

**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:

Wednesday, 4 June 2008

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
Martin Royston-Wright
Ext 7217

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Concord Times
Wednesday, 4 June 2008

RUF defence wants good pay for witnesses

By **P.F. Koroma and
Kevin Hill**

A motion filed by Issa Sesay's defence lawyers in the Revolutionary United Front

trial at the Special Court for Sierra Leone Friday claimed that there was evidence that the prosecution has provided "improper benefits and

inducements (payments) to witnesses in order to obtain testimony."

The motion claimed the defence has evidence that
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RUF defence wants good pay for witnesses

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appears to prove that the prosecution, through its Witness Management Unit, has been making payments to witnesses that are unrelated to "legitimate, necessary or appropriate expenses or security issues."

Further, this evidence is purported to prove that some of the payments were administered to witnesses "to secure information, to ensure their 'cooperation', and as a reward for testimony that assists the prosecution - thus undermining the integrity of the RUF trial by inducing witnesses to provide false testimony against the accused."

The court now has two weeks to respond to the motion, examine the evidence and render a decision. The defence would then have one week to react to that decision.

The motion accusing the prosecution of buying testimony came nearly two years after the conclusion of the prosecution's case, and only three weeks before the expected end of the RUF trial.

The prosecution concluded its case in August of 2006. Sesay and Kallon both concluded their defence in March of this year and the trial is currently hearing the defence of third accused Augustine Gbao.

The court hopes to complete the trial, which began four years ago, by June 24 of this year or sooner.

The RUF trial is the trial of three former Revolutionary United Front leaders, Issa Hassan Sesay, Morris Kallon and Augustine Gbao, accused of committing crimes against humanity during the decade-long civil conflict in Sierra Leone.

Charges against the accused include terrorizing the civilian population and collective punishments, unlawful killings, sexual violence, physical violence, the use of child soldiers, abductions and forced labour and looting and burning.

BBC World Service Trust

Tuesday, 3 June 2008

Charles Taylor's lawyers continue the cross-examination of Prosecution 28th witness Samuel Kargbo Tuesday in The Hague at the war crimes trial of the former Liberian president.

Alphonsus Zeon of the BBCWST/SFCG reports, defence lawyer Terry Munyard is casting doubts on previous evidence Kargbo gave in the trial.

ZEON: In their attempt to render as untrue Prosecution charges that Taylor remained the AFRC/RUF arms supplier, Taylor's lawyers are pointing to potential sources of arms supplies to the rebels. Terry Munyard, the British lawyer leading the questioning of Kargbo Tuesday, drew the witness's attention to the rebels' association with an Israeli arms dealer.

MUNYARD: Do you know a man called Ziff?

KARGBO: Yes.

MUNYARD: Who is Ziff, Mr Kargbo?

KARGBO: It was a white man that I knew since the NPRC days, but I don't actually know his nationality.

MUNYARD: Now he is an Israeli citizen, isn't he?

KARGBO: I had told you initially that I don't know his nationality.

MUNYARD: You knew that the NPRC dealt with Ziff, didn't you?

KARGBO: Yes.

MUNYARD: And he was an arms dealer, wasn't he?

KARGBO: I did not know what he was dealing in by then.

ZEON: Munyard also indicated two Lebanese diamond dealers usually bought stones from AFRC leader Johnny Paul Koroma, an attempt to defeat Prosecution allegations that the rebels sold diamonds to Taylor in exchanged for guns.

MUNYARD: Some diamonds used to buy rice and other supplies; these transactions involved Kazim and Tariq Mackie...and Kazim and Tariq Mackie are who?

KARGBO: They were Lebanese men.

MUNYARD: Lebanese men living in Sierra Leone?

KARGBO: Yes.

MUNYARD: And so they were diamond dealers who Johnny Paul knew?

KARGBO: Yes.

MUNYARD: Johnny Paul dealt in diamonds on more than one occasion with these two men, is that right?

KARGBO: Yes.

MUNYARD: Did Johnny Paul ever buy arms as a result of the money that he made from his diamond dealings with Kazim and Tariq Mackie?

KARGBO: Like I stated in my statement, those were the - that was what we used for our salaries, rice, fuel and for the generators. We did not use the money to buy arms.

Munyard said when Kargbo spoke to Prosecution interviewers in November of 2007, he made no mention of going to Foya, Liberia to meet with Sam Bockarie to receive ammunition supply as he indicated just last month in court. In fact, Munyard drew into question Kargbo's evidence that a Land Cruiser ammunition supply from Liberia filled a one-room size rebel ware house in Buedu in Sierra Leone.

MUNYARD: And this storeroom was filled with this ammunition that you received that night, yes?

KARGBO: Yes, it was filled up with the ammunition.

MUNYARD: "We packed them in the store and it filled the whole store, a whole room. When we packed it in the room I can't tell the size of the room, but it was fairly big." That was what you said on 22 May and you have now demonstrated the size. Tell me, how were they able to get five people plus that volume of materials into a Land Cruiser?

KARGBO: Well I wouldn't know, but that was their own strategy.

MUNYARD: No, Mr Kargbo, a Land Cruiser would not be big enough to fill an entire storeroom of the dimensions you've just shown us and carry five other people as well...would it?

KARGBO: I wonder if you know the Land Cruiser I am talking about. It is the one with the car behind. It is not the one that is covered all over

ZEON: Meanwhile Samuel Kargbo left the stand Tuesday after cross-examination by Taylor's lawyer Terry Munyard.

This is Alphonsus Zeon for BBC World Service Trust and Search for Common Ground, reporting from The Hague.

Charles Taylor's Survival Rests On Judges' Integrity

Says Defense Lawyer

By D K Sengbeh

A member of former President Charles Taylor's defense team Lavela Supuwood says the UN backed special court for Sierra Leone is basically created to find his client guilty of false charges.

Cllr. Supuwood said the establishment of the court and procedures employed to appoint its judges contravene international protocols as in the case of other global criminal courts.

He said most of the charges made up against his former his client are



Former President Charles Ghankay Taylor

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CHARLES TAYLOR'S SURVIVAL

rather illusive and concocted, noting that 'they way things are only the integrity of the judges will deliver Taylor from the international conspiracy.'

Cllr. Supuwood, a strong Taylor man during the Liberian civil war, spoke last Friday in Monrovia at the May edition of the Edward Wilmot Blyden Lecture Forum organized by the Press Union of Liberia.

He served as co-panelist to University of Liberia political and international law professor, Cllr. Jonathan Williams, speaking on the topic: "The Taylor Trial: A

Search for Justice or Political Pay-back - Lessons To Learn".

He said the special court was created with its mortar pointed directly at Taylor, contradicting the meaning of justice. "The court was not established before the alleged crimes were committed, but after these crimes have been allegedly committed with. This means the court has a specific target" - Charles Taylor, the Liberian lawyer argued.

Charles Taylor, Liberia's 21st President (1997-2003) is currently on trial for 11 charges of war crimes

BENJAMIN YEATEN BLEACHED TO DISGUISE HIMSELF



Gen. Benjamin Yeaten



Brig. Gen. Gnakooude Berena

Unfolding developments coming out of the Togolese capital, Lome, has revealed that the much-feared former Liberian general, Benjamin Yeaten, has begun

disguising himself in all forms and manner; Emmanuel Mensah reports. Information gathered by this paper has revealed that former General Yeaten is at present using several chemi-

cals to change his complexion, in order to evade arrest by United Nations field agents.

General Yeaten, alias "50" in Liberia, speaks French fluently in Togo; this, our insider said have made it very easy for former President Charles Ghankay Taylor's chairman of joint chiefs of staff during the regime of the National Patriotic Party-led government, to live freely in Lome, Togo.

Our insider added that Yeaten is using this bleaching cosmetic which is making the one-time "dark" skin Benjamin Yeaten very bright thereby, making it very difficult for the UN Special Court field agents to identify him.

Gen. Yeaten, who was seen by our reporter fully addressed in Togolese's military uniform, has now changed his name to "Peter Davis" to remain in deep

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YEATEN

backdrop, and is enjoying all protection in the Force Armee del Togolese (FAT).

our investigation further revealed that the UN have increased their hunt for former General Yeaten, as several witnesses have testified in the Taylor's trial about how Yeaten was the brainchild behind many atrocities committed in Liberia and Sierra Leone.

Reports said that several attempts have been made on his life by unknown assassins.

Yeaten, who mysteriously left the country and went into exile in Togo in 2003 at the end of the LURD war, is alleged to be responsible for the deaths of several prominent individuals in Liberia, to include John Yormie, former deputy Minister of National Security, along with his friend Paul Vaye, former deputy Public Works Minister for technical services.

Responding to allegations that former General Yeaten is in the Togolese Army, the commanding general of the Togolese Army, Brig. Gen. Gnakooude Berena, said he has no knowledge of Yeaten been in the Togolese military and denied any fugitive from Liberia being in their Army.

National Chronicle
Wednesday, 4 June 2008

TRC OR WAR CRIME TRIBUNAL, ANY OPTION?

Since the commencement of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission hearings, and the simultaneous trial of Charles Taylor at The Hague, there have been mixed feelings of several people, not only in Liberia, but also around the globe as to the appropriateness of the TRC hearings at this time, as well as trying Mr. Taylor alone for war crime in the West African Region.

Former Liberian Lawmaker, Joseph Cornomia has emphatically stated that the on-going TRC exercise is a mockery since the hearings could open old wounds. He noted that Liberians had already forgiven those who committed atrocities against them for this is why they are living peacefully with them in different communities.

The Former Lawmaker noted that what was needed was a Tribunal to try not only those who held the guns and executed orders, but also all those responsible for supplying the guns and finances necessary for purchasing the instruments used for destruction and the commission of heinous crimes against humanity.

Regarding the trial of Mr. Taylor at The Hague Mr. Cornomia stressed that justice was not being done with him alone being charged with war crime. "I am of the conviction that Taylor should not be the only person to face trial, rather, all those who were part and parcel of the war should be tried," Mr. Cornomia is quoted by a local daily as saying.

While anxious adherences to the TRC had been expecting the commencement of the hearings would have been testimonies of criminal perpetrators coming out and confess their acts, on the contrary, it has been, so far, only victims of alleged war crime offenses who have been accusing others of very serious offences. This is why many believe that if this trend continues, definitely it would be opening up old wounds that could lead to more serious consequences as Mr. Cornomia has warned that "Liberia is indeed a trouble base."

Many people are conjecturing as to whether it would not have been a better idea if those claiming to have been victimized by the war have an option of either to resort to the TRC or have their day in a war crime tribunal where anyone accused of atrocities could immediately have recourse to the Due Process of Law, instead of all being compelled to face the TRC.

UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries 3 June 2008

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

Newspaper Summary

Victims' Families Throng JFK Morgue to Identify Bodies As Death Toll Rises

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

- Hundreds of citizens and foreign residents on Monday queued at the John F. Kennedy morgue to identify the bodies of some 10 soccer fans who died during Sunday's group six qualifying match between Liberia and The Gambia at the Samuel Kanyon Doe Sports Complex. The News newspaper quoting health authorities say the death toll has risen to 10. A local funeral home yesterday confirmed the deaths of nine persons whose bodies were taken to the mortuary by officers of the Liberia National Police (LNP).
- Addressing journalists Monday, Youth and Sports Minister, Etmonia Tarpeh said the victims died from "heat exhaustion" confirming earlier reports from doctors and aid workers that the incident was caused by rising temperatures resulting from over-crowdedness at the stadium.
- Meanwhile, the Inquirer reports that security lapses were blamed for the overcrowding of the stadium. The paper said as a result of the over-crowdedness and the resulting deaths, the World Football governing body, FIFA has launched an investigation into the circumstances.
- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf who is currently out of the country has declared a period of national mourning beginning this weekend. The national flag will be flown at half mast during this period in memory of the victims.

Acquitted Treason Suspects Sue Government – Claims US\$15M for Damages

(The Inquirer, National Chronicle, The News, Heritage)

- The two former senior officers of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) acquitted of treason have filed a court action against the government. Retired General Charles Julu and Col. Andrew Dorbor sued the government at the Civil Law Court at the Temple of Justice for damages in the tune of US\$15 million which they claimed were incurred during their trial.
- Messrs Julu and Dorbor said they sustained huge financial losses of US\$9 million as special damages and US\$6 million as general damages. They said the money represents contracts, agreements, negotiations and investment with local and international firms. The News newspaper reports that exactly one month ago, the two were acquitted for treason.

Legislative Caucus Alarms over Deepening Crisis in Maryland County

(The Inquirer, The Analyst, Heritage)

- The Inquirer reports that tension is said to be brewing in Maryland County as a result of a protest action by the people of Wetchoken. On Monday, the people of Wetchoken mainly women staged a sit-in in demand of justice and the missing hand of a victim of the bloody land dispute. Last month, the people of Rock Town and Wetchoken engaged each other in a bloody armed clash that left two persons dead and dozens injured.
- The situation was later brought under control by the local authorities and Liberia National Police (LNP), with support from UN Police and UNMIL troops.
- In a statement issued Monday, the Chairperson of the Maryland Legislative Caucus, Gloria Scott, called for calm and urged the Justice Ministry to quickly send prosecutors to the county to avoid further violence in Maryland. Meanwhile, Senator John Ballout is unhappy with the

Ministries of Justice and Internal Affairs in handling the land dispute in the county. Senator Ballout said the alleged delay of the Ministers of Justice and Internal Affairs to delve into the land dispute has escalated the situation. Senator Ballout warned that the two ministers would be held accountable if there is any death in the county.

Radio Summary

Star Radio *(News culled today from website at 8:35 am)*

Government Calls for Observance of National Silence

- In a release issued in Monrovia Monday, the government called on all Liberians and residents of Liberia to observe a moment of silence at 12 noon today.
- This followed the death of 10 persons as a result of a stampede at Sunday's group six qualifying match between Liberia and Gambia at the Samuel Kanyon Doe Sports complex.
- Government says it is deeply saddened by the deaths and injuries of several soccer fans and pledged its moral and financial support to the bereaved families.
- Meanwhile, the Police have launched a full scale investigation to establish the cause of the incident.
- Though the investigation has just begun, government has assured it would do all to prevent a recurrence of the incident.

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

'Maryland is Fragile,' Legislative Caucus Alarms

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

Fire Guts Unfinished National Housing Bank Building

- The New Housing Bank Building on Ashmun Street in Monrovia was this morning gutted by fire.
- Correspondents say fire fighters from the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) and the Liberia Fire Service later arrived on the scene and were fighting to contain the fire.
- The actual cause of the fire has not been established.
- Meanwhile, reports say thousands of dollars worth of properties were destroyed by the fire.

UNICEF Distributes Arm Chairs & Educational Supplies in Grand Bassa County

- Speaking in an interview, the Chief Education Officer (CEO) of Grand Bassa County, Mr. Chapman Adams, said the UN Children Agency (UNICEF) has begun the distribution of 3,000 arm chairs among public schools in four districts in Grand Bassa County.
- Mr. Adams said the agency is also carrying out the distribution of 3,600 book bags and educational materials to first graders in public schools in the county.
- He said the distribution was geared towards easing the problems of seating capacity facing students and creating a conducive learning environment in the county.
- The Grand Bassa CEO then warned that punitive action will be taken against school authorities engaged in the sale of the materials.

Government Sued For US\$15M Damages

- The two former Armed Forces of Liberia officers, Retired General Charles Julu and Colonel Andrew Dorbor acquitted of treason have filed a court action against the Government of Liberia.
- The two former army officers sued the government for damages incurred during their trial.
- They filed the lawsuit at the Civil Law Court at the Temple of Justice and are demanding US\$15 million as damages.
- The men claimed government wrongly arrested and detained them on charges of treason.
