

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



Judges and other Court officials at Charles Taylor's Opening trial yesterday

**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, 5 June 2007

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

Drama Unfolds at Special Court as Taylor... / <i>Awoko</i>	Page 3
Issa Sesay Reveals RUF Command Structure / <i>Awoko</i>	Page 4
Taylor Drops Bombshell / <i>The Spark</i>	Pages 5-6
In The Hague, Taylor Absent... / <i>The Exclusive</i>	Pages 7-8
Taylor's Trial Commenced Yesterday / <i>Awareness Times</i>	Page 9
Charles Taylor Refuses to Appear in Court / <i>The New Citizen</i>	Pages 10-11
Profile: Charles Ghankay Taylor (The Warlord-Politician) / <i>New Vision</i>	Pages 12-13

### International News

Ex-Liberia Leader Boycotts Trial / <i>BBC Online</i>	Pages 14-16
Africa's Warlords Look on in Alarm as 'Revolutionary' Faces UN court / <i>Times Online</i>	Pages 17-19
Charles Taylor Boycotts His War Crimes Trial in The Hague / <i>Voice of America</i>	Pages 20-21
Taylor in the Dock Today! / <i>The Analyst (Liberia)</i>	Pages 22-26
War Was Classroom for Sierra Leone Child Soldiers / <i>Reuters</i>	Pages 27-29
UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary / <i>UNMIL</i>	Pages 30-33
Prosecutor's Opening Statement / <i>OTP</i>	Pages 34-85

Awoko  
 Tuesday, 5 June 2007

## *Drama unfolds at the Special Court ...* **as Taylor sacks his lawyer**

*By Betty Milton*

**J**ournalists love Charles Taylor because the showman, ex-president of Liberia and flamboyant war lord always performed his dramatic antics when he was called upon to perform on the world's stage.

On Monday for the official start of his trial, journalists were not disappointed when true to form Charles Taylor delivered another dramatic coup by refusing to appear for the trial and in the same vain sacked his lawyer, Karim Ahmed Khan.

At The Hague, Mr Khan reading a letter from his client was stopped halfway by the Presiding Judge Julia Sebatunda to ascertain about the absence of the accused.

In response the lawyer replied that from the letter, which he had filed to the registry, his client raised

concerns on issues that had been affecting him and until these issues were addressed he ceased attending the court proceedings.

Among the concerns raised by Mr Taylor included that the administration of the Special Court had provided only one lawyer that appeared on his behalf in the midst of nine prosecution lawyer, the issue of a camera in his room and that for the past three month he was unable to talk to his lawyer, also that the principal defender had not been able to communicate with him and was not also present at the hearings.

For all these reasons, the

lawyer said, Mr Taylor held that he no longer had confidence in the court and that he could not participate in a shrouded trial and which would not give him a fair trial and he also asked his legal counsel to cease representing him and that he [Taylor] would be representing himself.

After some minutes of consultation, the judges ruled that Mr Khan had been appointed by the court to represent Mr Taylor and that, according to Rule 60(B) of the rules of procedure and evidence which states that an accused may not be tried in his absence, he had not made his first initial appearance but

since the accused had made his initial appearance the court had the right to continue with the trial.

The judge further urged the registry to look into the issue and take proper actions.

Mr Khan cited section 80 of the Code of Conduct that he had obligation to his client and the general public and with that, he walked out of the court.

Notwithstanding the absence of the lawyer and the accused the opening statements were made by the Chief Prosecutor, Stephen Rapp, which marked the start of the trial.

Awoko

Monday, 4 June 2007

## Issa Sesay reveals RUF command structure

**D**uring cross examination by the defence counsel for Augustine Gbao, Issa Sesay over the weekend revealed the command structure of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) between November and December 1996.

The witness, who is testifying in his own defence, revealed that before Foday Sankoh left for Abidjan they used to have a control station which was controlled by one Mohammed Tarawally but after the latter's death, the witness recalled, Sam Bockarie took over until Sankoh returned to Gaima.

Mr Sesay added that during this time, there was no Battle Group Commander and that all the MPs were reporting to the Area Commander and that a Unit Commander did not have authority to report to other Unit Commanders. Answering to questions posed to him by the defence counsel, the witness said certain promotions were made and that Sam Bockarie was appointed full Colonel and made Battle Field Commander.

Mike Lamin, he went on, was promoted to full Colonel and appointed as military strategist and adviser. "[He] was in the high command of the RUF as he was one of those who trained the vanguard forces."

Continuing his evidence, the witness said that "during the Lome Peace Accord Foday Sankoh told us that Mike Lamin was his deputy. Dennis Mingo was also promoted full Colonel and became the Western Area Commander I was also promoted to Lieutenant and a Battle Field Commander."

Explaining about other promotions made by Foday Sankoh, the witness said Peter Vandy was given promotion and that Gibril Massaquoi who had earlier testified before the prosecution team was appointed to Lieutenant Colonel and appointed Spokesman for the RUF.

The Spark  
Tuesday, 5 June 2007

# Taylor Drops Bombshell



Sierra Leoneans and the world at large were shocked yesterday when the Sierra Leone Special Court indictee, former Liberian President and Warlord, Charles Taylor, failed to appear before the war crime tribunal in the Hague to answer charges for crimes committed against humanity and the violation of International humanitarian laws.

Mr Taylor said his trial would not be fair because he only had one defence lawyer. His counsel walked out, defying the judge's order to stay seated. Mr Taylor is accused of backing rebels in Sierra Leone who killed and maimed thousands of civilians over 11 years. It is the first case of its kind against a former African leader.

Proceedings have been broad-

cast live on four giant screens in Sierra Leone's capital, Freetown.

Judge Julia Sebutinde ordered the trial to continue without Mr Taylor, amid intense protests from his lawyer, Karim Khan. Mr Khan then left the court, saying he was not in a position to represent his

client without further instruction from him.

After nearly one hour of wrangling, the prosecution began opening statements. Proceedings at the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone are expected to last between a year and 18 months, and the UK has offered to imprison Mr Taylor if he is con-

victed.

The former Liberian leader has been indicted on 11 charges of war crimes, crimes against humanity and violations of international humanitarian law over his alleged role in the brutal civil war in Sierra Leone. Mr Taylor denies them all.

Human rights campaigners hope the trial will send a signal that nobody can escape punishment for atrocities, including heads of state, although some would have preferred him to have been tried at home by his countrymen.

However fears that Mr Taylor may still be able to mobilise a mili-

CONTINUED PAGE 9

# Taylor Drops Bombshell

FROM FRONT PAGE

tia to attack a court in Sierra Leone were among the reasons cited for the trial being moved away from West Africa. Judge Sebutinde repeatedly pressed Mr Khan on the failure of his client to appear. "He has not thumbed his nose at the court," said Mr Khan before producing a letter in which Mr Taylor said he felt he would "not receive a fair trial at the Special Court at this time".

While appearing to accept the court's jurisdiction, he said it was not "fit for purpose". He added he would not appear until "adequate time and facilities are provided". "I cannot take part in this charade that does injustice to the people of Liberia and the people of Sierra Leone," he said in the letter. "I choose not to be a fig-leaf of legitimacy for this process." Should circumstances change, he said, "I stand ready to participate in such a trial and let justice be done and

for those who have suffered far more than me in Liberia and Sierra Leone."

The charges against Mr Taylor include terrorising the civilian population, murder, sexual violence, physical violence, using child soldiers, enslavement and looting. Sources say that the trial hinges on determining the degree to which Mr Taylor helped start, prolong and deepen the civil war in Sierra Leone. Mr Taylor started Liberia's civil war in 1989 and became one of a number of warlords competing for control in the West African country.

He later emerged as Liberia's most powerful politician and won the 1997 presidential election that ended the war there. Meanwhile in 1991, one of Mr Taylor's comrades-in-arms, Foday Sankoh, started his own rebellion in Sierra Leone. The prosecution claims Mr Taylor provided the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) leader with

training, money, arms and ammunition to start the rebellion and even lent him fighters to take part in the initial attack.

The RUF became notorious for hacking off the hands and legs of civilians during their decade-long war. It is alleged that Mr Taylor shared a common plan with the RUF's commanders to gain power and control over Sierra Leone, so he could gain access to its diamonds and have a government in Freetown that would support his aims.

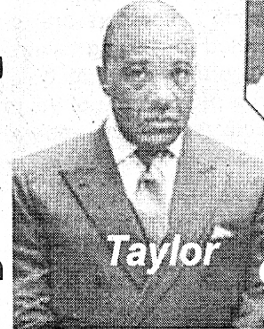
However, the rebellion in Sierra Leone collapsed. Its war crimes court indicted the rebel leaders and Mr Taylor as well. Mr Sankoh died in 2003. That year, Mr Taylor himself lost power in Liberia after rival militias rose up and forced him into exile in Nigeria. He was deported by Nigeria last year in controversial circumstances and flown to The Hague to await his trial.



The Exclusive  
Tuesday, 5 June 2007

# *In The Hague...*

## \*Taylor Absent



## \*Lawyer Backs Out

Former Liberian president and Special Court indictee Charles Gbankay Taylor was conspicuously

absent in the dock for the commencement of his trials at the ICC court in The

Hague.

Taylor, who had earlier lost confidence on the international court has re-

portedly divorced his legal representative for a reason best known to him as

*Contd. page 2*

# \*Taylor Absent

# \*Lawyer Backs Out

*From front page*

he seeks to defend himself.

However, his main lawyer Karim Khan made a brief appearance in yesterday's hearing and showed the special court his back to the surprise of many. The hearing however proceeded with prosecutor Stephen Rapp going through Charles Taylor's file.

According to him Taylor was the chief adviser to the Revolutionary United Front and AFRC-Junta regime both who caused total sufferings for the people of Sierra Leone. Charles Taylor he said, di-

rected the war in Sierra Leone when the then BBC's reporter Robin Whyte had an interview with him with regard the peace keeping force who were hosted in Sierra Leone.

Taylor, he added, aided the RUF battle government troops for Koindu in 1992 with regular shipment of arms by trucks from Liberia, until an anti-NPFL group (ULIMO) attacked Liberia which blocked the route.

By March 1994 the RUF stopped receiving weapons from the accused and retreated to Camp Zogoda.

He revealed that one Ibrahim Bah and Maskita were the chief link between Mr. Taylor and the RUF as they usually arranged shipment of weapons.

In 1996 Sierra Leone elected president Kabbah. A year later the AFRC toppled the Kabbah government but was reinstated by Ecomog in 1998. Many RUF/AFRC members traveled to Liberia but were arrested by the then Ecomog force at Liberia's Airport. Their arrest however angered Taylor who ordered Ecomog to vacate Liberia. The hearing continues.



## Awareness Times

Tuesday, 5 June 2007

### **Taylor's trial commenced yesterday**

Reports monitored from The Hague disclosed that the trial of former Liberian President and warlord, Charles Taylor, has started yesterday, June 4 2007. According to the Special Court for Sierra Leone, Taylor's trial would be transmitted live from The Hague, so that those who suffered from Taylor's heinous crimes would have the opportunity to follow up his trial. Reports from Human Rights Watch stated that Taylor's trial will serve as precedence to others—that human rights violators would not go scot-free irrespective of their position in society. Charles Taylor has reportedly committed a lot of horrendous crimes against innocent civilians in Sierra Leone and Liberia. Taylor's trial would ensure that justice is meted out to victims of the civil conflicts in the sub-region.

The New Citizen  
Tuesday, 5 June 2007

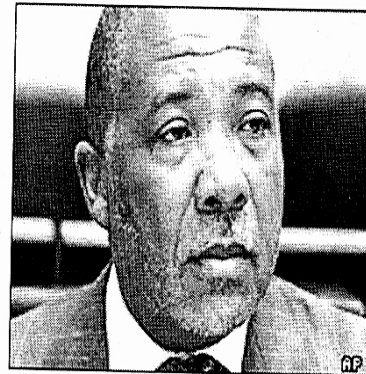
# Charles Taylor Refuses To Appear In Court

Former Liberian President, who was removed from office in 2003 in the wake of an indictment slammed on him by the United Nations sponsored Special Court for Sierra Leone and who was later handed over to the Special Court by the Nigerian government, Charles Ghankay Taylor, was sup-

posed to have made his day in court in the Netherlands yesterday but the usually defiant Charles Taylor simply refused to appear in court, informing his lawyer, Karim Khan that he was not likely to receive fair trial in The Hague.

Charles Taylor emphasized that the trial would not be fair because even

Contd page 8



*Charles Taylor has denied all charges*

# Charles Taylor's Trial

**From page 1**

though he has one of the best lawyers in the world. Karim Khan, he still insisted that he needed more than one lawyer

Charles Taylor, who is standing trial as a result of an accusation levied on him by the international community for supporting rebels in Sierra Leone in an eleven year debilitating war that resulted in the death of thousands of civilians, is standing trial to answer to charges of acts of terrorism, murder, violence to life, rape, sexual slavery and violence, outraging the personal dignity of individuals, use of child soldiers, enslavement, pillage and other charges.

The trial that commenced yesterday in the rented facilities of the International Court of Justice, the Presiding Judge, Julia Sebutinde said that the matter could still be heard even though the accused, Charles Taylor was not in court.

Proceedings at the Special Court now going on in The Hague are expected to run for a year or eighteen months after which if Charles Taylor is found

guilty, he would serve his prison term in the United Kingdom.

The Special Court does not sentence accused persons to death.

The trial of Charles Taylor is also seen by many human rights activists as a final warning and a conspicuous signal that nobody, not even Heads of State, can escape punishment after committing atrocities and after deliberately violating humanitarian law.

The Presiding Judge, Julia Sebutinde yesterday pressed Karim Khan, Charles Taylor's lawyer, to convince his client to appear in court.

Mr. Khan later produced a letter and read it, a letter which stated among other things that Charles Taylor believes that, "he would not receive a fair trial at the Special Court at this time."

The brief history of Charles Taylor's introduction of violence to attain political power and his actual attainment of political power and his departure from the throne of power can be listed as follows:

1989 - Charles Taylor launched his rebellion to

overthrow Samuel K. Doe from the presidency of Liberia, in 1991 - the RUF rebellion which he supported started in Sierra Leone, in 1995 - Charles Taylor signed a peace deal to stop the war in Liberia, in 1997 - Charles Taylor was elected President of Liberia, in 1999 - the predominantly Madingo tribesmen constituted the LURD rebel group that caused Charles Taylor to vacate the presidency, in June 2003- the Special Court issued him an arrest Warrant and in 2003, Charles Taylor resigned from the presidency of Liberia and proceeded to Nigeria in exile.

He was later handed over by the Nigerian authorities to the Liberian government which formally handed the one-time President to the Special Court for Sierra Leone after which he was formally charged for war crimes and crimes against humanity before he was later air-freighted to The Hague in the Netherlands to stand trial.

## New Vision

Tuesday, 5 June 2007

### Profile: Charles Ghankay Taylor (The Warlord-Politician)

The trial of Charles Taylor, the ex-President of Liberia which has opened at the International War Crimes tribunal in the Hague, Netherlands will no doubt solicit a lot of publicity in the international media. As the trial began yesterday, 4<sup>th</sup> June, 2007 dozens of the world's major media such as the BBC, Radio France International were already devoting special coverage to enable as many people in the world as possible to get a full understanding of the charges raised.

Charles Taylor's indictment, according to one international radio commentator is apt to serve a lesson to other world leaders that there is no longer a place for impunity even among dictators and warlord's in the world, as international laws are to be respected by everyone irrespective of race, creed, or region of origin. Charles Taylor is essentially a warlord politician, a great orator and a lover of power, wealth and fanciful dresses. He got married twice and has seven children apart from his wartime concubine Agnes.

Taylor was born at Arthington an Americo-Liberian settlement on the outskirts of Monrovia of an Americo-Liberian father ( Mr. Beaufort Taylor) and a Gola indigenous Liberian mother Madam Zoe Taylor, both of whom predeceased him in natural circumstances during the course of Liberia's 14 years civil conflict.

Charles, as he is affectionately called is part of the Americo-Liberian ruling class that had ruled Liberia since the founding of the state in 1822 and since independence in 1847, until toppled by Sergeant Samuel Kanyon Doe in April 1980 the first indigenous to become President Of Liberia.

Charles Taylor's fate has often been linked to that of the late President Samuel Kenyon Doe. At the time of Doe's Military takeover in Liberia, Taylor was studying in the USA where he once served as President of Liberian Students Association in the Americas (USA and Canada). In 1980, he resurfaced in Liberia with a Master's degree in Economics and because of the exodus of heads of several government parastatals due to the change-over of government, Taylor used that as an opportunity to impose himself as Acting Director-General of the National Procurement Agency, or the General Services Agency (GSA).

Taylor created the impression to Doe that he was one of those Americo-Liberians who advised the deposed regime of the late President William R. Tolbert against the abuses of power, and he went to the extent of leading student demonstrations against President William R. Tolbert at the UN Headquarters in New York, during a visit Tolbert made to address the world body. To facilitate easy access into the Executive Mansion as head of the GSA, Taylor, though a civilian, began to wear military camouflage outfit similar to that of Doe. He was able to convince Doe to announce a policy of centralized procurement, through the GSA, so that all government procurement were to be





**Charles Taylor**

channelled through the GSA which he controlled.

This was how nearly a million dollars from the budget of the Ministry of Public works to purchase caterpillar spare parts were diverted into Taylor's personal pockets, and when news about it broke out he fled the country.

Samuel Doe's government made some efforts to extradite him from the USA through the Liberian and U.S. Justice Ministry, in connection with the missing procurement funds but he reportedly broke jail out of a maximum U.S. prison in Boston and left the US under unusual and intriguing circumstances. This was how Charles Taylor has always been a wanted person on the list of the FBI in the USA.

In 1988 Taylor resided in Abidjan, Ivory Coast where he recruited dissident Liberians for the formation of the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) rebel movement. The NPFL which was mainly composed of Liberian dissidents in the USA against Samuel Doe's rule (including Mrs. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf) went through military training in both Burkina Faso and Libya before initially invading Liberia in December 1989, with Charles Taylor as its leader after launching attacks at Customs posts on the Liberia Ivoirian border in Nimba County.

By 1989 Liberian exiles in the USA have so much undermined the credibility of Doe's human rights records that relations between Liberia and the USA has considerably declined. Both the IMF and World Bank put a freeze on financial assistance to Doe's regime. In the USA public opinion was against Doe's regime for human rights excesses against the Liberian people.

What some political observers view is that the US was backing Taylor up to the time Samuel Doe was besieged in the Executive Mansion, and Doe was told to quit but he refused. Once President Doe was eliminated from the political scene, it would have been wise for Taylor to stop all hostilities, but he pursued his ambitions to gain power at all costs and by whatever means. He is accused of having master-minded the RUF invasion of Sierra Leone, led by Corporal Foday Sankoh, a former battle front commander in the NPFL. He has denied all charges brought against him.

## BBC Online

Monday, 4 June 2007

### Ex-Liberia leader boycotts trial

The war crimes trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor has opened amid dramatic scenes in The Hague, with the accused refusing to attend.

Mr Taylor said his trial would not be fair because he only had one defence lawyer. His counsel walked out, defying the judge's order to stay seated.

Mr Taylor is accused of backing rebels in Sierra Leone who killed and maimed thousands of civilians over 11 years.

It is the first case of its kind against a former African leader.

Proceedings have been broadcast live on four giant screens in Sierra Leone's capital, Freetown.

Judge Julia Sebutinde ordered the trial to continue without Mr Taylor, amid intense protests from his lawyer, Karim Khan.

Mr Khan then left the court, saying he was not in a position to represent his client without further instruction from him.

After nearly one hour of wrangling, the prosecution began opening statements.

Proceedings at the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone are expected to last between a year and 18 months, and the UK has offered to imprison Mr Taylor if he is convicted.

The former Liberian leader has been indicted on 11 charges of war crimes, crimes against humanity and violations of international humanitarian law over his alleged role in the brutal civil war in Sierra Leone.

#### Mr Taylor denies them all.

Human rights campaigners hope the trial will send a signal that nobody can escape punishment for atrocities, including heads of state, although some would have preferred him to have been tried at home by his countrymen.

However fears that Mr Taylor may still be able to mobilise a militia to attack a court in Sierra Leone were among the reasons cited for the trial being moved away from West Africa.



Charles Taylor has denied all charges



**“ Yes. Let the proceedings begin! However, where are Taylor's accomplices?”**

Tito



## 'Not fit for purpose'

Judge Sebutinde repeatedly pressed Mr Khan on the failure of his client to appear.

"He has not thumbed his nose at the court," said Mr Khan before producing a letter in which Mr Taylor said he felt he would "not receive a fair trial at the Special Court at this time".

While appearing to accept the court's jurisdiction, he said it was not "fit for purpose". He added he would not appear until "adequate time and facilities are provided".

"I cannot take part in this charade that does injustice to the people of Liberia and the people of Sierra Leone," he said in the letter. "I choose not to be a fig-leaf of legitimacy for this process."

Should circumstances change, he said, "I stand ready to participate in such a trial and let justice be done and for those who have suffered far more than me in Liberia and Sierra Leone."

The charges against Mr Taylor include terrorising the civilian population, murder, sexual violence, physical violence, using child soldiers, enslavement and looting.

The BBC's David Bamford says the trial hinges on determining the degree to which Mr Taylor helped start, prolong and deepen the civil war in Sierra Leone.

Mr Taylor started Liberia's civil war in 1989 and became one of a number of warlords competing for control in the West African country.

He later emerged as Liberia's most powerful politician and won the 1997 presidential election that ended the war there.

Meanwhile in 1991, one of Mr Taylor's comrades-in-arms, Foday Sankoh, started his own rebellion in Sierra Leone.

The prosecution claims Mr Taylor provided the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) leader with training, money, arms and ammunition to start the rebellion and even lent him fighters to take part in the initial attack.

The RUF became notorious for hacking off the hands and legs of civilians during their decade-long war.

It is alleged that Mr Taylor shared a common plan with the RUF's commanders to gain power and control over Sierra Leone, so he could gain access to its diamonds and have a government in Freetown that

### CHARLES TAYLOR CHARGES

Acts of terrorism (WC)  
Murder (CAH)  
Violence to life, in particular murder (WC)  
Rape (CAH)  
Sexual slavery and violence (CAH)  
Outrages upon personal dignity (WC)  
Violence to life, in particular cruel treatment (WC)  
Other inhumane acts (CAH)  
Use of child soldiers (VHL)  
Enslavement (CAH)  
Pillage (WC)

**CAH:** Crime against humanity

**WC:** War crime

**VIHL:** Violation of international humanitarian law

### Taylor - the trial begins

### TAYLOR TIMELINE



1989: Launches rebellion  
1991: RUF rebellion starts in Sierra Leone  
1995: Peace deal signed  
1997: Elected president  
1999: Liberia's Lurd rebels start insurrection to oust Taylor  
June 2003: Arrest warrant issued  
August 2003: Steps down, goes into exile in Nigeria

**Profile: Charles Taylor**

**Q&A: Trying Taylor**

would support his aims.

However, the rebellion in Sierra Leone collapsed. Its war crimes court indicted the rebel leaders and Mr Taylor as well. Mr Sankoh died in 2003.

That year, Mr Taylor himself lost power in Liberia after rival militias rose up and forced him into exile in Nigeria.

He was deported by Nigeria last year in controversial circumstances and flown to The Hague to await his trial.

## Times Online

Monday, 4 June 2007

### Africa's warlords look on in alarm as 'revolutionary' faces UN court

David Charter



Charles Taylor probably never set foot in Sierra Leone during the ten-year civil war that left up to 300,000 dead. But today he will stand in the dock accused of masterminding the brutal rebels who terrorised the West African country.

The Revolutionary United Front (RUF) ate the hearts of its victims, amputated the limbs of thousands more and decorated its checkpoints with human entrails.

Mr Taylor, 59, will face the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone accused of crimes against humanity by using his position as President of Liberia to fund, direct and equip the RUF, fuelled with the proceeds from so-called blood diamonds.

Fears of unrest in Freetown have led the trial to be moved to The Hague after Mr Taylor's initial court appearance in the Sierra Leone capital at which he pleaded not guilty with a trademark flourish.

"I could not have committed these acts against the sister republic of Sierra Leone," he told the judge. "I think this is an attempt to continue to divide and rule the people of Liberia and Sierra Leone, so most definitely I am not guilty." Over the course of the next 18 months, the prosecution has lined up 139 witnesses who will testify otherwise.

In the meantime, Mr Taylor will be held in the same complex that housed Slobodan Milosevic, the former Yugoslavian leader who died before his trial could reach a verdict.

With Mr Taylor's defence not due to start until next year, court officials admit that the process may seem lengthy. But Herman von Hebel, the acting registrar, said: "We tried to find a middle way between the Milosevic trial, which dragged on for four years, and Saddam Hussein's, which lasted only six or seven months and there was so much criticism towards the proceedings."

Mr Taylor's trial, which will cost an estimated \$89 million (£45 million), is already facing a struggle to raise funds from international donors with only \$3 million believed to be in the bank. The UN-backed process will also cover the estimated \$2 million cost of Mr Taylor's defence because nobody has been able to track down the personal fortune he is assumed to have salted away during six bloodstained years in power.

Mr von Hebel added: “There are rumours about the whereabouts of his funds but no one knows where they are. In order to ensure his rights as the accused, presumed innocent until found guilty, we have to pay for the defence of Charles Taylor.”

Unlike Saddam and many Liberians accused of atrocities, Mr Taylor does not face the death penalty and Britain has offered to be his permanent jailer if he is found guilty.

The appearance of the first African leader to face international criminal charges will be watched uneasily by many in the continent’s ruling class. Mr Taylor was given up to the UN by Nigeria, where he went into voluntary exile in 2004.

“This sets a serious precedent,” Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, said. “This means that every head of state could meet a similar fate.”

The trial will hold a special interest for Colonel Gaddafi for, according to court documents, it was he who took in Charles Taylor in the late 1980s after his escape from a US jail in Massachusetts, where he was being held under a Liberian extradition warrant. The Libyan leader provided military training and introduced Mr Taylor to Foday Sankoh, the man who became the leader of the RUF but who escaped justice when he died in British custody.

From 1989 to 1997, Mr Taylor led the rebel National Patriotic Front of Liberia, notorious for its bloody campaign to depose Samuel Doe, the President. Mr Taylor is believed to be one of the first warlords to recruit child soldiers, who were organised into a Small Boys Unit.

Tens of thousands were killed in the war but, in one of Liberia’s great paradoxes, in 1997 Mr Taylor won a landslide election victory.

Now he is finally on trial, it is for atrocities not on his own soil but in a neighbouring nation. Yet in Monrovia, where he still commands respect, his supporters have put up billboards of him with the words, “God willing, I shall return”.

### **The man**

**1948** Charles Taylor born

**1972** Moved to study economics in US, then stayed on to work for Liberian Government

**1984** Accused of embezzling \$1 million of Liberian funds. Jailed in US but escaped – some reports claim by sawing through the metal bars

**1989** Formed National Patriotic Front of Liberia and overthrew Government in brutal campaign

**1997** Ran for election under slogan, “He killed my ma, he killed my pa, I vote for him” Won by landslide

**2003** Rebellion forces his resignation, and he seeks exile in Nigeria

**2006** Arrested and taken to Sierra Leone to face trial

**Source: Times Archives****The charges**

- 1 Acts of terrorism
- 2 Crimes against humanity: murder
- 3 Violence to life, health and physical or mental well-being
- 4 Crimes against humanity: rape
- 5 Crimes against humanity: sexual slavery
- 6 Outrages on personal dignity
- 7 Cruel treatment
- 8 Crimes against humanity: mutilations
- 9 Conscripting child soldiers
- 10 Crimes against humanity: enslavement for forced labour
- 11 Pillage

**HAVE YOUR SAY**

It is not enough for us to buy Fair Trade Coffee and nod disapprovingly at people like Taylor. Europeans must get their feet on the ground in west africa and help develop the systems of a normal civil society. Much of the violence and poverty in west africa are a direct result of their mineral wealth. People like Taylor are the effect - not the cause. Part of the reason for the deep problems there is the recent European influence.

Zened, London,

charles Taylor was a destructive human being that created all the atrocities in the region of both liberia and poor innocent sierra leone. Charles Taylor should face trial for bad conducts killing sierra leoneans for diamond while fueled RUF with weapons and later try to claim the eastern part of sierra leone the most diamond area to be part of Liberia. Charles to himself as God for killing innocent civilians without being ask , I believed this time for him to face justice and pay for his action.

jeffrey koroma, kenema-sierra leone , USA-Connecticut

## Voice of America

Monday, 4 June 2007

### Charles Taylor Boycotts His War Crimes Trial in The Hague

By Lauren Comiteau  
Amsterdam

The trial of Charles Taylor opened without the accused in the dock Monday in The Hague, as the former Liberian President boycotted the proceeding he called a "charade." The first African head of state to face international war crimes charges, Mr. Taylor is charged with 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity for his role in orchestrating the brutal 11-year civil war in neighboring Sierra Leone. VOA's Lauren Comiteau is following the trial from Amsterdam and files this report.



**Prosecutors and clerks in Special Court for Sierra Leone in The Hague, the Netherlands, 04 Jun 2007**

It was supposed to be a historic opening to the trial of the former Liberian leader who prosecutors paint as a ruthless autocrat who caused death and destruction in Sierra Leone for his own benefit. But things turned dramatic as Mr. Taylor's lawyer, Karim Khan, tried to read out a letter from his client explaining why he thinks he won't get a fair trial and would therefore not attend.

"I cannot participate in a charade that does injustice to the people of Sierra Leone and Liberia and the people of Africa, and to the international community, in whose name this court claims to speak," he read. "I cannot, I choose not to be a figleaf of legitimacy for this process."

Mr. Taylor claims he has nowhere near the resources that prosecutors have. He has decided to defend himself, and he fired his lawyer. Mr. Khan then walked out of court, despite being ordered by the presiding judge to continue representing Mr. Taylor for the day. The judge then ruled the trial would go on with Mr. Khan's assistant representing Mr. Taylor, and she gave the floor to prosecutor Stephen Rapp.

He said Mr. Taylor was thumbing his nose at the court (was being disrespectful to the court), that just as he ignored the suffering of the people of Sierra Leone, he is now trying to ignore hearing the evidence of the crimes he committed. Prosecutor Rapp called the alleged crimes some of the "ugliest scenes of viciousness in recent memory" - crimes he said that were incomprehensible to the rest of the world.

"Human beings, young and old, mutilated. Rebels chopping off arms and legs, gouging out eyes, chopping at ears. Girls and women enslaved and sexually violated. Children committing some of the most awful crimes. The exploitation of the resources of Sierra



Leone used, not for the benefit of its citizens, but to maim and kill its citizens. The very worst that human beings are capable of doing to one another," said Rapp.

Mr. Rapp says the evidence will show that Charles Taylor devised and executed the plan to take control of neighbouring Sierra Leone in order to exploit its diamond wealth and install a friendlier, subordinate government to help him do it. He listed the names of those who helped Mr. Taylor achieve his goal, men the prosecution alleges were later ordered killed by Charles Taylor so they could not turn against him. Prosecutors expect to call some 140 witnesses and hope for an 18-month long trial. Things are already complicated by the fact that the trial is taking place in The Hague instead of in Freetown because of security concerns.

The trial will adjourn Monday until the end of the month to give Mr. Taylor more time to prepare his defense - a defense whose shape remains to be seen.

## The Analyst (Monrovia)

Monday, 4 June 2007

### **Taylor in the Dock Today!**

Monrovia

*Four years ago in March 2003, for the first time in Africa's political history, a sitting president of a sovereign country was indicted by a foreign hybrid court for war crimes and crimes against humanity.*

*That president was the all-defiant Charles Taylor, then President of the Republic of Liberia. Some thought the indictment breached international diplomatic protocol and could therefore not be translated into a court trial.*

*But they were wrong in their estimation as the rest of the world was opting for a trial that they are convinced would demonstrate to despots around the world that the world is a global village and that that village cannot condone injustice and a culture of impunity.*

*That trial commences today. The next question is, "Are all hands on board?"*

*The Analyst's Staff Writer has been scrutinizing reports on the trial.*

The landmark case seeking to penalize the former president of Liberia, Charles Taylor, for his alleged role in war excesses commences today at the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague amidst calls for justice and fair play.

A UN News dispatch said over the weekend that the case will be handled exclusively by the United Nations-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL).

Mr. Taylor faces 11 counts of war crimes, crimes against humanity and other serious violations of international humanitarian law, including mass murder, mutilations, rape, sexual slavery and the use of child soldiers, for his role in the decade-long civil war that engulfed Sierra Leone, which borders Liberia.

The trial is expected to last until December 2008, with a judgment likely by mid-2009. Prosecutors have indicated they plan to call up to 139 core witnesses.

A year ago the Security Council authorized the staging of Mr. Taylor's trial at The Hague in the Netherlands, citing reasons of security and expediency. Although the trial will be held at the premises of the International Criminal Court (ICC), it will remain under the exclusive jurisdiction of the SCSL.

Though authorized to be handled within the exclusive domain of the SCSL instead of the ICC as many had thought when the case was first transferred from Sierra Leone to The Hague, there are growing concerns about the freeness and fairness of the trial.

There had been concerns leading up to today's trial amongst human rights organizations and a Monrovia-based group calling itself "Friends of Charles Ghankay Taylor" for the character of the trial.

Rights organizations such as Amnesty International (AI) and Human Rights Watch, amongst others, have been opting for an open trial conducted on the principles of international justice. The Special Court assured Liberians last months that indeed it was committed to an open trial conducted on the principles of international justice.

But that assurance seems insufficient for Taylor's defense counsels that many said have lately appeared more paranoid then confident about the outcome of the trial in its favor.

Taylor's defense team and the non-litigant "Friends of Charles Ghankay Taylor" had on the other hand been insisting that the trial unlikely to be free and fair because the prosecution has monopoly over trial preparation, besides psychologically debasing their client.

The defense has been claiming that the accused was denied proper diet, was held in communicado and only allowed fewer monitored telephone calls, and denied visits from family members or allowed to see only one family member at a time.

A recent SCLS statement dismissed most of these claims, noting that the detainee had access to everything allowable under international laws.

"We cannot control the number of family members visiting him because we do not have control over Dutch Immigration Laws," said the SCSL's chief prosecutor in a recent court statement.

But the AI, which described the circumstance of Taylor's trial as the first time a former head of state or government has been prosecuted in an international criminal court for crimes committed in Africa against Africans in a statement last week, believes the trial poses more challenges to international jurisprudence and justice.

"It is vitally important that this landmark trial is communicated to victims of the crimes being prosecuted and more generally to the people of Sierra Leone where the crimes being prosecuted were committed against Sierra Leoneans and in Liberia where Charles Taylor served as president at the time the crimes took place," AI noted.

The human rights organization said though a landmark case, observers in Liberia and Sierra Leone have revealed that many people are unaware that the trial is about to start and do not understand the reasons for moving the trial from Freetown, where the Special Court has its premises, to The Hague, in the days leading up to the opening of the trial.

It did not elaborate, but it warned the Special Court that the greatest challenge will be to ensure the trial is accessible and known to the victims.

With the trial taking place in The Hague it will be crucial that the day to day developments of the trial be communicated promptly and accurately through a range of media such as radio, television, local newspapers and community outreach programs, AI said, second guessing the plan announced late last month by the Special Court.

"The people of Sierra Leone and Liberia must observe the justice process. In particular they should be able to see that the trial is conducted fairly in accordance with international standards, respecting the presumption of innocence.

"Amnesty International is concerned that following the government's decision to grant amnesties to the vast majority of persons who committed crimes during the conflict that many of the victims continue to suffer without justice and reparation," said AI's pre-trial weekend statement.

The statement then noted that through its judicial decisions, outreach work, its legacy strategy and in its advocacy, the Special Court could send a crucial message that impunity for crimes under international law should not be tolerated and that justice should be achieved for the victims of these crimes -- so that justice is both done and seen to be done.

Also playing up the cause for free and fair trial and the eradication of impunity in a dispatch last week is the international advocacy group, Human Rights Watch.

"The trial sends a strong signal that no one is above the law. Taylor's trial by the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone will provide an important chance for victims to see justice done," said the dispatch.

Officials of Human Rights Watch seemed exulted about the outcome of the trial which they have no doubt is a step in the right direction as opposed to AI which observers say remains somehow ambivalent about the liberality of the amnesty the Liberian authorities granted suspected war criminals vis-à-vis Taylor's trial in The Hague.

"The trial of a former president associated with human rights abuses across West Africa represents a break from the past," said Elise Keppler, counsel with Human Rights Watch's International Justice Program. "All too often, there has been no justice for victims of serious human rights violations. Taylor's trial puts would-be perpetrators on notice."

Drawing on the experience of the trial of Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic, Human Rights Watch said that conducting trials of former leaders involves significant challenges.

These challenges include ensuring the trial is scrupulously fair, including the presumption of innocence, while managing sensitive and high-profile proceedings effectively. They also include giving appropriate focus to evidence of chain of command while providing evidence on crime scenes.

"We've seen that trials of former presidents are difficult business," said Keppler. "The Special Court's judges must guarantee Charles Taylor a fair trial, and also conduct proceedings efficiently."

The relocation of Taylor's trial to The Hague creates challenges in making the proceedings accessible to the communities that have been most affected by the crimes committed. Accessibility is important to ensure resonance with these communities, Human Rights Watch said.

"People in West Africa need to know what's happening in Taylor's trial," said Keppler. "We welcome the Special Court's plans to make the proceedings accessible through radio, video, and monitoring by local journalists and civil society."

As the landmark trial starts on a preliminary note, the lingering questions among many are whether all hands are on board and whether this trial will actually translate into a global restraining ring around the world's despots, many of them found in Africa.

Observers say the other question that counts is whether the world will allow Taylor to walk out of The Hague having made a strong case for fighting impunity and establishing accountability in Africa's aura of emerging democracies.

According to the BBC news reports, Taylor showed little emotion while charges against him were being read, but was upbeat when asked how he pleaded to these charges.

He stated his innocence. Says Taylor, "Most definitely, your honor, I could not have committed these acts against the sister republic of Sierra Leone, so most definitely I am not guilty," he said, according to the BBC reports.

The ex-dictator, once feared by many in Liberia and sub-region questioned the jurisdiction of the court that is trying him.

"There is an issue with this court regarding its right to exercise jurisdiction over me as president of Liberia," he said, and added: "There are issues of how I got here. It is not a matter of me entering a plea as I do not recognize the jurisdiction of this court."

Today's trial is expected to commence with opening arguments under the watchful eyes of Special Court prosecutor, Stephen Rapp, who noted in a press statement issued by the Special Court that Taylor facing justice is the very embodiment of the maxim that no one is above the law.

He said Taylor's indictment, apprehension and arrest are a credit to the persistence of the world community, the governments of the region and, above all, the courageous people of Sierra Leone.

Taylor is charged with 11 counts of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other violations of international law, including mass murder, mutilations, rape, sexual slavery and the use of child soldiers. If convicted, the former president faces life in a British jail.

His trial was moved from Sierra Leone under a UN Security Council resolution (1688), which provided the legal basis for the government of the Netherlands to provide accommodations for the trial. The resolution called Taylor's presence in the region "an impediment to stability and a threat to the peace."

The trial was due to begin on April 2 this year, but it was changed to June 4 after Taylor's defense team, led by Karim Khan, said it would not be prepared for the April date due to the difficulties of responding to the 30,000 pages of evidence presented by the prosecution.

The defense team has also stated that they were concerned that defense witnesses would have a difficult time traveling to The Hague because of Dutch immigration registrations which were not amendable ICC schedules and trial requirements.

It not clear up to date whether or not that aspect of the trial that would put all hands on board was taken care of, but the Special seems contented that all is ready for today.

The prosecution has noted that the trial could last from 12 to 18 months and also stated that it would call up to 139 witnesses to testify.

All the charges are related to the civil war in Sierra Leone and for Taylor's alleged support for the rebels representing the Revolutionary United Front, formerly headed by Cpl. Foday Sankor, now deceased. He died in a Sierra Leonean prison while awaiting his trial.

The Special Court was established on January 16, 2002 by an agreement between the government of Sierra Leone and the UN, and is mandated to "try those who bear the greatest responsibility" for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in the nation after November 30, 1996. So far, according to the UN News Service, 11 people have been indicted.

Mr. Taylor was indicted on 7 March 2003 on 17 counts of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other serious violations of international humanitarian law. The indictment was amended on 16 March 2006 to 11 counts.

He was taken into custody by the Special Court on 29 March 2006. His initial appearance took place on 3 April 2006 before Justice Richard Lussick.

Following a resolution by the UN Security Council and an order by the President of the Special Court ordering a change in venue, Charles Taylor was transferred to The Hague on 20 June 2006.

Since then, three status conferences were held on July 21, 2006, September 22, 2006, and January 26, 2007 to gauge the readiness of the prosecution and defense counsels for the June 4 trial.



## Reuters

Saturday, 2 June 2007

### War was classroom for Sierra Leone child soldiers

By Nick Tattersall

FREETOWN (Reuters) - Abu is not sure exactly how old he was the first time he killed. He thinks he was 13, but was high on a cocktail of drugs and alcohol at the time and -- like many Sierra Leoneans -- does not know his exact date of birth.



Kidnapped with around 30 young boys in early 1991 from his home in the village of Kuiva, eastern Sierra Leone, Abu was one of hundreds of children forced to fight with rebels backed by Liberian warlord Charles Taylor.

Taylor, who went on to become president of Liberia, stands trial in The Hague on Monday, facing 11 counts of

war crimes and crimes against humanity for helping to launch and foment Sierra Leone's 1991-2002 civil war.

Known as "Pappy" to a generation of child soldiers, he is accused of training, financing and arming the rebels who carried out the initial attacks that began the diamond-fuelled conflict.

"People were fleeing from the fighting. They raided the place, they took all the young men. I was about 13," Abu told Reuters in Sierra Leone's capital, Freetown, asking for his family name not to be published.

"First of all they made us carry loads, things that were stolen when they raided. If you did not do it they would kill you. That was the first killing I saw. That made me silent and made me obey orders," he said.

The boys were taken back over the border to the rebel base in Vaihun, Liberia, where they were locked in cells by night and taught to cock and fire AK-47s by day.

They had a week of shooting practice, during which two or three of them were killed by colleagues too small to control their weapons. Then they returned to Sierra Leone to fight.

"You could not cook in the jungle or smoke or the enemy would see you. If you broke that rule they would execute you immediately, right there," Abu said.

Given marijuana and rum to overcome their fear, those who proved poor fighters were used as bait, running into villages unarmed so government troops would open fire on them as the rebels slipped in behind, firing at random.

"You didn't know who the bullets would catch. But I never took someone aside to shoot them," Abu said.

"At that stage we did not know the rebels' name. But later on they started writing RUF all over the houses."

### **WARRIOR LIFESTYLE**

The Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels became notorious during Sierra Leone's ensuing decade of war for hacking the limbs off their victims; sometimes 'long-sleeve', at the wrist, sometimes 'short-sleeve', at the elbow.

After six months fighting with the RUF, Abu was injured and arrested during an attack on a battalion of government troops. He was locked up for a few weeks, then used as a skivvy, washing uniforms and polishing boots.

With his mother, father, brothers and sisters stranded behind the rebel line, Abu volunteered to fight against the RUF alongside the Sierra Leonean army. He was later handed over to the United Nations and briefly went to school.

But, sat in a classroom, he missed the fighter's life.

"We used to be free, go to the clubs, get money, get women," he said. "Sometimes if you went to the front line, if you were lucky, you loot tapes, any items that are valuable, so you can sell them and buy palm wine, nice clothes."

When he was old enough to serve, he officially joined the armed forces in 1995, was trained by South Africa's Executive Outcomes security company and later fought alongside British troops sent to help bring an end to Sierra Leone's war.

He was among the luckier of a generation of children drawn into a war they blame Charles Taylor for bringing to Sierra Leone.

Some of the former "West Side Boys", a breakaway group of fighters who won fame for briefly kidnapping British soldiers in the final stages of the conflict, spend their days sitting on the edge of the road in Freetown begging for money.

Others earn cash at Bottommango junction -- "under the mango tree" in the local dialect - selling fuel bought from night watchmen who siphon it off from the power generators used by Freetown's businesses and wealthy residents.

Perhaps the luckiest are those who have been able to convert fully to civilian life, like Ahmad Kosia, 28, who runs a carpentry business using skills learned during an aid agency reintegration programme.

"I was a major in the jungle. I gave the commands but now people are commanding me," he said with a chuckle.

Like Abu, he will be listening to the radio from Monday as Taylor stands trial.

"He was the commanding officer of the wars in Liberia and in Sierra Leone. Charles Taylor was the foundation of this whole thing," he said, polishing the wood on a newly-made bed.

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United Nations  Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

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## **UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 4 June 2007**

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

### **International Clips on Liberia**

#### **Liberia's Taylor boycotts his landmark war crimes trial**

THE HAGUE, June 4, 2007 (AFP) - The landmark war crimes trial of Charles Taylor got off to a dramatic start Monday when the former Liberian president boycotted the opening session, saying he would never receive a fair hearing and dismissing his lawyer. Judge Julia Sebutinde, presiding over the trial before the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) -- specially moved to The Hague -- ordered the trial to go ahead in his absence. The first African head of state to stand trial for war crimes before an international tribunal, Taylor is accused of controlling rebels in neighbouring Sierra Leone that went on a blood diamond-financed rampage of rape and mutilation.

#### **UN chief hails opening of Taylor's war crimes trial**

UNITED NATIONS, June 4, 2007 (AFP) - UN chief Ban Ki-moon on Monday hailed the opening of the landmark trial of former Liberian president Charles Taylor on war crimes charges as "an important day" for the fight against impunity. "This is an important day for the international community, contributing to the fight against impunity and the strengthening of the rule of law not only in West Africa, but in the world as a whole," said a statement released here by Ban's spokeswoman Michele Montas.

#### **Taylor's trial brings Monrovia to standstill**

MONROVIA, June 4, 2007 (AFP) - The start of the trial of Liberia's former strongman Charles Taylor on war crimes committed in neighbouring Sierre Leone momentarily brought his native country to a halt on Monday. Along the capital's main Broad street, vendors abandoned their stalls while drivers parked their cars on the road side, crowding restaurants and bars with cable television facilities to watch the opening minutes of the trial. Everyone followed the proceedings so attentively that any slight noise drew loud insults from viewers glued to the screens.

## **International Clips on West Africa**

### **Sierra Leoneans angry at Taylor court boycott**

FREETOWN, June 4, 2007 (AFP) - Scores of Sierra Leoneans watching the war crimes trial of former warlord Charles Taylor on huge screens here reacted angrily on Monday to news that he decided to boycott the hearing. The trial was beamed live at several locations in Freetown and the public followed the proceedings, some gathering some 30 minutes before it started to ensure a place. Taylor, the first African head of state to stand trial for war crimes before an international tribunal, stayed away from the hearing by the UN-backed Special Court for **Sierra Leone** (SCSL), arguing he would not receive a fair hearing and dismissing his lawyer.

#### **Local Media – Newspaper**

##### **Taylor's War Crimes Trial Begins Today**

*(Liberian Express, The Analyst, Public Agenda, The Informer, Daily Observer, New Democrat, The Inquirer and The News)*

- The war crimes trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor begins Monday, 4 June at the International Criminal Court in The Hague. Mr. Taylor stands accused of 11-count war crime charges for bearing the greatest responsibility in the brutal civil war in neighbouring Sierra Leone.
- The trial was due to have begun in April but was changed to 4 June after Taylor's defense team, led by Karim Khan, said they were not prepared due to the volume of a 30,000 page document[evidence] presented by the prosecution. Taylor, 59, who has pleaded not guilty to 11 charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity, faces a maximum sentence of life imprisonment if convicted.
- The Court said it has more than 100 witnesses to testify against Mr. Taylor. When witnesses begin testifying, survivors, including amputees, will take the stand along with former allies from Taylor's inner circle who will be critical to proving he controlled rebels responsible for atrocities in another country.
- Accordingly, many will testify anonymously for fears of reprisals from Taylor supporters, and some will be put in witness protection schemes after giving evidence.
- With his war crimes trial in The Hague, Taylor follows in the footsteps of former Yugoslav president Slobodan Milosevic, who was the first ever head of state to go on trial for war crimes before an international court. Milosevic died March 11, 2006 in the same prison in The Hague where Taylor is now being held.
- In the Liberian capital, Monrovia, supporters have put up billboards showing Taylor waving triumphantly next to the words: "God willing, I shall return."

##### **Troop Reduction Likely for UN Forces Liberian**

*(The Dairy)*

- Quoting *Front Page Africa*, an online news magazine, The Dairy preempted that an interim report of the Security Council is expected to propose a drawdown plan leading to more troop reduction, including specific recommendations on force levels and options in Liberia.

### **Armed Robbers Hit Chocolate City**

*(Daily Observer)*

- [sic:] Several unidentified able-bodied men fully armed with guns, cutlasses and other deadly weapons early Sunday morning stormed the Chocolate City Community in Gardnersville outside Monrovia, where they broke into a house and mercilessly tortured two women and their children for money and other valuables.

### **Ivorian Refugee Demands Compensation as Police Admits Sodomy in Prison**

*(Liberian Express)*

- [sic:] An Ivorian refugee in Monrovia, Bao Blesson Richard, is demanding compensation for damages as investigators of the Liberia National Police confirmed that he was tortured and sodomized while in police custody at the Police Headquarters in Monrovia. Blesson said on the night of the ordeal in December 2006 when he was being tortured and sodomized in police cell, no amount of shouting for help attracted any of the police officer on duty to prevent the act.

### **UNMIL National Staff Association "Renews Confidence in Leadership"**

*(The Inquirer and Liberian Express)*

- Some members of the National Staff Association (NASA) of the United Nations Mission in Liberia said the Association's President Cyta Urey "still enjoys their confidence."
- The assertions followed media reports that Urey was involved in financial mismanagement, especially in a loan scheme in which she supposedly duped the members.

### **Libya Earmarks US\$2.5 Million for Rubber Processing Plant in Liberia**

*(The News)*

- [sic:] In addition to the renovation and management of the Ducor Palace Hotel at an estimated cost of US\$30 million, the Libyan Government has given the go-ahead to establish a rubber processing plant at the cost of about US\$2.5 million, the Liberian Government said on Sunday.

**Local Media – Radio Veritas** *(News monitored today at 9:45 am)*

### **Taylor Boycotts Trial While Defense Lawyer Walks Out**

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

### **University Students Protest in Demand of More Buses**

- Normal classes were disrupted at the University of Liberia Monday following a protest by science students in demand of more busses to convey them to the University's Fendel campus.

*(Also reported on Star Radio and ELBS)*

**Liberia's Hope for Ghana 2008 Gets Slimmer**

- The Liberian national football team, the Lone Star, lost to their Cameroonian counterparts 2-1 on Sunday at the Antoinette Tubman Stadium in Monrovia in the qualifying rounds of the 2008 African Cup of Nations.
- Sunday's victory put the Indomitable Lions of Cameroon at the top of group five.

**Star Radio** *(News monitored today at 8:35 am)***Bangladeshi Contingent Provides Free Medical Services in Grand Bassa**

- The medical team of the Bangladeshi contingent in Grand Bassa County has provided free medical services to two hundred and sixty people in Buchanan.
- The Doctor in charge of the contingent's medical team said the services formed part of activities marking the celebration of International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers.
- Dr. Alam Mahbub said the medical team targeted underprivileged people in the county.
- He said most of those treated were malaria, skin diseases, diarrhoea, and malnutrition patients.
- Dr. Mahbub suggested that a major awareness campaign be launched in Grand Bassa County to educate the communities on the importance of sanitation and safe drinking water.

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*Complete versions of the UNMIL International Press Clips, UNMIL Daily Liberian Radio Summary and UNMIL Liberian Newspapers Summary are posted each day on the UNMIL Bulletin Board. If you are unable to access the UNMIL Bulletin Board or would like further information on the content of the summaries, please contact Mr. Weah Karpeh at [karpeh@un.org](mailto:karpeh@un.org).*

Office of The Prosecutor  
Monday, 4 June 2007

**Prosecutor's Opening Statement**

**PROSECUTION VS. CHARLES GANKAY TAYLOR**  
**PROSECUTION OPENING STATEMENT**

**Stephen Rapp, The Prosecutor**  
**Mohamed Bangura, Trial Attorney**

**PART 1: GLOBAL OVER VIEW**

**MR. RAPP**

**A. INTRODUCTION**

Your Honours, I rise to begin the Opening Statement of the Prosecution of its cases against the Accused. I will be joined in this presentation by my learned colleague, Trial Attorney Mohamed Bangura. In my part, I will provide a general outline of our case, stating what we believe the evidence will show about the pattern of conduct for which we allege the Accused is responsible, and to explain how that alleged conduct was criminal under our Statute as charged in the Second Amended Indictment.

In rising I first want to state my appreciation to our hosts the International Criminal Court, and the Government and people of the Netherlands. I ask want to recognize all of those who have worked at the Special Court, both at the present and in the past, to bring us to this historic day. In that regard, I would like to take special note of the presence today in the gallery, of the first Registrar, Robin Vincent, and my predecessors as Prosecutors, David Crane, and Sir Desmond de Silva.

During the trial, we will seek at all times to ensure that it embodies the fundamental principles of fairness, due process and justice that, along with the other trials at the Special Court and help ensure a future respect for law and the maintenance of a just,



peaceful and safe society. We acknowledge at the outset of this important judicial exercise the responsibility of the Prosecution to bear the burden of proving the charges against the Accused in our Indictment beyond a reasonable doubt.

What my learned colleague, Mr. Bangura, and myself will say in this Opening is not evidence. Rather, it is an introduction of the evidence which we will lead against the Accused and, therefore, which will eventually be weighed by your Honours in your final deliberations. If there is a conflict between what is said here today and what is admitted into evidence, it is of course that evidence you will exclusively consider.

As Your Honours are well aware, this Special Court has jurisdiction over crimes committed after 30 November 1996, and because many of these were war crimes, we have generally limited our focus to the period before 18 January 2002, when Sierra Leone President Kabbah declared the war to be at an end. However, there are events outside this timeframe that must be described in order to understand the suffering visited on the people of Sierra Leone during this period.

It is because we are seeking justice for the people of Sierra Leone that we are here today.

How are we to grasp what happened in Sierra Leone? The world knows part of the story. A small West African nation on the Atlantic Ocean. From it in the late 1990s came images in the media of some of the ugliest scenes of viciousness in recent memory. Human beings, young and old mutilated, rebels chopping off arms and legs, and gauging out eyes; girls and women enslaved and sexually violated. Children carrying out some of the worst crimes. The exploitation of the resources of Sierra Leone to kill and maim and its citizens. The very worst that human beings are capable of doing to one another

For those not there it almost impossible to comprehend the horrors suffered by the people of the country.

How did this happen?

Sierra Leone has not been without its problems, and by the early 1990s its citizens had grievances against the government in place. But it also had many successes, and was a land of near constant peace... Its capital, Freetown, where the seat of this Court is based, was named for the freed slaves who settled it. It was the site of the first English speaking university in Africa, established almost two centuries ago. The city would come to be described by domestic and foreign observers alike as “the Athens of Africa.” There was not a history of ethnic hatred or religious conflict. There were not the ancient rivalries that one often sees where great atrocities have been committed.

One of our early witnesses, who saw hundreds of victims will offer evidence of his observations, as contained in his statements disclosed to the defence that there had been no animosity between any of group of Sierra Leoneans, be it tribes, be it religious groups, there had been nothing. There was not a war between these groups, but terror rained down on the people of Sierra Leone.

How does one thus understand this rain of terror?

The defence has provided a pre-trial brief asserting the non-involvement of the Accused, best summed up by learned counsel in the public quotation of line from Shakespeare’s Julius Caesar “The fault lies not in the stars, but in ourselves.” From his explanation it is clear that the Accused is a star without fault. The ourselves who bear the blame and the true responsibility for the horrors visited upon the people of Sierra Leone? Apparently, Sierra Leone itself. The savagery experienced was part of a national predisposition that was there all along, dormant for so many years, then set off without any external catalyst. In short, Sierra Leone has only itself to blame.

That is not view of the Prosecution, and it is not what the evidence will show.

The witnesses that we will call and the documents that we will present will prove that the Accused is responsible for the development and execution of a plan that caused the death and destruction in Sierra Leone. The plan, formulated by the Accused and others, was to

take over political and physical control of Sierra Leone in order to exploit its abundant natural resources and to establish a friendly or subordinate government there to facilitate this exploitation.

Your Honours will hear in this address that within this overall plan, there were sub-plans, strategies, operations ....

The parties engaged in a multitude of activities designed to fulfil the overall plan.

The Accused's involvement in the crimes alleged in the Indictment took a variety of forms - planning, instigating, ordering, committing, aiding and abetting in the commission of the alleged crimes, and otherwise participating in the execution of a common plan, design or purpose. Additionally, we allege that he is responsible because persons under his effective control committed the crimes, for which he had knowledge or reason to know, and he failed to prevent or punish their conduct.

The Accused stands indicted for eleven crimes under the statute of the SCSL.

Counts in Second Amended Indictment number eleven:

- five counts of crimes against humanity - those being murder, rape, sexual slavery, enslavement, and inhumane acts against the civilian population of SL.
- five counts of war crimes - those being terrorising the civilian population of SL, violence to life - in particular murder and cruel treatment, outrages upon personal dignity and pillage (looting of civilian property),

and

- one count of other serious violations of international humanitarian law - being the conscripting or enlisting children under the age of 15 years into armed forces or groups, or using them to participate actively in hostilities.

The Prosecution alleges that these crimes occurred in Sierra Leone between 30 November 1996 and 18 January 2002.

It is in fact one over-arching crime, a campaign of terror, itself a war crime, but also committed through violent acts that are in this context also crimes. These component crimes acts included killing, physical violence such as mutilations, sexual assaults such as rape, sexual slavery and other outrages, enslavement of forced labour, the recruitment and combat use of children, the burning that killed and maimed human beings, and together with looting and pillage that, in many cases, deprived them of all that they had built.

As we will explain in greater detail, they are crimes against international humanitarian law, as enshrined in our Statute, because of connection to armed conflict and because they were committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack against a civilian population.

This common plan *amounted to or involved* the commission of the crimes alleged in the Amended Indictment.

From its inception, the Accused and other participants in the common plan used criminal means to achieve and hold political power and physical control over the civilian population of Sierra Leone. These criminal means involved the campaign of terror waged against the civilian population of Sierra Leone that I have described.

The crimes identified in the indictment were within the objective of the common criminal plan or were natural and foreseeable consequences of it. As one of the members of the common criminal plan, the Accused was fully aware of the horrific consequences that its implementation would visit on the civilian population of Sierra Leone, did nothing to

prevent or punish these crimes and indeed continued to act in ways that caused or aided their commission.

**B. BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO SIERRA LEONE AND THE REGION**

It is important to note that Sierra Leone is located in a region where borders exist only on paper. These lines were drawn during the colonial period, and do not follow ethnic or linguistic groups. Many in up-country border areas have closer relations to people across the borders than to those in their capital cities.

Sierra Leone is divided into 12 districts, plus the Western Area that includes the capital Freetown.

Liberia is divided into 15 counties, and its capital Monrovia.

Our Amended Indictment focuses on six district or areas in Sierra Leone,

Its diamond resources are found in Kono and Kenema Districts.

Kono District – Koidu, Tombudu, Yengema

Kenema District – Tongo Fields (Cyborg Pit)

Kailahun District will be an important focus of our evidence because it was long-term corridor between Sierra Leone and and Lofa County in Liberia.

Now I will turn to the evidence we intend to present in support of our case.

**C. HISTORY - COMMON PLAN AND NATURE OF THE ACCUSED PARTICIPATION**

To fully understand the crimes that are described in the indictment and the central role that the Accused had in the commission of them, it's important to look at the history and understand the major political events that led to the campaign of terror against the civilian population of Sierra Leone.

The jurisdiction of this court is limited by the Statute of the Court to crimes committed in the territory of Sierra Leone since 30 November 1996. The crimes charged in this indictment were indeed committed between that date and the end of the Sierra Leone war

on 18 January 2002. However, the planning and preparation of these crimes began long before 1996 and critical acts which furthered the plan and led to the crimes often occurred far from the borders of Sierra Leone. The evidence will show that the Accused's plan to control territory of Sierra Leone through a campaign of terror began at least in 1991 when forces supported by Charles Taylor including many of his own Liberian NPFL soldiers first invaded the territory of Sierra Leone.

To understand the Accused's motivation and his links to other members of the common plan and the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels and their Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) allies, one must examine evidence going back to this period and further understand the international context in which the Accused's intervention in Sierra Leone took place. It is necessary to understand the Accused's own rise to power in Liberia and the ends to which he was prepared to go to achieve same, his links to allies in the region, and why he saw others as obstacles to his rule. One cannot fully understand the Accused's ability to influence and control forces in Sierra Leone without some understanding of the uniquely personal nature of the accused leadership of his armed forces, political party and government. That relationship often went far outside the *de jure* chain of command and ensured that these subordinates understood that the Accused had the power and will to reward those that assisted his plans and punish or destroy those that displeased him. By the time the crimes charged in this indictment took place, the Accused had well established relationships with those on the ground in Sierra Leone who carried out the crimes. The RUF and its allies in Sierra Leone were clearly dependant on the accused and the individual commanders understood his power to reward or punish each of them.

Moreover, many of the crimes committed by the rebel forces supported by the Accused in Sierra Leone mirrored crimes that had been committed by the Accused's forces in Liberia. The RUF trained and learnt war and methods of guerilla warfare in Liberia with Taylor's NPFL. An example is the recruitment of child soldiers. The rebel forces in Sierra Leone carried out wide-scale recruitment of children, as was done by the NPFL in Liberia and organized and utilized these children in their military campaign against the

civilian population of Sierra Leone in the same manner they were organized and utilized in Liberia. The most obvious proof that the crimes committed by the RUF and allied forces in Sierra Leone were foreseeable is the fact that very similar crimes were carried out by the NPFL in Liberia..

Further, the Prosecution submits it will be essential for this court to examine evidence of the Accused's actions after the indictment period. The Prosecution will seek to introduce evidence of post-offence conduct, in particular, the murders of men who were in the Accused's inner circle and who were aware of the crimes perpetrated by the Accused. The evidence will show that these men were eliminated so as to not to expose the Accused, which is behaviour going to the accused's consciousness of his criminal responsibility for the crimes in Sierra Leone that come under the jurisdiction of this Court.

Of course, the Accused did not participate in this common plan alone. He was a major figure who worked closely and in concert with others in both Liberia and Sierra Leone to achieve the objectives of the enterprise.

**In Liberia, the Accused's key subordinates who were directly involved in the conflict in Sierra Leone for the relevant period were:**

**BENJAMIN YEATEN AKA "50" OR "GENERAL 50"**

**Benjamin Yeaten aka "50"**- was the right hand man of the Accused. The only man Yeaten took orders from was the Accused - no one else. This man, the Director of the Liberian Special Security Service, was also the principal liaison officer between and Accused and his forces in Sierra Leone and the Accused, at the very centre of every single aspect of Liberia's involvement in the Sierra Leonean conflict.

**(Another Liberian): IBRAHIM BAH AKA GENERAL IBRAHIM AKA "BALDE"**

**Ibrahim Bah** – this man, a Senegalese, from Cassamance, was part of the Accused's trusted inner circle. While he had no formal title, he played a central role in directly

setting up most of the arms and diamonds transactions for the Accused involving Sierra Leone.

**DANIEL TAMBA AKA “JUNGLE”**

**Daniel Tamba aka “Jungle”**- the bodyguard of Yeaten and main liaison officer between those on the ground in Sierra Leone and Yeaten from 1997 onwards. Jungle was instrumental in the delivery of arms and ammunition to Sierra Leone and also the main provider of reports direct from Sierra Leone to the Accused and Yeaten. Jungle’s relationship with the RUF was based on links forged on the ground in Sierra Leone with many of the RUF prior to 1997. The evidence will show that he is one of the individuals murdered in 2003 to prevent his turning against and exposing the Accused

**MUSA SESAY AKA MUSA CISSE**

**Musa Sesay** – the Accused’s Chief of Protocol – instrumental in setting up arms deals for Liberia and Sierra Leone. Was involved in important meetings with RUF commanders.

**Other Liberians who were under the direct command and control of the Accused and whose names will feature prominently in supplying arms to Sierra Leone or in using the RUF forces in Liberia’s own civil war, were:**

**SAMPSON WEAH**

**A member of the Liberian SSS bodyguard of Yeaten.**

**CHRISTOPHER VARMOH AKA “LIBERIAN MOSQUITO”,**

**JOE TUAH,**

**DUOPO MERKAZON, and**



## **ROLAND DUOH**

– all commanders in first circle of the military forces of the Accused.

## **CHUCKIE TAYLOR**

**Charles Taylor (son of the Accused)** - first commander of the ATU in 1998.

**From the Sierra Leone side, the senior leaders who operated under the Accused’s effective control and who were, in effect, his Sierra Leonean subordinates:**

## **FODAY SANKOH**

**Foday Sankoh –founder and leader of the Revolutionary United Front (“RUF”)**. Agreed on and launched the common plan with the Accused. A former comrade in arms of the Accused, whose shared experiences together stretched back many years to the training camps of North Africa.

## **SAM BOCKARIE AKA “MOSQUITO”**

**Sam Bockarie** – Commander in Chief of the RUF on the ground in 1998 and for most 1999. “Mosquito”, or as the Sierra Leoneans would say, “Maskita”, played the lead role in the link between the Accused and the AFRC/RUF alliance. An indictee of the Special Court, the evidence will show that he was then murdered in 2003, another of the individuals eliminated to prevent his turning against and exposing the Accused

## **ISSA SESAY**

**Issa Sesay** –*SCSL indictee (RUF case)*. Sierra Leonean - Between 1998 and 1999, this man was Maskita’s deputy. Became the interim leader of the RUF in 2000 and 2001. Was a central link between the Accused and the AFRC/RUF alliance.

**Other key individuals, whose names the Court will hear:**

### **MORRIS KALLON and AUGUSTINE GBAO**

High ranking officers of the RUF who played an important role in the link between the AFRC/RUF alliance and the Accused.

### **DENNIS MINGO AKA “SUPERMAN”**

**Dennis Mingo - Liberian** – an NPFL commander who stayed with the RUF early on - one of the highest commanders in the RUF – he played an important part in the link with the Accused and the AFRC/RUF alliance. He was killed in 2001.

### **JOHNNY PAUL KOROMA**

**Johnny Paul Koroma** – Sierra Leonean, a former member of the SLA, Chairman of the AFRC Junta in 1997 and 1998 and in that time played an important role in the link between the Accused and AFRC/RUF. An indictee of the SCSL, whereabouts unknown.

### **ALEX TAMBA BRIMA AKA “GULLIT” BRIMA BAZZY KAMARA, and SANTIGIE BORBOR KANU AKA “55”**

Of course they are Accused that are on trial before Your Honours, and here I will only say that he will present evidence in this trial to show that played a role in the linkage between the Accused and the AFRC/RUF alliance.

### **EDDIE KANNEH**

**Eddie Kanneh** - Sierra Leonean - former SLA officer who joined the RUF in 1998; main diamond man for the AFRC /RUF alliance in the dealings with the Accused especially from 1998 onwards,

and others whose names you will become familiar with during the course of this trial. Like the Accused, each member of the criminal enterprise participated in and contributed to the common plan in different ways.

Begins in

1988 or 1989: military training in North Africa, of Charles Taylor (Liberia), Foday Sankoh (SL) and other later leaders of the RUF. A plan is formulated by the Accused and others to take over political and physical control of Sierra Leone in order to exploit its abundant natural resources and to establish a friendly or subordinate government there to facilitate this exploitation.

Part of larger strategy included helping each other militarily in their respective revolutions and take over in their respective countries.

Creation of National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) (Liberian movement), the RUF (SL movement).

The agreement made by the Accused and Sankoh was to begin the implementation of the common plan in Liberia with the help of Sankoh's forces. Liberia would then be used as a base from which to move into Sierra Leone with the help of the Accused's forces.

Access to Sierra Leone's abundant resources was the primary object of the common plan. In addition, Sierra Leone was also a source of manpower. The RUF and the NPFL personnel at various points were interchangeable, with NPFL forces sometimes fighting in Sierra Leone, and RUF forces fighting in Liberia.

Some may say that the RUF was fighting in Sierra Leone was one of national liberation. The evidence will show that there was a thin veneer of ideology masking the real motives of destruction and exploitation.

At the very end of 1989, the relevant events begin to unfold in the region:

- **24 December 1989**: Beginning of the Liberian civil war with attack by NPFL in Nimba County in Liberia (from positions in Ivory Coast). Help in that civil war from RUF OFA elements

- **By August 1990:** The Economic Community of West African States deployed a peacekeeping force, under the leadership of Nigeria and Ghana, known as ECOMOG to enforce a ceasefire in Liberia, and to establish stability to make way for elections. Its deployment was opposed by Taylor, and it is soon in conflict with his forces. The then government of Sierra Leone, under President Momoh, was a contributing member, and allowed ECOMOG to be based on its territory.
- **By November 1990,** the Accused has firm control over large parts of Liberia. He was the regular guest of Robin White on the BBC.
- **1 November 1990:** He is interviewed by White, the broadcast of which you will hear. Taylor says:

**CT: ... I have had enough of the Sierra Leonean Government permitting Nigerian aircraft to come out and kill my people. I'm saying that planes are taking off from bases at the international airport in Freetown at the end of the runway that leave and come and blow Liberian babies, women and old people away and my patience has run out in Momoh permitting this to happen from his territory.**

**RW: But how exactly do you propose to stop it?**

**CT: It's anybody's guess. Maybe Momoh doesn't know but he'll soon find out.**

**RW: Are you, are you suggesting that you will go and attack Sierra Leone yourself?**

**CT: That's not what I'm saying, but it's for Momoh to determine.**

- **It is important also to know that during this 1989-1991 period, there was Training of Sierra Leoneans in Camp Nama outside Gbarnga (BANGA) in Bong County, Taylor's headquarters, by mainly NPFL Liberians instructors: SL trained in Liberia called Vanguarders: Issa Sesay, Morris Kallon, Augustine Gbao all Vanguarders.**

On 23 March 1991 there was a cross border attack on Bomaru town, Upper Bambara Chiefdom, by NPFL forces.

On 27 March 1991, a group of RUF/NPFL entered Kailahun District from Liberia through the town of Koindu in the north of the District.

On 28 March 1991, another RUF/NPFL group crossed the Moa River forming the border between Liberia and Sierra Leone, in the south-east part of the country. They immediately occupied Zimmi, the southern-most town on the road network in Pujehun District.

Early in April 1991, the Liberians launched the attack on a full scale and my mid-April had joined their fronts in Sierra Leone.

**The continuing role of Taylor will clearly be shown by a letter from Sankoh to Taylor of 5 May 1992, that will be offered in evidence:**

**“Dear Brother:**

**I am thanking you very much for the brotherly help you are rendering me in my liberation struggle...”**

**“I appreciate the five boxes of AK-47 raffle ammunition and ten boxes of RPG gun rockets which I should receive from you today... I believe that what you have offered is not enough to carry out the “Operation Capture Daru”. So I am asking you in the name of the Almighty God to kindly increase the number of boxes of AK-47 ammunition to (20) twenty and that of the RPG rockets to (12) twelve plus some berretta rounds. This will sustain me for some time while awaiting the long term supply that you have promised me.”**

- **1991-1992**: First period of the SL civil war and total involvement of the NPFL in the war with massive atrocities committed against civilians by NPFL.  
Supplies coming from the Accused in Liberia who is directing the war in SL.  
RUF/NPFL troops gain ground in the first period of the war. Took Kono in 1992  
- the diamonds fields are attacked and taken for a short time.

**In 1991-1992**, Ibrahim Bah creates ties with the RUF of Sankoh and on behalf of the Accused starts to organize and set up some arms shipments for the RUF from third countries.

Regular shipments of arms and ammunition by trucks by the Accused from Gbarnga in Liberia to the RUF in SL using the only main road in Lofa County

It must be remembered that that these weapons do not dissolve, melt or go away, they stay in the country, and are used repeatedly in conflicts in years far beyond 1991-1992, in preparation for activities in years to come.

- **1992-1993**: The conflict continues in Sierra Leone, but on the Liberian side there is new force the (Y)ULIMO (United Liberation Movement for Democracy in Liberia) which leads rebellion in Lofa County (bordering SL) and cut the main road in the County (Zorzor-Voinjama) where arms and ammunition used to go from Gbarnga in Liberia to Sierra Leone. From that time until 1996-1997 no deliveries of arms and ammunition from the Accused to RUF by trucks. But, ongoing communications and movements of troops from NPFL to RUF, Liberia to SL, continued, using footpaths.
- **1992-1994**: Some RUF elements fought alongside the NPFL and other organized armed groups in Lofa County against the ULIMO in attempts to re-establish the supply line and the supply route.
- **March 1994**: As a result of the end of the Accused's deliveries of weapons to Sierra Leone, the RUF decided to change tactics and to retreat within the bush in SL and do hit and run operations. Creation in the forest of the base Zogoda in the Kambui Hills in Kenema district which will remain the RUF base until end 1996.
- **Sometime between 1993 and 1996**: Some NPFL troops pushed by ULIMO out of Lofa County and retreated to RUF held territories in SL. They fight in Sierra Leone alongside the RUF until the Accused became President in 1997. One of

the Liberian commanders of these fighters was Daniel Tamba aka “Jungle” who, because of his past links with the RUF, became the main liaison officer for the Accused between Liberia and SL from 1997 onwards.

There is an ebb and flow of the conflict in Sierra Leone, and in **February-March 1996**, Abdul Tejan Kabbah is elected President of Sierra Leone after two rounds of the presidential election. The polling is characterized by RUF violence to prevent public participation in the election.

There is eventually a peace agreement signed at Abidjan in Ivory Coast in November 1996 between the RUF and the Kabbah government.

However, there is a coup in Sierra Leone, less than six months after the Abidjan peace accord, when the by the soldiers of the Sierra Leone Army launched which overthrew the government of President Kabbah.

Following this coup, the RUF entered into an alliance and joined forces with the AFRC and collectively, were referred to as the “AFRC/RUF Junta”. Leaders of the RUF become members of the Junta Government.

Meanwhile, for Liberia there is a peace agreement signed at Abuja in Ivory Coast which pave the way for elections, in which the Accused in elected President in July 1997.

Back in Sierra Leone, the AFRC/RUF junta is not recognized by the international community and is soon in conflict with ECOMOG forces, and a Civil Defence Force that fights in support of the elected government of Sierra Leone.

- **July-October 1997**: Ibrahim Bah is sent by CT to Freetown to liaise with the AFRC/RUF members of the Junta and find way to provide them with weapons. Ibrahim Bah arranged both the payment for and delivery of the Magburaka arms shipments which arrived in October 1997 and helped the AFRC Junta to keep

going for four more months. Another of CT's liaison is sent to Freetown at that time: Daniel Tamba aka "Jungle".

- **14 February 1998**: ECOMOG pushed AFRC/RUF alliance out of Freetown; massive retreat of AFRC/RUF troops in the countryside.

**Around 14 February 1998** - Some members of the AFRC managed to flee Freetown on board a plane destined for Monrovia, but are arrested at the airport in Monrovia by ECOMOG posted in the airport in spite of the Accused's attempt to rescue them. This angers the Accused who orders ECOMOG in Liberia to leave the country. The same day the Accused calls Bockarie in SL and tells him that he will get arms and ammunitions to fight ECOMOG in SL. He will engage ECOMOG militarily in Sierra Leone through the AFRC/RUF, who continue their alliance after the retreat from Freetown.

**As we will here, in the presentation of my learned colleague, Mr. Bangura, this leads to massive atrocities.**

- **Around February-March 1998**: the Accused sends people to get Bockarie in Buedu and bring him in Monrovia. Bockarie is given money and a satellite phone by the Accused.

**The Accused gives Bockarie instructions to hold Kono, hold the mining fields.**

- **Feb-April 1998**: Liberian disarmament: Evidence will show that the Accused orchestrates a scheme whereby the RUF purchase weapons from former ULIMO-K combatants (opposed to the Accused in the Liberian civil war in Lofa county) - thereby effectively disarming opposition group in Liberia, and arming the RUF. **The Accused gives money to Bockarie, the *defacto* leader of RUF (Sankoh is in jail) for the purchase of some of these arms and ammunition,**



- **Throughout 1998:** Ongoing communication between Benjamin Yeaten and Sam Bockarie, between the Accused and Bockarie, between the radio communicators in SL and Liberia; numerous trips of the Accused's representatives to Buedu in Monrovia and numerous deliveries of arms, ammunitions and other supplies; regular updates to the Accused from his representatives in Buedu about the situation in SL and in the AFRC/RUF; several trips of the RUF high command to Monrovia to meet with Yeaten and the Accused.
- **September-October 1998:** the Accused sends Liberian troops to SL to reinforce the AFRC/RUF.

**At this point, it has taken the Accused eight years to conquer power and he is now Head of State. The Accused has spent lots of money (arms) and men in SL. Sankoh is in jail. The Accused does not want young bush commanders (RUF) sabotaging it. The Accused sends explicit instructions (radio communications) and puts "eyes and ears" on the ground in Buedu to know what is happening and act if necessary (Tamba "Jungle").**

- **November-December 1998:** Some of the closest men of the Accused spend a lot of time in Buedu with Bockarie to prepare a major country-wide offensive; around that same period Bockarie and the Accused's men travel to organise a major arms and ammunition shipments which is delivered to Buedu in December 1998.
- **December-January 1998/1999:** major AFRC/RUF offensive which led to recapture of Koidu town, Makeni and many other towns. Then there is the invasion of Freetown in 1999 by the AFRC, which my colleague will show was done in coordination with RUF forces..
- **January 1999:** Bockarie promoted to General by the Accused.

- **1999: CT sent men to assess the diamonds fields in SL.**
- **Throughout 1999:** ongoing communication between Benjamin Yeaten and Bockarie, between the Accused and Bockarie, between the radio communicators in SL and Liberia; numerous trips of the Accused's representatives between Monrovia and Buedu, in the Kailahun district of Sierra Leone, and numerous deliveries of arms, ammunitions and other supplies; regular updates to the Accused from his representatives in Buedu about the situation in SL and in the AFRC/RUF; several trips of the RUF high command to Monrovia to meet with Yeaten and the Accused.
- **Sometime in 1999:** LURD – formed mainly by Mandingo former ULIMO fighters – attack Liberian positions from Guinea. Fear that the LURD - as ULIMO did in the 1990s – would cut off the Liberian-SL supply line.

**War starts again in Liberia, which has consequences in Sierra Leone.**

- **After March 1999** – CT used the RUF to fight against the LURD in Lofa county.

In the Accused's various offensives launched against the rebel movement known as the LURD, he was able to draw on troop reinforcements from the RUF.

- There were two significant offensives of the LURD which the AFRC/RUF from Sierra Leone fought in Liberia, in April 1999, the other in mid-2000 onwards. During there first deployment there was massive looting by the AFRC/RUF in Liberia.

Meanwhile, there are negotiations for a peace in Sierra Leone. Though the AFRC/RUF alliance no longer controls Freetown, the offensive has left it in control of much of country including the diamond fields. The Accused's representatives are present in Lomé, in Togo, and he and the RUF are able to strike a very favorable bargain in Accords that were finalized on 9 July 1999.

Despite atrocities having been committed just weeks before, an amnesty is declared, and RUF Sankoh is put in charge of the mining industry.

- **October 1999**: UN Security Council resolution 1270 establishes UNAMSIL to enforce the Lome peace accords.
- **2000**: RUF in control of large part of Sierra Leone and continues to exploit mineral resources. Several trips of the RUF high command to see the Accused in Monrovia. Regular shipments of supplies from the Accused to the RUF in SL. The Accused's men keep visiting the RUF held territories and updating the Accused on what is going on there.
- **May 2000**: Abduction of the UNAMSIL peacekeepers by the RUF troops. Demonstration in Freetown outside Sankoh's house and 25 civilians killed. Sankoh arrested some days later with many RUF commanders. ECOWAS appointed the Accused to ensure that the RUF complies with the terms of the Lomé agreement and frees UN peacekeepers.
- **Mid-2000**: UNAMSIL hostages send by the RUF to the Accused in Monrovia for him to release them and send them to Freetown.  
**Why is this relevant to these criminal charges? Because, again, it demonstrates the power of the accused to control the RUF. He could when he wanted to prevent crimes committed by these forces, and he had not acted prevent the crime of abduction occurring in the first place.**
- **August 2000**: Resolution 1315 of the UN SC on the establishment of the Special Court.
- **-Mid to Late 2000** : the Accused orders the RUF to start operations in Guinea as the Accused thinks that the Guinean government is backing the LURD (second offensive).RUF fighters were sent to Liberia by Sesay on the orders of the Accused. The focus of the attack was an attack on the Guinean town of

- Guékuédou and holding the Liberian town of Foya. He ordered them to kill everyone and burn down all the houses. Materiel in support in of the operation are supplied from Liberia through Kailahun in SL.
- **December 2000**: UN report on SL details extensive support for RUF by the Accused's government and recommends a complete embargo on all diamonds in Liberia.

**2001: Dennis Mingo aka "Superman" is killed in Liberia.**

- **May 2001**: UN Security Council imposes arms embargo to punish the Accused for trading weapons for diamonds with the RUF. Sanctions include travel ban.
- **January 2002**: War declared over in SL, **but AFRC/RUF troops still fighting in Liberia.**
- **January-February 2002**: LURD defeated RUF and the Accused's troops at Lofa County and by mid-February are 44 kilometres from Monrovia. The Accused declared a state of emergency in Liberia

**War over in Sierra Leone - demobilization programme – that weakened the Accused and within 18 months LURD had pushed the Accused out of power, but not before the Accused has killed Jungle and Bockarie.**

#### **D. CAMPAIGN OF TERROR**

The Prosecution will lead evidence that **the Accused through the senior leaders of the organised group known as the Revolutionary United Front (or "RUF") instructed commanders to follow a certain modus operandi (same as the NPFL at all times during Liberian civil war - 1989-1996 and 1999-2003).**

- Attacks against the civilian population typically began with an armed attack against a civilian village, town or city, carried out by members of the RUF, Junta, AFRC/RUF and/or Liberians subordinate to the Accused.
- The attackers used a variety of arms and other materiel to take control of all or part of the village, town or city.
- The attack against this civilian locale involved the murder killing of many civilians.
- Typically the attackers would enslave large numbers of the civilians, to use as fighters, miners, farmers, domestic workers, nnot allowing them to leave the control of the attackers.
- Those who objected to their captivity or attempted to flee were routinely killed or beaten.
- Also typically the attackers would rape women and girls, often repeatedly, and then use them as “bush wives”.
- The attackers would mutilate the captive civilians.
- Children are conscripted by attackers, often after killing their parents, with the children provided with drugs and weapons, and conditioned to view their commanders as the new leaders of their family.
- In addition, the attackers would typically loot and burn the homes of the civilians.
- This was the brutal and bloody strategy which, under the command and control of the Accused, was followed by those on the ground in Sierra Leone.

In essence, it wasn't the military capability of their opponents that the RUF targeted for destruction. If the Accused and the groups subordinate to or associated with him had limited themselves to active hostilities against the government forces of SL and the organized armed groups aligned with those forces, would not be here today.

But this was a campaign of terror. It reached its peak in 1998 and the senseless carnage which was being wrought in Sierra Leone was succinctly summed up by UNHCR in its Report as follows:

- *[DOC. - EXHIBIT 1.020: UNHCR Report on Atrocities Committed Against Sierra Leone Population, UNHCR Conakry Branch Office, 28 January 1999 (Rev. 2), Report on and pictures of 38 victims of violence during the year 1998.]*

**"It soon became clear that the scale and nature of the crimes perpetrated served only two purposes: intimidation and humiliation."**  
**"...perpetrators of these crimes do not discriminate with regard to age, sex, ethnic origin or other criteria in the choice of their victims."**

My colleague, Mr. Bangura will now rise to outline the evidence about this campaign of terror, specifically as to the crimes perpetrated against the people of Sierra Leone, as alleged in the Amended Indictment.

# **MR. BANGURA – DISCUSSION OF THE CRIME BASE**

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

Your honours, this afternoon I will present to the Court the crimes charged in the Second Amended Indictment as they unfolded in Sierra Leone between November 1996 and January 2002.

We have told you that you will hear evidence from which you can infer there was a plan... that the Accused was involved in the creation of this plan ...that he participated in this plan with others.

What I will present now to the Court are the details of the devastating effect that this plan had on the civilians of Sierra Leone. Evidence will be led showing that the Accused knew of these devastating effects but continued with the plan.

I will touch on what actually happened in Sierra Leone as stated in the indictment, and the crimes that were perpetrated there. Crimes that were perpetrated with the aim of causing terror.

Your Honours, the Prosecutor has already enumerated the crimes which we charge in the Indictment.

This Court will hear evidence that the people of Sierra Leone suffered.

From Kenema to Kono, whole villages were destroyed. The capital was under siege. No one was safe, young or old. Families were forced to turn on each other and then were

torn apart. The main victims of the war in Sierra Leone were poor, defenceless civilians, ordinary country folks, who had nothing to do with politics, governance or corruption, and who had nowhere to hide. They longed for peace but were instead subjected to years of atrocities, atrocities which are reflected in the indictment and for which we stand here and allege that the accused, Charles Ghankay Taylor, bears responsibility.

Your honours, you will hear the perpetrators of these crimes being referred to by various names: “RUF”, “Rebels”, “RUF rebels”, “Peoples Army”, “AFRC”, “AFRC/RUF”, “Junta”, “Junta Rebels.”

No matter what name they were called, the story is the same – all these groups committed mindless acts of violence, terror and degradation, devoid of any human reason. You will hear that the man who gave orders to the leaders of these groups.....who provided safe haven to these groups..... who provided much-needed weapons and supplies to these groups...who encouraged and aligned himself to these groups... sits accused in this courtroom today.

Your Honours have heard the names of some of the associates and subordinates of the Accused who provided many of the links to the crimes perpetrated in Sierra Leone, and through whom the Accused acted alongside to further the common plan - Sam Bockarie - MOSQUITO, Ibrahim Bah, Benjamin Yeaten, Colonel Jungle and Issa Sesay...Your Honours, I ask you to remember these names, which will echo in these chambers throughout this trial. The accused may not have set foot in Sierra Leone during the alleged time period, but he stamped his mark indelibly on the whole country.

The crimes included in the Indictment took place between the 30<sup>th</sup> of November, 1996 and the 18<sup>th</sup> of January, 2002. This was but part of a conflict that lasted over 10 years. However, it was in this period that the seeds sown by the Accused and the other participants in the common plan bore their most bitter fruits.

**Your honours, let me describe the significance of Kailahun and Kono Districts.**



## **II. KAILAHUN**

Kailahun District, bordering Liberia, was throughout the conflict the corridor between Liberia and Sierra Leone. This District has a long history with the RUF and the NPFL, and was one of the first targets of the RUF and NPFL forces in 1991. Your honours will hear that later, the town of Buedu became the RUF stronghold and the location of its headquarters.

During the conflict, for fighters on either side of the border, Kailahun District and Lofa County, Buedu and Foya, were one territory, one group of people, all fighting the same fight, aiming towards the same goal. Geographical boundaries had no meaning.

What had meaning in this conflict were diamonds. Between 1998 and 2000, diamonds mined by forced labour were first taken to the headquarters in Buedu and from there to the Accused in Liberia. In return, arms, ammunition and supplies were regularly transported through Lofa County to Buedu. The Prosecution will present evidence that Buedu was a place stocked with arms and ammunition supplied by the Accused. These arms were then distributed to the AFRC/RUF forces throughout the country.

Buedu was for a large part of the conflict the epi-centre of operations. In 1998 and 1999, Bockarie directed, planned, and ordered operations from Buedu, including the 1998 attacks on Kono and Makeni. These attacks killed and maimed hundreds of innocent civilians.

## **III. KONO DISTRICT**

Right next door to Kailahun District is Kono District, a major diamond mining area. Diamonds were at the heart of the common plan because they helped fuel the war.

In exchange for diamonds, the Accused provided the RUF, and later the Junta, with much needed arms and ammunition, enhancing their ability to continue the war. It is clear that the district's strategic importance lay in its economic value.

In February 1998, on losing control of Freetown, the need to control the country's other strategic areas became even more critical.

The Accused's order to the Junta in around March 1998 was clear: "***Hold Kono***".

This order was conveyed by Bockarie to his men.

But in April 1998, the AFRC/RUF lost control of Koidu Town in the heart of Kono. This loss triggered the launch of two brutal attacks to try to re-take the town in order to obey the Accused's command.

With assistance provided by the Accused including a supply of arms, the RUF and AFRC rebels launched their attacks on ECOMOG and the Civil Defence Forces, known as the CDF, in Koidu Town and its surrounding areas. In the coming months you will see and hear evidence of the crimes committed during these attacks.

This series of attacks was called ***Fiti-Fata*** in Krio, the local parlance of Sierra Leone.

Your Honours, I would like to use the words of a witness to describe what ***Fiti-Fata*** meant in the context of the attacks. It meant:

*twenty four hours .. without **any** control. If an RUF fighter wished to kill someone, he could kill **anyone** he wished.*

In other words, your Honours, there were **no** rules and **no one** was safe.

The civilians of Kono paid a heavy price for living in such a mineral rich area. During the Indictment period, many areas of Kono were razed to the ground.

You will hear evidence of the order given by Morris Kallon of the RUF to burn Koidu Town.

You will also hear evidence of the order of another rebel commander, given casually to his men, to “light candles”, which meant to burn homes.

However, the evidence will show that the destruction that resulted was anything but casual. The destruction was part of the overall campaign of terror charged under Count 1 of the Indictment.

### **Killings**

Your honours, this campaign of terror also included the unlawful killings which occurred in Kono and Kailahun and are charged under Counts 2 and 3. Let me describe two incidents.

The Prosecution will call a witness who will describe the joint AFRC and RUF attack on Koidu Town around May 1998.

This witness will describe how he was taken captive and forced to walk to Koidu Town. On this walk, the witness stepped over corpses, stepping in blood - pools of blood.

The witness estimated that he stepped over about 50 corpses.

However, this is not where his trauma would end. Instead, on arrival the men, women and children were divided into groups, made to stand in line, and then RUF rebels opened fire on them. 101 people were killed.

In Kailahun, the killings were equally as shocking. One particularly horrific killing during this period was the execution of approximately 65 men in Kailahun Town who

were suspected CDF fighters. These men were captured and detained for several days before Bockarie ordered their execution. Bockarie himself participated in the killing, shooting some of the men in the head at close range.

### *Physical Violence*

Physical violence is also charged for Kailahun and Kono under Counts 7 and 8 of the Indictment.

The prosecution alleges that the AFRC/RUF engaged in widespread acts of physical violence in Kono, Kailahun and other parts of the country and that in Kono, villages such as Tombody, Kaima and Wonedu suffered brutal attacks that took many forms including but not limited to the application of force with weapons, the mutilation of civilians, and the amputation of limbs.

The Prosecution will lead evidence of what can only be called a barbaric practice of the RUF and AFRC, namely to carve the letters R-U-F or A-F-R-C or AFRC/RUF into the flesh of captured civilians. The evidence will include testimony as well of demonstrative and photographic evidence which show the scars that still exist on the bodies of some.

The evidence will suggest that this practice had a strategic element, in that the AFRC/RUF fighters were of the view that carving their letters into their captives would result in them being identified by other free civilians as RUF or AFRC fighters. Consequently, the scarred captives would be unwelcome in civilian villages and back in their homes. This practice was part of an overall strategy to terrorize civilians thus holding a large population of people not only in Kono but throughout the country in a state of physical and psychological captivity.

The prosecution will introduce evidence of what we respectfully suggest is the most well-known atrocity inflicted on persons in Sierra Leone at the relevant times of the indictment, namely amputations. We will call witnesses who either saw or were

themselves victims of amputations and they will describe not only the physical acts of cutting off limbs but also the words of the rebels who allegedly committed these acts.

You will hear evidence that victims were told that they should go to President Kabbah to ask for new hands. In the words of one rebel commander after ordering the amputation of many civilians:

“You see, you don’t want Foday Sankoh, you want Tejan Kabbah. Well, go to him to get new hands.’

**Rapes and sexual slavery,**

Sexual crimes were also committed in Kailahun and Kono and are charged under Counts 4, 5, and 6.

Your Honours, our evidence will show that the practice of using women as sex slaves became widespread and commonplace among the RUF, and later the AFRC/RUF fighters throughout the war.

You will hear that Sierra Leonean women captured by the RUF or AFRC were forced to make strategic choices that no woman should ever have to make.

These women would seek to become attached to a single commander or fighter as a “bushwife” because this was the best way to limit the abuse they would suffer. The alternative was, and I quote a witness, that a woman would be treated “like a football in the field”, being exposed to one rape after another, perpetrated by many men without any consideration for health, feelings or lives.

Your honours will hear evidence that the girls and women of Sierra Leone were subjected to extreme sexual violence. That they were abducted and raped, oftentimes publicly,

oftentimes by numerous fighters, oftentimes for extended periods of time, and then generally forced into sexual slavery.

You will hear that girls and women were forced to continue performing sexual acts as well as domestic duties for their fighter “husbands”. Those who dared to escape and were caught were either killed or were marked with “RUF” on their bodies.

### **Forced Labour**

During the Indictment period, as set out in Count 10 of the Indictment, civilians in Kono and Kailahun, were harnessed and forced to work intensively towards the war effort.

Aside from domestic duties forced upon female captives, men and women of all ages throughout Sierra Leone were forced to perform other types of work for the rebels without pay.

Abductees were forced to work on RUF farms in Kailahun District. They were also forced at gunpoint to carry arms, ammunition, food, fuel and other supplies from Buedu to Koidu Town – a distance of over 70 miles following narrow bush paths.

In Kono, diamond miners were often forced to work without food. Those who were too tired to work were stripped and beaten and, in some instances, killed.

Diamonds mined under these conditions were given to senior AFRC/RUF commanders and were then sent to the Accused in exchange for arms, ammunition and supplies. Evidence will show that the Accused sent his subordinates from Liberia to provide advice to Sam Bockarie and Issa Sesay on the Kono mining operations, thus protecting his own economic interests.

You will hear evidence that in an effort to strengthen the rebel forces and to sow the seeds of the common plan, AFRC/RUF commanders ordered the training of captured civilians and then forcibly conscripted them into the ranks of the fighting force.

In Kailahun and Kono, abducted civilians were trained at Bayama, Pendembu, Bunumbu, Koinadugu and Yengema.

The training often involved severe beatings for those who were uncooperative, and sometimes resulted in deaths of the trainees. Your honours will hear evidence that from Liberia, the Accused provided arms and ammunition, rice and food for these training camps, where abducted civilians and children were forcibly trained.

## **VI. KENEMA DISTRICT**

Your honours, let me move to another diamond rich area, Kenema District.

This District is home to the famous Tongo Fields. As we already saw in Kono, such wealth attracted much violence. In 1997 and 1998, these fields produced a bitter harvest, which resulted in Counts 1, 2, 3 and 10 being charged for this district.

In the context of the Indictment, the crimes charged for Kenema are those which took place largely during the Junta period. The significance of diamonds to the survival of the Junta regime cannot be overemphasised, and this was evidenced by the very presence of Sam Bockarie himself in Kenema throughout this period.

That being said, the need for diamonds was so great that they were to be mined, no matter what the human price.

The governing body of the AFRC regime – the Supreme Council – which was located in Freetown, received frequent updates from the mining commanders on the number of diamonds extracted and other essential information regarding productivity.

The junta government was not recognized by the international community and had to rely on its own resources. Therefore, simply as a matter of survival and to pay for the rice for its soldiers, and the weapons needed to fight the ECOMOG troops, the diamond fields in Kenema needed to be intensively mined by civilians.

This internationally isolated regime did have one friend, though: The Accused.

Your Honours have heard the name Ibrahim Bah. Ibrahim Bah organized an air shipment of arms and ammunition to Magburaka for the Junta. This shipment, known as the Magburaka Arms Shipment, was paid for partially by illegally mined diamonds. We allege that this shipment was organized by Bah on the Accused's behalf and kept the otherwise unstable and unrecognized Junta going for about another 4 months.

Your honours, the conditions of miners working in the diamond fields was harsh and brutal. Mining was undertaken in areas such as the notorious "Cyborg Pit". Child soldiers renowned for their brutality guarded the miners at gunpoint.

This period of intense forced mining was punctuated by frequent killings. Many civilians were killed at Cyborg Pit, some because they were suspected of stealing diamonds, others because their deaths helped instil a climate of terror that would deter escapes. Terror was guaranteed to be generated when, on the orders of Bockarie, miners in Cyborg Pit were fired on indiscriminately.

Indeed, this was a district controlled by fear. You will hear evidence about one infamous event in the township of Kenema where several community leaders accused of supporting the CDF were detained and tortured. Subsequently, several of the detainees, including B S Massaquoi, a former Cabinet Minister and municipal leader of Kenema, were killed on the orders of Bockarie.

#### **IV. PORT LOKO DISTRICT**



Your honours, I move to Port Loko. Count 11, pillage, is charged for this district between 1 February 1998 to about 30 April 1998.

In February 1998, the Junta, which had ruled for just short of a year, was finally routed by ECOMOG forces. This event, known as the Intervention, resulted in the withdrawal of the RUF and AFRC forces from Freetown. As the forces withdrew, their passage was marked by violence and looting. This passage from West to East is reflected in the districts and towns charged in the Indictment under Count 11 for the crime of looting.

Masiaka is a town in Port Loko District. It was here, in this district and in particular Masiaka, that the defeated members of the former Junta and their men received the infamous order for the forces to “pay themselves”.

## **V. BOMBALI**

This journey of retreat and looting took the forces to Bombali, and accordingly, this district is included under Counts 1 and 11 of the Indictment.

Makeni is a strategic town in Bombali District which controls the route between Freetown and Kono and facilitates access to the northern and eastern areas.

Once Operation Pay Yourself had been announced in Masiaka in February 1998, the forces simply kept heading east back to their strongholds, taking whatever they came across in the villages and towns they passed through.

## VII. FREETOWN & WESTERN AREA

Freetown and the Western Area encompasses the city of Freetown and the entire Peninsula. Freetown is the capital of Sierra Leone and the seat of political power. After the May 97 coup, Freetown was the Junta's headquarters. In February 1998, Johnny Paul Koroma and many other senior Junta leaders fled from Freetown, in their wake their forces abducted civilians and took them to Kono and other areas in Sierra Leone. Freetown again came into focus at the end of '98. The final objective of the operation commencing with the attack on Kono District was to re-take control of Freetown in order to re-establish political control over the country.

The movement towards Freetown, the invasion of Freetown and then the retreat from Freetown covering the period from the end of 1998 until early 1999 is the focus of the crimes charged in the Indictment.

On re-establishing control over Koidu town, AFRC/RUF forces from Kono, under the command of Issa Sesay, and from Koinadugu, under the command of "Superman", launched co-ordinated attacks on Makeni which led to the takeover of the town.

In the meantime, the forces of Alex Tamba Brima and SAJ Musa were on their way to the next target - Freetown.

The advance to Freetown began in Rosos and took the route through Waterloo in the Western Area to Benguema, from Hastings to Jui, from Allen Town to Calaba Town, from Wellington to Kissy, and from Up Gun into the city centre. A large number of Liberian NPFL fighters were sent to Buedu from Liberia in 1998 to reinforce the AFRC and RUF forces on their planned attacks. A good number of these Liberian fighters went from Buedu with Superman to Koinadugu in mid 1998 to join SAJ Musa in the Northern Jungle. They later reinforced the forces of Alex Tamba Brima at Colonel Eddie Town, and entered Freetown with the predominantly AFRC forces. Throughout the attack,

AFRC/RUF commanders in the Freetown area were communicating with AFRC/RUF commanders on other fronts.

For the people of Freetown, the January 6 invasion, did not come as a complete surprise. What astounded the population was the viciousness of the attack.

With the State House under their control and the central prison gates flung wide open, the invaders had free reign over the eastern and central parts of the city for almost 2 weeks.

AFRC/RUF forces were eventually forced to retreat eastwards by ECOMOG and other SLA forces. However, they took with them a huge band of abductees. In this band were able-bodied men and a large number of young girls and children. Left behind, in the now empty streets, thousands lay dead, as vultures fed on decomposing bodies.

You will hear evidence that the city's hospitals and clinics were full beyond capacity with the wounded and the dying. Whole streets lay abandoned. Houses burnt. Wrecked and abandoned vehicles littering the streets. As if this was not enough, waves of freshly amputated civilians began streaming into the city from the eastern outskirts, sending a grim reminder that the invaders were still close. Hospital corridors soon became lined with amputees.

The Accused's responsibility for the events of January 6 and its aftermath will be established through Prosecution witnesses who will testify to the following facts.

First, throughout the Invasion period, Bockarie became **the only** spokesperson for the forces. Such was Bockarie's importance that he negotiated the ceasefire on behalf of the fighters on the ground. Bockarie was known for his vanity, he had no hesitations about making public his role and gave a number of interviews on the BBC. In one he threatened to "burn Freetown" and in another he referred to the Accused as his "chief".

Second, there was ongoing radio communication throughout the Freetown invasion between Bockarie and Alex Tamba Brima. These communications increased as the fighters took over State House, gained control over the city until they eventually retreated from State House. Orders from Bockarie to Alex Tamba Brima included holding the city while RUF reinforcements were being provided. Later, they dealt with issues of ceasefire, the burning of embassies, the retreat as well as other orders. Brima complied with these orders

Third, RUF fighters and some Liberian Fighters sent by the Accused weeks before the invasion, reinforced the fighters of Alex Tamba Brima, and enhanced the military strength of the forces which entered Freetown on that fateful day of 6 January 1999.

In addition, Bockarie ordered that the RUF fighters in Waterloo ensure the safe passage of the retreating RUF/AFRC forces from the city by holding the Guinean ECOMOG contingent at bay.

The scale of the atrocities also indicates that the invasion should be set in context. This was the culmination of years of assistance from the Accused towards the common plan to take over of the political control of Sierra Leone. In order to achieve this objective, from May 1997 to January 1999, the RUF/AFRC alliance and the Liberian Fighters supplied by the accused, engaged the ECOMOG forces throughout the country in constant combat, and attacked their military bases. This had the effect of **considerably** reducing the ECOMOG capability **to** defend Freetown, which made the January 1999 Invasion of Freetown an inevitable success for the AFRC/RUF allied forces.

The scale of the terror that was unleashed on Freetown is unparalleled as a single event in the conflict. No other incident, event or attack by the RUF or AFRC/RUF throughout the war, involved such large scale burning of civilian property in locations throughout Freetown; such killing of civilians; such widespread beatings and amputations; such abduction of civilians; such widespread looting; and such abuse of young girls and women.

At the end of this period of extreme violence which shocked the entire world, the Accused called Bockarie to Monrovia and promoted him.

A few months after the Invasion, in mid 1999 in Monrovia, the Accused hosted Johnny Paul Koroma and some senior leaders of the AFRC. At this meeting, the Accused praised the rebel advance into Freetown and gave the delegation 15,000 dollars as a show of support.

### **VIII. CHILD SOLDIERS**

Yet another haunting image of the conflict in Sierra Leone is that of children carrying guns taller than they were. Children were conscripted, enlisted and/or used in active hostilities throughout the war and Sierra Leone.

Count 9 of the Indictment states that between about 30 November 1996 and about 18 January 2002 members of RUF, AFRC, AFRC/RUF Junta or alliance, and/or other armed factions fighting in Sierra Leone routinely used hundreds of boys and girls under the age of 15 to participate in hostilities.

The evidence will demonstrate that a pattern was followed throughout the war. Children were abducted by the rebel fighting forces during attacks on their villages, and taken to “training camps”.

The training in these camps was harsh beyond measure. When learning to crawl to avoid fire, real bullets were often fired above the heads of the child recruits. Those who failed to follow instructions on how to crawl and who raised their heads, were killed by these bullets.

After training, some of these children were given military ranks. The children were then used by the rebels to fight at the front lines, to carry arms and ammunition to the front

lines, to act as bodyguards and to provide security to commanders and fighters and to conduct reconnaissance.

This was a pattern which had been followed by the forces under the command of the Accused in Liberia in the late 1980's and which was continued until about 2003.

The boys and girls that were trained in Sierra Leone were grouped into units called the Small Boys Unit (SBU) and the Small Girls Unit (SGU). These same names were used by the NPFL in Liberia from the early 1990's.

## **IX. CONCLUSION**

I would like to thank the Bench for the opportunity to address you on this historic day. It has truly been an honour for me to do so.

The people of Sierra Leone have a saying:

*"Net long so taaaaaaay, doh mus clean"*

Meaning

*"no matter how long the night, light will come"*

For years the Accused's crimes have remained in the dark. Today, we start to shed light on his responsibility for the suffering of the people of Sierra Leone.

## MR. RAPP RECOMMENCES

### E. MODES/PARTICIPATION IN COMMON PLAN

Your honours, in our pre-trial brief, we have outlined the ways in which the accused is responsible for planning, ordering and instigating the crimes. In the interests of time I would like to proceed to discuss was in which the Accused clearly aided and abetted these crimes.

#### Aiding and Abetting

Throughout the relevant period, the Accused provided vital and substantial assistance, encouragement or support to the RUF, then to the Junta and finally to the AFRC/RUF, which enabled these forces to conduct this widespread and systematic attack against the civilian population of Sierra Leone.

- **[DOC – EXHIBIT 1.058: (undated – 10 pages) letter to Foday Sankoh from the Black Guard Commander – summary report to FS of the situation on the ground while he has been absent. Mentions support given by CT.]**

**“The High Command was called to report by the President of Liberia, Mr. Charles Taylor. Wherein the President seriously briefed the High Command and gave him the confidence that he should not give up, but to keep up the struggle and uphold the revolution until the leader returns. The President gave full assurance to the High Command and promised to give his maximum support to the RUF. The President also took an oath that he will never betray his brother (Cpl Foday Sankoh). From that point, the President gave huge quantity of logistics (ammunition) to the High Command for us to start repelling the ECOMOG advancement or to contain situation. ...”**

- **DOC – EXHIBIT 1.081 (undated – 15 pages) verbatim report on discussion between FS and “his cohorts” on his return from detention in Nigeria in 1999, explaining activities 1996-1999.**

“We arrived at Koindu in the evening, and met Benjamin, Memuna and others where we left them and gave them the feedback on our mission. “Bra” [Bah] said “no problem, this is how God works out things” that he could have been arrested, He said we should write a letter and hand over the 1832 pieces in 9 plastics to the Papay. “Bra” [Bah] approved the letter., General Ibrahim Memuna and Jungle went to Liberia while we returned to Buedu. When Pa Rogers and others went to Gbanga later these diamonds were shown to him. Big Brother told them he is going to reserve them until you (pa Sankoh) return. ... With regard to the 244 pieces that we sold, I have record in a ledger the quantity and everything....we haggled on prices for the gems and we agreed at 17000 US dollars

**It is clear that more than 15000 of this was used for items that the boys needed up at the front.”**

- The Accused provided continuing assistance to the RUF, Junta, AFRC/RUF, including:
  - arms
  - ammunition and other materiel
  - manpower
  - military training
  - facilities and safe havens in Liberia
  - strategic and tactical advice, direction and encouragement, and
  - other assistance.

This assistance enabled the members of the RUF, Junta and AFRC/RUF to carry out the campaign of terror charged in Counts 1 through 11 of the Indictment



The Accused's assistance had a substantial effect on the ability of the RUF, Junta and AFRC/RUF to commit the murders, mutilations and beatings, rapes, sexual slavery, enslavement, looting and other crimes charged in the Indictment.

As we will later show the Accused provided this assistance with full knowledge that these crimes had been and were being committed, or with the awareness of the substantial likelihood that his assistance, encouragement, or support would assist the commission of these crimes.

### *Arms and Ammunition*

We earlier heard about the arms in the original offensive, but significantly from about early 1998 through early 2002.

- The materiel provided included the shipment of arms and ammunition to Magburaka air strip, Tonkolili District, in the fall of 1997, and the shipments used for the attacks throughout 1998 including the attack against Koidu, Makeni and many other locations in **late 1997 (PTB states 1998)**, as part of the operation to re-take Kono and Freetown.
- The materiel was stored in facilities at various locations in Liberia, including the Accused's residences in Gbarnga and Monrovia, and at the Executive Mansion in Monrovia. Subordinates of the Accused working at these storage facilities would provide the materiel to the RUF, Junta, and AFRC/RUF on the instructions of the Accused. These instructions were usually communicated through a senior level subordinate such as Benjamin Yeaten.

### *Manpower*

The Accused provided subordinate Liberian personnel to assist the RUF, Junta – in particular the RUF component and AFRC/RUF throughout the early 1990s and throughout the conflict.

- In 1998, the Accused sent several hundred men of the Scorpion Unit to fight with the RUF. The Accused drew these personnel from the NPFL, other

organised armed groups within Liberia, the Liberian population in general and, after the Accused became President, from the AFL, special units such as SSS and ATU and the LNP. These personnel functioned in a variety of roles, for example, as fighters, trainers, and communications operators.

- In addition to the fighters, military trainers and communications operators, the Accused also provided personnel to facilitate the movement of RUF, Junta, and AFRC/RUF members between Sierra Leone and Liberia. These personnel also facilitated the movement of arms and ammunition to Sierra Leone from Liberia, and the movement of diamonds from Sierra Leone to the Accused. They served as security escorts, drivers, messengers, and acted as liaison between the Accused and the RUF, Junta and AFRC/RUF. The Accused's subordinates also provided the RUF, Junta and AFRC/RUF forces with passes to get them through checkpoints in Liberia.

### ***Military Training***

- The Accused provided facilities at bases in Liberia, such as Camp Nama or Naama, Cobra Base, Bomi Hills, at which members of these groups or forces were trained.

The training included basic military and combat skills and advanced combat skills and training in communications systems, techniques and procedures. The Sierra Leonean and Liberian trainees at these bases had no separate chain of command; they were all treated as one body.

- The trainers in Liberia included Liberians and Gambians subordinate to the Accused. The commanders of those bases were personnel subordinate to the Accused. The Accused held ultimate authority over the operation of those bases and the commanders, trainers and trainees at those bases, and would attend graduation ceremonies at the bases.
- The Accused also provided military trainers and training commanders to the RUF in Sierra Leone. The trainees in Liberia and in Sierra Leone included

children under the age of 15 years. These children were given the same training as the adults, that is, were given military training to include basic and advanced combat skills.

### ***Facilities and Safe Havens in Liberia***

- The Accused provided facilities to RUF, Junta, and AFRC/RUF at training bases, as described above. In the early years of the conflict, Sankoh and the RUF made use of safe havens in Liberia. The RUF fighters would retreat to NPFL areas and bases or facilities such as those at Bomi Hills, where they would rest and reorganise. The Accused would re-provision these fighters with arms and ammunition in preparation for their return to Sierra Leone to continue their attacks against the civilian population.
- The Accused provided Sankoh with a residence in Gbarnga, from which he made trips to RUF locations in Sierra Leone to distribute arms, ammunition and other materiel and supplies provided by the Accused. Additional facilities made available to the AFRC/RUF included a guest house in Monrovia, from about 1998 through about 2001. The Accused provided the security for this guest house, the domestic staff, and equipment for the communications centre established there to enable continuous communication between the guest house and RUF, Junta and AFRC/RUF locations in Sierra Leone.

### ***Strategic and Tactical Advice, Direction and Encouragement***

Throughout the conflict, the Accused provided advice, direction and encouragement to the RUF, Junta - in particular the RUF component, and the AFRC/RUF.

- Leaders of these groups conferred with the Accused before making significant decisions and were in frequent contact with him. In addition, from 1998 until the end of the conflict, the Accused regularly sent Liberian subordinates and associates to Sierra Leone to provide guidance and advice to Bockarie and Issa Sesay. These personnel included, but were not limited to, Benjamin Yeaten,

Ibrahim Bah, Musa Sesay, Duopo Makerzon, Christopher Varmoh, Daniel Tamba aka “Jungle”.

### *Other Assistance*

Throughout the conflict the accused provided financial assistance to the RUF, Junta – in particular the RUF component, and the AFRC/RUF.

- In 1998, the Accused provided Bockarie with cash to purchase arms and ammunition from the former ULIMO-K fighters in Lofa County, Liberia.
- Between 2000 and 2001, the Accused provided large amounts of cash, on several occasions, to senior AFRC/RUF leaders, Issa Sesay and Morris Kallon, in addition to supplies of arms and ammunition.
- Throughout the armed conflict in Sierra Leone, the Accused provided the RUF, Junta, and AFRC/RUF with rice and other food, military uniforms, fuel, mining supplies, vehicles, medicine, “morale boosters”, i.e. cigarettes, drugs, alcohol, and other items. The Accused’s subordinates brought these supplies to Sierra Leone, or personnel from the groups collected them in Liberia.
- Throughout the armed conflict in Sierra Leone, the Accused provided communications equipment to RUF, Junta, and AFRC/RUF, including VHF radio sets and satellite phones. The Accused also provided these organised armed groups with an FM radio station in Kailahun District, which was used to broadcast instructions and propaganda in areas controlled by these organised groups.

**The Accused knew that his assistance, encouragement or moral support assisted in the carrying out of the campaign of terror against the civilian population of Sierra Leone.**

## **Notice**

As stated earlier, the only inference to be drawn is that the Accused intended the crimes charged in the Indictment. This can be proven in a number of ways:

- National and international media reports discussed the crimes committed in both Liberia and Sierra Leone; the United Nations and other international and NGO organisations widely reported, and condemned, these crimes.

### **Feb-March 1996**

1.289 - Votes Counted in S. Leone Amidst Protests - New Democrat Weekly - 29 Feb. 1996-05 Mar. 1996

Excerpt: Some voters did not vote because of the rebel activities of Foday Sankoh's Revolutionary United Front elements, putting the voters at great risks. Several persons were killed and others were maimed. The RUF recently vowed to disrupt the voting...

### **June 1997**

1.064 - RUF Speech to the Nation

"We looked at our brothers and killed them in cold blood, we removed our sisters from their hiding places to undo their femininity, we slaughtered our mothers and butchered our fathers. ...

"we have wronged the great majority of our countrymen. We have sinned both in the sight of man and of God. We therefore openly and publicly apologize to you, our Sierra Leonean brothers and sisters, for all the terror and the mayhem we unleashed on you in our bid to make Sierra Leone a country that all Sierra Leoneans would be proud of."

### **17 Feb. 1998**

1.171 - Sierra Leone: Humanitarian Situation Report, 98.02.17

Para. 1, p. 1 Excerpt: "many civilians have been killed and injured" and

Para. 3, p. 1 Excerpt: "Widespread looting has been reported in Kenema and Bo towns as the AFRC have commandeered vehicles and food and other supplies from relief agencies."

### **20 Feb. 1998**

1.148 - Daily Times, Headline excerpted

In S/Leone: 52 Burned Alive as Junta Goes on Rampage

### **1 May 1998**

1.180 - MSF Report: Atrocities against civilians in Sierra Leone

Excerpt:

As of 6h April, 1998 Connaught Hospital started receiving small or large groups...the following overview gives the number of patients admitted with arm amputations:

115 total number of patients interviewed  
 4 with double arm amputations  
 23 with single arm amputations.  
 5 men had, in addition to having their arm(s) amputated, a part of, or one or both ears cut off.  
 tendons, broken ulna and radius, as result of cutlass attacks.  
 7 patients with either a complete hand or several fingers missing as result of cutlass attacks.  
 20 patients with gunshot wounds.  
 2 women who were raped and had foreign objects inserted in their vagina.

Only one interviewee could be identified as a combatant (in this case a Kamajor fighter). All others were civilians, with occupations ranging from housewives, trader, farmer to diamond digger and miner.

#### **10 MAY 1998**

1.218 - AAP Newsfeed, "AFR: Sierra Leone Villagers Tell of Rebel Atrocities"  
 "Ousted from power by a West African force loyal to Sierra Leone's president, former junta members hiding in the countryside were wreaking revenge with ethnic killings and maimings.

Aid workers today transported 18 amputees from the northern town of Karina to a hospital in the capital of Freetown after rebel fighters hacked off their hands on Thursday."

#### **12-15 JUNE 1998 - News article from Heritage (Monrovia newspaper)**

1.149 -

Excerpt:

##### **In Sierra Leone: Massacre Again, as mercenaries still flood in**

"The disintegrated empire of the deposed junta, now under the command of Samba Bockarie, alias CO Mosquito, is now leaving behind a heap of corpses as remnants of the rag-tag militiamen loyal to him have no resorted to wanton killing of civilians."

#### **24 JULY 1998 - News article from Daily Times (Monrovia newspaper)**

1.147 -

Excerpt:

Across Liberia-S/L Border: Guns, Rice Traded for Diamonds

“AFRC/RUF military junta disclosed that they receive supplies of rice and arms from Liberia in exchange for diamonds....They told Gen. Shelpidi and party that the gruesome atrocities being perpetrated by them are being committed with a view to pressuring for the release of the RUF leader Foday Sankoh...”

### **30 JULY 1998**

1.316 - Amnesty International Report

The United Nations Special Conference on Sierra Leone: the protection of human rights must be a priority for the international community

Excerpt:

AFRC and RUF forces in the east and north of Sierra Leone are deliberately and arbitrarily killing and torturing unarmed civilians. A deliberate and systematic campaign of killing, rape and mutilation -- called by the AFRC and RUF "Operation no living thing" - has emerged since April 1998.

### **15 OCT 1998**

1.144 - Tejan Kabbah Points Finger at AFL - Blames Liberians for Turmoil

Excerpt:

"As accounts continue to filter in about countless massacres that are being committed by heartless Liberian bandits against Sierra Leoneans, President Tejan Kabbah over the weekend expressed disgust over the continued participation of soldiers of the Armed Forces of Liberia in prolonging the Sierra Leonean crisis.

### **11 NOV 1998**

1.203 –

[After the November 1998 rebel attack on Gbendembu where at least 100 bodies were found, a survivor told Reuters:]

...he had watched the attack as he hid on the roof of a building next to the Wesleyan Church. "They searched from house to house...Then I saw them march 11 people, men, women and children from (the) nearby bush into the church. [...] The rebels closed the door after they entered. After two or three minutes I heard their hostages screaming. It was horrible. They were screaming that the rebels were killing them, cutting their throats." The survivor said the rebels, numbering about 20, left the church after about 30 minutes. "I waited another half hour and stole into the church. There were the bodies of the 11, all of them with their throats cut and blood still gushing out," he said.

### **27 DEC 1998**

1.150 –

Excerpt:

Rebels Nearing African Capital Two Burned Alive in Sierra Leone

“Rebel commander Sam Bockarie said yesterday his forces dragged the bodies of the dead Nigerian soldiers through the streets of Makeni with an armored car “as an example to everyone.”

### **1999**

1.173 - Amnesty International Report 1999 (Re. 1998 atrocities)

Excerpt from p 3: The town of Koidu, in Kono District, Eastern Province, was virtually destroyed by rebel forces in April, and more than 650 bodies were reported to have been found there. More than 200 unarmed civilians were killed during an attack on Yifin, a village in Koinadugu District, Northern Province, in late April.

The Accused’s own reporting systems – he had effective communications systems and a variety of reporting mechanisms within the NPFL, RUF, Junta, Alliance, including reports from his subordinates or agents who were present in SL, meetings in Liberia with senior leaders of the RUF, Junta, AFRC/RUF alliance.

## **G. SUPERIOR AUTHORITY**

Prior to and throughout the armed conflict in Sierra Leone, the Accused exercised formal *de jure*, as well as *de facto*, authority and direct control over his Liberian subordinates, like Yeaten, Bah, Jungle, Cisse, Weah, Varmoh, Tuah, and Merkazon, Duoh, and Charles Taylor Jr., particularly after he became President when these individuals were under him in the Liberian government and military. He had exercised informal *de facto* authority, and effective control over the RUF and AFRC/RUF alliance. The Accused had the material ability to prevent or punish the criminal conduct of members of the RUF, Junta – in particular the RUF component, AFRC/RUF and Liberian fighters.

- When the accused ordered senior level leaders of these groups to travel to Liberia to meet with him, they did so.
- When the accused ordered them to provide personnel to fight with his forces in Liberia, those senior leaders always obeyed those orders.
- When the RUF took UN peacekeepers hostage in 2000, the accused ordered Issa Sesay, the interim leader of the AFRC/RUF, to release the peacekeepers. Issa



Sesay obeyed that order, but indicated that had it not been for the Accused's order, he would not have released them.

The Accused knew or had reason to know that his Liberian subordinates in Sierra Leone and the RUF, Junta - in particular the RUF component, and the AFRC/RUF were engaged in a campaign of terror in Sierra Leone, and we have just shown some of the notice that was available to him regarding the campaign of terror conducted by his subordinates against the civilian population included killings, rapes, mutilations and beatings, abductions, sexual slavery and forced labour, use of child soldiers, and the looting and burning of civilian property.

**F. CONTEXT IN WHICH THE CRIMES COMMITTED**

**A. Armed Conflict**

Crimes charged against this Accused occurred in context of armed conflict in SL, as we have previously outlined

- Crimes charged against the Accused were closely related to this armed conflict
  - The armed conflict played a substantial part in the perpetrator's ability to commit the crimes, the decision to commit the crimes, the way in which the crimes were committed and the purpose for which they were committed.
  - The crimes were shaped by or dependent on the environment, were committed in furtherance of, or at least under the guise of, the situation created by the fighting

**B. Widespread or systematic attack against the civilian population of SL**

- The campaign of terror against the civilian population of SL took place in context of armed conflict, but the target of this violence was not opposing combatants, rather was targeted against those who were not

taking part in those active hostilities, the civilian population of Sierra Leone.

Of course, as discussed earlier, the evidence will prove the Accused **was aware** of these continuing, widespread, systematic crimes, and, with this knowledge, continued to provide substantial support and to participate in the common plan, that he himself developed. The only reasonable inference from the evidence is that the Accused in fact intended the crimes charged in the indictment. But even if were somehow not proven that he intended these crimes, he would responsible because they were committed by his subordinates, with his actual or constructive knowledge, and he failed to do anything to prevent or punish this conduct.

## **IX. CONCLUSION**

Your honours, the crimes which we have described to you in this Opening Statement are nothing short of enormous, and we submit that the evidence that we submit will be strong and compelling and be more than sufficient to prove the Accused guilty on each count beyond a reasonable doubt.

As we begin this trial, we are about to take another major step forward in the name of justice for Sierra Leone. The people of Sierra Leone have high expectations. They are the ones who still bear the scars of this brutal conflict and for whom this process of accountability, no matter what the eventual outcome, will have its greatest meaning.

A judgment will not bring back the dead from their graves, nor give back limbs to the thousands of amputees. It will not remove the physical scars that remain from deep gashes and gruesome injuries inflicted, nor heal the thousands of women who were raped or sexually abused. It will not restore the childhoods of countless boys and girls. Your Honours, this trial will not erase the emotional scars etched on the memory of the people of Sierra Leone. What this trial will do is give Sierra Leoneans some small measure of closure.

Your honours, there is a Sierra Leonean expression, in Krio which I cannot speak well, a *hundred days for tiff man, wan day for master ose*, meaning that the wrongdoer may escape for a long time, but eventually will have to answer in the master house, the house of justice.

This historic trial shows them that while mayhem and terror were rained upon Sierra Leone and its people, there are those in this world who are ready to uphold the law and decide that no matter how high the position of the person responsible, there will be a day of justice.

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