

**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:**

Tuesday, 4 July 2006

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

Kofi Annan Defends Decision to Take Taylor to The Hague / <i>Awoko</i>	Page 3
Norman to Appeal Against Kabbah's Subpoena / <i>Awoko</i>	Page 4
Kofi Annan Lauds Gov't / <i>New Vision</i>	Page 5
Kabbah's Subpoena Goes to Special Court Appeals Chamber / <i>Concord Times</i>	Page 6

### International News

Annan Visits War Crimes Court in Sierra Leone / <i>UN News</i>	Page 7
Annan Vows to Ensure S. Lone Polls Succeed / <i>Golf Times</i>	Pages 8-9
Annan Arrives in Liberia / <i>News 24.Com</i>	Page 10
Liberians Demand War Crimes Court / <i>BBC Online</i>	Page 11
UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary / <i>UNMIL</i>	Pages 12-14
International Justice is to do More Than... / <i>The Guardian</i>	Pages 15-16
Profile: Chad's Hissene Habre / <i>BBC Online</i>	Pages 17-19

### Special Court Supplement

Address to Special Court Staff by Kofi Annan / <i>Press and Public Affairs Office</i>	Page 20
Visit by Kofi Annan in Pictures / <i>Press and Public Affairs Office</i>	Pages 21-22

Awoko

Tuesday, 4 July 2006

## Kofi Annan defends decision to take Taylor to the Hague

By Kelvin Lewis

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan has defended the decision to try former Liberian President Charles Taylor out of the West African sub-region.

Speaking to journalists after a days visit to the country Mr Annan said "We wanted Taylor to be tried in an environment, which is free from the sort of tensions, and conflict we see in this region. When we look at security in that particular context I don't think we can focus only on what is happening in Freetown and what could happen in Freetown. Taylor was based in Liberia, Taylor was active within the sub region and there was a judgment it is best to try him in a place away from this sub-region."

Mr Annan maintained "if the price one has to pay was to ensure that we do not have additional tensions in the region whilst he is in jail and the trial goes on I think it is well so you avoid additional tensions but you ensure that justice is done."

In his opening statements the UN Secretary General said "Taylor's trial should send a strong message around the continent and around the world that war lords in other parts of Africa cannot assume that they will get away with their crimes and that impunity will not be allowed to stand."

He stated that peace is the West African sub-region was fragile.

Explaining he said "We've seen what we've gone through in Liberia - we had a conflict situation in Sierra Leone, we had a conflict situation in Sierra Leone, we have a situation in Guinea which is not clarified and you have just come out of your own situation and we are building on the peace and stability that we've all achieved, so I cannot say that this is a sub-region at peace and stable."

He maintained "Ideally I would want to see a region that is stable that is at peace where the countries are able to work together and pool their efforts to move this sub-region forward it is possible but we first need to get rid of the tension and the conflicts that is in the sub-region."

On the issue of the Ivory Coast he said "As far as the Ivory coast situation is concerned the party themselves agreed to a road map that road map requires elections to take place by the end of October this year. I like to see politicians who enter into commitments and honour them. There are certain practical steps which needs to be taken before the elections can

take place, we have to go through disarmament identification-particular identifications before the elections can take place and that requires the cooperation of all the political parties and the Ivorians and I am encouraging them to press ahead and undertake this task so that we can organize the elections on time and the Ivorian people can have a say on who governs them and select them freely and without intimidation."

Mr Annan who joked that the Black Stars of Ghana will win the next world cup which will be held in South Africa said "It's incredible that a ball can bring the whole world together, billions of people around the world focused on football and yet we cannot get the world to focus on the fight against HIV/AIDS, we cannot get them to focus on the struggle for peace, we cannot get them to focus on environmental degradation and the need to stop global warming, and I hope some of you young people in this room will think it through and see how we can capture that magic and use it in our fight against some of the challenges that we face."

The Secretary General who lives office next year said he would be engaged in some good causes but that after ten years as Secretary General and five years before in peace keeping he needed a long rest.

Awoko  
Tuesday, 4 July 2006

# Norman to appeal against Kabbah's subpoena

By Betty Milton

Defence counsels for the first and second accused, Chief Samuel Hinga Norman and Moinina Fofanah, in the trial of the three Civil Defence Forces (CDF) at the Special Court have been granted leave to appeal against the Chamber's decision on their motions for the issuance of a subpoena to President Kabbah to testify on their behalf.

The counsel for the two accused collectively seek to

leave to file their motion in pursuant to Rule 73 (B) an interlocutory appeal against the decision wherein Judge Thompson dissenting denied their request for the issuance of a subpoena.

They also submitted that serious differences between the judges over the interpretation of the Rule amount to exceptional circumstance. "These differences are, in their submission fundamental and require authoritative resolution for the trial," the

defence stated. Adding that, "the first accused would suffer irreparable prejudice as a result of leave to appeal being denied, for President Kabbah is in possession of information relating to the charges against him."

According to them, the information that President Kabbah had could be obtained elsewhere.

Counsel for Moinina Fofanah also submitted that the impugned decision of the Chamber implicated a fundamental rights enshrined

in the Status of the Special Court which included the right of the accused to obtain the attendance and examination of witnesses on his or her behalf under the same conditions as witnesses against him or her.

They also stated that several legal and factual errors, which cumulatively, and in conjunction with additional factors such as the foregoing, satisfying the requirement for exceptional circumstances.

The prosecution in the response submitted that the applications fail to satisfy the exceptional circumstances limb of the test pursuant to

Rule 73(B) and that there is nothing inherent novel or complex about a subpoena application in accordance to Rule 54, so that the application interpretation of that Rule in that context does not raise to the level of novel issue of general principle.

The application, the Prosecution went on, did not raise any issue concerning the entitlement of the first and second accused to certain minimum guarantees in full equality, for that entitlement was preserved by access to the applicable procedure.

In the deliberation, the judges put forward that in exceptional circumstances, and to avoid irreparable

prejudice to a party, the "Trial Chamber may give leave to appeal, and such leave should be sought within three days of the decision and shall not operate as a stay of proceedings unless the Trial Chamber so orders"

They went on, "the Chamber is of the view that, in accordance with Rule 73 (B), leave should be granted in this instance to file an interlocutory appeal against the Impugned Decision in order to avoid irreparable prejudice to the first and second accused. Accordingly, for the foregoing reasons, the Chamber grants the application for leave to appeal."

New Vision  
Tuesday, 4 July 2006

# Kofi Annan Lauds Gov't

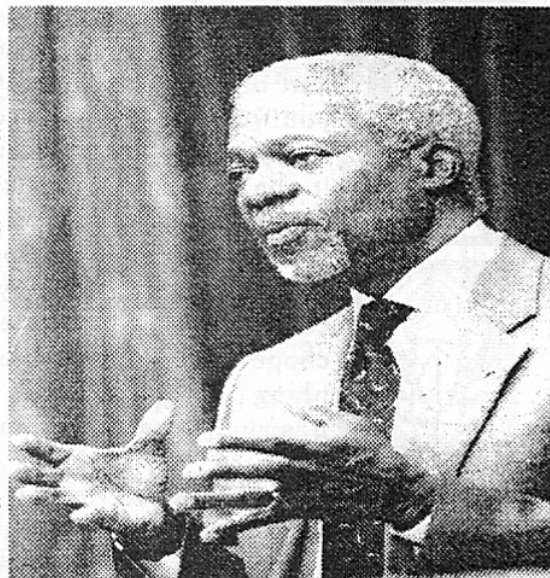
The United Nations Secretary General, Kofi Annan has said some remarkable progress has been made in the areas of peace building and economic improvement in the country

Addressing a news conference yesterday at the UN headquarters in Freetown; Mr. Annan said Sierra Leone continues to make progress in consolidating peace after the departure of UNAMSIL.

According to the UN Scribe, "There have been some remarkable achievements in the security situation and the economy is growing", adding that progress has been made in national reconciliation.

He said, adding that progress has been made in national reconciliation.

The UN Scribe expressed satisfaction that Sierra Leone can now boast of



*Kofi Annan; UN Secretary-General*

a professional police force  
Contd. Page 5

# Kofi Annan Lauds Gov't

while the restructuring of the military continues.

Mr. Annan said they have reviewed recent progress the government has made in bringing peace and stability in cooperation with the international partners, particularly the UN.

Amidst all those progress, Mr. Annan said, lot of challenges however remained, including limited employment facilities and lack of capacity in many state institutions.

The UN Boss also spoke about extreme poverty and the fragile security situation

in the sub-region.

The Un Chief said the UN integrated office; UNOISIL was created to support government in protecting the gains made in the country and in addressing the remaining challenges.

Mr. Annan who arrived in the country on Sunday, earlier met with President Kabbah and officials of the UN backed Special Court for Sierra Leone.

He left last night for another official visit to neighbouring Liberia.

## Concord Times

Monday, 3 July 2006

### **Kabbah's Subpoena Goes to Special Court Appeals Chamber**

By Tanu Jalloh  
Freetown

Trial Chamber 1 of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, after considering the novel nature of President Alhaji Ahmad Tejan Kabbah's subpoena it earlier ruled against, Wednesday granted First and Second Accused leave to appeal the matter so that it could be determined by Appeals Chamber.

The decision of the three judges, Presiding Hon. Justice Pierre Boutet, Justice Benjamin Itoe and Justice Bankole Thompson ruled: "The Chamber considers that the novel nature of this issue and the likelihood that it will be raised again in this case and in other cases before the Special Court, together with the diverse legal perspectives from which it can be viewed, as evidenced by the Majority Decision, separate Opinion and Dissenting Opinion, amount to exceptional circumstances. In addition, it would be in the interests of justice to have this matter determined by the Appeals Chamber." "The Chamber thus finds that a resolution by the Appeals Chamber at this stage of the proceedings is indeed necessary to provide an appropriate judicial exposition on the criteria for the issuance of a subpoena for a pre-testimony interview and for testimony at trial laid down in the Impugned Decision.

Moreover, in the circumstances of this particular case, the testimony which is being sought may, with the passage of time, no longer be obtainable so that the First and Second Accused may be prevented from having it admitted as additional evidence on appeal.

Accordingly, for the foregoing reasons, The Chamber grants the Applications for leave to appeal." This Chamber submitted that it is of the view that, in accordance with Rule 73(B), leave should be granted in this instance to file an interlocutory appeal against the Impugned Decision in order to avoid irreparable prejudice to the First and Second Accused.

"This is because if the Chamber wrongly determined the novel question before the Special Court regarding the applicable standard for the issuance of the requested subpoena pursuant to Rule 54, it may have unduly impinged upon the right of the first and second Accused to obtain the attendance and examination of witnesses on their behalf under the same conditions as witnesses against them."

## UN News Service (New York)

Monday, 3 July 2006

### **Annan Visits War Crimes Court in Sierra Leone**

Secretary-General Kofi Annan today met with United Nations officials and peacekeepers in Sierra Leone as well as with the president of the small West African country that the world body helped to nurse back to peace and stability after a disastrous and brutal civil war.

On the second stage of an African and European trip, Mr. Annan visited Camp Solar, which houses the more than 200 Mongolian soldiers who protect the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone, where those charged with crimes against humanity are being tried for their roles in the 10-year conflict in which thousands were killed and many others mutilated with amputations of limbs.

He thanked them for their dedicated, exemplary service so far from their home, adding that they could be the vanguard of increased Mongolian participation in UN peacekeeping.

The Secretary-General assured President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah that while the peacekeeping mission had closed, the UN remained dedicated to working in Sierra Leone and stands ready to assist in elections.

He then went to see the Special Court, where he was briefed by senior officials on its work and its completion strategy.

Mr. Annan, who arrived in Sierra Leone from the Gambian capital of Banjul where he attended an African Union summit, was leaving for Liberia. After that, he will head on to Côte d'Ivoire, where he expects on Wednesday to continue discussions on resolving the crisis that has divided the country between a Government-held south and a rebel-held north.

In New York, a UN spokesman announced that Mr. Annan has added Italy and Russia to the European part of his trip which already includes talks in Berlin with German Chancellor Angela Merkel and President Horst Kohler. In Russia he will attend the summit of the Group of 8 (G-8) industrialized countries in St. Petersburg.



## Gulf Times

Tuesday, 4 July 2006

[http://www.gulftimes.com/site/topics/article.asp?cu\\_no=2&item\\_no=95495&version](http://www.gulftimes.com/site/topics/article.asp?cu_no=2&item_no=95495&version)

### **Annan Vows to Ensure S. Lone Polls Succeed**

**FREETOWN:** UN Secretary General Kofi Annan arrived yesterday in Sierra Leone on a lightning visit, his first since UN peacekeeping troops pulled out in December, vowing to back the post-war transition process.

Annan promised that the international community would do everything in its power to ensure the success of presidential and legislative elections due to be held in Sierra Leone next year.

“We will spare no effort to ensure that it succeeds,” Annan said during a meeting with UN staff in Freetown.

“The election will test the sustainability and reliability of the peace which the UN has built during its six year peacekeeping operation in Sierra Leone,” he said.

Sierra Leone holds its first post-civil war elections early next year, although no date has been fixed yet.

Although fighting ended in 2001, President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah officially declared the end of the war in a speech in 2002.

With some 17,500 troops at the peak of the brutal civil war, the UN deployed in Sierra Leone what was then the largest UN peacekeeping operation in the world.

Annan told reporters on Sunday on the sidelines of an African Union summit in Gambia that his visit to Freetown and Liberia was part of a UN initiative to help prop up post-conflict transition in the two west African countries.

“These countries have emerged from the scourge of war, in partnership with the UN, it is important that we all support them in their transition to peace, stability and prosperity,” he said. To avoid resumption of hostilities in post-conflict areas which it has previously quit soon after elections, the UN has set up a peace building commission “to avoid what happened in East Timor.”

“We don’t want to repeat that in Sierra Leone or any of the countries we are engaged in at the moment.”

Sierra Leone and Burundi are the two African countries sitting on the commission.

Kabbah, after talks with Annan, thanked the UN for its support to his country.

He said he had observed that previously “in many instances the UN would leave operations early and not stay a little longer to stabilise things.”

“Sierra Leone is in peace building and we are using the experience gained to replicate it in the (Democratic Republic of) Congo, Darfur and other areas of tension,” Annan said.



**South African President Thabo Mbeki plants a tree during the African Union summit in Banjul**



He is due to travel to Monrovia late yesterday after talks with the prosecutor at the UN-backed tribunal on Sierra Leone which is trying nearly 10 suspects, including Liberian former leader Charles Taylor for war crimes and crimes against humanity during Sierra Leone's civil war.

Earlier Annan reminded the UN staff that the global body "continues to maintain a zero tolerance policy" on sexual abuse by UN staff. "Such conduct undermines the conduct of the UN," he said.

Earlier Annan cancelled a planned trip to Zimbabwe aimed at resolve an economic and political crisis in the southern African country.

Annan said he had held talks with President Robert Mugabe on the sidelines of the African Union summit, and was told that the former leader of Tanzania Benjamin Mkapa would now mediate to help Zimbabwe out of its crises.

He said Mugabe had "advised" him that the former president of Tanzania Benjamin Mkapa "had been appointed a mediator". "We both agreed that he should be given the time and space to do his work.

Asked if his trip to Zimbabwe was still on Annan said "You don't have two mediators."

He said he told Mugabe that he was committed to help Zimbabwe out of its crises and would support the work of the mediator.

Mugabe last year invited Annan to pay a visit to Zimbabwe after a UN envoy criticised his government's demolitions campaign in which shacks, homes and shops were bulldozed, leaving hundreds of thousands homeless and without income.

Mugabe last week attacked what he termed "so-called initiatives to rescue Zimbabwe".

Saying these initiatives made it seem the country was about to 'perish', Mugabe said: "What Zimbabwe needs is just and lawful treatment by the western world... a recognition that it is a sovereign country which has the right to own and control its resources, the right to chart its own destiny unhindered."

The octogenarian leader, who has ruled the country since independence from British colonial rule in 1980, said his country has "no saviours outside of its own people."

News 24.Com  
Tuesday, 4 July 2006

## Annun arrives in Liberia

Monrovia - United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annun has arrived in Liberia at the start of his three-day visit.

Annun arrived by plane from Sierra Leone late on Monday and was met at the airport by Liberian vice-president Joseph Boakai.

After reviewing a detachment of Nigerian soldiers from the UN mission, he was greeted by a delegation of traditional chiefs.

Influential tribal chief Zanzan Karwor said: "We came to ask him to lift the sanctions against Liberia, which make nothing possible in this country."

### **Timber embargo lifted**

Last month, the UN security council lifted the timber embargo on Liberia for 90 days in a vote of confidence in new Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, but kept a diamonds ban pending certification that the stones were not used to finance conflict.

It warned that the timber ban would be reinstated unless the Monrovia government passed legislation to guarantee "transparent management of the country's forestry resources for the benefit of Liberians".

It renewed the diamond embargo for an additional six months, but said it would be reviewed after four months to allow the Liberian government "sufficient time to establish an effective certificate of origin regime for trade in Liberian rough diamonds that is transparent and internationally verifiable".

The ban on the direct or indirect import of timber and uncut diamonds from Liberia was added in May 2003 to an existing UN arms embargo to increase pressure on Liberia's three warring factions to end their war.

### **Arms trafficking**

Trafficking in illegal diamonds was considered one of the root causes not only of the back-to-back civil wars in Liberia since 1989, but also the decade of brutal conflict in neighbouring Sierra Leone.

Last week, the security council unanimously voted to ease the arms embargo - to enable the Liberian government security forces to establish law and order in the fragile west African country.

The arms embargo was passed to curb arms trafficking via Liberia to rebels in Sierra Leone.

The situation in Liberia remained volatile after the arrest in March and pending trial of Sirleaf's predecessor and warlord Charles Taylor over crimes against humanity.

Taylor was awaiting trial in The Hague for war crimes.

Once one of Africa's most feared warlords, he had been indicted by the UN-backed special court for Sierra Leone on charges of crimes against humanity, war crimes and violations of international human rights.

BBC Online

Tuesday, 4 July 2006

## **Liberians demand war crimes court**

**Some 5,000 protesters carrying symbolic burial caskets are expected to demonstrate in the Liberian capital, calling for a war crimes court.**

They want something similar to the UN-backed court in neighbouring Sierra Leone which prosecutes those responsible for the now-ended war.

Exiled ex-Liberian President Charles Taylor is among those facing trial.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan is visiting Monrovia where he is meeting President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf.

The BBC's Rennie Ledgerhood in Monrovia says the prospect of a war crimes court looks remote as the peace remains fragile and there are fears that it could undermine security.

Meanwhile, the government is seeking the lifting of UN diamond sanctions on Liberia and the extension of the mandate for the United Nations peacekeeping mission.

The UN Security Council last month lifted the timber embargo on Liberia for 90 days, but kept the diamonds ban pending certification that the stones are not used to finance conflict.

Diamonds fuelled the civil wars in Liberia and Sierra Leone in recent years.



Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf was elected as president last November

United Nations  Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

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## **UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 3 July 2006**

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

### **International Clips on Liberia**

*[There were no relevant stories on Liberia in the international media today]*

### **International Clips on West Africa**

3 July 2006

#### **UN Chief Annan Inspects Post-Peacekeeping Sierra Leone**

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone (AP)--U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan Monday visited the war-scarred West African nation of Sierra Leone, where a U.N. peacekeeping force has left behind a shaky peace now threatened by rampant poverty. Annan, who flew in late Sunday from an African Union summit in Gambia, was expected to meet Sierra Leone President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah. A U.N. military force of 17,000 left at the end of 2005, having overseen elections and helped impose peace in Sierra Leone after a 1991-2002 civil war. But its work could be undone by widespread poverty in a country with one of the world's lowest life expectancy rates. Irritation with poor government services like fitful electricity and dirty drinking water is on the rise.

#### **UN chief vows to ensure Sierra Leone polls succeed**

FREETOWN, July 3, 2006 (AFP) - United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan arrived Monday in Sierra Leone on a lightning visit, his first since UN peacekeeping troops pulled out in December, vowing to back the post-war transition process. Annan promised that the international community would do everything in its power to ensure the success of presidential and legislative elections due to be held in Sierra Leone next year.

#### **COTE D IVOIRE: Election Schedule Could Move to Year-End - Annan**

*[This report does not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations]*

BANJUL, 2 Jul 2006 (IRIN) - Speaking after a meeting with Ivorian president Laurent Gbagbo, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said an October deadline set for the war-divided country to hold elections may have to be allowed to slip until the end of the year - but no later. "It will be preferable to organize these elections in October. But if for a technical reason it is necessary to make an adjustment, I hope this will be a very brief one," Annan said on Sunday.

## **Local Media – Newspapers**

### **Secretary-General Visits Liberia Today**

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

- United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan is due in Liberia today three years after he influenced the deployment of the largest multi-national peacekeeping mission in the world in the aftermath of nearly 15 years of civil war in Liberia.
- Mr. Annan is visiting Liberia at the time that the country is recovering from the wreckage of its violent past.
- A Liberian government official, Gabriel Williams, said the visit of the Secretary-General is a manifestation of the country's re-entry into the comity of nation.

### **Civil Society Groups to Stage March with Symbolic Caskets**

*(The Analyst)*

- Three civil society groups will today stage a "peaceful 16 caskets" march in Monrovia to coincide with the arrival of the UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan.
- The march is in furtherance of their campaign for the establishment of a war crimes court in Liberia.

### **Secretary-General Says Africa's Conflicts Declining**

*(New Democrat)*

- Addressing a meeting of African leaders in Banjul, the Gambia, recently Secretary-General Kofi Annan said that the number of conflicts around the African continent has dropped considerably, but warned against undue optimism.
- Mr. Annan said many people on the continent are still living in abject poverty.

### **Rights Group Wants Taylor's Son Investigated for War Crimes**

*(The News and New Democrat)*

- The United States-based Human Rights Watch recently called on the U.S. Justice Department to investigate former President Charles Taylor's son, Charles Jr., alias "Chucky" for his grave role in human rights abuses in Liberia.
- Chucky is due to appear in court this week in Miami on passport fraud charges.

### **Former U.S. President to Visit Liberia**

*(Daily Observer)*

- U.S. President Bill Clinton will form part of a high-level international delegation to Liberia in a few days, President Ellen-Johnson-Sirleaf announced over the weekend.
- The delegation will also include the new British Foreign Secretary Margaret Beckett and heads of the World Bank and African Development Bank.

### **President Urges U.S. To Deliver on Commitments**

*(Daily Observer and The News)*

- During a meeting with U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Linda Thomas-Greenfield in Banjul, the Gambia on the fringes of the just-ended African Union summit, President Johnson-Sirleaf implored the U.S. government to speedily deliver on the commitments it made toward the reconstruction of Liberia.
- She expressed the hope that the promises and assistance would be delivered in time to help the government meet its development objectives.

## **Local Media – Radio Veritas** *(News monitored yesterday at 6:45 pm)*

### **UN Secretary-General Arrives in Liberia Today**

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

### **President Regretted Not Speaking at African Union Summit in The Gambia**

- Speaking to journalists on her return from a summit of the African Union (AU) in Banjul, The Gambia, President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf regretted that she could not speak for Liberia due to her country's indebtedness to the Union.

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

### **Court Administrators Acquire Knowledge in Procedural Law**

- Correspondents covering the courts in Margibi County yesterday reported that a workshop to examine the statutory and administrative functions of the Justices of the Peace and Magistrates drawn from Bomi, Gbarpolu, Grand Cape and Margibi Counties, commenced in the County. The workshop was organized by UNMIL in collaboration with the Supreme Court of Liberia.

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

### **Civil Service Association Urges Members to Boycott Places of Work**

- In a press release issued in Monrovia yesterday, the Civil Servants Association of Liberia called on its members to boycott their various places of work until the Government pays salary arrears it owes civil servants.

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

### **Government to Support U.S. Over Guatemala's UN Security Council Bid**

- President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf said that her government was considering a request by the United States government for Liberia to support its backing for Guatemala's quest to be represented at the United Nations Security Council. She told journalists that she had called on the United States, during her meeting with Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Linda Greenfield, to fulfill its pledge towards the restoration of electricity to Liberia.

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

## The Guardian

Tuesday July 4, 2006

### **If international justice is to do more than allay western guilt, it must make sure that such atrocities do not happen again**

Aminatta Forna

A symbolic event took place in Phnom Penh yesterday. Seventeen Cambodian and 13 international judges were sworn in as part of a UN-backed tribunal to try members of the Khmer Rouge responsible for the deaths of up to 1.7 million people in the 1970s.

I was a teenager when images of the killing fields were first shown. I remember the chilling resonance of the phrase, the Year Zero; the hundreds of thousands force-marched out of the cities. I remember too that it was the first time I became aware that such terrible deeds were taking place in my lifetime. At my school we all asked our teachers the same question: why didn't anybody do anything? Now, 30 years on, having watched my own country, Sierra Leone, go through a civil war, I know the answer: because nobody ever does until it is too late. True, in Sierra Leone's case Britain did finally, and to some effect, send a unit of soldiers in 2000, but by then thousands were dead and thousands more maimed.

Four years later, amid much fanfare, the international community created a special court for Sierra Leone, to try those perpetrators of the civil conflict. But within a short time, the Special Court found itself the target of a stream of criticism. Though it had been established to try those "who bear most responsibility" for the violence, the men indicted by the court were clearly no more than second-tier lieutenants. Foday Sankoh, the leader of the rebels, was dead; Charles Taylor, until then still president of the neighbouring state of Liberia, cut a deal with Nigeria and went to live in opulent asylum there. Other key leaders were executed, allegedly by Taylor. Without them, the trial of the 11 indicted men felt hollow and pointless.

Secondly, the court was mandated only to try violations that occurred after November 1996. Not far back enough, in the minds of many local people, who felt that the true perpetrators were the leaders of the corrupt regimes of the 1970s. Similarly, the Cambodian court will only apply to crimes committed after 1975 and before 1979, leaving those - including, some say, the United States' Henry Kissinger - who created the climate which allowed the Khmer Rouge to flourish entirely unaccountable. The choice of which former members of the Khmer Rouge to try may be decided simply on the basis of who is still alive to be tried, and human rights groups are already warning against placing all the blame on a select few perpetrators.

Even those in Sierra Leone who supported the special court's aims balked at the amount being spent - \$32m (£17m). This is a country with virtually no healthcare, proper sanitation, running water or electricity. The published salaries of special court staff included per diems of over \$100, and the sight of employees at play in the smart hotels and restaurants of the capital did little to win the hearts and minds of average Sierra Leoneans. The Cambodian tribunal is already to set to spend \$56m, in a country where 4.5 million people live on less than a dollar a day and malnutrition afflicts over a third of the population.



If international justice is to do more than allay western guilt over its own inertia in the face of the murder of millions of people, it must be accompanied by genuine undertakings not to allow such atrocities again. The Sierra Leone special court will at least provide the testimonies of victims and perpetrators, showing how a country can implode. It will really be of value only if we, the international community, take note next time we see the warning smoke.

Last time I was in Sierra Leone, in March, a friend telephoned to say Charles Taylor - who had finally been extradited from Nigeria as a result of the efforts for Liberia's charismatic new president, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf - was rumoured to be flying in that day. He suggested I stay off the streets. Of course, I did nothing of the sort. I drove down to the special court to see what was going on. Later that evening crowds gathered to watch Taylor being brought in. By then I was at a party on the terraces of the British High Commission and watched the three helicopters fly in overhead. It was a dramatic moment. The special court had got its man. For me, it was worth it, after all.

But for the people of Cambodia there can be no such moment of victory. Pol Pot, leader of the Khmer Rouge, died peacefully in 1998, unrepentant to the end.

**It is often said that the art of cooking** has been lost in this country. But to me it's not so much the art of cooking that has gone out of the window as the art of eating. Once a pleasure, entertaining is rapidly becoming a challenge to find a dish that everyone at the table can share. Previously, the only curve-ball came from the occasional vegetarian, which I easily circumvented by not inviting any. Today one person has a wheat intolerance. Another can't eat dairy products. This one is doing Atkins. That one can't have salt. A friend of mine once invited somebody to dinner and received, later and via email, a long list of banned ingredients. She thought it was a joke, laughed and promptly binned it, only to find, when the day came, that she wouldn't touch any of the meal.

**What woman in her right mind** wouldn't love to be photographed by Vogue, as I was last week to accompany an article I had written? Hair, makeup, stylist and photographer descended on my home, bringing all the tools of the trade, including a selection of outfits. Disaster. "I look like Grayson Perry," I wailed, in a dress with a bow under my bosom and a great bell of a skirt. I could tell, from the makeup artist's prolonged laughter, that she thought so too. Eventually we found a Missoni dress, which I loved. And an Alberto Ferretti number which carried the advantage of a belt. Vogue's July issue is emblazoned with the words: "Are you ready for this autumn's new egg shape?" I confess that I am not. And if I ever was, it was 20 years ago. Marina Hyde returns next week.

**This week** Aminatta saw Coup! on BBC2: "The characters were straight out of central casting - you knew what was going to happen next every step of the way. And still utterly compelling." Aminatta read Moni Mohsin's *The End of Innocence*: "A story of forbidden love set in India, both magical and terrible at the same time."

BBC Online

Tuesday, 4 July 2006

## Profile: Chad's Hissene Habre

### Former Chad leader Hissene Habre is "Africa's Pinochet", according to pressure group Human Rights Watch (HRW).

A Commission of Inquiry formed after he was deposed in 1990 said his government carried out some 40,000 politically motivated murders and 200,000 cases of torture in the eight years he was in power.

His dreaded political police force, the Documentation and Security Directorate (DDS), is accused of some of the worst abuses.

Mr Habre, 64, denies any knowledge of murders and torture.



Chadians have been trying to bring Mr Habre to justice for 15 years

He seized power in 1982 from Goukouni Oueddei, a former rebel comrade who had won elections.

It was widely believed that he was backed by the CIA, as a bulwark against Libya's Colonel Muammar Gaddafi.

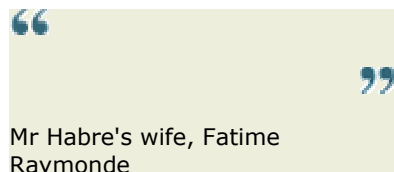
His coup came in the middle of a war with Libya over the disputed Aozou strip.

Backed by the United States and France, Mr Habre's forces drove out the Libyans in 1983.

### French hostage

He first came to the world's attention in 1974 when a group of his rebels captured three European hostages and demanded a ransom of 10 million francs.

One of the hostages, French ethnologist Françoise Claustre, was held for 33 months in the caves of Tibesti volcanic complex of northern Chad.



Mr Habre's wife, Fatime Raymonde

However, this episode did not prevent the French from later backing Mr Habre.

He was born to ethnic Toubou herders in northern Chad but excelled at school and was eventually spotted by a French military commander, who organised a grant for him to study in France.

As a senior local official, he was sent to persuade two rebel chiefs, including Mr Oueddei, to lay down their arms; instead he joined their struggle.

### Electric shocks

During Mr Habre's time in power, he faced a succession of rebellions but lobby group Amnesty International says this does not excuse his government's human rights abuses.

"The Chadian government applied a deliberate policy of terror in order to discourage

opposition of any kind," Amnesty says.

Human rights groups say the DDS was under the tight personal control of Mr Habre.

An underground prison, known as the "Piscine" because it was a converted swimming pool was one of the DDS's most notorious detention centres in the capital, N'Djamena, while Amnesty reports that some political prisoners were held at the presidential palace.



Survivors said the most common forms of torture were electric shocks, near-asphyxia, cigarette burns and having gas squirted into the eyes.

Sometimes, the torturers would place the exhaust pipe of a vehicle in their victim's mouth, then start the engine, Amnesty says.

Some detainees were placed in a room with decomposing bodies, other suspended by their hands or feet, others bound hand and foot.

One man said he thought his brain was going to explode when he was subjected to "supplice des baguettes" (torture by sticks), when the victim's head is put between sticks joined by rope which are then twisted.

Others were left to die from hunger in the "diète noire" (starvation diet).

HRW says that members of any ethnic group seen as being opposed to Mr Habre were targeted: the Sara in 1984, the Hadjerai in 1987 and Chadian Arabs and the Zaghawa in 1989-90.

Mr Habre was eventually deposed by current President Idriss Deby, an ethnic Zaghawa, who has been accused of favouring members of his own community.

### **Seeking justice**

After being ousted, he fled to exile in Senegal, where he has kept a low profile.

He has however, become involved with the local Tijaniyya Islamic sect and four of his children were born there.

"I can say that my children don't know Chad. Their country is Senegal," Mr Habre's wife, Fatime Raymonde, told a local newspaper.

His alleged victims, backed by Human Rights Watch, have tried to bring him to justice ever since but have repeatedly been thwarted.

First, a Senegalese court refused to put him on trial, saying it did not have jurisdiction over alleged crimes committed in Chad.

Senegalese President Abdoulaye Wade gave Mr Habre a month to leave the country but the UN intervened, in case the former Chad leader found a country where he would be safe from prosecution.

Senegal was told to prevent Mr Habre from leaving its territory.

Last year, a Belgian court issued an arrest warrant, based on its universal law which lets Belgium try those accused of human rights abuses wherever they are committed.

Mr Habre was then arrested but again, a Senegalese court sided with Mr Habre's lawyers and refused to extradite him to Belgium.

Now, Africa's leaders have agreed to set up a special court to try him - again in Senegal.

Chadian victim's group are hoping it will be third time lucky and Mr Habre will finally answer for the murders and torture allegedly carried out in his name.

**Address to Special Court Staff by the Secretary-General of the  
United Nations, Kofi Annan**  
Monday, 3 July 2006

**Kofi Annan:** Good afternoon, and thank you very much for being here this afternoon.

It is extremely moving for me to be here. I have just met the judges, the registrar, and the prosecutor, who have briefed me about developments in the court, and as most of you may know I was involved right from the beginning, when this was just an idea, an idea on paper, the idea of the setting up of the Special Court, and wondering where the resources and the money was going to come from, and if we can get it in a sustained manner, and if we will have the resources for to build the court.

But today it's here, and it's been here for several days, and thanks to the work you, the staff of the court and the judges and the prosecutor and the registrar have been doing; we now have a court that is alive, a court that is putting on trial criminals who have done lots of damage to this country, criminals who have terrorized the population and destroyed the economy and the social fabric of this country that we are now all trying to put together.

It is also important that it was this court that indicted Charles Taylor, who was a powerful warlord in the region, and the former head of state. And that also sends a message out around the continent and around the world that whoever you are, however powerful you are, you may have to account for your misdeeds.

We have now, as I said, found him a home, and he's in the Hague, and if convicted will end up serving his trial in the United Kingdom and I was very grateful to Prime Minister Blair and the UK government for taking the decision to receive him. But all this wouldn't have been possible without your work, your dedication, your support, and so I want to thank you, and thank you as well on behalf of all your colleagues in New York, on behalf of the Security Council, and the member states who have made this possible.

And this is a unique institution which has brought together the government of Sierra Leone, the international community, the international criminal legal system, all putting their efforts to send out a message that we will no longer tolerate impunity. So thank you for your part of history, and carry on in a good way.

Thank you very much.

# The Visit by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan Monday, 3 July 2006





