

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



Ibrahim Tommy of Public Affairs holds his newborn daughter, Hanan Yeinie Tommy, at her naming ceremony in Bo this past Sunday.

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:

Thursday, 6 July 2006

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

Local News

Synopsis of Charles Taylor's Indictment / <i>Standard Times</i>	Page 3
Summary of Security Council Resolution 1688 / <i>Standard Times</i>	Page 4
American Spy Suspect & Others Freed / <i>Exclusive</i>	Page 5
Taylor's Indictment Will Send a Message to Warlords ... / <i>Exclusive</i>	Page 6
Suspected Special Court Spy Released / <i>Awareness Times</i>	Page 7
"Death Penalty is Inhuman" – LAWCLA / <i>New Citizen</i>	Pages 8-9

International News

Annan: Taylor's Trial is Strong Message Against Impunity / <i>Angola Times</i>	Page 10
Man Denies Passport Fraud / <i>South Florida Sun-Sentinel</i>	Page 11
Ellen's Government and Liberians Differ over War Crimes Tribunal / <i>Cocorioko Website</i>	Page 12
War Crime Court Left With Govt, Annan Says / <i>The Analyst (Monrovia)</i>	Page 13
UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary / <i>UNMIL</i>	Pages 14-16
UNMIL Daily Radio Summary / <i>UNMIL</i>	Page 17
Khmer Rouge judges begin workshop / <i>Associated Press</i>	Page 18
Uganda Rebel Chief 'Still Wanted' / <i>BBC Online</i>	Pages 19-20
It's Time To Make Real Promises / <i>The Analyst (Monrovia)</i>	Pages 21-22
Guinea: Security Forces Respond to Protests with Killings / <i>Human Rights Watch</i>	Pages 23-24

Standard Times
Thursday, 6 July 2006

Charles Taylor had earlier been indicted by the Special Court in March 2003. But, after a review of the Indictment in March 2006, the 17-Counts Charges were streamlined to 11 Counts. The Charges ranged from crimes against humanity to war crimes (violations of Article 3 Common to the Geneva Conventions and of Additional Protocol II) and other serious violations of international humanitarian law. Court 1 outlined acts of terrorism which include terrorizing the civilian population and issuing collective punishments. This was illustrated by members of the RUF, AFRC, and supporting Liberian fighters assisted, encouraged by, acting in concert with, under the direction, control and/or subordinate to the Accused burning down places in Kono District, Freetown, and the Western Area.

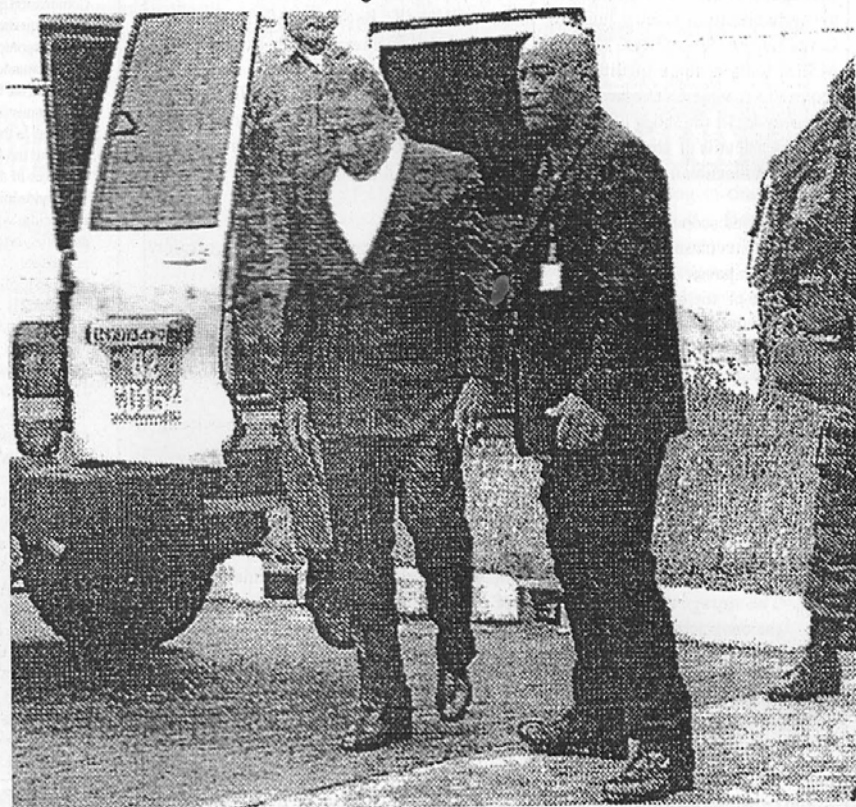
Count 2 and 3 were for unlawful killings that comprised of murder, violence to life, and damage to the health and physical or mental well-being of persons in Kono, Kenema and Kailahun Districts and in the Freetown and Western Area. Counts 4, 5 and 6 pointed to rape, sexual slavery and any other form of sexual violence and outrages upon personal dignity of which such crimes were committed in Kono,



Synopsis of Charles Taylor's Indictment

Kailahun District, in Freetown, and around the Western Area. Counts 7 and 8 were related to physical violence, which encompassed violence to life, health and physical or mental well-being of the persons, and other inhumane acts including particular cruel treatment of the people in the Kono and Kailahun District and in Freetown and the Western Area. Count 11 pertained to looting in Kono and Bombali Districts and in Freetown and the Western Area.

The Accused is also charged for individual criminal responsibility, which states that by his acts or omission he planned, instigated, ordered, committed, or aided and abetted in the planning, preparations or execution of, crimes which amounted to or were involved within a common plan, design or purpose where the accused participated or crimes that were reasonably foreseeable consequences of such.



Standard Times
Thursday, 6 July 2006

Summary of UN Security Council Resolution 1688 (2006): The Transfer of Taylor to the Netherlands

Two-and-a-half months after the then-President of the Sierra Leone Special Court (SCSL) asked the Security Council of the United Nations (UN) to allow for the transfer of the trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor to The Hague, Netherlands, the Security Council unanimously approved his request.

On June 15, acting under the powerful mandate of Chapter VII of the Charter of the UN, requested by The Netherlands to make the Resolution binding in its national courts, the Security Council adopted Resolution 1688-drafted by the United Kingdom. Justifying the move of the trial, Mr. Taylor, and all relevant witnesses, experts, and persons away from the seat of the SCSL in Freetown, Sierra Leone, the Security Council referred to the concerns of the Presidents of both the SCSL and Liberia regarding the destabilizing effects of the trial if held in Sierra Leone.

The SCSL, which is enabled by the Agreement between the UN

and the Government of Sierra Leone establishing it as well as its own Rules of Procedure and Evidence to exercise its functions away from its seat if its President

Taylor if convicted.

On March 29, 2006 former President Taylor was arrested in Nigeria and transferred to Liberia and then the Special Court to face a 11

country, citing security concerns in the sub-region posed by trying the still-dangerous and powerful Mr. Taylor. Within two weeks, The Neth-

However, the International Criminal Court (ICC) will allow the SCSL to use its facilities for the trial and Great Britain will be the site of Mr. Taylor's prison sentence if he is convicted

so authorizes, retains exclusive jurisdiction over former President Taylor and his trial.

However, the International Criminal Court (ICC) will allow the SCSL to use its facilities for the trial and Great Britain will be the site of Mr. Taylor's prison sentence if he is convicted.

The Resolution came one day after the Government of Britain met the final request of the Government of The Netherlands, as specified in early April, for a third country to house Mr.

count indictment for crimes against humanity and serious violations of international humanitarian law-including sexual slavery, mutilations, and the conscription of child soldiers.

But, immediately, President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf of Liberia, elected only the year before and observing a fragile peace in her country, and the SCSL President requested to the Security Council and international community that the trial be held in a different

erlands agreed to host the trial and the ICC offered its premises.

The Security Council Resolution asked all member states to contribute towards the difficult process of transferring a trial from Sierra Leone to The Netherlands. The Netherlands was charged with facilitating, detaining him during the trial, and giving those required to be at the trial easy access to the Special Court. The Secretary-General of the UN was asked

to complete the 'legal and practical arrangements' for the transfer and ensure that all sides followed through on their commitments.

Finally, the Special Court was designated with providing video links of the trial proceedings to its Africa sub-region to work towards achieving truth and reconciliation in Sierra Leone, Liberia, and West Africa. The costs of moving the trial to The Netherlands would be assumed by the Special Court, through the Secretary-General asked member states to continue to contribute to its coffers. Thanking President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria for handing over.

Mr. Taylor, President Johnson-Sirleaf for her courage in requesting the transfer of Mr. Taylor to the Special Court, the SCSL for its work in advancing the rule of law in Sierra Leone, and the Government of the Netherlands and ICC for their willingness to host the trial and detain. Mr. Taylor, the Security Council declared the transfer as a step forward in ending impunity.

Exclusive

Thursday, 6 July 2006

American Spy Suspect & Others Freed

By Mohamed Kai

An alleged American spy Michael Chemilddhe, Felix Rogers and Collins Koroma

were yesterday discharged by Magistrate Sam Margai of Court No. 1. Delivering his ruling, the

Magistrate said the prosecution failed to adduce sufficient evidence with regards
Contd. page 2

American Spy Suspect & Others Freed

From front page

the charges proferred against the accused persons.

He also stated that there is no statutory provision between the Special court for Sierra Leone and Sierra Leone's national law books to legally handle cases of

such nature and that there is no inscription on the wall of the court preventing the accused from taking snap shots of the court.

Speaking to journalists outside the court room, Chemilddhe said he felt happy and excited at regaining his total freedom.

He also intimated that he was innocent of the crime and the offences he was alleged to have committed.

It would be recalled that Michael Chemilddhe, Felix Rogers and Collins Koroma were arrested in May this year, for unauthorised taking photographs of the Special Court.

Exclusive

Thursday, 6 July 2006

"Taylor's indictment will send a message to war lords in Africa"

By Keith Benjamin & Joseph Turay

Secretary General of the United Nations Mr. Kofi Annan, has said in Freetown that the indictment and subsequent arrest of Former Liberian President Charles G. Taylor, would send a clear message to war lords in the world and in Africa in particular, that the days of im-

punity are over.

Mr. Annan, while addressing journalists Monday 3 July, 2006 at the UNIOSIL Headquarter Mamy Yoko Freetown, disclosed that the UN since the indictment of Taylor "wanted" the latter to be tried elsewhere, where they foresee no security threat.

The Secretary General noted that while Mr. Taylor

was still in Liberia as President, the latter was "actively" involved in the civil conflict in Sierra Leone and therefore the UN thought it fit not to try Mr. Taylor anywhere in the sub region. Mr. Annan further said during his two day visit in Sierra Leone, he had meetings with senior staff members of the Special Court including the judges and President

of the court, during which he held fruitful discussions with them about progress made so far at the court. He expressed satisfaction with the progress of the court so far, but however raised serious concerns about the security in the West African sub region citing the Ivory Coast conflict where he said, the fighting factions are mak-

ing progress in mending fences.

Mr. Annan commended the government and people of Sierra Leone in the area of peace building and the socio-economic development of the country, but lamented over the high unemployment rate amongst young people, whom he described as the future leaders of this coun-

-Kofi Annan

try. He called on Sierra Leoneans, civil society organizations to help the government in helping to revive the economy and the country. Mr. Annan described the Sierra Leone Police (SLP) as a professional force, while the Army he noted, is presently in its restructuring phase.

Awareness Times
Thursday, 6 July 2006

Suspected Special Court Spy Released

An American national, Michael Chemidlin, was on Tuesday 4th July 2006 walked out of Court a freeman, after he was acquitted and discharged by principal magistrate, Sam Margai.

Michael Chemidlin was standing trial in the Freetown Magistrate Court No.1, with two other accused persons; Felix Rogers and Collins Kamara both Sierra Leoneans, on three count charges, on conspiracy. The three had been on trial for the past two months, and all of them were acquitted last Tuesday.

New Citizen
Thursday, 6 July 2006

“Death Penalty Is Inhuman” -

LAWCLA

Presiding Judge at the trial chamber of the Special Court in Freetown Dr. Justice Bankole Thompson, last evening waxed eloquence when as key note speaker during the historic occasion of the launching of a book

compiled by the lawyers Center for Legal Assistant (LAWCLA) and the Center for Capital Punishment Studies (CCPS) university of Westminster, when he said that the call by the two bodies for the re-

Cont. back page

“Death Penalty Is Inhuman” -

FROM PAGE 1

removal of the death penalty from the law books of Sierra Leone can also be seen as part of the need for effective law reform.

Dr. Justice Bankole Thompson gave elaborate examples all over the world where the process of law reform is being pursued as he argued that the change in social conditions and the sheer technological advance in various countries in the world demand that the laws of any given countries ought to be looked into so that the laws can be modernized to meet the challenges of the present.

The Lawyers Center for Legal Assistance (LAWCLA) a local organisation consisting of lawyers has been questioning legal issues that run contrary to modern judicial and democratic norms.

At yesterday's launching of the book titled: *Death Penalty In Sierra*

Leone: Time For Change” the chairman of the occasion Francis Gabiddon who is also the Ombudsman of Sierra Leone went back into history when he reminded the audience about the number of people who have lost their lives as a result of state approved executions.

Earlier, Melron C. Nicol-Wilson of LAWCLA in his statement said that Capital Punishment is inhuman and unjust and therefore should be removed from the statutes.

Other speakers at yesterday's book launching ceremony included the acting British High Commissioner who actually launched the book, Mr. Munlo of the Special Court, Brima Koroma of the Sierra Leone Bar Association, Ms. Isabella Sankey and Ms. Sabrina Mahtani, and the Hon. Alusine Fofanah, the chairman of the Human

Right Committee of Parliament.

The consensus yesterday even before the book was launched by the Acting British High Commissioner, David Dunne, was that the death penalty itself has no place anymore in Sierra Leone, in a world where already 131 countries have abolished the death penalty.

Even Liberia which has just emerged from the throes of a war has abolished the death penalty which explains why there is now enough justifications for the Sierra Leone government to abolish the humiliating death penalty.

The death penalty is seen by many not only as an act aimed at degrading and humiliating humanity but also it serves no purpose because killing a citizen is merely an act of terminating his life and not a punishment.

Angola Press

Wednesday, 5 July 2006

Annan: Taylor's trial is strong message against impunity

Before leaving for Liberia Monday following a daylong official visit to Sierra Leone, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan warned the trial of Liberia's Charles Taylor should awaken warlords in Africa and the world that "they cannot assume that they can get away with their crimes".

Annan said he believes Taylor's trial should send a strong message to warlords in other parts of Africa and around the world that "impunity will not be allowed this time".

Annan, who began a four-nation West African tour in Sierra Leone, said the UN currently has 85,000 troops in the world, with a large portion of that number deployed in Africa: Liberia, Sierra Leone, DR Congo, Cote d'Ivoire and Sudan.

"We are trying to put conflict behind us," Annan told journalists here before leaving for Liberia on the second leg of his tour that also includes Cote d'Ivoire and his native Ghana.

Meanwhile, Annan said concern for subregional security necessitated the transfer of Taylor, who is indicted by the UN-backed Special Court in Sierra Leone for alleged war crimes in that country, at The Hague for trial.

He said the focus on security is not only on Freetown, but the entire country and the subregion as a whole.

Annan described the peace in the subregion as "fragile", saying, "peace has just returned to Liberia, while Sierra Leone is just coming out of war. We have a conflicting situation in Guinea, while the situation in Cote d'Ivoire is yet to be stable".

"So you cannot say the subregion is at peace. We have a lot of work to do to stabilise the subregion.

"So Taylor was taken to The Hague to be in an atmosphere that is free of any thought of conflict and tension in this region," Annan explained.

He recalled that "Charles Taylor was in Liberia while at the same time very active in other parts of the region".

Annan is expected to leave Liberia later Tuesday for Cote d'Ivoire where he will meet with President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa and other subregional leaders to ensure that presidential and general elections planned 30 October 2006 are held on schedule.

South Florida Sun-Sentinel

July 6, 2006

<http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/local/palmbeach/sfl->

Man denies passport fraud

By Jon Burstein

The son of former Liberian president Charles Taylor pleaded not guilty Wednesday to lying about his father's name on his passport.

Charles McArthur Emmanuel, also known as Charles "Chuckie" Taylor Jr., could face up to 15 years in prison if convicted of the passport fraud charge. He has been in federal detention without bond since his March 30 arrest after flying into Miami International Airport from Trinidad.

Emmanuel, a U.S. citizen born in Boston, headed Liberia's Anti-Terrorist Unit during his father's regime from 1997 to 2003, according to court records. Human rights organizations have said the group was responsible for torturing civilians and committing war crimes.

Federal authorities arrested Emmanuel, 29, a day after Nigerian authorities took his father into custody on an 11-count indictment out of a special United Nations-backed court. The former leader is charged with fomenting the civil war in Sierra Leone, Liberia's neighbor.

The group Human Rights Watch called last week for the Justice Department to investigate Emmanuel's role in potential abuses in Liberia. The group wants Emmanuel prosecuted under a federal statute that makes it a crime for U.S. citizens to commit torture and war crimes abroad.

The U.S. Attorney's Office in Miami declined to discuss Emmanuel's case.

Emmanuel lied in a March 15 passport application that his father's name was Steven Daniel Smith, according to his indictment. Questions about Emmanuel's passport arose while federal authorities were looking into "illicit arms trafficking, human rights violations and other illicit activities to and in Liberia," court records show.

Emmanuel did not speak Wednesday as his attorney entered the plea before U.S. Magistrate Robert Dubé in Miami federal court.

Cocorioko Website

Thursday, 6 July 2006

Ellen's Government and Liberians Differ over War Crimes Tribunal

The war crimes tribunal brouhaha in Liberia between the newly-elected government led by Mrs. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf and the general public reared its head again this week during the visit to Liberia of the United Nations Secretary General ,Kofi Annan



When Mr. Annan's proposed visit was announced, Liberia civil and human rights organizations disclosed that they were going to use the occasion to press their demands for the establishment of a war crimes tribunal in the country .However, the organizations came in direct conflict with the government as the Minister of Justice, Mrs. Frances Johnson-Morris directed that the demonstration was banned because it was not in harmony with the aims and objectives of the Unity Party government .She also complained that the demonstration was not promotive of peace

Mrs. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf : She thinks that a war crimes tribunal would be inimical to peace and reconciliation in Liberia, but Liberians think that the tribunal is the way to go because justice had to be done for the 300, 000 people who perished at the hands of warlords and rebel fighters

Liberian civil and human rights organizations however went on with their demonstrations and thousands of people poured into the streets in defiance of the Justice Minister's declaration . How contentious the issue plans to be could be seen from the reaction of Liberians at large to the response given by the UN Secretary General to the question of the establishment of the court during a press conference in Monrovia .Mr .Annan's statement that the idea had to come from the government is being roundly condemned by Liberians.

According to our reporter , Jlateh Doe, Liberians are complaining that the UN Secretary General wanted to "jive" them about the issue of a war crimes tribunal. They are arguing that the June 17, 1998 Statute of the International Criminal Court authorizes the UN to set up a war crimes tribunal where it found it necessary. .A commentary by Radio Free Liberia, read by Bodio Siapoh , accused Mrs. Johnson-Sirleaf of being one of the sponsors of the Charles Taylor rebel war and as such she was against the setting up of the tribunal. The radio warned that failure to institute the tribunal would undermine international peace and security. It congratulated Liberians for staging the demonstration and encouraged Liberians not to relent but to continue pressing for the tribunal to ensure justice for all the people killed during the war.

A supporter of the Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf government justified the government's stand against the establishment of the court. Ms. Garmeh Suah said that the government should concentrate more on rebuilding the country and consolidating peace and reconciliation. She felt that a war crimes tribunal would re-open old wounds in Liberia.

The Analyst (Monrovia)

Wednesday, 5 July 2006

War Crime Court Left With Govt, Annan Says; Lauds Media

It is now clear that the United Nations only gives assistance when the need for a war crime court is established as in the case of Liberia where many Liberians are opting for such to try people they claim committed crimes against the state during the decade long conflict.

United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan says the decision for the establishment of a court in Liberia can be made by the government of the day, and that the UN can assist with providing the needed funds, but does not in any way facilitate it.

Responding to reporters' inquires relative to calls for the establishment of a war crime court such as the one in neighboring Sierra Leone, he said the world body has never received any formal request from the Liberian government, but added that they would act if this was done.

He told Liberians during a press conference at the UNMIL headquarters yesterday that the fight against impunity is the concern of all and those who bear the greatest weight of crimes against humanity must face it, not only in Liberia, but in Somalia, Angola and the rest of the world.

According to him, those who commit such crimes will be held to account, regardless of the position they held -you can be a head of state, a common criminal, but in the end, you will pay. He added that the days impunity was allowed to stand are gone.

Delineating war crimes and truth and reconciliation commission such as the one on the ground, he said "Here, the government has made a choice. It has opted for a Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), which is also a mechanism South Africa used." Saying that there are many ways to skin a cat, he also noted judging from the experience Liberia had gone through, there are several 'edging tasks' that need to be taken into account- reconciliation, peace and need for justice.

He said Liberians have to circumspect as to how they approach those "essential task." "Some governments have chosen the route of truth and reconciliation, in order to reconcile the country, to put the past behind and build peace and stabilize the country. So I am not going to second-guess the government. If they decide to take another route, that is fine," he said.

According to him, this is how the international community decided to establish the Sierra Leonean Court and pursue people who have committed international crimes.

Whether the UN boss statement will invigorate the group that is advocating the establishment of a war crimes court, or emaciate it is a mere conjecture, but observers think the statement should serve as a basis for the abandonment of the quest.

Instead, observers say all Liberians, including the war crime court advocates should lend support to the TRC in order to attain its enshrined purpose.

At the same time, Mr. Annan has lauded the Liberian media for the resilience it has shown to get Liberia where it is. "Freedom of the press was not always the case in Liberia, so I am delighted to see many Liberian journalists here today," he added.

According to him, Liberian journalists played a crucial role in the democratic process, and hoped that they will play similar role in "a responsible manner with commitment, fairness and objectivity."

United Nations  Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 5 July 2006

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

International Clips on Liberia

UN chief greeted by Liberian protests calling for war crimes court

MONROVIA, July 4, 2006 (AFP) - Hundreds of demonstrators calling for the setting up of a war crimes court for Liberia took to the streets here Tuesday as UN Secretary General Kofi Annan addressed the Liberian parliament. An AFP reporter saw the protestors, most of them human rights activists carry 16 coffins across the steamy capital chanting for a Liberian tribunal to try those accused of war crimes during the country's civil conflicts.

AP 07/05/2006 10:28:51

Son of Liberian president pleads not guilty to passport fraud

MIAMI _ The son of former Liberian President Charles Taylor pleaded not guilty Wednesday to passport fraud charges, and was sent back to jail to await trial. Charles McArthur Emmanuel, also known as Charles "Chuckie" Taylor Jr., did not speak during the brief hearing and wore handcuffs and shackles when brought in for the session before U.S. Magistrate Judge Robert Dube.

International Clips on West Africa

AP 07/05/2006 07:53:49

African leaders in Ivory Coast to discuss peace process

By PAULINE BAX

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast_U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan and other African peacemakers were on Wednesday to meet with the president of Ivory Coast, where elections are looming despite delays in disarming the divided country's warring factions. Annan was to meet Ivory Coast President Laurent Gbagbo on Wednesday along with two other African leaders who have helped mediated here: Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo and South African President Thabo Mbeki.

BBC Last Updated: Wednesday, 5 July 2006, 09:47 GMT 10:47 UK

UN head in Ivory Coast peace bid

UN head Kofi Annan is to meet Ivory Coast's President Laurent Gbagbo to urge that October's elections go ahead and boost the flagging peace process. The president has urged his supporters, who demonstrated violently against the United Nations in January, to welcome the UN secretary general. The UN deployed peacekeepers there after rebels seized the north in 2002. The BBC's James Copnall says elections are looking increasingly unlikely as disarmament has yet to take place. It is Mr Annan's first visit to the country since the civil war began four years ago.

Local Media – Newspapers

UN Secretary-General’s Visit to Liberia Remains Top Story

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

- President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf yesterday bestowed one of Liberia’s highest honours-- Grand Order of the Knighthood of Pioneer—on United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan for his many contributions to peace in Liberia.
- Addressing a press conference in Monrovia earlier, Mr. Annan said that the request for the establishment of a war crimes court for Liberia would be submitted to the Security Council for consideration only if such a proposal was made by the Government of Liberia and not by a group of individuals, adding that the request for the establishment of a truth and reconciliation commission was made by the Government of Liberia.
- Addressing the National Legislature, Secretary-General Annan urged Liberians to put in place measures which would lead to the lifting of sanctions on resources and travel ban on individuals including, House of Representatives Speaker Edwin Snowe and Bong County Senator Jewel Howard-Taylor.
- He also called on the lawmakers to ratify the anti-corruption treaty Liberia had signed to ensure rapid growth of the country’s economy and infrastructure.
- Mr. Annan also inaugurated the Pan Africa Plaza as UNMIL Headquarters and described it as a “powerful symbol of peace and a rebirth of the Liberian nation.”

House Speaker Calls for Immediate Review of Sanctions

(New Democrat)

- Welcoming the Secretary-General to the Capitol Building yesterday, House Speaker Edwin Snowe called on the UN to immediately review the sanctions on Liberia, saying that the conditions which necessitated the sanctions no longer exist.

Ex-Combatants’ Group Welcome Truth Commission

(New Democrat)

- The director of Liberia Ex-combatants Anxious for Development (LEAD), Francis Borlay, told *The Informer* yesterday that the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) was the best option for promoting healing, unity and justice following a brutal civil conflict.

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

UN to Consider Government’s Call for War Crimes Court

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

UN Chief Urges Liberians to Institute Measures to Remove Ban

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Magisterial Court Releases Suspected Armed Robbers from Prison

- The Monrovia Magisterial Court yesterday ordered the release from detention of 11 suspected armed robbers after the newly commissioned public defence counsel headed by Cllr. Elijah Cheapo had filed a motion seeking their release. Monrovia Magisterial Court Judge Milton Taylor ruled that the men had been in jail beyond the statutory period without trial, saying that their detention without trial violated their rights.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Workshop Participants Stress Need for Sex Education in Schools

- Participants at an advocacy training workshop in Gbarnga, Bong County, yesterday called for the introduction of sex education in the curriculum for Liberian schools to help reduce teenage pregnancy and maternal deaths.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Liberians Petition UN Envoy to Support Calls for War Crimes Court

- Hundreds of Liberians yesterday petitioned the United Nations to support their call for the establishment of a war crimes court for Liberia. The group, marching through the main streets of Monrovia under the banner of the Forum for the Establishment of a War Crimes Court, carried 16 symbolic caskets on their heads, chanting that they wanted the court to curb impunity.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Civil Servants Association Says Government Stalled Strike Action

- Mr. Jefferson Elliot, President of the Civil Servants Association of Liberia, attributed the failure of his group's industrial strike action to government's threat to sack any of its employees who would participate. He regretted that the strike could not hold because people wanted to protect their jobs. Civil Service Agency Director-General William Allen said that under the Liberian law, it is forbidden for civil servants to strike.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

UNMIL Daily Radio Summary **Wednesday, 5 July 2006**

Following are excerpts of select Liberian radio stations' news programs. Parts of the transcripts have been paraphrased and edited to conform to UNMIL style. The radio summary does not necessarily reflect the views of UNMIL.

RADIO VERITAS (*News monitored yesterday at 6:45 pm*)

UN to Consider Government's Call for War Crimes Court

- United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan, at a press conference in Monrovia yesterday, said that the request for the establishment of a war crimes court for Liberia would be submitted to the Security Council for consideration only if such a proposal was made by the Government of Liberia and not by a group of individuals, adding that the request for the establishment of a truth and reconciliation commission was made by the Government of Liberia.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

UN Chief Urges Liberians to Institute Measures to Remove Ban

- In his address to the National Legislature yesterday, Secretary-General Annan urged Liberians to put in place measures which would lead to the lifting of sanctions on resources and travel ban on individuals including, House of Representatives Speaker Edwin Snowe and Bong County Senator Jewel Howard-Taylor.
- He also called on the lawmakers to ratify the anti-corruption treaty Liberia had signed to ensure rapid growth of the country's economy and infrastructure.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Magisterial Court Releases Suspected Armed Robbers from Prison

- The Monrovia Magisterial Court yesterday ordered the release from detention of 11 suspected armed robbers after the nearly commissioned public defence counsel headed by Cllr. Elijah Cheapo had filed a motion seeking their release.
- Monrovia Magisterial Court Judge Milton Taylor ruled that the men had been in jail beyond the statutory period without trial, saying that their detention without trial violated their rights.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Workshop Participants Stress Need for Sex Education in Schools

- Participants at an advocacy training workshop in Gbarnga, Bong County, yesterday called for the introduction of sex education in the curriculum for Liberian schools to help reduce teenage pregnancy and maternal deaths.
- In their resolution, the participants also criticized the practice of female genital mutilation asserting that it poses health problems to mothers during deliveries.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Liberians Petition UN Envoy to Support Calls for War Crimes Court

- Hundreds of Liberians yesterday petitioned the United Nations to support their call for the establishment of a war crimes court for Liberia.
- The group, marching through the main streets of Monrovia under the banner of the Forum for the Establishment of a War Crimes Court, carried 16 symbolic caskets on their heads, chanting that they wanted the court to curb impunity.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Associated Press
Wednesday, 5 July 2006

Khmer Rouge judges begin workshop



A Cambodian court officer drinks 'oath' water at swearing-in ceremony.

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP) -- Newly sworn-in judges and prosecutors for a historic U.N.-backed tribunal in Cambodia began drawing up their plans Tuesday for trying former Khmer Rouge leaders for genocide and crimes against humanity, an official said.

The Cambodian and foreign judicial officials began a four-day workshop to discuss the "critical" points of convening the trials that are expected to start in 2007, said Reach Sambath, a spokesman for the tribunal's administration office.

The swearing-in of 17 Cambodian and 10 United Nations-appointed foreign jurists on Monday marked a major step forward in the process of seeking justice for the victims of the brutal Khmer Rouge regime, whose extremist policies in the late 1970s are estimated to have taken 1.7 million lives.

"They will be discussing prosecutorial and judicial planning and their code of ethics. All these points are critical for their work," Reach Sambath said.

The foreign jurists will be studying Cambodian traditions and the laws under which the Khmer Rouge tribunal was established, while their Cambodian counterparts will learn about international laws and other genocide tribunals.

Nicolas Michel, U.N. Under Secretary-General for legal affairs, called the swearing-in "a historic landmark" but also said it was "just the beginning" step on the road to justice.

"There will be moments of great satisfaction, but also moments of doubt," he said Monday, urging the judges and prosecutors to act with professionalism and impartiality. "Your best qualities will be required: moral strength and the determination to reach our goal."

The tribunal offices were inaugurated early this year after Cambodia and the U.N. agreed in 2003 to jointly establish the tribunal.

Drawn-out negotiations that started in 1999 and funding problems have led some critics to suggest that Prime Minister Hun Sen's government has intentionally stalled the court process to avoid embarrassing Khmer Rouge members who have become government backers.

The Khmer Rouge movement collapsed in 1999, but none of its top leaders have been held accountable for the atrocities. Pol Pot died in 1998, but several of his top deputies, aging and infirm, still live freely in Cambodia.

Nuon Chea, the number two leader of the Khmer Rouge leadership, said Monday he would go before the tribunal.

"I will be glad to go so that people in my country and other countries will know the truth of what happened," he told The Associated Press in the northwestern town of Pailin, where he lives with other former top Khmer Rouge leaders.

BBC

Wednesday, 5 July 2006

Uganda rebel chief 'still wanted'

The International Criminal Court says its arrest warrant for the leader of Uganda's northern rebels still stands despite a Ugandan offer of an amnesty.

On Tuesday, President Yoweri Museveni promised to grant Lord's Resistance Army leader Joseph Kony amnesty if peace talks next week are successful.

Mr Kony and four others were indicted by the ICC for war crimes last year.



Joseph Kony calls himself a freedom fighter

The talks between the government and rebels are considered northern Uganda's best chance for peace in years.

They are scheduled to take place next week in the southern Sudanese town of Juba, and will be mediated by the south Sudan regional government.

In a recent BBC interview, Mr. Kony denied the LRA had carried out atrocities, particularly on children.

Thousands have died in the two-decade conflict between rebels and the government, and some two million have been forced to flee their homes.

Welcomed

"The position of the court up till now is that these warrants of arrest remain in force and the court has received assurances from the relevant countries that they will co-operate in effecting these warrants of arrest," the ICC's spokesman Ernest Sagaga told the BBC's Network Africa programme.

When asked if the ICC would withdraw the arrest warrants in the interests of peace, Mr Sagaga said he was unable to comment on this, saying to would be "premature to do so".

He said as the court did not have its own army or police force, member countries were obliged and expected to co-operate with the court.

Even though the south Sudan and Ugandan government were planning to meet the rebels, he said: "We have no reason not to believe what they said to the court that their co-operation will be forthcoming regarding this matter."

'Abandon terrorism'

The BBC's East Africa correspondent Karen Allen says the latest stance taken by President Museveni is bound to enrage many in the international community. But a senior church leader in the Acholi region welcomed the move.

“
virtue and a value to be very
”

Archbishop Odama

[Should amnesty be offered?
Joseph Kony profile](#)

"Forgiveness is always a virtue and a value to be very much promoted nationwide and internationally," the Archbishop of Gulu, John Baptist Odama, told the BBC.

He said despite the horrors that rebels had carried out, those who returned from the bush and asked for forgiveness were accepted back into the communities.

"Revenge should not be seen as justice."

"I have seen people live with those who have returned and they know they killed their children, they even greet them. I think that is magnanimity of the heart."

Earlier, Mr Museveni's office said in a statement that it would grant the amnesty if the rebel leader "responds positively to the talks... and abandons terrorism", despite the ICC indictments.

The statement comes a week after the BBC's Newsnight programme broadcast an interview with the elusive Joseph Kony, in which he described himself as a "freedom fighter".

He said stories of LRA rebels cutting off people's ears or lips were Ugandan government propaganda.

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

First permanent court to try individuals for genocide, war crimes and other human rights violations

Rome Statute set up in July 1998, when 120 countries adopted the treaty

Came into force in April 2002 after ratification by 60 countries
Uganda and DR Congo investigations began in 2004

Q&A: International Criminal Court

The Analyst (Monrovia)

Tuesday, 4 July 2006

It's Time To Make Real Promises

EDITORIAL

A WEEK OR two prior to his arrival in Liberia yesterday, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan issued a number of finales about the prospects of peace and security in Liberia.

He praised the transfer of former President Charles Taylor to The Hague, acknowledged that security remains fragile but that prospects for improvement were high, and as usual, promised the UN's commitment to peace-building and the reconstruction of Liberia. In addition to that, the Secretary General hailed the partial lifting of timber sanctions and armed embargo and in his view thought the action by the world body provided opportunities for the Sirleaf Administration to work systematically for the return of peace in Liberia.

THE UN SECURITY Council has been at the forefront of returning Liberia to sanity following more than a decade of mayhem. Besides organizing the world into a forum under the banner of ICGL, UN has been engaging Liberian stakeholders and the international community in discussions for Liberia's reconstruction, peace, and security. Throughout its engagement with the resolution of the problems of Liberia dating back some six years, the UN through Secretary General Kofi Annan, has been circumspect in its policies on Liberia, all along ensuring that the major responsibilities for the return of sanity is placed squarely at the doorsteps of the Liberian government.

For instance even though it needs no telling that the present security problem in the country is the direct feedback of the failure of the DDRR programme, the Security Council seemed convinced that it is the government of Liberia that should find solution to the problem of increasing insecurity.

SOME SAY THE partial lifting of timbers and arms sanctions is intended to strength the Security Council in its argument that the government of Liberia should take responsibility for the state of affairs in the country. Once the sanctions are lifting, the Council expects the government of Liberia to revamp its own economy, provide employment for former combatants, and design programs and activities for the rehabilitation of the nation's displaced population. Specifically, the under partially lifted sanctions in timbers and arms, the government is expected to rid troubled enclaves of armed bandits who are currently exploiting the rubber resources of the country as well as resettle IDPs and reconstruct the country with the revenue it hopes to generate. The more successfully the government does this, in the view of the UN, the more it will be established that it is worthy of international trust, confidence, and financial cooperation in the form of debt forgiveness or rescheduling under the heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) initiatives.

IF WE GUESS rightly, the UN have crafted it policies on Liberia with the goal of helping the country to stamp it ownership on the process leading to the final resolution of the nation's multifaceted conflicts.

Instead of spoon-feeding the government, the UN wants to train it to the act of taking its destiny into its own hands from the beginning so that it will not be dependent on foreign assistance

forever. It must have reasoned that given that the conflict of Liberia is a tale of official mismanagement and callous exploitation of the resources of the country, the process out of the current difficulties must involve the government and stakeholders. This is fine and we encourage the UN to continue along this line of engagement.

HAVING CONCEDED THE propriety of UN's policy of engagement in Liberia, we want to indicate here that there were mistakes and excesses committed along the way that need correction now that the Secretary General of the United Nations is in the country to obtain first-hand information of what exactly is obtaining in the country security wise. For example, there is an urgent need to review the portion of UNMIL's mandate that says that the security of Liberia is in its hands and that therefore it is illegal for any Liberian security unit to carry arms. The review needs to look at the reality of the security situation in the country vis-à-vis the legal arguments often raised by officers of UNMIL and UNCIVPOL that they cannot prosecute criminals under the Liberian laws and therefore they cannot confront criminals and make arrests. There is also the need to review the expectations that the lifting of the sanctions now is all that is required for the Sirleaf Administration to begin taking onto itself the headaches associated with the nation's economic development and reconstruction.

WHILE WE AGREE that the nation needs to take charge of its own future, we think it is too early for the world body to begin shifting responsibilities. There is just too much to be done in post-conflict Liberia for anyone to expect a government that is yet to find its own political bearings to take on single-handedly.

There is just too much to be shoved under the feet of the Sirleaf Administration with the blind hope that the problem of insecurity and economic underdevelopment will vanished into thin air under the sheer weight of promises by the international community and the UN that are scarcely delivered on.

IT IS IN view of this that we call on the UN to come to the realization that all Liberia needs in its present state is real promises. Promises that are deliverable and deliverable on time; promises that are in tune with reality; and promises that will work for the return to security, peace, and political stability in Liberia and the ECOWAS subregion.

Human Rights Watch

Thursday, 6 July 2006

Press Release

Guinea: Security Forces Respond to Protests with Killings

Government Must Investigate and Prosecute Those Responsible for Abuses

(Conakry, July 6, 2006) - In response to a nationwide strike protesting increases in the prices of rice and fuel, Guinea's security forces committed murder, rape, assault and theft against demonstrators and bystanders alike, Human Rights Watch said today.

The Guinean government must immediately investigate and prosecute those responsible for the abuses, which occurred during the week of June 12, shortly after Guinea's main labor unions had called a nationwide strike. Human Rights Watch interviewed more than 50 victims and witnesses to abuses committed in the Guinean capital Conakry and in one of Guinea's regional capitals, Labé.

Eyewitnesses to 13 killings in Conakry and Labé told Human Rights Watch how security forces fired directly into crowds of unarmed demonstrators. Police and gendarmes also beat other protesters with truncheons and rifle butts.

"The Guinean government cannot allow its security forces to get away with killing unarmed protesters and attacking bystanders," said Peter Takirambudde, Africa director at Human Rights Watch. "The lethal use of force against protestors was wholly disproportionate and inappropriate in the circumstances."

As protestors dispersed into surrounding neighbourhoods, police and gendarmes pursued them, rampaging through the homes and businesses of local residents, beating not only the protesters, but also many others, including women, children and elderly men who had not participated in the protests. Two women told Human Rights Watch that they were raped by security forces in their homes. Numerous witnesses described how both during and in the days following the protests, police and gendarmes stole valuables at gunpoint, including cell phones, household electronics and money from both protestors and bystanders.

Many of those interviewed by Human Rights Watch had been arrested and taken to police detention facilities where they reported being beaten with clubs, held for several days, and freed only after family members bribed police officers to secure their release.

On Monday, June 12, four days after Guinea's main labor unions called a nationwide strike to protest price hikes for basic commodities, secondary students scheduled to take national baccalaureate exams arrived at school to find that there was no one to supervise the tests because the teacher's union had joined the strike. In response, thousands of students took to the streets of Conakry, Labé, N'zérékore and other towns across the country in protest, chanting anti-government slogans and calling for the government to step down.

In some locations, students and other civilians set up barricades, burned tires, threw rocks at security forces and burned cars. In Labé, students vandalized several government installations, breaking windows and damaging walls at the offices of the governor, mayor and prefect. One

witness interviewed by Human Rights Watch in Labé described seeing a group of angry civilians beating a soldier and arguing about whether to burn his motorcycle.

While the official death toll stands at 11, a group of local civil society organizations maintains that 21 people were killed by gunfire from the Guinean security forces during the demonstrations nationwide. In a radio broadcast on June 12, the Guinean government expressed its condolences to victims' families, but accused opposition parties of trying to destabilize the government by providing finance and equipment to individuals who took part in the demonstrations.

The Guinean government has legal obligations under several international and African human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, which require it to respect the right to life and freedoms of expression and assembly. The actions of the security forces during the first weeks of June violated those obligations. Human Rights Watch called on the government to ensure that no more violations occurred and that the victims of all violations were provided a remedy.

Human Rights Watch also called on the Guinean security forces to abide by the U.N. Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials in policing demonstrations. The principles require that law enforcement officials, in carrying out their duty, shall as far as possible apply non-violent means before resorting to the use of force. Whenever the lawful use of force is unavoidable, law enforcement officials must use restraint and act in proportion to the seriousness of the offense.

The abuses committed in early June, however, were only the most recent in a series of incidents in which Guinean security forces have fired on unarmed demonstrators. Human Rights Watch interviewed victims and witnesses to a protest in Conakry in February when soldiers fired on demonstrators, resulting in two wounded and one killed, during an earlier nationwide strike to protest increases in basic commodity prices. In November, three protestors in the central Guinean town of Telimélé were reportedly killed after soldiers opened fire on students demanding more teachers. In September, two individuals in the northern town of Kouroussa were reportedly seriously injured after a prefect's guards opened fire on a crowd protesting government corruption.

"Lethal use of force against protestors has become a recurring problem in Guinea," said Takirambudde. "The Guinean government must demonstrate that it is serious about protecting the lives of all Guineans by quickly investigating these abuses."