also in Burkina Faso.

The Informer (Liberia)
Tuesday, 8 January 2008

First Witnesses Testify Against Charles Taylor

The trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor on charges of directing atrocities in Sierra Leone resumed in The Hague yesterday with prosecutors due to call their first witnesses to the stand.

Taylor, once one of Africa's most feared warlords, faces charges of rape, murder, mutilation and recruitment of child soldiers at the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone, set up to try those most responsible for the 1991-2002 conflict.

The 59-year-old has pleaded not guilty to all charges.

A relaxed-looking Taylor appeared in the courtroom wearing a dark suit and tie.

"This is an important test for international justice ... it will have ramifications throughout the world," Prosecutor Stephen Rapp had said at a briefing on Friday of the trial he hopes will end decades of impunity for African strongmen.

"There have been other cases involving chiefs of state that have not gone well ... But I am confident that we can present the case and show that it is possible to hold a

chief of state responsible in a fair and just trial."

More than a quarter of a million people were killed in intertwined wars in Liberia and Sierra Leone which shocked the world with stories and images of child soldiers high on drugs, killing, raping and looting.

Taylor is accused of trying to gain control of Sierra Leone's mineral wealth, particularly its diamond mines, and seeking to destabilise its government by supplying the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels.

Prosecutors have said their first witness will be an expert on the trade in conflict diamonds, followed by a victim of the violence in Sierra Leone, and then an insider once close to Taylor's regime.

In Sierra Leone, a generation of civilian amputees - their hands or legs hacked off by rebels - are a painful reminder of the cruelty of the conflict, in which drugged rebels and militias, often child soldiers, killed,

TURN TO PAGE 6



Former Liberia President Darkpannah Dr. Charles Ghankay Taylor: Facing trial in The Hague

FIRST WITNESSES

raped and maimed.

The trial is being held in The Hague because of fears it could spur instability if held in Sierra Leone.

Prosecutors intend to call 144 witnesses but hope half of them can submit their testimony in writing, allowing the prosecuting team to wrap up their case in about eight months.

They expect a judgment by the end of 2009, though an appeal would likely stretch into 2010.

Taylor boycotted the opening of his trial last June in a dispute over the resources allocated to his de-

fence, prompting legal wrangling and repeated delays.

More funds were eventually made available to Taylor and a new defence team was appointed in July.

The former strongman is receiving legal aid despite suspicions he amassed a considerable personal fortune.

In the past, ousted African dictators have often fled overseas to live out their days unpunished. Taylor found exile in Nigeria after being overthrown in 2003, but was later handed to the court under international pressure.

Daily Observer (Liberia)
Tuesday, 8 January 2008

Taylor Shows No Emotion

As Witness Testifies



Mr. Taylor as he appeared in court yesterday

The war crimes trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor has resumed in The Hague after a six-month delay.

Mr. Taylor - who is accused of trading weapons for diamonds - showed no emotion as the first witness, an expert on 'blood diamonds', testified.

He is the first African former head of state to face an international war crimes court and faces 11 charges.

He denies responsibility for atrocities committed by rebels during the civil war in neighboring Sierra Leone.

The trial opened in June last year but proceedings were postponed after Mr. Taylor fired his defense lawyer and boycotted the opening of the trial.

He now has a new defense team - a senior British lawyer, who is being paid for by the court, as Mr. Taylor says he cannot afford it himself.

The BBC's Mark Doyle in The Hague says this will surprise many people in Liberia, who claim he made

lots of money by selling timber and diamonds.

The former Liberian leader was dressed in a dark suit and stared impassively through gold-rimmed glasses as witness Ian Smilie traced the history of the diamond industry in Sierra Leone, our correspondent reports.

Prosecutors say Mr. Taylor's desire for access to diamonds and other natural resources from Sierra Leone was one of the root causes of his alleged involvement in the war.

Mr. Taylor is accused of responsibility for the actions of Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels during the 1991-2001 civil war in Sierra Leone, which included unlawful killings.

See pg 10

Taylor

sexual slavery, use of child soldiers and looting.

RUF fighters were also notorious for hacking off the arms and legs of the civilian population with machetes.

As the first international criminal prosecution against a former African ruler accused of misdeeds, the case is of crucial importance, our correspondent says.

Mr. Taylor has pleaded not guilty to all 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The prosecution will also be calling a Sierra Leonean victim and a Liberian witness who is said to have belonged to Mr. Taylor's inner circle.

Both witnesses are protected, which means their names have not been revealed.

In all, the prosecution intends to call 144 witnesses, though only half are likely to appear in person.

Chief prosecutor at the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone, Stephen Rapp, said: "We owe it to the victims to present some testimony in a live sense [so as] not to drain the case of the human element completely."

The trial is expected to last about 18 months.

It is being held in The Hague for fear that staging it in Sierra Leone might lead to fresh unrest there.

If convicted, the UK has offered to jail him - again in case his presence in West Africa led to instability.

The Analyst (Liberia)
 Tuesday, 8 January 2008

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GHASTLY VIDEO OPENS TAYLOR'S TRIAL



- 'Blood Diamonds' Expert Presents Damning Report
- Taylorites Leave His Fate To Almighty God
- But Taylor's Lawyer Dismisses Claims as Trash

The long awaited landmark trial of the first former African president, facing charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity yesterday resumed in The Hague after many legal hiccups since the UN-backed Special Court of Sierra Leone took custody of Charles Taylor in March 2006. Noted as one of the great achievements of the 21st Century by human rights activists and protagonists against pervasive impunity within the continent, the trial is taking place amidst ghastly video clips in a secured incubator beyond the fragile West African environment that the atrocities were allegedly committed. But whether or not distance will yield the desired justice for the thousands of victims of the neighboring West African country of Sierra Leone is the question that saturates debates around the sub-region. Now *The Analyst* pieces together this report for our esteemed readers.

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GHASTLY VIDEO OPENS TAYLOR'S TRIAL

"I will be back, God willing," said former President Charles Taylor on the heels of his departure from Liberia on August 11, 2003. He referred to himself then as the sacrificial lamb when relinquishing power to his successor, Moses Blah.

Back Taylor came, but in cuffs and only to briefly behold the Roberts International Airport (RIA) before the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) whisked him off to Freetown, Sierra Leone to face his charges at the UN-backed Special War Crimes Court.

The former Liberian President pleaded not guilty to an 11-count indictment war crimes and crimes against humanity, including rape, torture, conscription of child soldiers, among others, when he was arraigned in Freetown.

Following a period of disposition of legal issues in Freetown, Taylor's trial was transferred to The Hague, where he is expected to face more than 250 witnesses and 30,000 pieces of evidence.

Taylor last year dismissed his lawyer, Karim Khan, before the Special Court scheduled the trial to yesterday.

The trial began at The Hague with the first witness taking the stand. About 20 witnesses from Liberia and elsewhere are lined up to testify against the former president who is being tried for war crimes and crimes against humanity. Mr. Taylor has accordingly denied responsibility for atrocities in the decade-long Sierra Leonean fratricidal conflict.

At yesterday trial ceremony, a ghastly video footage of mutilated victims of Sierra Leone rebels was shown at the war-crimes trial of the former Liberian President.

Accused of trading weapons for diamonds, Mr. Taylor showed no emotion as the first witness, an expert on "blood diamonds", gave his evidence.

The trial which was delayed resumed for nearly six months resumed following Taylor's dismissal of his Defense lawyer, Karim Khan last year. Following this development, the new defense team requested for ample time to enable them peruse and find adequate responses to the over 30,000 pieces of evidence that the world court prosecution has presented against the former Liberian President.

Former President Taylor was initially charged with 17 counts, but the court rather condensed the long list of charges into eleven charges that Taylor must now seek ways to exonerate himself through his defense counsels headed by the British trained Courtenay Griffiths.

That he would submit to concession was far from reality as he denied responsibility for atrocities committed by RUF rebels during the civil war in that country.

A video highlighting a Sierra Leonean diamond miner was shown to the court. In that video, the miner described how his hands were hacked off by laughing Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels who later burned down his house, killed his wife and children.

He said the borders were very porous and he had no control over this Ian Smillie: witness

centers on allegations that diamonds illegally mined by rebels in Sierra Leone were exported from Liberia with Mr. Taylor's co-operation. Furthermore, it is maintained that proceeds from the sale of these blood diamonds were used to acquire weapons and munitions for the rebels.

Witness Ian Smillie, who wrote a report for the United Nations on conflict - or "blood" - diamonds, said the former RUF rebels used brutality to frighten people away from diamond fields that earned them up to \$125m (£63m) a year.

He said figures showed that during the war in Sierra Leone, Liberia exported far more diamonds than it could have produced itself.

He said that when he met Mr. Taylor in 2000, the former president had told him it was "highly probable" that the former RUF rebels were dealing in diamonds, and that some of them might have been going through Liberia.

But, he said this was not official, and he didn't know anything about it," Mr. Smillie told the court. "He said the borders were very porous and that he had no control over this."

Mr. Taylor's defense counsels, as expected, objected to some of Mr. Smillie's testimony, calling them as hearsay, but the world court or Special Court of Sierra Leone upheld most of the testimony.

The trial opened in June last year but proceedings were postponed after Mr. Taylor fired his defense lawyer and boycotted the opening session of the trial.

He now has a new defense team - a senior British lawyer, who is being paid for by the court, as Mr. Taylor has said for the record time that cannot afford the cost of defending himself against the well armored prosecution of the Special Court.

But the sympathizers and followers of the former Liberian President are leaving everything to the legal process that some of them say lacks "every element of transparency and fairness".

They, at least hundreds of them, converged at the Providence Baptist Church on Sunday Sunday, January 6, 2008 to beseech God to intervene for Taylor.

"Taylor's fate is in God's hand now," said a middle age lady who declined to identify herself.

The BBC's Mark Doyle in The Hague says this will surprise many people in Liberia, who claimed he made lots of money by selling timber and diamonds.

Mr. Taylor is accused of responsibility for the actions of Revolutionary United Front rebels during the 1991-2001 civil war in Sierra Leone, which included unlawful killings,

soldiers and looting.

RUF fighters were also notorious for hacking off the arms and legs of the civilian population with machetes.

As the first international criminal prosecution against a former African ruler accused of misdeeds, the case is of crucial importance, our correspondent says.

Mr. Taylor has pleaded not guilty to all 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The prosecution will also be calling a Liberian witness who is said to have belonged

to Mr. Taylor's inner circle.

Both witnesses are protected, which means their names have not been revealed.

In all, the prosecution intends to call 144 witnesses, though only half are likely to appear in person.

The trial is expected to last about 18 months.

It is being held in The Hague for fear that staging it in Sierra Leone might lead to fresh unrest there.

If convicted, the UK has offered to jail him - again in case his presence in West Africa led to instability.

The Liberian Diaspora (Liberia)
Tuesday, 8 January 2008

TAYLORITES PRAY FOR CHIEF

As Taylor Goes to Trial

The First Baptist Church of Oldest Congo Town was on Sunday the scene of hope, joy, tears and optimism when hundreds of friends, family and partisans of the National Patriotic Party of former President Charles Ghankay Taylor converged for a three-hour spirit-filled Incessant Prayer as he prepared to begin his long awaited trial in the Hague. The service was organized by a committee headed by former First Lady and Bong County Senator, Jewel Howard Taylor and former Police Director Paul Mulbah. In his introductory remarks, the Senior Pastor of the church, Rev. Joseph Johnson said he was prepared to risk any recrimination in allowing his church to host the prayer service, insisting that it was not a political, but rather religious affair. He said his church was in the vanguard of insuring justice for all and opposing injustice whenever possible. Prayers were said for national reconciliation, the Taylor family, peace, mercy, fair trial, and wisdom and protection of Taylor's lawyers. The evening was climaxed by a powerful sermon delivered by Rev. A. Moses Rouhac, Jr.

Meanwhile, on the first day of the trial yesterday, video footage of mutilated victims of Sierra Leone rebels was shown as former Taylor looked on well grieved.

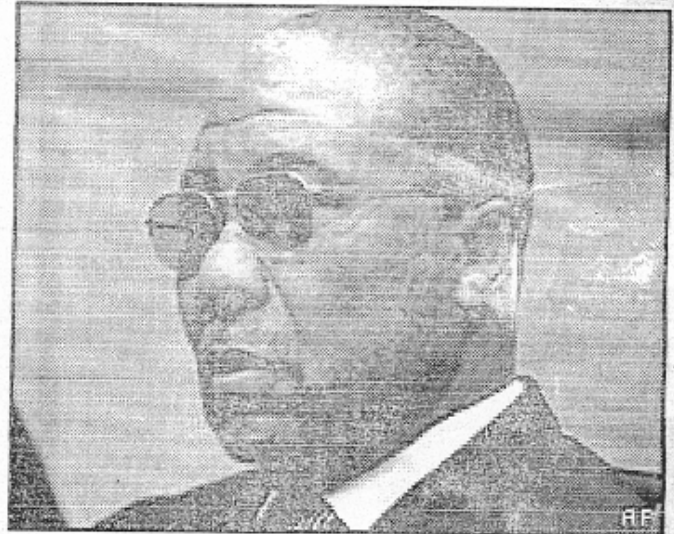
Mr Taylor - who is accused of trading weapons for diamonds - showed no emotion as the first witness, an expert on "blood diamonds", gave evidence.

The delayed trial has resumed at The Hague after a six-month delay. Mr Taylor is the first African former head of state to face an international war crimes court and faces 11 charges.

He denies responsibility for atrocities committed by rebels during the civil war in neighbouring Sierra Leone.

Video of a Sierra Leonean diamond miner was shown to the court, in which he described how his hands were hacked off by laughing Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels who later burned down torched his house, killing his wife and children.

The case against Mr Taylor centres on allegations that diamonds illegally mined by rebels in Sierra Leone were exported from



Liberia with Mr Taylor's co-operation, and the proceeds from their sale used to buy weapons for the rebels.

Witness Ian Smillie, who wrote a report for the United Nations on conflict - or "blood" -

Cont'd on page 6

TAYLORITES

diamonds, said the former RUF rebels used brutality to frighten people away from diamond fields that earned them up to \$125m (£63m) a year.

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"But, he said this was not official, and he didn't know anything about it," Mr Smillie told the court. "He said the borders were very porous and he had no control over this."

Mr Taylor's defence objected to some of Mr Smillie's testimony as hearsay, but most of it was accepted by the court.

Funded defence

The trial opened in June last year but proceedings were postponed after Mr Taylor fired his defence lawyer and boycotted the opening of the trial.

He now has a new defence team - a senior British lawyer, who is being paid for by the court, as Mr Taylor says he cannot afford it himself.

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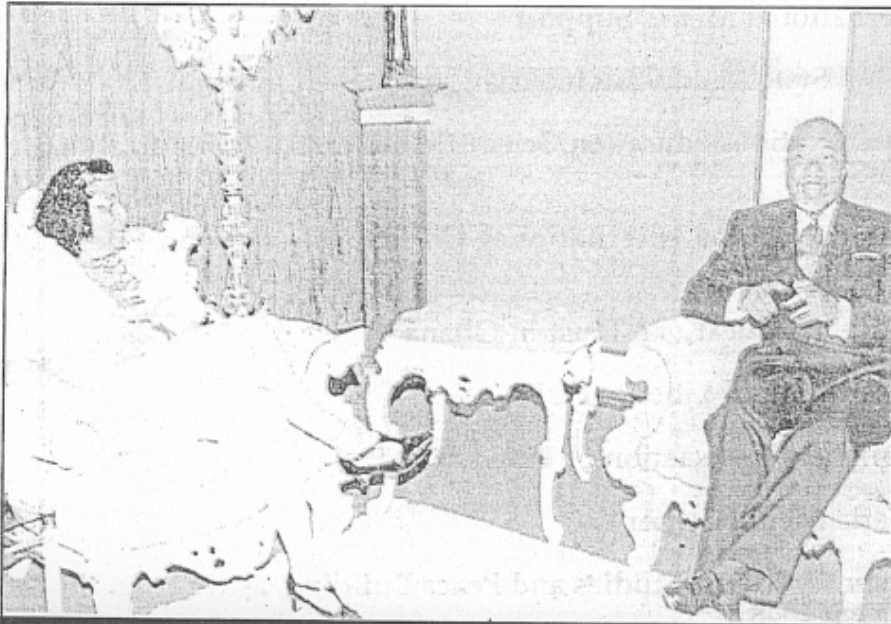
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The Independent (Liberia)
Tuesday, 8 January 2008

Ellen Boycotts Taylor's Prayer Service

- As Trial Resume, S/L Amputee Back-off



Flashback: President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf and former President Taylor sharing meals in April 2002

MONROVIA: President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf Sunday boycotted the prayer service for former Liberian President Charles Taylor, whose trial commenced in The Hague, the Netherlands by the Sierra Leone United Nations backed War Crime Court.

The Monrovia office of the former Liberian President headed by John T. Richardson and other associates invited President Johnson-Sirleaf to attend and worship with family members and associates of the former President, but she did not turn out for the occasion as the trial resumed yesterday, January 7, 2008 in The Hague.

Though Presidential Spokesman, Cyrus Badio could not be reached to give reasons why President Johnson-Sirleaf downplayed the Taylor family's invitation, but sources at the Foreign Ministry which now hosts her office, said she received the invitation but replied,

she received the invitation late and was already engaged with other matters which could not allow her to attend the worship service.

The former Liberian President has been charged with war crimes and crimes against humanity for his alleged involvement in the Sierra Leone's civil conflict, the charges he had since pleaded not guilty.

Former President Taylor left Liberia in 2003 to give way to an interim government headed by Charles Gyude Bryant as Chairman, which was organized in Accra, Ghana with a peace formula for Liberia and a

Cont'd on page 6

Cross River State in Nigeria that played him host. By mid day of March 29, 2006, the day the eclipse covered Nigeria, following hours of purported search, it was reported that the former Liberian President had been arrested in a bordering state of Nigeria; in minutes of that arrest news, Taylor was boarded on a presidential falcon jet and hurried to the Roberts International Airport near Monrovia where he was then handcuffed by the Ellen's government security high ups, and immediately handed over to United Nations Mission In Liberia (UNMIL) troops and subsequently whisked away to Freetown, Sierra Leone.

On the eve of Christmas in 1989, a group of rebellious Liberians headed by Taylor, styled as the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL), said to be organized and funded by "a have" group of Liberians in the Diaspora, including Madam Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, Amos Sawyer, the LPRC Harry Greaves among others, launched what would later become a journey in a valley of a drumbeats of guns with a dance of death beside the rivers of blood just to undo the Samuel K. Doe presidency of Liberia.

The then spokesman of the NPFL, Tom Woweiyu, has lately accused President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf of fueling the war with USD\$500, 000.00. Over 350,000 Liberians lost their lives; a horde were either internally displaced or went to seek refuge in neighboring countries.

It can be recalled how Madam Sirleaf was always busy on international wire, not limited BBC and Radio France International, promoting the fighting forces of Taylor while the NPFL war was ongoing. In one of her many interviews with BBC's Robin White, when the late President Doe was still holding fast of the

supposed committed in another country while he served as President of the Republic of Liberia.

However, in his welcoming address during the worship service, the Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church (FBI) in Oldest Congo Town, Rev. Joseph Gardea Johnson, explained that "we received the request to host the Taylor prayer service at this church edifice. We are aware of the international community conspiracy to the case. The Baptist prelate said he believes in justice and anything that is not done fairly and truly is not done at all. We as church believe in justice for all".

Rev. Johnson maintained that it is the responsibility of the church to pray for any human being no matter of his tribe, political affiliation or color. What they cannot do as a church is that they cannot pray for Satan. He said his church the, FBI has been offering prayers for prisoners, patients in the various hospitals and prison compounds and it is no mistakes to also offer prayer for Mr. Taylor who is Liberian former president.

The worship service for the former Liberian president was jammed pack, as former president Moses Z. Blah, former vice president John Gray, former Information Ministers, Joe Mulbah and Reginald Goodridge, former foreign minister D. Musuleng Cooper, former First Lady, now Senator Jewel Howard Taylor. Also attending the worship service were Taylor's children and family members as well as other Liberians who came from all walk of lives to grace the occasion.

Meanwhile, as the trail resumed, reports say Taylor appeared happy and confident as the first witness against from Canada was crossed examined. The report further the witness explained the alleged diamond between he and the defunct RUF. The trail

The Inquirer (Liberia)
Thursday, 10 January 2008

DIAMOND EXPERT TESTIFIES AGAINST TAYLOR

The war crimes trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor resumed Monday at the Hague, six months after he boycotted the opening session and called the trial a "charade."

The first witness Monday was Canadian author Ian Smillie, who is considered an expert in the trade of blood diamonds, so called

because funds from their sale fuel African rebel groups. He was testifying for the prosecution, explaining how the trade in 'blood diamonds' exacerbated the conflict.

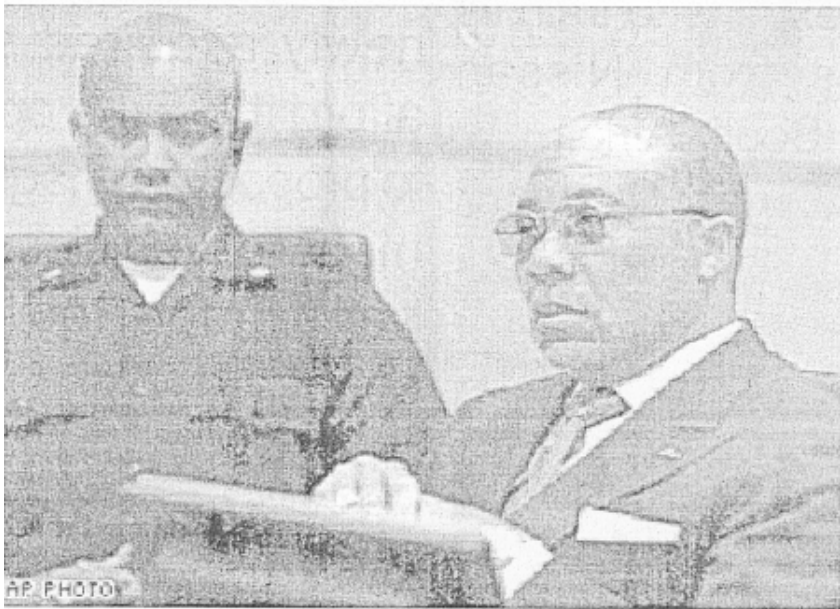
Taylor, who was president of Liberia from 1997 to 2003, is charged with five counts of crimes against humanity, including murder, sexual slavery and violence, and enslavement. He also faces five counts of war crimes, including acts of terrorism and torture, and one count of other serious violations of international humanitarian law.

Taylor, who has pleaded not guilty to the charges, is accused of fueling a bloody civil war in Sierra Leone that led to widespread murder, rape, and mutilation.

The war, which involved riches from the diamond trade, was fought largely by teenagers who were forced to kill, given addictive drugs to provoke violent behavior, and often instructed to rape and plunder.

The United Nations and the Sierra Leone government established the Special Court for Sierra

Cont'd on Page 10



AP PHOTO

Former President Charles Taylor (right) in court yesterday

DIAMOND EXPERT

Cont'd from front Page

Leone in 2002. The United Nations decided to move Taylor's trial from Sierra Leone's capital, Freetown, to the Hague last year because of concerns that Taylor's presence would harm stability and security in the region.

The trial opened in June 2007, but Taylor boycotted the first session, saying he could not expect a fair trial. In a letter read out to the court by his defense counsel, Kerim Khan, Taylor said he could not take part in what he called "this charade that does injustice to the people of Liberia and the people of Sierra Leone."

In the same letter, Taylor also dismissed Khan from the case and asked to represent himself. British lawyer Courtenay Griffiths

now leads Taylor's defense team.

Taylor is the first African Head of State to go on trial for war crimes before an international tribunal.

Taylor was President of Liberia — where he is also blamed for fueling a lengthy civil war until 2003, when he was forced from office under heavy international pressure, much of it from the United States.

He lived in exile in Nigeria until Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo decided, under political pressure, to hand him over for the tribunal.

It is expected that the trial will last at least two years, with any appeal likely to extend proceedings beyond that. The hearing is being screened in Freetown, where the public can watch it at the national court. Culled from the CNN.

The News (Liberia)
Wednesday, 9 January 2008

HORRIFIC EXPERIENCES IN TAYLOR'S TRIAL

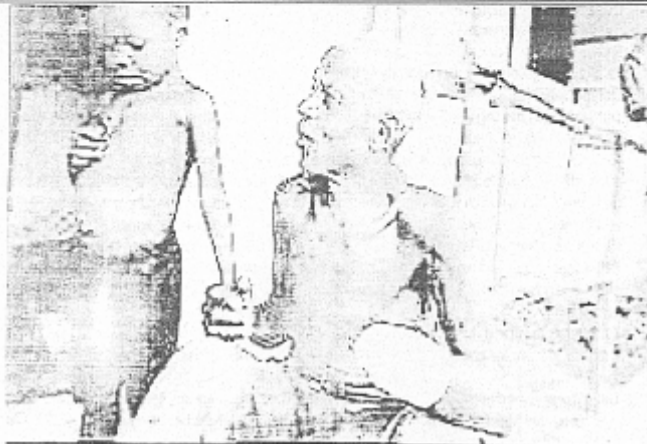
...Sierra Leonean Pastor Gives Account

The grounds of the International Criminal Court in the Hague where the Special Court for Sierra Leone is sitting seem to be a venue of horrific and terrifying experiences from the ten years brutal civil war of the West African State.

On Tuesday, day two of the trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor, prosecution second witness Alex Tamba Teh who is a Sierra Leonean pastor and an alleged victim took the witness stand with a terrifying testimony.

In his testimony in chief, Teh, 47, told prosecuting and defense counsels in his native language Krio that in early 1998 Kamajors went to Koidu, Kono District claiming that they had gone in the area to protect the District from the rebels. Kamajors were local

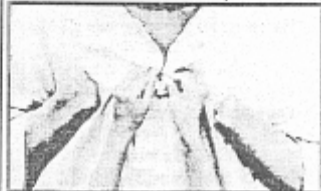
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Rebels cut off the limbs of thousands of people



Former President Taylor



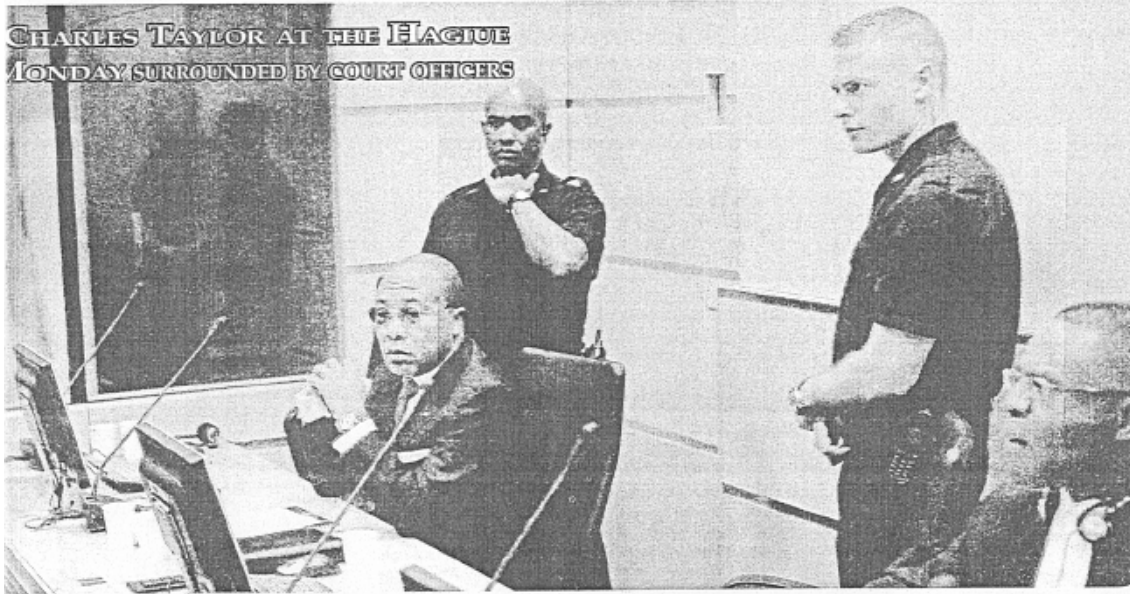
A Sierra Leonean displayed his limbs

New Democrat (Liberia)
Wednesday, 9 January 2008

Pastor Details Executions, Amputations

As Taylor Listens To Horrors Of The Past

**CHARLES TAYLOR AT THE HAGUE
MONDAY SURROUNDED BY COURT OFFICERS**



A pastor, Ale Tamba Teh, 47, the second witness to testify against former President Charles Taylor Tuesday, narrated his experiences in rebel captivity where he saw several people executed and amputated before him.

The pastor said one of his captives was a Liberian, carrying the Rocky with his real name as Emmanuel Williams.

The Pastor, courtesy web site The Trial of Charles Taylor: "I saw corpses on the way and we stepped over them. I started counting them-up 1 50, but when I realized there were many more, I stopped counting. At Igbalet, Rock said to us the SBU rebels must separate us - to separate the adult men from the women from the children. Rock

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Pastor Details Executions, Amputations

was a commander, but I didn't know his real name. Later I learned his name. Rocky came down and asked "Where is the pastor?" He asked three times, but I was unable to answer, but I thought they would kill me so refused to answer.

"Then Sylvester Kieh, one of the rebels, asked me - 'didn't you say you were a pastor?' I said yes. Rocky then said that I should pray for everybody. They asked him to bring his 'barge' - I didn't know what that was. They brought him a gun that had a long belt with bullets on it. The boy who brought it had the belt with bullets wrapped around his body. He passed the gun to Rocky. Rocky said, 'those of you who were saying thanks to us and thanks to ECOMOG, I want to tell you that we are junta rebels, not ECOMOG, and this belongs all to us. I'm sending you to Tejan-Kabbah to tell him that we are here.' He called me again and I became nervous. I took two steps. At the third step he fired the gun and I thought he was shooting at me. He shot all of the adult men to

me I was no better than the others who had been killed, Rocky put his bag over my neck. Before we moved, I saw some other SBU boys coming towards me with another very small boy who was screaming and crying. He asked 'what have I done?' They put his right arm on a log and with a machete, amputated it at the wrist. They took his left arm and put on the same log, and cut it off. They put his left leg on the log and cut him off at the ankle. Then they put his right leg on the log and cut it off. They were swinging the boy, they threw him into a toilet pit. I saw it myself.

Rocky said "let's go." We got to Sunna Mosque. I saw Rocky salute Rambo and give him reports. He said "Sir, I have killed 101 men. Except I did not kill this pastor who stands before you now." Rambo got angry, and said, "Rocky, as your commander, I have given you an instruction to do something, and you have not accomplished it." Rambo turned to me and said "You're a pastor?" I was afraid. There were about

Rambo said, "Rocky, I'm going to hand this man over to you until I tell Mosquito about him. You have to

to them. I called on them that night. I told them that when the cock crows in the morning, they should

the more we will be talking about you." Then a brigade adjutant, Fred Momoh came. He pointed



death. I thought he was going to be the first person shot - I was nervous. After he had killed the civilians - the other adult men - he instructed that they should be decapitated. It was Rocky who gave the order to the SBUs. SBUs are small boys below the ages of 15-16, very small boys. They're the ones they called SBUs. Some couldn't even carry their guns properly, they were dragging on the ground. Some had cutlasses. After Rocky spoke, these boys decapitated all of those who had been shot to death by Rocky. It was at that time that Rocky disclosed his identity to me, as "Rocky", but that his actual name was Emmanuel Williams and that he was from Liberia. He said he was from the Bassa tribe. Then those very small SBUs who decapitated the dead men argued that I should be killed too. Rocky put ropes on my neck. Rocky and his subordinate led me back to Sunna Mosque.

"At Igbaleh, after the SBU boys told

30 commanders. Rambo told them, "Rocky has refused to carry out my instruction", and they should vote on my fate. I knew the men were commanders because Rambo referred to them as "you who are the commanders". Rambo said how many there were - he said they were 30 including himself and Rocky. Rambo voted to have me killed and said others who wanted me killed should come and stand with him, and put their hands up. Those opposed, should go and stand with Rocky, who had refused to kill me. 14 people came to stand with Rambo, so there 15 votes. There were 14 others with Rocky. So there were 15 on each side. As God would have it, Rambo saw Sylvester Kieh coming - Kieh had been at Igbaleh. Rambo addressed him and explained the tie vote, and told him he should break the tie. Sylvester raised his hand. Rambo asked him to shut up and turned his back to us. Sylvester stood with Rocky, so there were 16 on his side. I was spared.

keep him until then." At that time I didn't know the person referred to as Mosquito. Later I learned who he was.

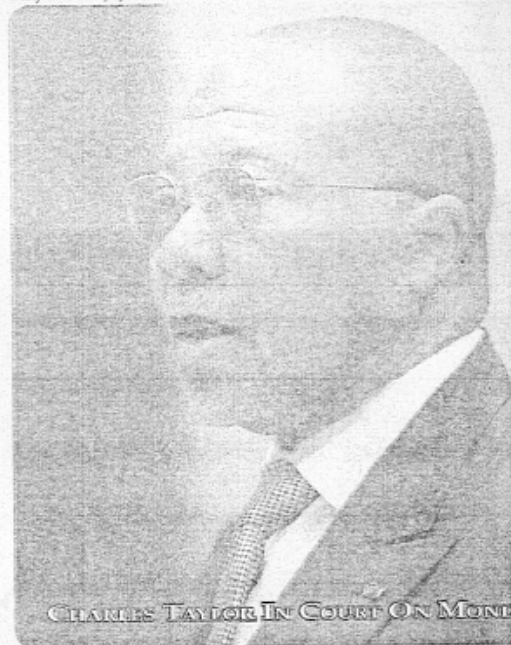
Rocky resided at Wonedu, Kono District, where he was deployed. Rocky took me to Wonedu. There, I met other civilians and other rebels. The civilians were in captivity. They never did anything on their own. They were used as manpower, to find food, to press palm fruits, and used the women as sexual objects, with force. At night, they forced the women to have sex with them. Sometimes I heard them scream - and say "is this why you have captured me? to use me? You haven't married me." They were sexual slaves. In the morning I asked a woman named Rebecca why she was crying and screaming so much at night. She told me that the men with guns were raping them and "using them as wives". Civilians were sent to find food for the rebels. They called the food "government property". In Wonedu at the time, that meant that the rebels were the government, and civilians shouldn't touch or use "government property". The rebels would shoot to death the people who violated this. Civilians had to go as far as Koranko area, up to 50 miles or further. Koranko is outside Kono District.

Also at Wonedu, I was the only successful one who avoided being cut with sharp objects. They carved "RUF" on the people's chests, and "AFRC" on their backs. They didn't do it to me because I was a pastor. They told me they carved the people so they wouldn't escape and go to ECOMOG, because people with that carving in their skin would be killed by ECOMOG.

Rocky left Wonedu after about a week. They transferred him to Tomboodu Town, Kamara Chiefdom. Captain K.S. Banya took his place as commander in Wonedu. Banya sent civilians once to find food, but on their way back, I was seated at the back of the house when I heard Captain Banya say "those men coming back from finding food should go on a meat-finding mission in Guinea." When the men returned with the food, Banya gave none of it

go hide in the bush and have a good rest. I told them I felt sorry for them because they had swollen legs and feet. They agreed. When I woke up in the morning, Banya called me and asked me after prayers. "Where are those men?" I told him I hadn't seen them that morning. "Maybe they're tired and need rest." Around 4:00 in the evening, two of the men came out of the bush, and Banya called them. He asked where they'd been. I was still sitting behind the same house where I'd overheard the discussion earlier. They told Banya that I had advised them to hide and rest before their meat-finding mission. Banya sent someone to find me. The other returning civilians told him the same thing. I didn't deny it or say yes to it. He took a

at his head. He said "don't sit and Banya lowered the gun and in the ground between his legs said Rambo ordered I be taken Superman Ground at Buedu, was referred to as Burkina. Alfred Momoh went. I still there. Banya told me I was a lucky man not to be killed, but he'd give me something that was erlasting. He took out his pistol placed a flat stick like a ruler in my mouth. With the barrel of his he knocked out most of my (The witness has taken out his tures to show the gaps in his mouth. My teeth fell into my mouth had blood all over my mouth. no medical attention. My head swollen. In 2002, my older brother deny it or say yes to it. He took a



pistol from his pocket and pointed it at me. He said "Today you are going to die and nobody will be allowed to bury you. If you as a pastor rot, the more we get a bad smell from you,

the hospital. He could only three false teeth - each cost Leones. The witness describe he still has major difficulties his teeth.

New Democrat (Liberia)
Wednesday, 9 January 2008

Charles Taylor Trial Watch

were dismayed about indications of Taylor's involvement. We were trying to be objective without adding personal views.

Def: Are you now hostile towards Taylor?

IS: We felt sorry for him because he had missed a huge opportunity in Liberia. He had missed an opportunity to lead Liberia into peace.

Cross-examination of Ian Smillie has ended. The prosecution is moving to enter all exhibits into evidence.

10:45

Defense objects to admission of all of the video clips from



the documentary "Blood Diamonds" into evidence. Defense: Much of the material in the video clips doesn't relate to diamonds, and we don't know who all of the people in the video are. Prosecution will be calling live victim witnesses whom the prosecution can use to try to establish facts.

Prosecution: All of these clips have to do with diamonds. There is a key nexus between diamonds and the conflict, as Smillie testified. Exploitation of alluvial diamonds meant that it was important for the rebels to control the population. The terrorism depicted in the video clips is distressing to watch, and that is why defense is objecting. But this gives us all insight into the terror that these people experienced. Video evidence is used to illustrate how the diamonds are mined, as if we had shown a series of diagrams to the court. All of this is relevant, and we ask the court to admit all of it.

Judge Sebutinde: Pursuant to rule 89c, the chamber may admit any relevant evidence. The clips do contain relevant evidence. Defense has valid objections, but these go to issues of weight. At end of trial we will determine how much weight to lend the evidence in the clips.

All six of the video clips are now being admitted into evidence.

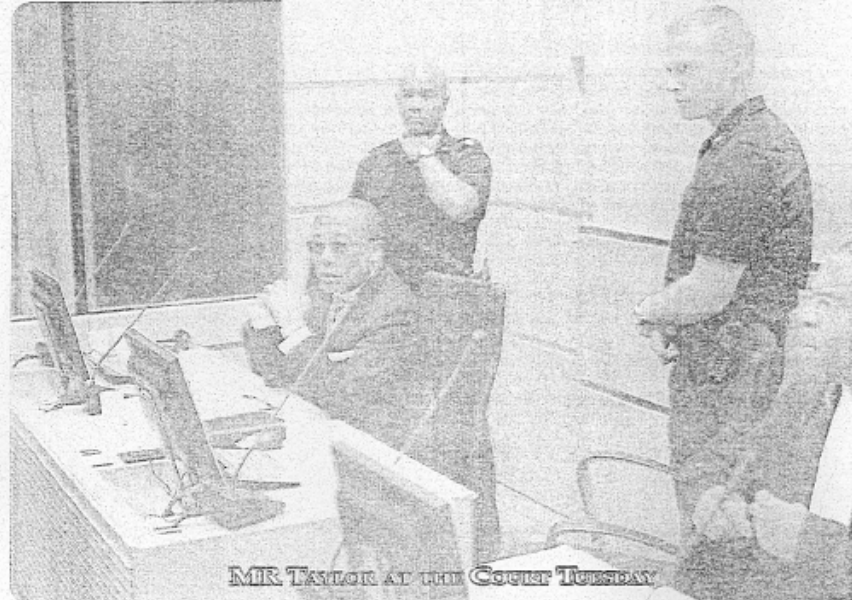
11:05

Defense is objecting to admission into evidence of the UN

Panel of Experts report to the UN Security Council, arguing that only some of the panel were actually "experts". The chairman was not an expert, and we submit that Smillie is also not an expert. He's an expert in administration, but not diamonds. He had minimal experience in Sierra Leone and with diamonds at the time Partnership Africa Canada wrote its report.

sider the merits of that in due course.

Defense is objecting to admission of Ian Smillie's report court. In addition to arguments given earlier, defense out that he has never testified as an expert before any court. Smillie admitted that the Belgian import figures



Compared to other members on the panel who had a lifetime's worth of expertise, Smillie is unqualified as an expert. His report may be accurate, or not. But it does not make him an expert. We also argue that his report to this court should not be admitted into evidence.

Judge Sebutinde: We will argue these in individual order. For now, we are only concerned with the UN report.

Prosecution: Report was a group effort, including input from all of the experts whose backgrounds the defense reviewed this morning. The report contains some opinions in the recommendations, but the most important part is in the body of the report. This report relates facts on diamonds and arms shipments. Report was issued by the United Nations during the indictment period. It provided further notice to the ac-

report are worthless, as are his estimates of Liberian diamond production. His look at the 8 diamond invoices are a trustworthy.

Prosecution: There is no person better qualified to give opinion on the role of diamonds in conflict. Prosecution counting Smillie's extensive meetings with diamond industry representatives, his deep involvement in the Kimberley process, his knowledge of Sierra Leone. The report itself indicates that the Belgian import figures are not reliable.

Judge Sebutinde: Mr. Smillie has exhibited special skills knowledge in the field of diamonds, which qualify him as an expert under the Special Court's statute. The reliability of the report is a question of weight, and that will be determined at the appropriate time.



used that the RUF was committing atrocities and trafficking diamonds through Liberia - not that he needed additional notice, but this is relevant.

Judge Sebutinde: The UN Panel of Experts' report is relevant and admissible into evidence. Issues raised by defense are pertinent, but go to the weight of the document. We will con-

Ian Smillie's report is being admitted into evidence.

Court is now adjourning for half an hour. It will resume at 11:35, so with the delayed video and audio available will resume our summary here at 11:35.

Taylor's Trial Continues

Child soldiers serving with rebels in Sierra Leone dismembered a screaming boy before tossing him in a toilet pit, a pastor who survived a massacre told the trial of Charles Taylor on Tuesday.

The former Liberian president, once one of Africa's most feared warlords, is on trial for orchestrating rape, murder, mutilation and recruitment of child soldiers during the

1991-2002 civil war in neighboring Sierra Leone.



Mr. Charles G. Taylor

In harrowing testimony, Alex Tamba Teh, 47, told the U.N.-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone how he saw a rebel commander from Liberia he called "Rocky" shoot 101 people. Rocky spared his life only because he was a pastor.

"After he killed the civilians ... he gave the instruction that they should be decapitated. Rocky gave the order to the small boy

Cont'd on Page 10



Defense Minister Sarukai

Taylor's Trial Continues

Cont'd from front Page

units," Tamba Teh told the court, referring to the gangs of child soldiers used by rebels during the war.

On the second day of prosecution evidence, Tamba Teh — from the eastern diamond district of Kono — recounted how rebels voted on whether to spare his life and how they carved the initials RUF into the bodies of abductees. He also described rapes of abducted women by rebels.

Child soldiers — some of whom were so small they could not even lift their guns — rounded on one boy and chopped off his hand, then his arm, then both his feet, before tossing him into a toilet pit, Tamba Teh said, speaking in an African Creole.

Showing the court his mouth, Tamba Teh explained how a rebel knocked out his teeth with a pistol. They also forced him to help unload ammunition from a Liberian helicopter.

Prosecutors say Taylor sought to plunder Sierra Leone's diamond wealth and destabilize its government by supporting the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels.

Taylor, 59, the first former African head of state to face an international court, has pleaded not guilty to all charges. He appeared in court wearing a dark suit and a gold tie.

His defense lawyers do not contest that atrocities took

place in Sierra Leone but dispute Taylor's involvement. They say bringing victims to the Hague is a tactic by prosecutors to boost emotional impact.

Earlier the court heard from blood diamond expert Ian Smilie, who said the RUF used brutality to frighten people away from diamond fields that earned them up to \$120 million a year.

Smilie met Taylor in 2000 while investigating diamond smuggling as part of a U.N. probe. He said diamonds were the primary source of RUF funding and most left through Liberia, possible only with the complicity of the Liberian government.

More than a quarter of a million people died in intertwined wars in Liberia and Sierra Leone. Prosecutors want the trial to end decades of impunity for ousted African strongmen, who have often fled overseas to live out their days unpunished.

Taylor found exile in Nigeria after he was overthrown in 2003 and was hauled to the court after international pressure. His trial was moved to The Hague because of fears it could spur instability if held in Sierra Leone.

John Richardson, a former national security adviser to Taylor who runs a campaign group in support of him, said the court was not living up to a promise to enable Liberians back home to follow the proceedings on live television.

"The process needs to be witnessed by Liberians so that we know the level of transparency," he said.

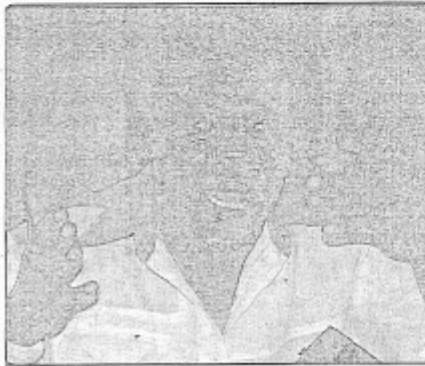
Prosecutors expect a judgment by the end of 2009, though an appeal could be likely to stretch the case into 2010.

**PEAK THE
 TRUTH
 AND NOT
 LIES AT
 THE TRC**

Heritage (Liberia)
Wednesday, 9 January 2008

Taylor's Trial Hears Of Massacre

...But supporters challenge evidence



MPP Chairman Emeritus Chief Cyril Allen

S O M E SUPPORTERS OF former Liberian President Charles Taylor have been reacting to the resumption Monday of his trial in The Hague.

Chief Cyril Allen is chairman emeritus of Taylor's former National Patriotic Party of Liberia. Chief Allen told VOA the defense would prove that there is no evidence linking Mr. Taylor to war crimes in Sierra Leone.

"It is very difficult and

almost impossible to do that because if you are talking about evidence it has to be internationally accepted. Anyone can make any allegations and any group of people can sit and collate a lie that can send any man to his grave.

So no one is expecting that you will have honest people coming forward to present professional evidence. You will expect that most of these people are thoroughly briefed, and they will tip the case to wherever they want it to go.

See Page 6

Eastern Europe at the fall of the Russian Empire that went into Western Europe and was falsely declared from various African countries, including Liberia and Sierra Leone. I thought if he were such an expert he would have mentioned that," Allen said.

Supporters of Charles Taylor held a prayer service Sunday in the Liberian capital, Monrovia. Allen said the prayer service was a show of support to prove that Mr. Taylor is not guilty. "Categorically there is no one in Liberia that believes that anyone is guilty unless they have been proven so. International law and all internationally accepted principles and practices say that you have to prove beyond all reasonable doubt that someone is guilty before they are actually guilty. You are talking about female genital mutilation and amputation, and you're talking about rape and all those things then you need to have a lot of evidence that Charles was sitting in the Executive Mansion in Liberia raping little girls in Sierra Leone, or that he gave instructions to do that," Allen said.

He also said Taylor could not have committed such crimes for which he has been accused because Allen said Taylor is a Christian.

"We keep saying that Mr. Taylor is a Christian and amputation of a body is a Moslem doctrine. It has nothing to do with Liberia. It was the tendency of how those people conducted their war in Sierra Leone. And it couldn't have been on his orders," he said.

At the start of his trial last June, Taylor expressed concern that he would not get a fair trial. Allen said the defense would prove Mr. Taylor innocent.

"This trial would be the first time in the history of the International Criminal Court that someone has been indicted and they have come out clean. Once they are trying to link Mr. Taylor to the activities in Sierra Leone with RUF (Revolutionary United Front rebels) they cannot produce evidence because there is no real evidence about that, there is no reality about it," Allen said.

Meanwhile, ex-Liberian President Charles Taylor's war crimes trial has heard how Sierra Leone rebels killed some 101 men before ordering the mutilation of a child.

Sierra Leone churchman Alex Tamba Teh testified at The Hague that he was part of a group of 250 civilians seized by rebel forces in April 1998. He said a rebel leader massacred some of the captives with a machine gun.

Prosecutors are trying to prove a link between Mr. Taylor and war crimes. He has pleaded not guilty to 11 charges.

Mr. Taylor, 59, is Africa's first former head of state to

face an international war crimes court. He is accused of stoking the civil war in Sierra Leone in 1991-2001 so that he could gain control over its mineral resources.

Mr. Tamba Teh told the trial in the Netherlands he was among a group of 250 civilians captured a decade ago in Sierra Leone's diamond mining district of Kono by rebel forces.

The men were separated from the women and children and a rebel commander, known as Rocky, told the clergyman to pray for them before opening fire with a machine gun, the court heard.

"He was crying, screaming, asking: What have I done?" Alex Tamba Teh, witness.

Mr. Tamba Teh, 47, told the trial that Rocky had later told another commander, called Rambo, he had killed 101 men. After that, a group of child soldiers, known as the "small boys' unit" was ordered by Rocky to cut the heads off the corpses.

The clergyman said some of the boys were too small to lift the guns they were dragging around.

Later, a captured child was dragged to a log by some child soldiers and had his hands and feet hacked off with machetes, the trial heard.

Mr. Tamba Teh told the court: "He was crying, screaming, asking: 'What have I done?'" He said the child soldiers then grabbed the boy by the stumps of his limbs and swung him into a toilet pit.

The witness did not draw any link between the events he described and Mr. Taylor, who sat taking notes throughout the testimony.

The BBC's Mark Doyle in The Hague says Mr. Taylor's defense team believes the testimony of victims is an emotional distraction that seeks to portray Mr. Taylor as a monster.

Rather, the court should be trying to establish whether Mr. Taylor backed the rebels, the defense says.

Mr. Tamba Teh told the trial that he later narrowly survived a split vote among the commanders on whether he should live or die. The clergyman told the court he ended up in a rebel camp, where women were repeatedly raped.

Captives had the acronyms of the rebel groups, such as the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), carved on their chests and backs with razors or knives, Mr. Tamba Teh said.

Mr. Taylor denies responsibility for atrocities committed by rebels during the civil war in neighboring Sierra Leone.

The trial opened in June last year but proceedings were postponed after Mr. Taylor fired his defense lawyer and boycotted the opening of the trial.

Taylor's Trial

From [Back Page](#)

But the cross-examination and the defense will come through, and let's wait for that occasion and then we can make that logical deduction," he said.

An expert witness testified on day one of the resumed trial telling the court Taylor might have wanted Sierra Leone's diamonds because they have far better quality than diamonds from Liberia. But Allen disagreed, suggesting that the so-called blood diamonds might not have come from Sierra Leone or Liberia.

"I was surprised that the expert did not also mention that huge quantities of diamonds came from

New Democrat (Liberia)
Thursday, 10 January 2008

Insider Blows Whistle

On Alleged Taylor-RUF Links

A former ULIMO General, co-opted into the Government of former President Charles Taylor, says he was a

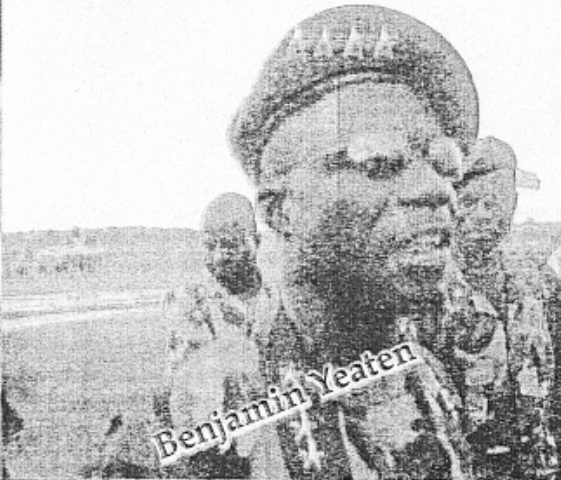
conduit between Taylor and Sierra Leone's erstwhile rebel Revolutionary United Front while Taylor was President. Varmuyan Sheriff, maintained in

the position of Assistant Director for the Special Security Service, from where he said rose to occupy various positions in Mr Taylor's security

▶ SEE PAGE 3



Samu Bakkasie



Benjamin Yeaten



Charles Taylor

Insider Blows Whistle

On Alleged Taylor-RUF Links

FROM PAGE 1

outfits, told the court on the third day that he was sent into Sierra Leone in... to bring RUF Commander Sam Bockarie to Monrovia. He said Taylor trusted him and that he traveled with abroad on many occasions.

In the presence of key security officers, he said, he was instructed on a mission to contact the RUF.

At this meeting they told me to go to RUF territory to get Sam Bockarie. They didn't explain in detail why, but this happened while the Liberian government was calling ECOMOG to leave Liberia. Taylor didn't tell me why he wanted to bring Bockarie to him. I had heard Bockarie's name, because we used to fight against each other. So we used to hear the name "Mosquito" Sam Bockarie. Mosquito and Sam Bockarie are the same person. I did not know him personally. At the time I was given this assignment, I knew Foday Sankoh had been arrested in Nigeria and that Bockarie was the leader of the RUF.

I accepted the assignment. I was given no letter of introduction to Bockarie because if ECOMOG had intercepted a document it would be a problem. I didn't ask for a document. On this assignment I was in the SSS uniform - blue and navy blue. I left for Sierra Leone the same day."

The prosecution is seeking to build a case that although atrocities were committed in Sierra Leone, Mr Taylor was not connected to them.

The former security aide's testimony details weapons arrangements with Burkina Faso, amongst others. The



see Sam Bockarie. We told them we were following Bockarie from Kailahun and his bodyguard had said we should follow. They told us to wait. They disarmed us. When they

with any information about how to contact the Executive Mansion.

After the instruction was given, the radio operator contacted the Executive Mansion. The call was an-

recounts many codes for various officials by title.) I also recognize his voice. We worked together a long time. I knew his voice. I saw the separate communication area on the fifth floor of the Executive Mansion. After the mission in Sierra Leone, I learned that the radio system had a long-range for use from country-to-country.

After the communication, Bockarie told me "I am satisfied now. Go prepare to leave." He asked about the route I had taken to get to Bonthe. He wanted to use a different route to go back because he was still afraid to go through Lofa. Bockarie wanted to travel with all of his bodyguards and escorts because he was transiting Lofa. There were several cars. They all had weapons. They went to Koindu, then Mendel. He had three vehicles behind in the convoy. The vehicles were looted, because I could see markings. They appeared to be NGO vehicles. They didn't use them - they started them by touching ignition wires. When we arrived at Koindu, Bockarie decided that one of the vehicles - one with a machine gun - should go back. We took the weapons together in a circle and covered them in a tarp because we would have problems with ECOMOG in Monrovia if we saw the weapons. One of the vehicles went back. We now have a total of three vehicles.

Prior to his Bockarie/RUF confession, the witness provided background information:

"Liberation Defense Movement for Liberia. I was a battalion commander with ULIMO. I was a member until 1997, until the end of 1997. Other members of ULIMO were dominated by Krahn and Mandingo tribes of Liberia. I was a member of ULIMO in Sierra Leone from the time of the name change. We crossed into Liberia and

Sam Bockarie came out and executed up to five men because he said they were Kamajors. We watched Bockarie execute the people with a gun...

details.

Mr Sheriff detailed his travels to meet Bockarie:

"I went through a number of towns (the witness traces his route on a map of Liberia and Sierra Leone). When I crossed the border from Liberia to Sierra Leone, we did not have problems because we were in our uniforms. When we got to Pendemba, the RUF commander stationed there questioned us. I don't remember his name. He was a Sierra Leonean. I told him I came from Monrovia and had a mission to see Sam Bockarie. They didn't ask more questions and said I could pass to Kailahun. We left Pendemba and went to Kailahun. There I saw a group of armed men. One of my bodyguards went to them to get someone who could get Sam Bockarie for us. We were lucky. The person we called was one of Bockarie's bodyguards, and he pointed out Bockarie standing in the group. He told us that Bockarie was seeing some Kamajors. Sam Bockarie came out and executed up to five men because he said they were Kamajors. We watched Bockarie execute the people with a gun. Then he issued orders to have others dead by the time he got back. I don't know what happened to those people. After the execution, Bockarie got into his vehicle and drove off. His bodyguard said we should follow him.

More than three cars full of armed men were in Bockarie's convoy when he drove off. We followed. We travelled to Beudu. When we arrived in Beudu, we met a checkpoint. They asked our mission. I told them I was from Liberia, from the Executive Mansion, with the SSS, and that we needed to

come back, they apologized to us and showed that we were welcome there. We went to Sam Bockarie's house. When I got there, he asked my mission. I told him Taylor sent me, and that he should come to see Taylor. He asked my name. He said "Aren't you from ULIMO? I don't trust you. Why didn't Taylor send an NPFL man?" I told him because there were some ULIMO-K fighters still in Lofa who weren't disarmed, so I can pass through Lofa without problems. NPFL people could have problems in Lofa if they had been sent. Taylor hadn't given me this reason, but this is how I explained it.

After I explained this to him, he said he would call Monrovia to find out. He said we should sleep there until the next day so he could contact the Executive Mansion. We were worried because we didn't know how he would contact Taylor. He gave me a room to sleep in in that house. The next day he said we should go to the radio room. We walked about 20 yards from the house. Sam Bockarie told the radio operator to contact Monrovia, the Executive Mansion. I was worried, because I didn't know whom he would contact at the Executive Mansion and whether they would know of my mission. Not many people in the Executive Mansion knew of our mission. I never knew that the RUF had any direct link with the Executive Mansion. I did not provide them

answered on the fifth floor of the Executive Mansion, not by the regular operator. The man who answered gave me the code "405", I knew he was an NPFL man who came with Taylor from the NPFL. I recognized his voice too. He said "I'm going to contact Joseph Montgomery". I felt relieved because Montgomery knew

In my duties, I travelled with Taylor to Taiwan in 1997/1998. On the return from this trip, I spoke with Charles Taylor. I told him about factions that hadn't disarmed as they were supposed to under the peace agreement...

about my mission. Bockarie asked Montgomery about my mission, and Montgomery told Bockarie that whatever instruction I had brought was an instruction from Taylor and that he should comply with it. On the radio Montgomery gave me the code "52", which was his number. My code was "56". These codes were for the SSS, and those codes are still used today in peace time. (Witness

used the war in 1992. While in Sierra Leone we fought the RUF and RUF. We knew they were and RUF because we captured them, and when we captured them we saw writing "NPFL" and "RUF". We captured people of all ages and female 12-25 years. We were Sierra Leoneans and Liberians. NPFL and RUF. In SL I was

SEE PAGE 10

Insider Blows Whistle

FROM PAGE 9

close to Kenema, then we moved to Zimmi towards the border. We crossed the Mano River to Cape Mount in two battalions. I headed the Zebra battalion. My headquarters in Liberia was at Klay. When we got to the Po river, I became Acting Field Commander. The Po river is at the beginning of the city, Monrovia. As field commander for ULIMO, I supervised all the front lines, coordinating all of the various battalion commanders. We were fighting against the NPFL.

When we entered Liberia in 1992, NPFL was in control of Lofa County, and the RUF was there. (Witness points out Lofa County lies along the Sierra Leonean border.) ULIMO attacked Lofa County and we fought against NPFL and RUF. We knew they belonged to these groups because I was a supervisor. When we got to the Zorzor area, we captured a lot of people of all ages 12-80, both men and women; people captured were fighters. Children who were captured, 12-14 years old, they had weapons. Villagers told us that the weapons we were fighting in Lofa in 1992-1993. We moved from Zorzor, to Kolahun, to Foya. Later, in 1993, we fought the Lofa Defense Force, founded in Gbarnga. I knew about the Lofa Defense Force because the leader of the force spoke on the radio, and he said they were coming to move us. Civilians also gave us information that these people were NPFL who had changed their name to Lofa Defense Force because there were peace negotiations and they didn't want to be known as NPFL. NPFL commanders in Lofa were Christopher Varmoh - the Liberian Mosquito, Fassu, Magwon, "Jack the Rebel" who was George Dwana (ph).

By end of 1993/ beginning of 1994, ULIMO had total control of Lofa County. When we had total control, fighting continued because the RUF in Sierra Leone was getting its supplies through Gbarnga. We were still being attacked from the Sierra Leonean border, headed by General Fayah. Gen. Fayah fought until he lost everything, then he crossed to Guinea, then he went to Monrovia. We later became friends when our forces joined in 1996. We then all heard each other's stories about who was fighting were.

At the time ULIMO controlled Lofa County, I was ULIMO General Supervisor. We fought resistance in Lofa, and we fought until we got to Gbarnga (in Bong County). We captured Gbarnga. Then we got instructions to retreat because there were peace talks going on. Alhadi Koroma, the leader of ULIMO-K, told us to retreat. In 1994/95, ULIMO split into ULIMO-J headed by Roosevelt Johnson and ULIMO-K under Alhadi Koroma. I was with ULIMO-K. When we attacked Gbarnga, we were fired on by mortars, and encountered landmines there for the first time. A landmine blew up one of our vehicles, killing 15. We saw a four-barrel there, they were anti-terrorist weapons. The four barrel shoots from four barrels at once. It

is used to bring down a plane.

We held Gbarnga for one month until we received instructions that we should retreat. I was based for that month in the center of Gbarnga, at the headquarters of the NPFL. I saw at the NPFL a black satellite dish aimed at the Middle East. It was at the residence of the head of the NPFL - Mr. Taylor, the former president.

When we retreated from Gbarnga, we went to St Paul Bridge, the boundary between the NPFL and ULIMO until the final peace was signed in 1996 (the Abuja Peace Accord). Before that there had been peace agreements, but these were broken.

Before then, while we were fighting the NPFL and RUF, we heard about their treatment of civilians. Civilians were executed, women were used as wives, food was confiscated.

In 1995 I was appointed as Assistant Director for Operations for the SSS, the Special Security Service. After a peace agreement between ULIMO-K, NPFL and LDF under George Boleh, there was to be a unity government. ULIMO-J was also represented in the government. They were given the position Minister of State for Presidential Affairs. Roosevelt Johnson was the commander of ULIMO-J. ULIMO-K had all tribes, but predominantly Mandingo. ULIMO-J had all tribes, but predominantly Krahn. My duties as Assistant Director for Operations was to represent the interests of my faction. The director led meetings. When faction leaders went to the Executive Mansion, we were supervising it.

I worked in the SSS, in the transitional government until the election that made Mr. Taylor president. Taylor called me and reappointed me to the same position. Taylor became president in August 1997. Taylor sent the director to call me to his residence near the German embassy. He wanted me to remain in my same position, so that I could help some of my ULIMO-K fighters in the government, in security. He wanted a government of inclusion. I accepted. I was still Assistant Director of Operations for the SSS until 1999/2000. In 2000 I was transferred from the SSS to immigration as the Deputy Chief of Security. Then I was Chief of Security. Then I was Asst. Commissioner for Operations. Then I was Deputy Commissioner. At immigration in these various jobs until 2003. Taylor also appointed me as his Deputy Chief of Staff for the Army Division. I had that position from 2001 to the end of 2002.

As Assistant Director of Operations from 1997-1999/2000. I was responsible for the President's security and that of his immediate family and his properties. I was based in the Executive Mansion in Monrovia. I wore a blue and navy blue uniform - the SSS uniform. My immediate boss was Joseph Montgomery, Deputy Director of Operations. I worked for him until we were both transferred to immigration. While at the SSS, I had contact with

him every day. Joseph Montgomery's boss was Benjamin Yeaten, the Director of the SSS. He remained Director of the SSS up to 2003. I had contact with Benjamin Yeaten until throughout 2003, on a daily basis. I had contact with Charles Taylor. I had to appear every day. His motorcade was under my command. We always came and went together. It was every day unless he was sick or travelling somewhere else. Joseph Montgomery was appointed to his position by Taylor. Taylor also appointed Benjamin Yeaten to his position as Director of the SSS. Below me in the SSS was CP5, the Chief of Protective Service - Osibio Dembl. Below the Senior Inspector of Motorcade for Advance. I had an office staff - a secretary, major orderly (who were also bodyguards). My bodyguards' names were Sidiki Kanneh, Major C Fofana, and Seko Sherif. Joseph Montgomery also had orderlies who to accompany moves - they were bodyguards. Yeaten also had orderlies who were bodyguards. Yeaten's orderlies were Zigzag Mazhar, Jongo (ph), and Samson (witness forgot last name).

After Taylor became president, all former NPFL commanders took positions in the government. Yeaten, Montgomery, and others all got positions.

In my duties, I travelled with Taylor to Taiwan in 1997/1998. On the return from this trip I spoke with Charles Taylor. I told him about factions that hadn't disarmed as they were posed to under the peace agreement. If I did not give him this information he would no longer have confidence in me. I went to sit with him in the plane. I told him I wanted to go to Lofa to arms that hadn't been handed over. He said it was a good idea. In Monrovia I was given a Rover and went to Lofa with a temporary assignment to check for arms from ULIMO-K who hadn't disarmed. People started showing me where weapons were hidden and dug out and gave them to me. I found arms in Veinjama District. I knew there were arms from my knowledge as a former ULIMO-K commander. We had tried to store arms but the peace process broke up. I didn't know where they were, however. I wanted to take them, and former fighters showed me where the arms were hidden. There were four p loads, but I didn't bring them all at once. There were AK-47s, ammunition, RPGs, gre mortars, and "50" guns from America. The condition of the weapons was good. They had greased and placed in plastic to protect them in the big whole. All were in functioning condition. I took one load of them to Taylor in Monrovia at his residence. He came outside at happy with me. He gave instructions to a Gambian man named Musa.

I took a second trip to Lofa. Joseph Montgomery sent one of his senior bodyguards, Lato, to go with me. We took everything, cleaned it up, and took it to Joseph Montgomery's office. The arms and ammunition were issued to police and others in the security apparatus. I took four trips to Lofa. On the third trip we also brought the weapons to Joseph Montgomery. During this period I travelled with Charles Taylor to Conakry, Guinea - to a Mano River area between Taylor, Guinean President Lansana Conteh and exiled Sierra Leonean Prince Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, at that time living in Conakry. Kabbah had been driven from Freetown by Taylor. I was present at the beginning of the discussion when they spoke about non-aggressive Kabbah complaining about Liberian involvement in Sierra Leone. Taylor said he didn't know anything about it. Taylor said people were being trained in Macenteh Center, in Guinea - border close to Veinjama, Liberia. Conteh denied it. Taylor said nobody would use Lofa to attack Sierra Leone.

After 1997, in 1998 ECOMOG forces remained in Liberia, and was fighting against the AFRC in Freetown. Taylor called me and instructed me that an AFRC delegation was coming to Freetown and we should go receive them at the airport. We went there, but we were intercepted by ECOMOG. I called the Director. He called back five minutes later and said we should move away from there. That happened around the end of 1998, start of 1999. I don't remember precisely when. Our orders were to receive the delegation and bring it to Taylor's office. ECOMOG interfered, we were told by the SSS director to leave. Two days later, Charles called me into his office. Musa Cisse, Joe Tuah, Momoh Gibba were also there, so was Benjamin Yeaten, and Joseph Montgomery.

Musa Cisse was chief of protocol at the Executive Mansion, and I knew him from 1997 duty was to deal with the francophone countries because he spoke French. He went to Ivory Coast and Faso and Ivory Coast. Joe Tuah was first Assistant Director for Intelligence in the SSS replaced by Robert Biah. At that time Tuah was working alongside Musa Cisse. He dealt with all issues of arms along with Cisse. Cisse told me that I know how to get weapons, as well as ammunition from Burkina Faso and other countries, but that he didn't know how to use Tuah was there to supervise movement of ammunition from Monrovia to Lofa. A mill organized to go to Lofa when LURD started invading Liberia at the end of 1998/beginning of 1999. Momoh Gibba was the senior aide d'camp for the Republic of Liberia. He was from Sierra Leone, but claiming to be a Liberian...

Courtesy Website The Trial of Charles Taylor.

The News (Liberia)
Thursday, 10 January 2008

YEATEN, DUO, MULBAH OTHERS IMPLICATED

In Taylor's S/Leone Link

...Varmuyan Sherif, Prosecution's Third Witness Testifies



Ex-president Charles Taylor

Prosecution third witness in the ongoing trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor in The Hague, former SSS Assistant Director for operations, Varmuyan Sherif has told the war crimes court that several former security officials of the erstwhile Taylor government are knowledgeable of the former president's interaction with the RUF rebels of Sierra Leone.

He cited instances where some of these security officials held meetings clandestinely with RUF former commander Sam



Former SSS Director Benjamin Yeaten

Boukarie in Liberia and in Sierra Leone. The following is a verbatim testimony of witness Varmuyan Sherif.

10:43

Prosecutor Brenda Hollis calls the third prosecution witness, TF1-406, who will testify in open session using Liberian English.

Sebutinde: The witness has waived his protective measures?

Pros Hollis: Correct.

The witness is being brought to the court-



The Late Sam Boukarie

room.

11:00 3rd Prosecution witness, Varmuyan Sherif, takes the stand

The witness has sworn on the Koran to tell the truth.

Prosecutor Hollis asks a series of questions about the witness's identity and story:

Wit: My name is Varmuyan Sherif, born on June 7, 1968 in central Liberia, a hospital close to Gbanga. My father was born in Voinjama, Lofa County, Liberia. My father was Mandingo. My mother was born in Si-

erra Leone. She was Mende. I am Mandingo. My education stopped after high school, the 12th grade.

In 1990 I was in Kakata, Liberia. I was attending school there, in the 12th grade. I didn't finish the school year because the war was coming and we all ran away from Kakata. The NPFL was coming and we went to Monrovia. I was there for a week, then went to Voinjama because we couldn't stay in Monrovia because of the war. My father's family home was in Chocolate City, a quarter of Monrovia.

Prosecutor shows a map with marks to the witness. Witness confirms those are his markings and his signature. The map is before the witness, with arrows. He is pointing out Gbanga, Kakata, and Voinjama.

Pros: How long in Voinjama?

Wit: I was there for a month, then I went to Sierra Leone. The war extended and the war was coming closer to Voinjama - NPFL forces were coming. The village I went to was close to Bomaru, in Sierra Leone, which was my mother's land. I went there because it was my mother's home. I went to my mother. I was there for almost six months doing farming for my mother. Then we saw people coming and running. The war was coming to Sierra Leone. I went to a refugee camp near Kenema (Sierra Leone). While I was in my mother's village, I spoke Mende. I had to leave because the NPFL was crossing into Sierra Leone.

11:05

The prosecution witness continues his story in answer to a series of questions from Prosecutor Brenda Hollis:

Witness: I was at the refugee camp in Kenema when the war came to Sierra

Cont'd on page 2

YEATEN, DUO

Leone. Forces crossed the border and came into Kono. There were a lot of refugees. Koidu was attacked. We heard that Liberians and Foday Sankoh's people were bringing war to Sierra Leone. The LUDF (Liberians United Defense Force) was formed among the refugees, supported by the SL government to fight the NPFL and Sankoh's men.

The court is adjourning briefly, to resume at 11.00. With the half-hour delay to the media center, we will resume live-blogging the trial at 11.30.

12:53

Court is back in session, and Prosecutor Brenda Hollis continues to lead the witness in his story. Pros: You told the court about the LUDF. Did you become a member?

Wit: Yes, I was a member. It existed for about six months. Then the LUDF Liberians United for Defense Force, became ULIMO, United Liberation Defense Movement for Liberia. I was a battalion commander with ULIMO. I was a member up until 1997, until the elections in 1997. Other members of ULIMO were dominated by Krahn and Mandingo tribes of Liberia. I was a member of ULIMO in Sierra Leone from the time of the name change. We crossed into Liberia and continued the war in 1992. While fighting in Sierra Leone we fought the NPFL and RUF. We knew they were NPFL and RUF because we captured people, and when we captured villages, we saw writing "NPFL" and "RUF". We captured people of all ages, male and female 12-25 years. We captured Sierra Leoneans and Liberians from NPFL and RUF. In SL I was fighting close to Kenema, then we moved to Zimmi towards the border. We crossed the Mano River to Cape Mount in two battalions. I headed the Zebra battalion. My headquarters in Liberia was at Klay. When we got to the Po River, I became Acting Field Commander. The Po River is at the beginning of the city, Monrovia. As field commander for ULIMO, I supervised all the front lines, coordinating all of the various battalion commanders. We were fighting against the NPFL.

When we entered Liberia in 1992, NPFL was in control of Lofa County, and the RUF was there. (Witness points out Lofa County lies along the Sierra Leonean border.) ULIMO attacked Lofa County and we fought against NPFL and RUF. We knew they belonged to these groups because I was a supervisor. When we got to the Zorzor area, we captured a lot of people of all ages 12-80, both men and women; people captured were fighters. Children who were captured, 12-14 years old, they had weapons. We moved from Zorzor to Kolehun, to Foya. Later, in 1993, we fought the Lofa Defense Force, founded in Gbomga. I knew about the Lofa Defense Force because the leader of the force spoke on the radio, and he said they were coming to move us. Civilians also gave us information that these people were NPFL who had changed their name to Lofa Defense Force because there were peace negotiations and they didn't want to be known as NPFL. NPFL commanders in Lofa were Christopher Varmoh (the Liberian Mosquito), Fassu, Magwon, "Jack the Rebel" who was George Owanah (ph.).

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Below me in the SSS was CPS, the Chief of Protective Service - Osibio Dembi. Below him the Senior Inspector of Motorcade for Advance. I had an office staff - a secretary, driver, orderly (who were also bodyguards). My bodyguards' names were Sidiki Kanneh, Major Garfee Fofana, and Seiko Sheriff. Joseph Montgomery also had orderlies who accompanied on his movements - they were bodyguards. Yeaten also had orderlies who were bodyguards. Yeaten's orderlies were Zigzag Mazhar, Jongo (ph), and Samson (witness forgot last name).

After Taylor became president, all former NPFL commanders took positions in the government.

Yeaten, Montgomery, and others all got positions in my duties. I travelled with Taylor to Taiwan in 1997/1998. On the return from this trip, I spoke with Charles Taylor. I told him about factions that hadn't disarmed as they were supposed to under the peace agreement. If I did not give him this information he would not have confidence in me. I went to sit with him in the plane. I told him I wanted to go to Lofa to find arms that hadn't been handed over. He said it was a good idea. In Monrovia I was given a Land Rover and went to Lofa with a temporary assignment to check for arms from ULIMO-K people who hadn't disarmed. People started showing me where weapons were hidden and dug them out and gave them to me. I found arms in Voinjama District. I knew there were arms there from my knowledge as a former ULIMO-K commander. We had tried to store arms there in case the peace process broke up. I didn't know where they were, however. I wanted to look for them, and former fighters showed me where the arms were hidden. There were four pick-up loads, but I didn't bring them all at once. There were AK-47s, ammunition, RPGs, grenades, mortars, and '603 guns from America. The condition of the weapons was good. They had been greased and placed in plastic to protect them in the big whole. All were in functioning condition. I took one load of them to Taylor in Monrovia at his residence. He came outside and was happy with me. He gave instructions to a Gambian man named Musa.

I took a second trip to Lofa. Joseph Montgomery sent one of his senior bodyguards, Lao Mento, to go with me. We took everything, cleaned it up, and took it to Joseph Montgomery's home. The arms and ammunition were issued to police and others in the security apparatus. In total, I took four trips to Lofa. On the third trip we also brought the weapons to Joseph Montgomery. During this period I traveled with Charles Taylor to Conakry, Guinea - to a Mano River meeting between Taylor, Guinean President Lansana Conteh and exiled Sierra Leonean President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, at that time living in Conakry. Kabbah had been driven from Freetown. I was present at the beginning of the discussion when they spoke about non-aggression and Kabbah complaining about Liberian involvement in Sierra Leone. Taylor said he didn't know anything about it. Taylor said people were being trained in Macenta Central Guinea - on the border close to Voinjama, Liberia. Conteh denied it. Taylor said nobody would use Liberia to attack Sierra Leone.

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but this happened while the Liberian government was calling ECOMOG to leave Liberia. Taylor didn't tell me why he wanted to bring Bockarie to him. I had heard Bockarie's name, because we used to fight against each other. So we used to hear the name "Mosquito" Sam Bockarie. Mosquito and Sam Bockarie are the same person. I did not know him personally. At the time I was given this assignment, I knew Foday Sankoh had been arrested in Nigeria and that Bockarie was the leader of the RUF.

I accepted the assignment. I was given no letter of introduction to Bockarie because if ECOMOG had intercepted a document it would be a problem. I didn't ask for a document. On this assignment I was in the SSS uniform - blue and navy blue. I left for Sierra Leone the same day.

1:30

The testimony of Yarmuyan Sheriff continues, in response to questions from Prosecutor Brenda Hollis.

I went through a number of towns (the witness traces his route on a map of Liberia and Sierra Leone). When I crossed the border from Liberia to Sierra Leone, we did not have problems because we were in our uniforms. When we got to Pendembu, the RUF commander stationed there questioned us. I don't remember his name. He was a Sierra Leonean. I told him I came from Monrovia and had a mission to see Sam Bockarie. They didn't ask more questions and said I could pass to Kallahun. We left Pendembu and went to Kallahun. There I saw a group of armed men. One of my bodyguards went to them to get someone who could get Sam Bockarie for us. We were lucky. The person we called was one of Bockarie's bodyguards, and he pointed out Bockarie standing in the group. He told us that Bockarie was seeing some Kamajors. Sam Bockarie came out and executed up to five men because he said they were Kamajors. We watched Bockarie execute the people with a gun. Then he issued orders to have others dead by the time he got back. I don't know what happened to those people. After the execution, Bockarie got into his vehicle and drove off. His bodyguard said we should follow him.

More than three cars full of armed men were in Bockarie's convoy when he drove off. We followed. We travelled to Beudu. When we arrived in Beudu, we met a checkpoint. They asked our mission. I told them I was from Liberia, from the Executive Mansion, with the SSS, and that we needed to see Sam Bockarie. We told them we were following Bockarie from Kallahun and his bodyguard had said we should follow. They told us to wait. They disarmed us. When they came back, they apologized to us and showed that we were welcome there. We went to Sam Bockarie's house. When I got there, he asked my mission. I told him Taylor sent me, and that he should come to see Taylor. He asked my name. He said "Aren't you from ULIMO? I don't trust you. Why didn't Taylor send an NPFL man?" I told him because there were some ULIMO-K fighters still in Lofa who weren't disarmed, so I can pass through Lofa without problems. NPFL people could have problems in Lofa if they had been sent. Taylor hadn't given me this reason, but this is how I explained it.

After I explained this to him, he said he would call Monrovia to find out. He said we should sleep there until the next day so he could contact the Executive Mansion. We were worried because we didn't know how he would contact Taylor. He gave me a room to sleep in that house. The next day he said we should go to the radio room. We walked about 20 yards from the house. Sam Bockarie told the radio operator to contact Monrovia, the Executive Mansion. I was worried, because I didn't know whom he would contact at the Executive Mansion and whether they would know of my mission. Not many people in the Executive Mansion knew of our mission. I never knew that the RUF had any direct link with the Executive Mansion. I did not provide them with any information about how to contact the Executive Mansion.

After the instruction was given, the radio operator contacted the Executive Mansion. The call was answered on the fifth floor of the Executive Mansion, not by the regular operator. The man who

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answered gave the code "4053, I knew he was an NPFL man who came with Taylor from the NPFL. I recognized his voice too. He said "I'm going to contact Joseph Montgomery". I felt relieved because Montgomery knew about my mission. Bockarie asked Montgomery about my mission, and Montgomery told Bockarie that whatever instruction I had brought was an instruction from Taylor and that he should comply with it. On the radio Montgomery gave the code "523, which was his number. My code was "563. These codes were for the SSS, and those codes are still used today in peace time. (Witness recounts many codes for various officials by title.) I also recognized his voice. We worked together for a long time. I knew his voice. Later I saw the separate communications area on the fifth floor of the Executive Mansion. After the mission to Sierra Leone, I learned that the separate system had a long-range radio for use from country-to-country.

After the communication, Bockarie told me "I am satisfied now. Go prepare to leave." He asked about the route I had taken to get to Beudu. He wanted to use a different route to go back because he was still afraid to go through Lofa. Bockarie wanted to travel with all of his bodyguards and escorts because he was afraid transiting Lofa. There were three cars. They all had weapons. We went to Koindu, then Mendekoma. He had three vehicles behind him in the convoy. The vehicles were loaded, because I could see erased markings. They appeared to be NGO vehicles. They didn't use keys - they started them by touching the ignition wires. When we arrived in Koindu, Bockarie decided that one of the vehicles - one with a mounted weapon - should go back. We put all of the weapons together in one vehicle and covered them in a tarpaulin because we would have problems with ECOMOG in Monrovia if they saw the weapons. One of the vehicles went back. We now proceeded in a total of three vehicles. Court has been adjourned for lunch. It will resume at 2:30. With the half-hour delay, this running summary will resume at 3:00 (2:00 in Sierra Leone and Liberia).

4:40

Court has resumed, and the witness, Varmuyan Sheriff, is continuing his story in response to questions from Prosecutor Brenda Hollis:

From Koindu we went to Voinjama. We went to my house there. Bockarie said he wanted a bath and a haircut. He took off his jacket to take his bath at the back of the house. He and I were there, and one of my aides, called Master General. While taking his jacket off, I saw a mayonaise jar in his pocket that was filled with diamonds. One of my men said to me, "oh, we can take these diamonds and leave to another country". Later the assistant director for intelligence, Robert Biah, "583, came to see me, he said Taylor had sent him to confirm that we had the true Sam Bockarie. When Bockarie emerged from the bathroom, the man confirmed from a picture that it was Bockarie. We traveled back through Zorzor (witness describes route). We reached Waisue, a village near Gbamba. I met my boss coming from Monrovia, Benjamin Yeaten, who was with Musa Cisse. He thanked me and said he would take Bockarie alone to Monrovia. They told me that ECOMOG had a checkpoint at 15 gate and another one. They said they would use another route to bypass 15 gate and get to Roberts Field road, and take Roberts Field road to Monrovia. They said to take Bockarie's men to my house in Monrovia. The next day Bockarie came in Taylor's escort jeep and talked with his men. He took a radio to communicate with Kono and Tongó. He was speaking Mende, and I speak Mende. He told them "You men in Tongó and Kono should be alert, SLA soldiers are coming. Johnny Paul Koroma is missing in action, and you should be alert to receive him." Johnny Paul Koroma was the leader of the AFRC, which had overthrown Tejan Kabbah.

Bockarie left my house. The next day, Taylor sent my deputy to call me to White Flower, the residence of Mr. Taylor. Musa Cisse was there, and my deputy

was present. Taylor was very happy with me. He gave me some money. He asked me if I knew where Yeaten and Musa Cisse took Sam Bockarie from you, from your vehicle. Just drive back there. If you don't see them there, just wait a bit." I went back to the house and took Bockarie's men and vehicle and drove to Waisue. Bockarie came ten minutes later. We drove together. Bockarie thanked me for taking him to see Taylor. He said he had started small, and until then he'd only communicated with Taylor by radio, and he was very happy to meet Taylor. He said Taylor had given him a satellite phone and money. He showed me the money. I can't tell how much it was, but it was US dollars. The money Taylor had given me at White Flower was also in US dollars.

I drove back to Voinjama, to Kolahun, to Foya, then to the Mendekoma border. There I stopped and returned to Monrovia. Taylor called me. He instructed me that I should no longer bring arms and ammunition to Monrovia, but take them all to Sam Bockarie instead. At that time I only had one more load to get. Taylor also said I should go to Lofa and tell people to allow the RUF to transit Lofa. People in Lofa should feel free to provide arms and ammunition to the RUF. When I went back to Lofa - Voinjama and Foya - and I told the men that if anyone wanted to do business with the RUF and sell weapons, they were free, and that the RUF should have free access to Lofa. Both sides of the border were now open to the RUF.

The fourth load of ammunition and arms was taken to Sam Bockarie. I was supposed to meet him in Beudu. I was lucky to meet him in Foya, and I told him we should go to the border together so that I could give him the arms and ammunition. There I handed him the arms and ammunition. We snapped some photos.

The prosecution is now showing photographs to the court. The witness is being shown original copies. He identifies the first photo: myself, driver assigned to me from the NPFL, Montgomery's bodyguard, and two other bodyguards. He says the load in the pickup truck is full of arms and ammunition. The photo was taken at Mendekoma at the border between Liberia and Sierra Leone. Second photo is now shown, and the witness discussed it: picture shows myself in the SSS uniform provided by Taylor, my bodyguard, one of the officers, Master General. This picture was taken in Foya. When we went to the border I had to change into other clothes. At Foya I had to change back into my uniform to travel back to Monrovia. This uniform is black - for special operations. After I took the arms and ammunition to the border, I turned it over to Sam Bockarie. The vehicle was full, but I don't know the exact quantity. AK-47 rounds, RPGs and some other guns. I did not provide him with anything else.

The next day, back in Monrovia, Taylor called me back to White Flower. He said I should look for one of the most senior officers of ULIMO-K, to work alongside Sam Bockarie in Sierra Leone. The former ULIMO-K fighters would now feel free to go to RUF territory. The RUF was recruiting, and this would encourage ULIMO-K fighters to join Bockarie in Sierra Leone. I contacted Abu Keita, the deputy chief of staff of ULIMO-K. His rank was major-general, one of the most senior officers. He told me he was suspicious about going because the RUF had been fighting against him, and he didn't know if his life would be secure.

After this, in September, fighting broke out when Roosevelt Johnson went for a medical check-up outside the country. When he came back, immigration officials could not identify through which border he returned. Taylor was nervous and summoned Johnson. Johnson refused and Taylor ordered his arrest. Fighting broke out at Camp Johnson Road in Monrovia.

After this, Abu Keita accepted the offer. Musa Cisse contacted me and said I should take Abu Keita to Benjamin Yeaten's house because Sam Bockarie was there waiting for him. Yeaten's house was located just behind Taylor's house - White Flower - it was the very next house. I took Abu Keita there. They were in a meeting. I saw Joe Tuah.

Cont'd on page 6

YEATEN, DUO

Dopoe Menkerzon, Sekou, and Benjamin Yeaten. Dopoe Menkerzon was one of Taylor's four-star generals. Sekou was supposed to be used as a rebel leader for Guinea. They were discussing how to carry out various attacks. Sekou was there for Guinea plans. Yeaten instructed Bockarie to open an RUF attack Guinea from the Sierra Leonean side. I was only there for five minutes because the meeting was not for me. I saw Abu Keita again later when LURD attacked Lofa County. When he came, he wrote a letter that the RUF was sending units to assist the Liberian government in protecting Foya.

Prosecution is showing a document called "operation order" to the court. The witness is asked about a person mentioned in the document. Mark Gwon was one of the junior commanders in the NPFL - in fighting against LURD he had a role. Another individual referenced is that of Abu Keita, head of the "Scorpion Unit". Mark Gwon was a Brigadier General. The witness identifies one of two signatures at the bottom of the order, says the last one is Benjamin Yeaten's signature.

After my mission to the border with the ammunition, I was still on temporary assignment to Lofa County. I sent one of my bodyguards, Sidiki Konneh (ph), to Beuda for information on whether the former ULIMO-K officers who had joined the RUF were facing - whether they were treated well or poorly. He was there for one month. When he got back, he reported that a truckload of arms and ammunition had come from Liberia to Sam Bockarie. He said he had seen a lot of looted goods - property from generators and other looted goods from Freetown. I went to Foya to assess what was happening there. I was supposed to make sure the RUF was moving freely, and that former fighters of the ULIMO-K who wanted to join the RUF could move freely. I saw Yeaten and Bockarie together there. I saw Zigzag Mazar (ph) who told me he had arms and ammunition in a vehicle, from Mr. Taylor, to take to Bockarie. I saw the vehicle - a Landcruiser with a pickup bed. It was full of arms and ammunition.

Pros: What other individuals were involved in providing arms and ammunition to the RUF?

Wit: I met with Jungle, who was Yeaten's bodyguard. I saw Zigzag Mazar (ph) with weapons. Yeaten was based in Foya until 2003. My temporary assignment ended in 1999. In January 1999 we heard that Freetown was attacked. My mission ended before the attack on Freetown. During the attack on Freetown, we heard Bockarie talking on BBC radio. He said he would not retreat unless his father asked him to retreat. They asked him who he meant by "father". Bockarie said Taylor. Taylor's bodyguards were all annoyed because he had mentioned Taylor.

I saw Bockarie in Monrovia more than two times again. I saw him at Martina Johnson's house. Martina Johnson was the artillery chief of staff in the NPFL. When I saw her at the house, she was security director at Roberts Field International Airport. She was in charge of controlling people coming and going. The airport is far from the city of Monrovia, in Margibi County. I didn't talk much with Bockarie at Martina Johnson's house. I saw him again at Robert Field International Airport. We

were instructed by Taylor that there were arms and ammunition coming. Paul Mubah, the police director went with me to the airport. I saw Joe Tuah, Musa Cisse and Sam Bockarie. They were in Martina Johnson's restaurant at the back of the airport. I heard them discussing who would get what. I heard Mubah say nobody gets anything until we take it all to White Flower first. We drove behind Mubah back to White Flower.

At White Flower, Musa Cisse told me he also went to Burkina Faso to get arms and ammunition to bring to White Flower. Mr. Taylor had total control over White Flower. He would tell his attendants to give a certain amount to people. Then they would open the warehouse to pass out the weapons. I don't remember the attendants' names, but I know them all. The meeting with Bockarie at Roberts International Airport was after the meeting at Martina Johnson's house. This was all before I heard Bockarie on BBC Radio - before the attack on Freetown.

In 1999 there was fighting in Liberia. LURD attacked from Guinea, through Sierra Leone into Liberia. This is a pivotal area. They came from Gueckedou (Guinea), over the river between Guinea and Sierra Leone. For people watching the movements in Liberia, it appeared the forces were coming from Sierra Leone. A second attack came from Gueckedou, between Foya and Kolahun. A third attack came from Masanta (ph), Guinea to attack Voinjama. President Taylor decided to mobilize the same militia group, marine division, strike force, artillery division, army division, "Wild Geese", the Anti-Terrorist Unit, and also the RUF was invited to assist.

In mid-1999, I traveled with Taylor to an ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States) meeting in Lome, Togo. All 15 member states were there. Kabbah was there and accused the AFRC/RUF of amputating innocent peoples' limbs. He introduced a small girl, 2-4 years old, and showed her that her limbs had been amputated. The prosecution is now showing a photo to the court and the witness. The witness identifies a photo of Kabbah with the girl. The witness's signature is on the photograph.

Pros: Earlier you testified that you were with the SSS until approx. the end of 1999. Then you were deputy chief of staff of the army division?

Wit: I was deputy chief of staff, Army Division from 2001 until the end of 2002. I was acting as chief of staff when my boss was wounded. When he died, I became chief of staff. I was responsible for army division recruitment, fighting at the battle front, to protect life and property. In 2001 and 2002 the Army Division operated in Tubmanburg, Grand Cape Mount, and Gbarpolu Counties. My base was Tubmanburg, also known as Bomi. When I was deputy, the chief of staff was "Red Devil".

There were also militias, meaning civilians turned into armed men with only 1-2 days of training. All of the division chiefs of staff were required to recruit their own militias. Some were under age, women, some 12 years old. The Navy was responsible for the Freeport. The Navy Commander was director of the Freeport. He was also commander in Foya. This person was Roland Duo. The Freeport is located in Monrovia. He was also security director at the OTC. Roland Duo had been one of the junior commandos in the NPFL. Junior

commandos were trained in Liberia. People trained in Libya were called "special forces". The full name of Navy is "Navy Division". It also operated in Lofa, and was based in Foya. Roland Duo was headquartered in Foya; he also operated in Buchanan (Grand Bassa County) and Monrovia.

The commander of the Marine Division was Fasso. In 2001-2002 the marine division was operating in Voinjama. It had a mandate to operate inside and outside, to attack Guinea and defend Voinjama. Artillery Division was based in Gbanga. In 2001-2002, Tamba was its commander. "Wild Geese" was a terrorist unit, a stand-by unit like the Anti-Terrorist Unit. I've forgotten the commander's name. Its headquarters was in Gbamga. The Anti-Terrorist Unit (ATU) was trained in Bataha. Chuckie Taylor, the first son of Charles Taylor, was its commander. The ATU was created in the beginning of 2000. Chuckie Taylor created the ATU; its mission was to secure the president's movements. They were responsible for the movements of VIPs. President Taylor paid them from his own pocket. The ATU were mercenaries - foreign troops. There were RUF people in it, Ivorians (from Ivory Coast), Gambians, Burkinabes (people from Burkina Faso) and others. They operated directly under the Executive and could only operate under the instructions of President Taylor, Chuckie Taylor, or Benjamin Yeaten. Under the Constitution of Liberia, foreigners could not be recruited into the Liberian army or police, including the SSS. ATU acted outside of this. Mr. Taylor paid them directly, not from government money. Sam Bockarie brought over 350 RUF soldiers to join the Anti-Terrorist Unit. There had been a problem within the RUF between Sam Bockarie and Issa Sesay. Sesay was Bockarie's second-in-command. Taylor invited Bockarie and Sesay to Monrovia to settle their dispute. They were given a nice, furnished house near the Nigerian Embassy for the RUF to use. Sesay was made commander of the RUF. The witness says he has a bad headache and needs to rest. The court is adjourning until tomorrow morning at 9:00.

Daily Observer (Liberia)
Thursday, 10 January 2008

'Insider' Testifies against Taylor

- Alleges RUF Links

A former senior bodyguard of Liberian ex-President Charles Taylor has told his trial of an alleged secret radio link with Sierra Leone rebels.

Varmuyan Sherif told the court in The Hague he discovered the link after being sent to make contact with Sierra Leone rebel commander Sam Bockarie.

Correspondents say the defense is likely to challenge Mr. Sherif's story.

Mr. Taylor, 59, is charged with having command responsibility for the rebels' atrocities. He has pleaded not guilty.

He is the first African leader to face a criminal trial internationally.

Mr. Bockarie - alias Mosquito - was also indicted by UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone for crimes committed during the 10-year civil war, but was killed in 2003.

The BBC's Mark Doyle in The Hague says this was a big

day for the prosecution, with the case against Mr. Taylor getting under way in earnest.

Mr. Sherif said he worked as one of Mr. Taylor's senior bodyguards in charge of the presidential armed convoy and protection of his official residence.

He said he was sent to try to convince Mr. Bockarie, a senior Revolutionary United Front (RUF), to visit Mr. Taylor in the Liberian capital, Monrovia.

But the rebel was suspicious and decided to check his credentials.

The next day Mr. Sherif was taken to a radio room where Mr. Bockarie made contact with Mr. Taylor's Monrovia mansion.

When he was satisfied that the message was genuine, Mr. Bockarie was on his way to Monrovia within hours, the witness said.

Mr. Sherif later discovered a special high-frequency radio on the fifth floor of Mr. Taylor's mansion.

Correspondents say Mr.



Charles Taylor

Sherif is the first so-called insider witness to establish a link between the Liberian ex-president and Sierra Leone rebels.

His evidence follows that of Sierra Leone churchman Alex Tamba Teh, who on Tuesday described a massacre of civilians by the rebels in April 1998.

The witness did not draw any link between the events he described and Mr. Taylor.

The trial opened in June

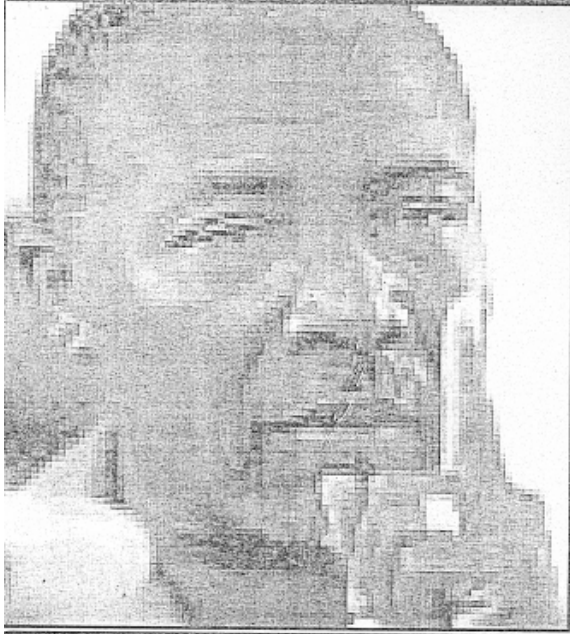
last year but proceedings were postponed after Mr. Taylor fired his defense lawyer and boycotted the opening of the trial.

The ex-Liberian president is accused of responsibility for the actions of RUF rebels during the 1991-2001 civil war in Sierra Leone, which included unlawful killings, sexual slavery, use of child soldiers and looting.

The Monitor (Liberia)
Thursday, 10 January 2008

Taylor sent me on operations

Vamuyan Sheriff tells Special Court



Charles Taylor's trial is getting on a serious note with the first Inside Witness taking the stand at the Special Court in The Hague.

Vamuyan Sheriff, a Former Assistant Direc-

tor for Operations of the Special Security Service, SSS a former fighter of ULIMO-K.

Mr. Sheriff was initially a protected witness, but he later waived his protective status, and he's now testifying in

open court.

He said he travelled with Former President Charles Taylor on three foreign trips.

The prosecution Insider Witness said Taylor sent him on several opera-

See Story on Page 7

Vamuyan Sheriff

tions including the territory of the RUF.

On day two, Sierra Leone Pastor Tamba Teh who claimed he witnessed the amputation of a child, rape of women and execution of men in Kono took the stand. The Defense admits, crimes were committed during the war in Sierra Leone, but the Prosecution must prove the link between the atrocities and Taylor.

The trial of Former Liberian President resumed in The Hague Monday with all of the parties to the trial present in court.

The accused former Liberian Leader attended court with his reconstituted defense team headed by QC, Courtney Griffith.

The prosecution led in court by junior Attorney Brenda Hollis. Chief Prosecutor, Stephen Rapp followed the next day on Tuesday.

Mr. Charles Taylor looks incredible calm. He was dressed in dark suit, white shirt and dark pair of glasses and took his own notes.

An Expert Witness, Ian Smiley took the stand first discussing the diamond trade and its impact on the conflict in the sub-region.

At the end of Mr. Ian Smiley testimonies he would be examined by Taylor's Defense Team headed by Courtney Griffiths.

Mr. Smiley wrote a book entitled 'The Heart of the Matter on the conflict in the Mano River Sub-region'

Mr. Smiley said he worked in Sierra Leone as a teacher in the diamond rich district of Kono.

He said there was always a diamond rush in this district especially by illicit diamond miners.

This Expert Witness brought in by the prosecution is to help the court and the parties understand the geography and history of Sierra Leone's diamond and its role in the conflict.

SSS Ex-Dep. Director Testifies Against Taylor

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He is the first African leader to face a criminal trial internationally. Mr Bockarie - alias Mosquito - was also indicted by UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone for crimes committed during the 10-year civil war, but was killed in 2003.

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bodyguards in charge of the presidential armed convoy and protection of his official residence.

Cont'd on Page 5



Fmr. Pres. Taylor

SSS Ex-Dep. Director Testifies Against Taylor

Cont'd from front Page

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When he was satisfied that the message was genuine, Mr Bockarie was on his way to Monrovia within hours, the witness said.

Mr Sherif later discovered a special high-frequency radio on the fifth floor of Mr Taylor's mansion.

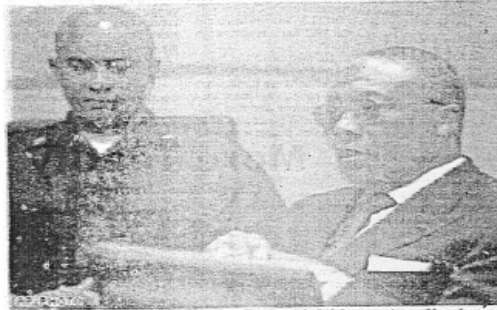
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The witness did not draw any link between the events he described and Mr Taylor.

The trial opened in June last year but proceedings were postponed after Mr Taylor fired his defence lawyer and boycotted the opening of the trial.

The ex-Liberian president is accused of responsibility for the actions of RUF rebels during the 1991-2001 civil war in Sierra Leone, which included unlawful killings, sexual slavery, use of child soldiers and looting. Courtesy: BBC



Former President Charles Taylor (right) in court on Monday



Heritage (Liberia)
Thursday, 10 January 2008

Taylor Aide Alleges Rebel Links

A FORMER SENIOR bodyguard of Liberian ex-President Charles Taylor has told his trial of an alleged secret radio link with Sierra Leone rebels. Varmuyan Sheriff told the court in The Hague he discovered the link after being sent to make contact with Sierra Leone rebel commander Sam Bockarie. Correspondents say the defense is likely to

challenge Mr. Sheriff's story.

Mr. Taylor, 59, is charged with having command responsibility for the rebels' atrocities. He has pleaded not guilty. He is the first African leader to face a criminal trial internationally.

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year civil-war, but was killed in 2003.

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sent to try to convince Mr. Bockarie, a senior Revolutionary United Front (RUF), to visit Mr. Taylor in the Liberian capital, Monrovia. But the rebel was suspicious and decided to check his credentials.

The next day Mr. Sheriff was taken to a radio room where Mr. Bockarie made contact with Mr. Taylor's Monrovia mansion. When
See Page 6



Sam Bockarie was one of West Africa's most notorious warlords

Taylor Aide

From Front Page

he was satisfied that the message was genuine, Mr. Bockarie was on his way to Monrovia within hours, the witness said.

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Clipped from the BBC

New Democrat (Liberia)
Wednesday, 16 January 2008

I Saw NPFL Men

Another Witness Recounts Weapons Shipment

The third witness in the trial of former President Charles Taylor has detailed weapons transactions between the RUF and Liberia, saying he saw National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) rebels, along with Lebanese, in the town Sierra Leone town of Beudu, then headquarters of the rebels.

Dennis Koker, a former soldier in the Sierra Leone Army, recounted his experiences with the RUF, where he said he saw slavery in practice. He described the indiscriminate execution of civilians and the burning of their homes:

Mosquito (Sam Bockarie) let us know they had come to see him. These people were speaking the Liberian dialect and wearing camouflage and black caps. Some had polo T-shirts that said NPFL Navy Rangers. I saw it myself.



Sam Bockarie

Doe Was My Subordinate In Daemon World

I Saw NPFL Men

It was sky blue, navy blue and black mixed unadorned. "Material" was a code name for ammunition. I was sent to the ammunition dump where the Material was brought. As military man, I was sent to list the material as it was unloaded. I was standing at the side when they opened the truck and took out the ammunition. I listed everything before it

off-load. Mosquito sent me twice, but not on the other times. The second time he sent me. Mosquito himself came with a lot of Liberians in vehicles and trucks. There were a lot of people. My mother came from Kailahun. My grandmother is connected to the Gbande people. Liberians are related to Sierra Leoneans. When Liberians talk, we know they are

There was also rice on top of the guns in one of the trucks. In one truck there was no rice, just materials. One Land-Cruiser had rice and people. Two trucks had materials - one was full and other wasn't full - they'd put rice on top of it. This second time I personally saw materials arrive, I saw: AK ammunition, G-3 guns (German model three), much G-3 ammunition, many RPG tubes and bombs, many mortar bombs, heavy machine guns (HMGs) and ammunition for them, many mines. (G-3 is old type of weapon made by the Germans during the Second World War. It's not a heavy weapon. The magazine holds 20 rounds. It uses Uzi rounds. It's an automatic weapon.) There were more Liberians this time. General Fayah brought his bodyguards and they lodged near our house. They brought Oma Lizzi, Foday Sankoh's wife. Some of the Liberians were in military uniforms, some were in civilian dress. They wore boots and had guns. The uniforms were sky blue mixed with black, navy blue and green. They had black berets and boots.

Two other times Liberians came. Document came for Tom Sandie and I saw them. At the time the Nigerian prisoners of war, ECOMOG soldiers, were in my custody and I had to let them up at night. Whenever anyone arrived in Beudu, they would go to the MPs for clearance. I saw the documents there that said "Scorpion Regiment, Second Battalion, Lc County". I saw it with my own eyes.

I left Beudu on December 16, 1999. I went central Kailahun and stayed there in 2000. was there when 200 Indians came. I left the RUF when they said there was a cease-fire started work with the United Nations in February 2000. The Indians stayed in Kailahun and brought peace. On July 7, 1999, when there were peace talks, Sankoh sent a message that there should be peace. We were happy.

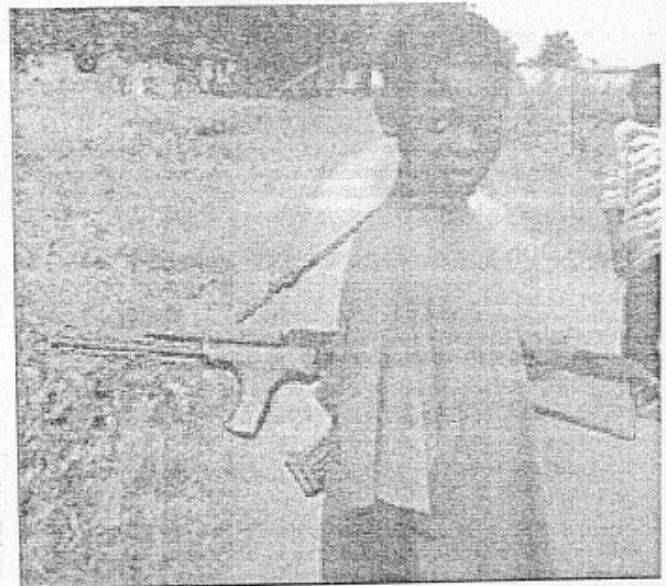
Court is now adjourning for the lunch break. Proceedings will resume at 2:30. Our coverage will continue at 3:00 (2:00 in Liberia a Sierra Leone).



was stored. The truck had six wheels in the back. We called it a six-wheel daf (ph). The container of the truck was about 20 feet long and the width was about 7 feet. This delivery of material in July 1998 included: rocket-propelled grenade tubes and bombs, a jet-tracer gun that is put on your shoulder and can shoot down an Alpha jet by following the jet's exhaust. (An Alpha jet is a fighter jet. We called them Alpha jets, and at this time ECOMOG was using Alpha jets.) They had anti-tank mines with a plate, and anti-personnel mines, .50 caliber AA ammunition to shoot at jets, 60mm and 82mm mortars, TNT that could be fixed on an AK to shoot down jets. Some of these materials were in boxes, others in cans, others in plastic containers, or in sealed wooden boxes.

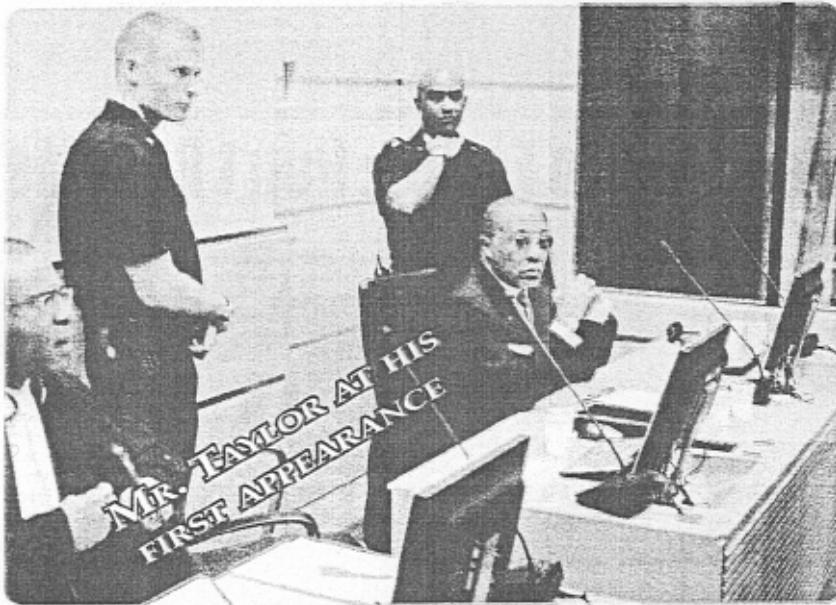
I saw two deliveries. I only heard about two others. Mosquito would send one MP to help

Liberians. It was in the same month that Mosquito went and came back with the Liberians, including General Fayah. They said he was a commander at Foya Kama in Lofa County. I spoke with him. There were many more vehicles this time: Land-Cruisers, cars, trucks, some were Lebanese too. I was at Mosquito's house when the trucks came. I had come from patrol to make sure the MPs there weren't sleeping. The vehicles parked at Mosquito's house. They asked me to call Tom Sandie. I did. Sandie sent me to go help off-load the things and list them. That night we spent about four hours off-loading things. I was listing them. I gave the list to Tom Sandie and he took it to Mosquito. That time Mosquito did not only bring guns, but also rice. There were two big trucks, two mini-vans, a Range Rover and another jeep with Lebanese in it. The rice was in the mini-vans - Action Fair vehicles.



New Democrat (Liberia)
Wednesday, 16 January 2008

Lawyer Tells Witness "You Hate Taylor... I Pretended Stupid -Not To Fight In Guinea-



Following defense lawyers insistence that former Taylor SSS Assistant Director and former ULIMO General Varmunyan Sheriff was mentally deranged, the witness revealed that he pretended to be "stupid" so as not to obey Charles Taylor's order to attack Guinea. Lead counsel Courtenay Griffiths told Sheriff that the motive of his testimony was hatred for Taylor because the NPFL killed his (Sheriff's) family, a charge the witness denied, saying, "I helped him in Lofa."

Def: He invited you to word for the government?

Wit: Yes.

Def: Given your admission this morning that you hated him and that you fought him, did this appointment surprise you?

Wit: No. I was one of the strongest commanders in 1996-1997. I had influence over remote territories. I thought he could use me.

Def: So he was seeking to reconcile differences in Liberia by recruiting people like you?

Wit: Yes, he started that.

Def: Given the experience had gone through seeing what was going through you working for this man you hate?

Wit: I felt bad, but that didn't I hated Mr. Taylor at that time.

Def: So you were able to put that behind you?

Wit: Yes.

Def: In this period following your appointment as Assistant Director of Operations...

Defense asks witness to look at document, interview notes in prosecution from November 2006.

Def: You said within one month of Taylor's election, Taylor sent you to Montgomery to invite you to a meeting near the Nigerian border.

Passage states that Taylor consulted with witness in his government formation and because he was an important commander. Statemontgomery Taylor consulted with witness to gain trust of former MO-K commanders in Lofa.

SEE PAGE 10

I Pretended Stupid

who were still control there. True?

Wit: Yes.

Pros: You were asked about mental illness. At one point you said that to you, mental illness is telling the individual that they are crazy. Please tell the court what you mean by the word crazy.

Wit: When Taylor was preparing the mission to attack Guinea, I did not want to be part of the attack on Guinea. I would be fighting my own family. I made myself stupid so they could forget about me. Later I could defend attacks from Guinea. I had my senses and knew what I was doing. I was not crazy.

Pros: So a person is crazy when you are not yourself?

Wit: It means you do not have your senses. At the time, if I did not look like someone who did not have his senses, he would send me to participate in the attack on Guinea. I said I was not feeling well. Every time he sent someone to ask at my house, my mother said I

was not feeling well.

Pros: Today you said that in April 2007 cause of threats you and your family were located out of Liberia.

Wit: Yes.

Pros: And you received a temporary leave from your job at the SSS.

Wit: Yes. I asked the Special Court to allow me to testify with Madame Sirleaf to allow me to testify the Special Court.

Defense lawyers ended their cross examination of Mr Sheriff on Wednesday, which lasted three days. Throughout the questioning Taylor's lawyers sought to discredit Sheriff an insider, suggesting that although he was to Sierra Leone in 1998, the trip was a private one and not one which Taylor authorized to bring Sam Bockarie, the RUF commander later killed here, to Monrovia.

We reproduce the final portion of the cross examination, courtesy website "The Trials of Charles Taylor":

National Chronicle (Liberia)
Wednesday, 16 January 2008

From S/Leone:

“CHARLES TAYLOR RECEIVED LOOTED MONIES, VALUABLES”

-5th Witness Tells Court



Former President Charles Ghankay Taylor

The trial of former President Charles Ghankay Taylor continues at The Hague with the fifth witness, Dennis Caulker, a Sierra Leone, taking the stand.

In his testimony, Caulker told the court that monies and other valuables that were looted from Sierra Leone were taken to Taylor in Liberia.

According to BBC's "Trust and Search for Common Ground" monitored

by this paper, witness Caulker saw the transportation of looted goods to Liberia.

Caulker said these items and monies were transported from Kailahun to Koindu in Sierra Leone and later to Liberia.

He also said that a Liberian was the operational commander in Koindu when the RUF and the AFRC Junta Forces drove the Karmojor militias and captured the area.

Testifying before the UN-backed special court in The Hague, Caulker said he heard

Sam Boskaric on a satellite radio ordering Essah Sesay to launch an operation code name, "No Living Thing", in Koindu.

The former Sierra Leonean army commander told the court that the operation led to the burning of every house in Koindu. He said the reason for the destruction was to prevent ECOMOG and the Sierra Leonean Army (SLA) from occupying Koindu.

Cont'd on Page 6

CHARLES TAYLOR

Caulker said that the former AFRC leader, Johnny Paul Koroma, and Sesay, were in Koindu when the operation took place.

He recalled that the RUF and the AFRC forces broke into a bank in Sierra Leone and took a huge sum of money.

During the cross-examination of the fourth witness on Tuesday, he said that civilians, mostly women and children, were used to carry looted goods and ammunition for the RUF and Junta Forces.

National Chronicle (Liberia)

Wednesday, 16 January 2008

TOM KAMARA: TAYLOR'S FRIEND YESTERDAY AND FOE TODAY

Tom Kamara has resurrected to milk the Taylor trial, which is virtually relegated to backwaters by the government that turned him over to the U.N.-backed Sierra Leone Court for onward transmission to The Hague for prosecution. The only story that Kamara religiously has denied the Liberian reading public is the genesis of Taylor's quest to violently overthrow the elected government of the late President Samuel Kanyon Doe. Any story that is told from the middle will not be fully understood.

As the Truth and Reconciliation Commission has begun its hearings, it is now prudent that the alleged major actors who began the so-called revolution long before Adolphus Dolo, Paul Mulbah and Momo Gebah joined the bandwagon. It is necessary before the TRC begin invoking its subpoenaed powers to ascertain pertinent information on the genesis of Taylor's portion in the fratricidal revolution which plunged this once glorious and peaceful nation into bloodshed.

While Mr. Kamara continues to cash in on the parts played by other major actors, it is gallant and fair that he does not continue to cowardly hide the truth of his participation from the long-suffering people of Liberia, the part that he Kamara played from the day Taylor walked out of the high security penitentiary of Boston, Massachusetts, on that fateful day in the yellow Volkswagen Beetle.

That story is known by a few persons, whom are still alive today and are willing to tell the TRC.

If he is so hell-bent on sending his former friend and colleague to the gallows, it is only manly that he simply tell the TRC the part he orchestrated in the 20-year so-called revolution, before being subpoenaed by the TRC. Do not chicken out now, Mr. Revolutionary and Progressive. The die is cast.

New Democrat (Liberia)
Thursday, 17 January 2008

Expert Traces Taylor's Foreign Link

An expert witness has told the war crimes court hearing charges against former President Charles Taylor that he recruited foreigners to facilitate his expansionist and war shames, and that Libya, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast backed his war.

Dr. Stephen Ellis, author of *The Mask of Anarchy*, a book that catalogues atrocities in the Liberian war, amongst others, said Taylor also used Sierra Leone diamonds to finance the war.

He named several foreigners in Taylor's employ:

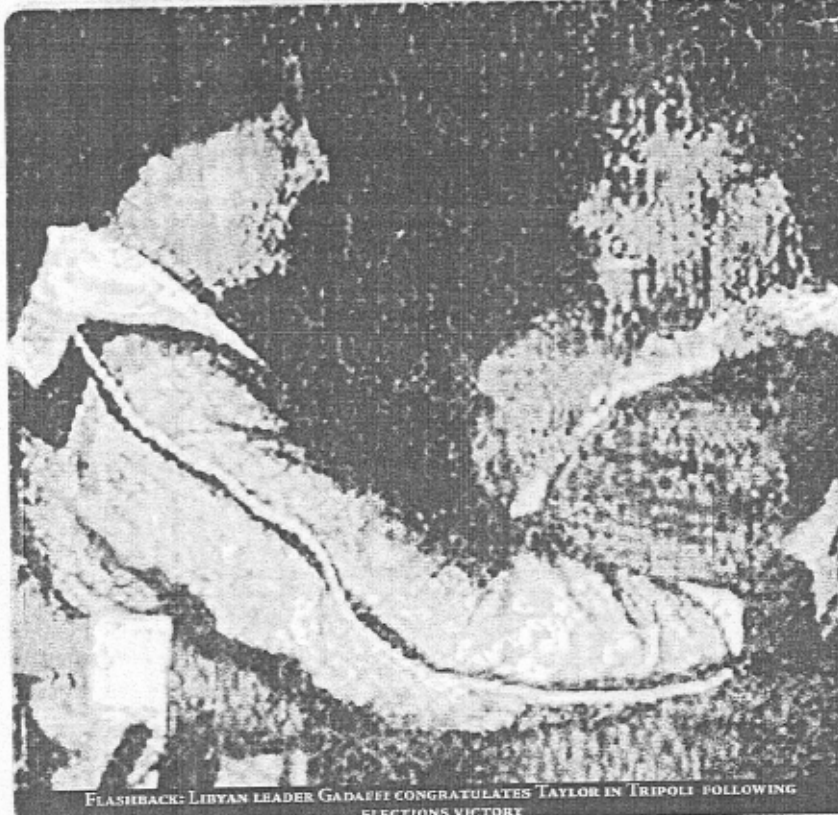
"(Col Fred) Rindel is a former colonel in the South African defense forces under the apartheid government. He had extensive experience with guerilla warfare. According to a UN report, he received a contract to fight in Liberia. Rindel gave one of the UN panels a full account of his contract, which dated from late 1998. There were also some press reports of this. I saw some correspondence in the archives of the Executive Mansion in Liberia, and I received confirmation from a South African general.

Pros: What was his association with the accused?

Rindel acknowledges signed a contract with Taylor's government.

Pros: What role did Leonid Minin play?

"Leonid Minin is a Ukrainian busi-



FLASHBACK: LIBYAN LEADER GADAFI CONGRATULATES TAYLOR IN TRIPOLI FOLLOWING ELECTIONS VICTORY

nessman. He has a number of different national passports of different nationalities. He's also involved in arms trafficking with a focus on diamonds. He's also involved in narcotics. He was arrested but the trial was never completed but there was a lot of information about him in the media. A panel documented that he ported weapons to Taylor's government.

"Another South African name is Rindel. He had a contract with Liberia with Rindel. Call it the same.

Pros: You cite this report of your finding that Taylor ported weapons to the RUF in exchange for diamonds.

Wit: Yes.

Dr. Ellis, a professor at the Center for International Studies in Leiden, Netherlands, described the activity of the sources on diamonds as "overwhelming."

One source is book by Hyman, a lawyer and a member of the Democrat Party in the United States. He writes by the Liberian government man writes that despite suggestions to the contrary, diamonds traded from the RUF to the Liberian government were sent to the RUF as an employee of the Liberian government at the time."

For All Your Color & Grayscale
Contact: The Times Photo

New Democrat (Liberia)
Thursday, 17 January 2008

Witness' Family "Besieged"

For Testifying Against Taylor

Several family members of prosecution witness Varmuyan Sheriff, who has completed his testimony against former President Charles Taylor, say their Free Way home has

Varmuyan Sheriff's home in Monrovia



been stoned by unknown individuals, and that threats continue to be made against them in retaliation for the testimony.

Family members of the witness

SEE PAGE 10



CHARLES TAYLOR

Sheriff's Family "Besieged"

mostly women and children, were seen sitting around the house helpless with no knowledge as to what steps to take.

Family members said since the testimony started last week, "they (the anonymous callers) call us every night and threaten to attack us and burn our brother's house down."

A brother of Varmuyan Sheriff, Dauda Sheriff, left in charge of the house, said they do not sleep at night.

ence last night, the only girl left in the house to cook for the boys was seen running through the back door thinking that her perceived attackers had entered the house.

The source of the stone throwing and attacks is not known, but Mr. Sheriff, in his testimony this week, said Mr. Roland Duo and other members of the erstwhile National Patriotic Fronts had threatened him before to dissuade from testifying. He said Mr Duo, who he said



"We keep guard the whole night. We change shifts. We are expecting them any time."

"When they (unknown callers) are passing by our house in the night they can say be expecting us anytime because your brother has gone and lied on the former president even though all of these things were true.

He said Sheriff left his sim card with them before leaving the country, thus enabling those familiar to him to have access to the number and issue threats.

"Since Vamuyan has given testimony in The Hague, they say they will get rid of us in the area.

"We want government to come to our rescue. They should give us security or they relocate us, since they say they will kill somebody amongst us before they will be satisfied, too" Dauda said.

When the New Democrat visited the resi-

was also a commander in Foya, Lofa County, told him and others that the Sierra Leone would jail them.

Mr Sheriff: "From 2004, and when I was being interviewed by the Special Court, I told them I fear for my life and my family. Until 2007, when my family was threatened by Roland Duo and NPFL supporters, and that if I was going to testify, they needed to get me out of there first..."

"Roland Duo was headquartered in Foya; he also operated in Buchanan (Grand Bassa County) and Monrovia. The commander of the Marine Division was Fassu. In 2001-2002 the marine division was operating in Voinjama. It had a mandate to operate inside and outside, to attack Guinea and defend Voinjama..."

- A. Abbas Dulleh

National Chronicle (Liberia)

Thursday, 17 January 2008

Editorial

TROUBLING, DAMNING EVIDENCE AT THE TAYLOR TRIAL

EX-PRESIDENT, CHARLES G. TAYLOR, has never ceased denying UN-levied charges against him and for which he stands on trial at The Hague, Netherlands. Taylor has gone the length of accusing his accusers of international conspiracy, claiming he had no connection to Sierra Leone's civil war and its consequent crimes. But prosecution witnesses at the trial are beginning to reveal troubling, damning information. The third of these witnesses gave his testimony on Tuesday, January 15, 2008, with such detail that Taylor's lawyers will find it a challenge discrediting him.

DENNIS CAULKER, A Sierra Leonean who formerly served his country's army, gave this detailed, descriptive testimony: "Mosquito (rebel name for Sierra Leonean Sam Bockarie) let us know they had come to see him. These people were speaking the Liberian dialect and wearing camouflage and black caps. Some had Polo T-Shirts that said, 'NPFL Navy Rangers'. I saw it myself. It was sky blue, navy blue and black mixed camouflage. 'Material' was the code name for the ammunition. I was sent to the ammunition dump where the 'Material' was brought. As a military man, I was sent to list the material as it was unloaded. I was standing at the side when they opened the truck and took out the ammunition. I listed everything before it was stored.

"**THE TRUCK HAD** six wheels in the back. We called it a six-wheeled daf. The container of the truck was about 20 feet long and the width was about 7 feet. The delivery of material in July 1998 included: rocket-propelled grenade tubes and bombs, a jet-tracer gun that is put on your shoulder and can shoot down an Alpha jet by following the jet's exhaust. They had anti-tank mines with a plate, and anti-personnel mines, 50 caliber AA ammunition to shoot at jets, 80mm and 82mm mortars, TNT that could be fixed on an AK to shoot down jets. Some of these materials were in plastic containers or in sealed wooden boxes."

CAULKER CONTINUED, "I saw two deliveries. I only heard about two others. Mosquito would send one MP to help off-load. Mosquito sent me twice, but not on the other times. The second time he sent me, Mosquito himself came with a lot of Liberians in vehicles and trucks. There were a lot of people. My mother came from Kailahun. My grandmother is connected to the Gbandi people. Liberians are related to Sierra Leoneans. When Liberians talk we know they are Liberians. It was in the same month that Mosquito went and came back with the Liberians, including General Fayah. They said he was a commander at Foya Kama in Lofa County. I spoke with him. There were many more vehicles this time: Land Cruisers, cars, trucks, some were Lebanese, too. I was at Mosquito's house when the truck came. I had come from patrol to make sure the MPs there weren't sleeping. The vehicles parked at Mosquito's house. They asked me to call Tom Sandie. I did. Sandie sent me to go help off-load the things and list them. That night we spent about four hours off-loading things. I was listing them. I gave the list to Tom Sandie and he took them to Mosquito. That time Mosquito did not only bring guns, but also rice. There were two big trucks, two mini-vans, a Range Rover and another jeep with Lebanese in it."

HENCE, DENNIS CAULKER directly links NPFL Navy Rangers, Liberians and Lebanese to the arms trade with Liberia. His testimony, to date, is one of the closest to linking ex-President Taylor to the RUF. Troubling and damning. Taylor's lawyers need a formidable defense to surmount this.

New Democrat (Liberia)
Friday, 18 January 2008

Sankoh Lived Here



THE LATE FODAY SANKOH

As testimonies continue against former President Charles Taylor, accused of 11 counts of war crimes, a prosecution witness says Mr Taylor did acknowledge the atrocities that were being committed in Sierra Leone.

Dr. Stephen Ellis, an extensive researcher on Liberia and Sierra Leone, told the court:

"Taylor was acknowledging the terrible atrocities taking place in Sierra Leone."

The British man, author of *The Mask of Anarchy*, dwelled into the history of the NPFL, telling the court that the late RUF leader, Foday Sankoh, lived in Liberia as part of the NPFL along with other foreigners: "Sankoh was spending a lot of time in Liberia. That's the background to the start of the war in Sierra Leone in 1991. A number of West African governments were aware that the invading party included people of various nationality - some had been trained in Libya or Burkina Faso. Gambians who had been involved in a coup attempt were involved. They feared if a revolutionary government took hold in Liberia, conflict would spread. In a way, that's what happened..."

New Democrat (Liberia)
Monday, 21 January 2008



Judges Hear Testimony of **Taylor's Misrule**

Judges to decide the fate of former President Charles Taylor on war crimes charges have been told he ran Liberia via eliminating rivals and creating state institutions only in name, with all powers exercised through parallel state structures.

Prosecution expert witness, Dr Stephen Ellis, said although ministries existed, they did so in name only.

Dr. Ellis: "There were a number of ministries and organs of administration with few powers or funds. The duties were implemented by unofficial individuals who owed loyalty to Taylor. They were like Potemkin villages."

The exchange below between Dr. Ellis and Taylor's defence lawyer touches on the nature of government after the 1997 elections:

Def: You say Taylor's administration was marked by a personality cult and that Amos Sawyer said Taylor often boasted he made decisions alone within the NPFL. What's unusual about that?

Wit: Nothing. It's just that some governments are more collegial than others.

Def: You say Taylor maintained a number of different armed and security units armed by rival commanders. He inherited a number of units, including the Special Anti-Terrorist Unit set up by Israel for Doe?

Wit: A panel of experts report in 2003 dealt with detail about how Taylor reorganized revenues from the shipping registry. Lester Hyman was key in the reorganization, and that's why I regard him as an important source. Monies were diverted to arms purchases without going to the Liberian treasury. This

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Judges Hear Testimony of Taylor's Misrule

FROM PAGE 1

was referred to as "non-cash receipts".

Def: Taylor effectively set up a government of national unity after his unity. 60% of positions were given to former adversaries?

Wit: We saw a system where cabinet ministers were formally under their control, but he established parallel structures to maintain actual control.

Def: He brought in ULIMO leaders?

Wit: He did, but he controlled the bureaucracy under them. These were key officials who were never government ministers.

Def: But more were from outside his party, including Alhaji Kromah?

Wit: Perhaps, Kromah was a minister. Roosevelt Johnson was Minister of Agriculture.

Def: You say Taylor's association with the RUF may be situated in the context of a multiplicity of armed forces. You describe how you say Taylor maintained control and power within his movement and government. This is divide and rule. How does this have bearing on his relationship with the RUF?

The exchange also dwelled into other aspects of the war and the NPFL's foreign backers, as the following excerpts indicate:

Def: (References a page in the witness's report) You say that Taylor was assisted at times by hundreds of troops loaned by Burkina Faso. I put to you that Burkina Faso provided materiel, but no troops.

Wit: The president of Burkina Faso has publicly acknowledged providing troops.

Wit: He had competing security forces, and also an unofficial network of control that paralleled the official networks.

Def: The NPFL incursion into Liberia in 1989 - you've written that the NPFL consisted of no more than about 100 fighters.

Wit: It's difficult to define what's meant by the NPFL at that time. Yesterday we discussed that due to the chaotic military politics following the 1980 coup in Liberia, there was a bloody coup attempt in 1985 led by Thomas Quiwonkpa. Among the survivors of the defeat of that coup were people calling themselves national patriotic forces. Some of those who formed the NPFL were former associates of Quiwonkpa's who fled to Burkina Faso and Libya, where they were training. The second component were political opponents of Samuel Doe, members of the Liberian political class, Taylor, Amos Sawyer and many others were

in that category. Most of the Liberian political class left Liberia after 1985, many to the United States. Taylor went to the US in 1983 and was imprisoned at the request of Liberia on charges of embezzlement. He escaped from prison in the US in 1985, which was a felony under US law. That's one reason he may have returned to W. Africa. These elements came together to broadly support the idea of a broad insurgency against Doe. Several attacks were being planned at the time of the NPFL attack in December 1989.



Wit: In a situation where everyone knew that Liberia was very volatile, there was an attack on the 24th of December 1989. Doe sent a series of forces to put down the uprising with brutality. As a result of the attack, the NPFL began spreading weapons to the civilian population. At this stage, the NPFL included a small core of trained insurgents, later known as the special forces, and thousands of armed civilians without training - some of them very young. There was no recognized single leader. I remember hearing Taylor speaking on BBC Africa. It was the first time I'd heard his name, and probably the first time many Liberians had heard of him. Others also claimed leadership of the NPFL. Rivals disappeared, presumably murdered by Taylor. The most important of these was Jackson Doe.

Def: This was a popular uprising?

Wit: Once the civil population was armed, they didn't just attack the government, but any people suspected of supporting the government. These were largely identified by ethnicity. It was a very anarchic situation.

Def: That anarchic situation continued throughout the war?

Wit: I disagree. None of the factions had bureaucratic control, but later there weren't the sort of freelance killings we saw in 1990.

Def: Then Nigeria sent their military?

Wit: The government had lost legitimacy

Def: We know the US didn't intervene. When ECOMOG came in, it acted with considerable force and brutality?

Wit: At the time, Taylor was becoming acknowledged as the NPFL leader. He made clear he would oppose ECOMOG and there was fighting in Monrovia upon ECOMOG's arrival. Prince Johnson and the INPFL welcomed ECOMOG and provided them a base. It was a confused situation.

Def: After Doe's death in September 1990, ECOMOG was conducting effectively a civil war against Liberian groups.

Wit: In the early months of 1990, Liberia had descended into anarchy. Groups of armed civilians were conducting arbitrary killings. There was the INPFL. A unit of the NPFL was led by Elmer Johnson. Doe's forces were conducting massacres. After May 1990, there was a lot of international media attention. Atrocities were being conducted in front of television cameras. The media found it hard to understand. When America didn't intervene, the Nigerians took the lead.

Wit: We're skipping over too much. It's not possible to clearly understand events without including some other details. After the events of 6 April 1996, there was acceptance by governments in W. Africa and the US that Taylor would likely win elections. He had support in some parts of the country and led the largest faction. That happened. The hope of many people internationally and of many Liberians was that Taylor would use his new position to consolidate peace. That's not what happened.

In Dec 1997, close Taylor associate Sam Dokie and his family disappeared. He was murdered. I was in Liberia at the time, and people thought, "If he's killing his own friends, what's he going to do with everyone else?" ECOMOG forces were supposed to retrain the Liberian military and police under the Abuja accords, but Taylor rejected this. In September 1998 there was heavy fighting in Monrovia when opponents of Taylor were shot (they were likely planning a coup). Liberians in exile again started organizing and planning incursions into Liberia. The first time I heard of LURD was February 2000, in Conakry. MOD-EL (Movement for Democracy in Liberia) was created in Ivory Coast, and was a splinter of LURD. Liberian exiles representing largely ethnic constituencies were again being supported by neighboring countries, acting in their own interests.

and support. By May or June 1990, Doe controlled little more than part of Monrovia. The NPFL was spreading. Thousands of people were massacred, including the NPFL. A third movement formed under Prince Johnson, the Independent NPFL. He was an associate of Thomas Quiwonkpa's. He was the training officer of the NPFL. He led the bulk of the trained fighters. The rest of the NPFL were largely untrained, armed civilians. Johnson's group was most disciplined. He shot anyone he thought wasn't obeying orders.

Def: ECOMOG was a Nigerian force uninvited by the Liberian government?

Wit: Doe had asked for help from the Nigerian government. The Nigerian government had believed the US would intervene in Liberia, and when this didn't happen, Nigeria took action. In August 1990 Iraq invaded Kuwait, and that changed the situation for the US.

The News (Liberia)
Monday, 21 January 2008

"Taylor Sent Us To Fight In Congo, S/Leone"

...Gen. Debleh Discloses

By Alloyvious David



Former Liberian President Charles G. Taylor
As the trial of former Liberian President Charles G. Taylor continues in The Hague for crimes allegedly committed during Sierra Leone's civil conflict, a well-known former NPFL General Monday disclosed that Mr. Taylor sent him and some fighters to Sierra Leone and DR Congo at different times to fight alongside rebel forces there.



Former General Benjamin Yeaten

Former Battlefield Gen. Alfred Suah Debleh, popularly known as Suah Debleh, who was recruited into the NPFL in 1980 as a child soldier told the TRC public hearing at the Centennial Pavilion that NPFL forces were ordered to move into Sierra Leone by Charles Taylor to assist Foday Sankor and his RUF rebels.

He indicated that the troops of NPFL fighters that entered Sierra Leone were headed by Gen. Oliver Varney, a brother of the late Gen. Samuel Varney.

Gen. Suah Debleh recalled that they fought in Bo and other towns in Sierra Leone and that they were considered Special Forces.

He further revealed that Taylor sent some of his fighters including himself to assist the late Laurent Kabela during his rebel incursion in DR Congo.

Some Generals who were sent to fight in DR Congo included 'Marcus High Grade,' 'BM-40,' Foday Johnson, 'Michael Jackson' and two others identified as Amos and Action.

Gen. Debleh: "Taylor's Defense Minister, Daniel Chea and Kadiatu D. Findley escorted us at the Roberts International Airport and distributed envelopes containing money among us before boarding the plane for Congo."

He indicated that former President Taylor also ordered them to assist Ivory Coast rebel

leader Robert Gye fight in the Ivory Coast.

The ex-general further explained that prior to the mission to the Ivory Coast, they were briefed at the ELWA Junction by Minister Chea about the scope of the operation.

Elaborating further, the former militia general linked Gen. Coco Dennis to atrocities including summary executions.

Describing Coco Dennis as "All Color Chief of Staff," Debleh disclosed that Coco Dennis was law unto himself, adding that "he did anything without a question."

In an attempt to catalog the number of innocent persons Coco Dennis allegedly killed, Gen. Debleh said he killed more than 10 persons in my presence.

He recalled that as Chief of Staff, Coco Dennis instructed Generals in Lofa County not to keep any prisoner of war (POW).

He also recalled that in 1990 it was Coco Dennis who introduced Sabebo Base in Grand Bassa County, meaning "death is better than life."

Gen. Debleh further alleged that Coco

Cont'd on page 3

EX-GEN. RECOUNTS

mand over the fighters as requested by the US Ambassador.

He indicated that on the contrary, Chief 50 went on the radio and asked the citizens to remain calm and that Mr. Taylor was returning to the country.

"Chief 50 briefed the former president while he was in Ghana about the discussion between him and Vice President Moses Blah," Debleh added.

"When Taylor arrived he ordered the arrest of the three officials and instructed Chief 50 that he did not want to see Vaye and Yormie again," he noted.

Ex-Gen. Debleh also explained that the men were placed on a pick-up and taken to an unknown destination, "but the fighters returned with fresh human hearts."

He recounted that Vice President Blah who was later rescued by Mr. Taylor was folded in a mattress and was severely flogged by Chief 50 and his men in Congo Town.

Prior to the account of how the three men were killed, Debleh indicated that Blah was a strong NPFL commander who controlled Grand Gedeh County during the insurgency in the 90s.

"Col. Moses Blah was a strong fighter. As my commander in 1990, the NPFL Special Forces and I set up and laid down in several armed bushes in Grand Gedeh County," Debleh concluded.

Enoch Dogolea, 48, the vice president of Liberia, died June 24, 2000 in a hospital in Abidjan, Ivory Coast. The Liberian government ordered an autopsy to allay speculation of foul play.

Officials of Mr. Taylor said Mr. Dogolea died after going into a coma. He was flown to the Abidjan hospital after falling sick in Liberia last week.

One official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Mr. Dogolea suffered a stroke, though that could not be independently confirmed.

The state radio station said the warlord-turned-president of Liberia, Charles Taylor, ordered an autopsy in order to rebut speculation the vice president had been either "poisoned or beaten to death by presidential guards."

TAYLOR SENT

Dennis was so bad to the extent that he killed soldiers and innocent people on a daily basis.