

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



**PRESS CLIPPINGS**

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

**as at:**

Friday, 4 July 2008

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.  
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact  
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New Democrat (Liberia)  
Thursday, 3 July 2008

# Urey's Suit Undermines Trial

## Special Court Reacts On Blah-Urey Case

**T**he Sierra Leone Special Court Registrar, saying the law suit against former President Moses Blah, filed by former Maritime Commissioner Benoni Urey undermines the Court, has written the Court's Trial Chamber seeking guidance as to whether witnesses who testify before it can face lawsuits for their testimonies in another country. Sierra Leone's Special Court Deputy Registrar, Binta Mansaray, in a letter dated June 10, informed the Court that one of its witnesses in the person of former President Moses Blah, who recently testified before it faces a lawsuit for libel/defamation regarding the content of his testimony. His letter follows series of exchanges between the Registrar's office and the lawyer representing former Maritime boss Benoni Urey, who now claims US\$4.5mn.



PROSECUTORS OF THE SIERRA LEONE SPECIAL COURT

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# Urey's Suit Undermines Trial

in damages, after a request to Mr. Blah demanding that he retracts his statement before the Special Court failed.

The Registrar informed the Trial Chamber that witnesses who testify before the Special Court are frequently granted qualified privileges and immunities at least from the Sierra Leone's Government but could not say the same for those in a third country.

Article 15 of the Statute of the Agreement between the UN and the Government of Sierra Leone on the establishment of the Special Court States: Witnesses and expert appearing from outside Sierra Leone on a summon or a request of the Judges or the



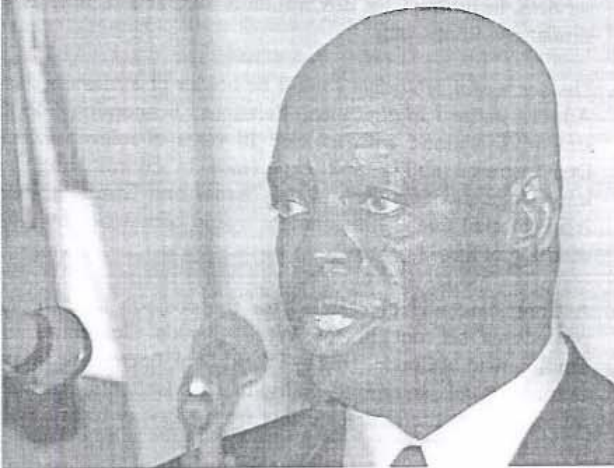
FORMER MARITIME COMMISSIONER MR. BENONI UREY

Prosecutors shall not be prosecuted or detained or subjected to any restrictions on their liberty by the Sierra Leonean authorities.

Mansaray: "The present proceedings to be instituted against the Honorable Moses Blah will however be in Liberia. The rules of the Special Court apply in Sierra Leone and qualified immunity for witnesses is limited to the territory of Sierra Leone and in the case of Taylor trial to the host country.

Thus, the Registrar seek guidance from the Trial Chamber on the justiciability of libel, defamation proceeding brought against a witness in a third state on the basis of his or her testimony under oath before the Special Court, particularly when compelled to testify by the Special Court per a subpoena and requests judicial comment as to whether a national libel action for the content of testimony before the Special would be contrary to international law."

Mansaray further quoted excerpts of Common law saying: "In order to ensure that



FORMER PRESIDENT MOSES BLAH

witness testify without fear or retaliation as a general principle of law, what a witness testifies to cannot be the basis of a lawsuit against him, except in a criminal prosecution for perjury or for a crime to which he confessed in the course of testifying. It could be recalled that in his testimony before the Special Court, Blah alleged that Mr. Urey transferred several millions of state funds to Mr. Taylor's personal account without any documentation. --*Othello B. Garblah*

# Taylor used RUF to attack ULIMO

In continuation of the ongoing war crimes trial in The Hague of former Liberian leader Charles G. Taylor witness TF1-567 said the late Sierra Leonean rebel leader Foday Sankoh took diamonds to Taylor in return for arms and ammunition.

See Story on Page 6



## Taylor used RUF

Witness TF1-567 told the Special Court that while in Kono, Sierra Leone they retreated to Gandohun and while there, Mosquito (Sam Bockaire) told them that Sankoh told him he was visiting Liberia to see his brother Charles Taylor - this was in 1992.

The witness said that when Sankoh got to Liberia, he sent a message to Mosquito that Taylor had given him ammunition which he was going to send for them.

The witness said that the arms and ammunition were later brought to Kailahun and that he travelled to Kailahun with civilians who carried the arms and ammunition to Gandohun in Kono.

The witness said that when Sankoh came back to Kailahun, he told them that he had taken diamonds to Taylor and in return, Taylor had given him the arms and ammuni-

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The Analyst (Liberia)  
Thursday, 3 July 2008

# ULIMO Blocked RUF, NPFL Routes

**-Taylor Ordered Sankor Sent More Men, Witness Says**

Yesterday, the trial of former president Charles Taylor resumed following days of break with chief prosecution witness co-named TF1-567 currently on the stand alleging that the accused had ordered former RUF head Foday Sankoh to send more men to areas then seized by forces of the United Liberation Movement (ULIMO), to help open the blocked routes.

The witness said the Taylor's order was in reaction to the blocking of the routes leading to the areas then controlled by the RUF and NPFL during their marriage in Sierra Leone. *See story on page 9*

## Legislators Become "Choppers"

**-Nimba Development Fund Fingered; Citizens Queue for Mass Demonstration**

Reliable reports from Internal Affairs Ministry to Nimba County showed that lawmakers of the northeasterly county of Nimba have fingered development funds allocated in the previous budget

to give them 10 percent of the county Development Fund as supervisory fee for projects to be undertaken in each electoral district of the

Our information gathered from some sources close to the Nimba Legislature told the Analyst that the Internal Affairs Ministry after being coerced several times by the Nimba Legislature Caucus

disbursed the supervisory fee to Representative Evans Koah for onward distribution to other members of the Caucus. Though the sources did not say that Representative Koah signed any document

*See story on page 9*



*Former President Charles Taylor*

# ULIMO Blocked RUF, NPFL Routes

See excerpts from his opening testimony cued from Taylor Trial Website (Unedited)

Court convened at 9:30 on Wednesday July 2, 2008. The Presiding judge asked that representations to be announced, which both prosecution and defence did. Mr. Taylor was present in court, wearing a blue suit, white shirt and a blue tie. The witness is an RUF insider who served as bodyguard to Foday Sankoh from 1991 up to the time Sankoh was arrested in May 2000.

Prosecution called Witness TF1-567. Prosecution, represented by Ms. Brenda Hollis indicated that pursuant to Trial Chamber decision of March 13, 2008, regarding protection of witnesses, the witness has protective measures, with both facial and voice distortion, and that there might be closed sessions when necessary. Ms. Hollis stated that the witness will testify in Krio. She also stated that the witness will commence his testimony in private session for the purpose of obtaining his personal data. The Defence, represented by Lead Counsel Courtney Griffiths stated that he had no objection to this.

**Witness is sworn by Court Attendant.**

Court goes into private session in order to obtain the personal data of the witness.

Court is back in open session. The prosecution asked the witness about the languages he speaks, to which he responded that he speaks Krio, Mende and Liberian English. The witness also indicated that he understands spoken and written English.

Witness is captured by rebels and taken to the Bunumbu Training Base in May 1991.

The witness stated that in May 1991, he was in Pendembu town when he heard that the rebels had entered the town in May 1991. He said there were no government forces when the rebels entered Pendembu. Asked about the kinds of weapons the rebels had when they entered Pendembu, the witness stated that he saw RPGs, Berrijtas, and AK-57 rifles. The witness said when the rebels attacked, he was captured together with some other people by small boys who had guns.

He said he was even older than some of his captors. The witness said among those who were captured were small boys, adult men and women. The witness said that upon being taken to the Court Barray, they were punished there and later taken to the training base. He said most of the rebels spoke Liberian English. The witness said that the training base was at the Pendembu Vocational Training compound.

Upon arrival at the training

base, the witness said that somebody introduced himself as Charles Timba and said he was the training comandant at the base. He said Timba told them that he was from the NPFL and that he was in Sierra Leone to help them fight the war. He said Timba introduced two Sierra Leoneans to them at the training base in the persons of Morris Kallon and Kaifa Wai.

The witness said Timba further told them that Kallon and Kaifa Wai were Vanguarders who were trained at Camp Nama in Liberia. The witness stated that among those who were taken to the training base were children, women and men. He said that the ages ranged from 13 years upwards. Asked how long he was at the training base, the witness stated that he spent two months there. The witness said he underwent ambush training, AK-47 training, barbed wire crawling and Halaka training.

Prosecution asked whether anyone refused the training. The witness said that while at the training base, those who said they were tired would be beaten and those who refused to train were beaten at the Halaka place. He said that the halaka was a circled place with cement blocks, with sands in the middle. He said individuals will be placed there and beaten by the trainers.

The witness said that after his training, the number of trainees that flooded the base was upto 800 people, comprising boys, girls, men- and women. When asked whether trainees were organized into any sorts of units, the witness said they were put into platoons, companies, the WASUnit.

Asked the meaning of WAS unit, he said those were groups comprising girls and women. He said the boys were in the Small Boys Unit (SBU). The witness stated that other than Charles Timba, a female training commander by the name of Monica Pearson was also there. He said that Monica Pearson told them she was also trained at Camp Nama in Liberia. The witness said they also received training from Mathew, Jah Glory, and others whose names he cannot recall now. He said that these trainers were also Liberians from the

NPFL. The witness said that while he was at the training base, they received visits from Foday Sankoh, Fracis Mewan, and Ndopo Mecarzin. The witness said that Francis Mewan and Ndoph were members of the NPFL in Liberia. He said that Francis Mewan came to replace Samuel G Tua, another NPFL commander in Pendembu.

**Witness becomes bodyguard to Sankoh after training in 1991.**

The witness said that when Sankoh came to the base, after their graduation, Sankoh stated that he needed 25 man power to work as guards at his mansion in Pendembu. He said Sankoh introduced himself as the leader of the rebel movement.

Prosecution asked what happened to the other trainees after the 25 men had been sent to work as guards at Sankoh's Mansion. The witness said the men went to the front line. He stated that he was among the 25 people chosen to go with Sankoh to the Mansion Ground at Pendembu. The witness said that he understood that Sankoh had another Mansion in Kailahun.

Asked about what his duties were as Mansion guard, the witness said the guards were responsible for manning the Mansion. He said he served in this capacity for a long time. He said that while he served as Mansion guard, Sankoh sometimes left them at the Mansion and travelled to Gbanga in Liberia. He said Sankoh told them he was going to see his brother Chries Taylor and that when he made such visits, he brought with him lots of ammunition and food.

Asked about the chain of command in the RUF at that time, he said that the movement was controlled by Samuel G Tua. He said that the NPFL commanders controlled the frontlines at this time. The witness said he could not recall how many NPFL commanders were in the RUF at this time. Asked about other people assigned as guards at the Mansion, the witness said there were Liberian security guards, the Radio Operator called CO Nyaa, and Sankoh's wife called Catherine. The witness said the CO Nyaa's real

name was Foday Lansana. He said Lansana was a Liberian and was part of the NPFL. The witness said the Liberian securities were also bodyguards to Sankoh. He also stated that after 1991, the Liberian guards were dissolved and that Sankoh asked Kargbo, the Battle Group Commander for the RUF, to select other Sierra Leoneans to serve as bodyguards. He said the Liberians were sent to the frontlines. The witness said he was among those selected by Kargbo to serve as Sankoh's bodyguards.

The witness said that Sankoh told him he was responsible for taking care of Sankoh's food and preparing his tea in the morning. He said that this happened in 1991. The witness said that the bodyguards were called Black Guards. He said that he remained Sankoh's bodyguard onto the time he was arrested and indicted by the Special Court. On the duties of the Black Guard, the witness said that Sankoh trained them and told them that the revolution was a black revolution. He said they were trained and sent to the frontlines to sensitize the soldiers that they should not rape, loot or burn houses. He said that while at the frontlines, they would write reports and send them to Sankoh regarding the conduct of the rebels. He said that such reports were sometimes written and sent to Sankoh or were sent via radio communications. The witness said that he worked with radio operators like Dauda Forni, aka DAF and others. The witness said that while at the frontlines, rapes, lootings and burning of houses occurred. He said they sent these reports, some of which Sankoh took actions for or sometimes he didnt do anything. On the command structure of the Black Guards, the witness said there was a Black Guard Commander, a deputy, an operations commander, and an adjutant. Asked whether the witness ever saw Sankoh's signature on any document, the witness responded in the affirmative. Prosecution asked that the documents at Tabs 2 and 3, marked D-15 and D-65 be shown to the witness. Defense asked for clarification on what was the purpose of

showing the witness the document, to which Prosecution responded that the documents were already in evidence and they just needed to be identified by the witness.

Witness is shown document, a letter written by Sankoh to Mahamed Talabi, with signature on page 2. Witness identifies it as Sankoh's signature.

Prosecution asked whether witness knew Mohamed Talabi. The witness stated that Talabi was introduced to him by Sankoh in Liberia. The next document shown to the witness was identified as Sankoh's signature, which was different from the first. The witness stated that Sankoh had three different signatures.

**Sankoh's visits to Charles Taylor in Liberia in 1991.**

Prosecution asked whether witness ever traveled with Sankoh. The witness said that he travelled with Sankoh to Gbanga in Liberia on occasions. Asked why they went to Gbanga, the witness said that Sankoh told him that that was one of his bases and that he used to go there to see his brother Charles Taylor. He said when they went there, Sankoh went to Taylor's mansion. The witness said he was with Sankoh. He said that Sankoh left them in the waiting room and went into the room to meet Taylor. He said after their discussions, Sankoh came out at 1:30Am and they returned to Sierra Leone. He said Sankoh told them that he was happy because Taylor had promised to help him with arms and ammunition. He said that the following morning, the arms and ammunition were brought by one SSS officer called Cascious Jacob. He said all the ammunition and arms were handed over to Sankoh. Asked how he knew that these materials were given to Sankoh by Taylor, the witness said that Sankoh would always tell them whenever Taylor helped him with materials. Asked whether he saw Taylor on his first trip to Liberia, the witness said no. The witness said that in 1992, he made a second trip to Liberia. He said that when they got there, Sankoh received a message that the RUF soldiers in Pujehun had retreated to Bomu Hills. He said Sankoh told them that Taylor had provided them with more materials

including food. Asked whether he will be able to show the routes used while he traveled with Sankoh in Liberia, the witness answered yes. Prosecution asked that the witness be shown the map marked L-1. Prosecution asked that the witness be allowed to familiarize himself with the map.

The witness was asked to show the route that the truck took to transport supplies to Bomu Hills.

The witness identifies Bong County, he does same for Gbanga. The witness then identifies route to Kakata, then to Bong mines, then to Tubmanburg.

The witness stated that he was not present when the truck traveled on this route but was present when Sankoh gave instructions on where the truck was to pass in order to cross into Sierra Leone.

The witness was asked to identify the route that he took with Sankoh to Tubmanburg. The witness said they left Gbanga town, got to Gbopolu, then to Tubmanburg.

The witness said that when they got to Tubmanburg, they met an NPFL commander as Wan Man and other people were introduced to him by Sankoh as RUF Soldiers. Some of these people were Philip Palmer, Pa Moriba and Mosquito. The witness said he returned with Sankoh to Gbanga, using the same route that he just identified.

The witness said upon arrival in Gbanga, Sankoh went to his brother Charles Taylor. He said Sankoh told him he had agreed with his brother to capture Kono because it was rich in diamonds. He said Taylor gave the arms and ammunition for that operation. The witness said that Sankoh put Mosquito in charge of the arms and ammunition truck and that they left for Sierra Leone. The witness said that on this second visit to Liberia, he saw Charles Taylor.

**Sankoh calls meeting to plan the first Kono attack**

The witness said that upon arrival in Pendembu, Sankoh called a meeting, referred to as Forum. He said that at this meeting, Morris Kallon, Issa Sesa, Mosquito and others were there. He told them that this was the time to capture Kono. He introduced Mosquito to the others and said he was to be the commander for the mission to capture Kono. Asked how he knew about this meeting, the witness said he was present with Sankoh.

Presiding Judge Dougherty then stated that it was now time for the court to take the mid-morning break. The court is adjourned for 30 minutes.

United Nations  Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

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**UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries  
3 July 2008**

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

**Newspaper Summary**

**President Sirleaf asks AU to Denounce Zimbabwe's Elections**

(The New Democrat, The Analyst, Heritage, The News, The Inquirer, Daily Observer, Liberian Express, The Informer, The Monitor)

- The media reports the President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has called on the African Union to denounce the June 27th elections in Zimbabwe and declare the results unacceptable, if the Union is to maintain its credibility. An Executive Mansion dispatch said President Sirleaf spoke Tuesday, during the 13th Ordinary Session of the African Union (AU) in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, when she made her intervention to colleagues during a closed session.
- The President said the international community should work with the Southern African Development Community (SADC) to find a permanent solution to the situation in Zimbabwe. She reminded Summit delegates that the African Union Observer Mission declared that the June 27th elections fell short of the accepted AU standards, and that this was a similar position taken by the Pan African Parliament and the United Nations Security Council. Meanwhile, President Johnson Sirleaf left Egypt at the end of the Summit for the United States on a private visit. She is scheduled to return to Liberia next week.

**UNMIL Force Commander Gets Top UN Post**

(Liberian Express, The Informer, The News, Heritage, The Analyst, The Inquirer)

- The outgoing Force Commander of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), Lt./Gen. Chikadibia Isaac Obiakor has been appointed Military Adviser for Peacekeeping Operations at United Nations Headquarters in New York. An UNMIL release issued yesterday said Gen. Obiakor called on Liberians to be patient and make sacrifices to rebuild their country, as it will take time to deliver to their expectations.
- Speaking to the media after a farewell visit to UNMIL troops in Central Liberia, General Obiakor, who is leaving the mission after more than 30 months of duty, observed that Liberia had come a long way since the inception of UNMIL in October 2003. The Force Commander urged Liberians to work hard and take charge of their own destiny. "Liberians must take ownership of the rebuilding of their country. They must forge ahead and work for themselves."

**CBL Grants Licenses to Two Banking Institutions**

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

- The Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) has granted provisional licenses to AccessBank Liberia Limited and Guaranty Trust Bank Liberia Limited to operate as commercial banking entities in the country.
- AccessBank is a commercial microfinance bank that will focus its activities on microfinance lending and provide financial services to the low income segment of the population.
- A CBL release Wednesday said that AccessBank will also provide short and medium term lending to small and medium scale Liberian businesses. The CBL said shareholders of the proposed AccessBank Liberia include institutional investors such as the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the private sector arm of the World Bank, African Development Bank and



European Investment Bank, while the majority shareholder is Access Holding AG which is a joint stock holding company located in Germany.

### **Lawmakers Protest Budget Hearing...In the Absence of Performance Report**

(New Democrat, The News)

- Some members of the Senate and House of Representatives Wednesday publicly criticized their colleagues for conducting public hearing on the 2008-2009 draft fiscal budget in the absence of a budget performance report from government ministries and agencies. Grand Cape Mount Senator Abel Massaley said it was bad precedent for the Legislature to hold public debate on the national budget without a performance report which would serve as a guide.
- He protested that the hearing be called off until legislators can obtain a performance report from the 2007-2008 fiscal budget. However, Grand Kru Senator Blamo Nelson who presided over the hearing said the debate would not be called off and cautioned his colleagues to register their opposition at plenary. Senator Massaley walked out of the public hearing following Senator Nelson's apparent refusal to discontinue the hearing.

### **Government to Subsidize More Private Universities - Minister Korto Discloses**

(The News)

- Education Minister Dr. Joseph D. Z. Korto says government has appropriated US\$500,572.60 in the 2008/2009 draft National Budget for five private universities in the country. Dr. Korto made the disclosure Wednesday when he appeared before the joint legislative sub-committees on Appropriation and Expenditure to justify budgetary allocation for his ministry.
- The Education Minister said the subsidy was intended to buttress the universities' efforts in addressing the needs of their institutions. According to him, universities benefiting from the subsidy include, the Cuttington University College with the amount of US\$357,260, the African Methodist Episcopal Zion University College, African Methodist Episcopal University, Stella Maris Polytechnic University and the United Methodist University with US\$50,000 each. He further indicated that the five universities are being assisted with funding because they are duly recognized by the National Commission on Higher Education to operate in the country.

### **Construction Works on "Old Bridge" To Begin October**

(Heritage)

- The Minister of Public Works has disclosed that work on the collapsed "Old Bridge" linking Waterside to the rest of Bushrod Island would begin in October this year. The bridge collapsed nearly two years ago. Speaking during a budget hearing conducted by the joint budget working group, Minister Loseni Donzo said government is currently reviewing three bids submitted by foreign companies for the construction of the bridge.
- The bridge collapsed in early November 2006 after more than three decades of existence.

## **Radio Summary**

**Star Radio** *(News culled today from website at 9:30 am)*

### **Legislature to Shift Priority Spending on Public Works Ministry**

- The National Legislature says it wants to shift the priority spending of the Ministry of Public works.
- Announcing the plan yesterday, the Legislative Budget Working Group on Appropriations and Expenditure said the US\$21 million allotted to the Public Works Ministry would be used to enhance road development in the Counties with US\$1 million being given to each of the 15 Counties.
- Public Works Minister Losene Donzo told the committee that although government focus is on road development there is no plan to buy equipment.
- The Ministers of Health, Education and Agriculture also told the hearing that their budgets were in line with government's move to enhance development.

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

#### **AFELL Launches Green Ribbon Campaign in Grand Bassa County**

- The Association of Female Lawyers of Liberia (AFELL) has launched its green ribbon manifestation campaign in Grand Bassa County which is intended to encourage men and boys to join the fight against gender based violence including rape.
- The Prosecuting Attorney of AFELL, Cllr. James Galiyeneh said rape remains a non-billable first degree felony against the state and urged parents not to compromise rape cases.
- For his part, the Commander of the Grand Bassa Police Detachment, Tito Lolin
- frowned on parents who receive financial compensation from perpetrators to compromise rape cases saying all such cases must be reported to the police.

#### **Senator Roland Kaine Appears in Court Today**

- Detained Margibi County Senator, Roland Kaine and 13 others accused of murder would make their first appearance at the Kakata Magisterial Court today.
- Senator Kaine and 13 others accused are facing trial for the murder of 19 men in a deadly land dispute along the border of Margibi and Grand Bassa Counties.

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

#### **More TB, Leprosy Cases Reported in Liberia**

- The National Leprosy and Tuberculosis Control Programme says it has recorded nearly 1,300 new TB cases.
- In an interview, the Manager of the programme, Dr. Catherine Cooper said 170 new leprosy cases have also been recorded.
- Dr. Cooper said the cases were recorded from Lofa, Bong, Nimba, Margibi, Sinoe, River Gee, Rivercess, Grand Bassa and Grand Gedeh Counties and represent data collected from January to June this year.

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Reuters

Thursday, 3 July 2008

## Congo's Bemba transferred to warcrimes court

By Emma Thomasson

THE HAGUE (Reuters) - The International Criminal Court took custody on Thursday of its highest-profile suspect to date -- Congolese former rebel warlord and vice-president Jean-Pierre Bemba, who was arrested in Belgium in May.

The transfer of Bemba, accused of leading Congolese rebels in a campaign of rape and torture in the Central African Republic in 2002 and 2003, is a welcome boost to the court after judges ordered the release of its first suspect on Wednesday.



The decision to halt proceedings against Congolese militia leader Thomas Lubanga -- who will stay in detention pending a prosecution appeal -- was seen as a major blow for the world's first permanent warcrimes court, set up in 2002.

ICC Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo announced Bemba's transfer at a conference to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the signing of the court's founding treaty and promised justice for the victims of "massive sexual violence".

"There will be no impunity," he said. "We cannot bring back those who were killed or died of AIDS after being violated, but I am hopeful that we will bring justice for the victims."

Bemba, who was defeated by Joseph Kabila in Democratic Republic of Congo's (DRC) 2006 presidential election, is being held at a detention centre near The Hague.

He joins Lubanga and two other alleged Congolese warlords also indicted by the ICC as well as former Liberian President Charles Taylor, who is being held in the same prison but tried by the separate U.N.-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone.

The ICC was set up as a permanent successor to the temporary war crimes tribunals like those for Sierra Leone, Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia. So far, 106 countries have signed up to the court, mostly in Europe, Africa and Latin America.

### IN EXILE

Bemba's is accused of crimes including rape and murder committed when his MLC insurgents intervened in Central African Republic. The MLC also fought in Congo's 1998-2003 war and Bemba served as a vice-president to Kabila in the post-war transition.

Bemba, who has denied the allegations, fled into exile in Portugal last year saying he feared for his life in Congo. His fighters had battled in the streets of Kinshasa with Kabila's presidential guards in clashes that killed several hundred.

Richard Dicker from Human Rights Watch called Bemba's arrival in The Hague a "terrific moment" for victims in Central African Republic but said the court should widen its probe.

"It's important for the prosecution to look into allegations of crimes committed by Mr Bemba in the DRC and to go further up the chain of command in the DRC to look also into members of the current government accused of horrific crimes," he said.

The most senior figure to be arrested by the ICC so far, Bemba's arrival in The Hague comes a day after the prosecution suffered a major setback when judges ordered Lubanga's release.

Lubanga remains in custody pending a prosecution appeal, but judges have put his trial -- due to be the new court's first -- on hold as his defence cannot view some evidence that the United Nations wants to keep confidential to protect its sources.

Prosecutor Moreno-Ocampo said on Thursday he hoped a solution could be found in the next couple of weeks so the trial could finally get under way, while respecting Lubanga's rights.

"I am absolutely confident that there will be justice for Thomas Lubanga's victims," he said. "The court is building the foundations of an international criminal justice system and a fair trial is the cornerstone of that."

BBC

Thursday, 3 July 2008

## Congo ex-leader sent to The Hague

**The ex-vice-president of the Democratic Republic of Congo has been extradited to The Hague to face trial for war crimes and crimes against humanity.**

Jean-Pierre Bemba, who fled DR Congo last year, was detained in Belgium in May. He will face trial at the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Mr Bemba is accused over atrocities allegedly committed by his forces in the Central African Republic in 2002.

The one-time rebel leader has always denied the charges against him.

Mr Bemba went into exile after being accused of high treason in his home country for refusing to disarm his militia after his defeat in presidential elections in 2006.

"Jean-Pierre Bemba was a vice-president and is a senator," said ICC prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo.

"But he does not have immunity before the ICC, and will face justice."

### Coup attempt

The successful businessman was one of four vice-presidents in a transitional government in the war-torn African nation between 2003 and 2006.

He was leader of the rebel group, the Movement for the Liberation of Congo, which later became a political party.

In 2002, his group was asked by the former president of the Central African Republic, Ange-Felix Patasse, to help put down a coup attempt.

While there, Mr Bemba's forces were accused of widespread rights abuses.

After Mr Patasse was ousted the following year, his successor pressed charges against Mr Bemba of rape and murder.

The case was referred to the ICC in The Hague, which announced his arrest on 24 May.



Mr Bemba is accused of widespread rights abuses in CAR