

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



PRESS CLIPPINGS

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

as at:

Tuesday, 6 July 2010

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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Issa Sesay testifies in Taylor trial

Former interim leader of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) yesterday told Special Court judges in The Hague that he never gave diamonds to former Liberian president, Charles Taylor.

Issa Sesay, serving a 52-year prison sentence in Rwanda under the watchful eyes of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, was a surprise witness for the defence in the case of Taylor, accused of supporting RUF rebels during Sierra Leone's 11-year civil war in exchange for diamonds and other natural resources. The war killed an estimated 500,000 people, with some of the worst atrocities committed by rebels.

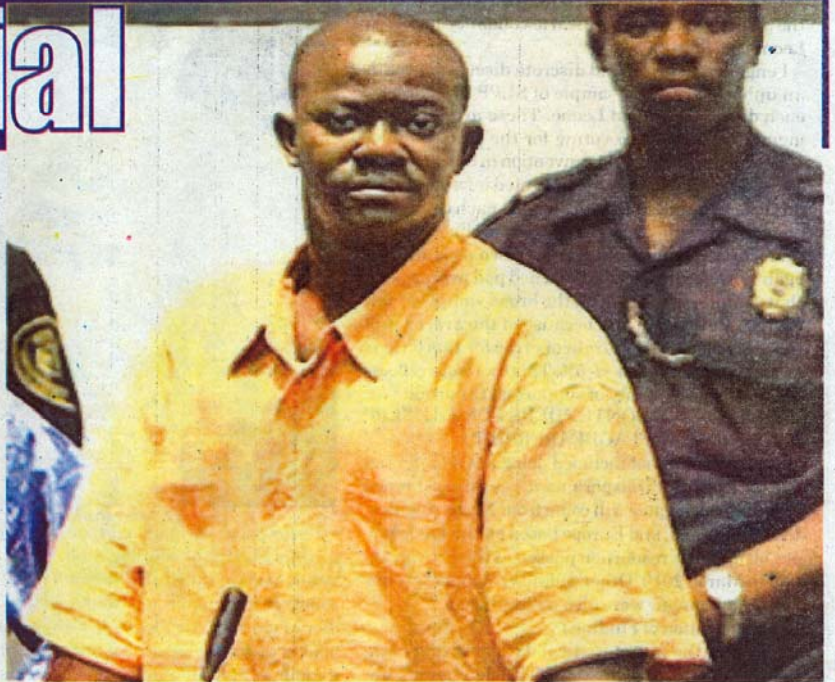
Sesay also told the trial judges that he had no

knowledge of other rebel leaders giving Taylor gems, stating that the leadership of the Revolutionary United Front was "strained".

Spokesperson of the Special Court, Peter Andersen, yesterday confirmed to Concord Times the appearance of Sesay as a defence witness in The Hague trial of the former Liberian leader. He said the ex-rebel strongman is estimated to testify for 44 hours or eight days on-chief, to be followed by cross examination.

Taylor has denied possessing any diamonds as a result of the war. But prosecutors have summoned British

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Sesay: 'I never gave diamonds to Charles Taylor'

Issa Sesay testifies in Taylor trial

From page 1

supermodel, Naomi Campbell, to testify later this month about reports that she received diamonds from Taylor during a 1997 reception in South Africa.

Asked by defence attorneys about the atrocities attributed to the rebel force during the war, Sesay acknowledged that some rebel commanders committed murder, rape

and enslavement of their enemies, and that instances of amputating limbs occurred. But he was quick to point out that it was not the RUF's policy to terrorize civilians to force them into submission.

Issa Sesay is the highest profile witness to appear for Taylor's defence in a case which has gone on for more than two years.

With his conviction last year, Sesay received the longest prison sentence of the eight RUF and Civil Defence Forces commanders brought before the Special Court for Sierra Leone. He is serving his sentence in Rwanda.

Taylor's case is the last to come to trial by the Special Court. He has pleaded not guilty to 11 counts of war crimes.

Concord Times
Tuesday, 6 July 2010

Naomi's closest aide speaks out ahead of appearance

ISSUES

By Barbara Davies

Naomi Campbell prefers not to talk about her meeting with former Liberian dictator Charles Taylor. Which, given his current situation, is hardly surprising.

On trial at an international war crimes court in The Hague, the 62-year-old Taylor is not the kind of man whose number any self-respecting supermodel would want to keep in her little black book.

The former warlord is accused of fuelling a bloody civil war in Sierra Leone as well as rape, murder and conscripting child soldiers.

It is hard to imagine a less likely figure to be consorting with the Streatham-born supermodel.

Yet when their paths crossed at a social function in South Africa in 1997, the former Liberian dictator is said to have been so smitten with Campbell that he gave her a large diamond as a token of his affection.

And if the tale is true, say prosecutors at the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone, it could help secure a conviction against a man who, according to one witness, ordered human sacrifices to celebrate his rise to power in Liberia and encouraged cannibalism among his soldiers to terrify his enemies.

Taylor is said to have provided arms to rebel soldiers in neighbouring Sierra Leone in return for rough, uncut 'blood diamonds' - so called because they're often mined in a war zone and then 'sold' on to finance bloody insurgencies - smuggled out of the country in jars of mayonnaise.

He denies ever possessing such gems, and all the charges against him. Campbell's testimony, then, is vital to the case against him.

And this week, after repeatedly refusing to be formally interviewed about the incident, she was ordered by court officials to appear before the Special Court on July 29 to testify or 'show good cause why' she cannot.

Campbell, who is dating Russian billionaire property mogul Vladimir Doronin, says that she fears for the safety of her family if she gets involved.

Most intriguingly of all, the 40-year-old supermodel has denied the diamond story outright. 'I didn't receive a diamond and I'm not going to speak about that, thank you,' she told ABC news in April before flouncing off camera, apparently knocking it over in the process.

Unfortunately for Campbell, however, fellow guests with her that memorable night in Septem-

ber 1997 when the supermodel and the dictator met give a conflicting version of events and tell a far more disturbing story.

One who spoke to the Mail this week, Campbell's former agent Carole White, said: 'There were six small diamonds. They weren't cut. They were in a bit of paper. I saw them. I had them in my hand.'

The supermodel's trip to South Africa in the early autumn was, without doubt, motivated only by her desire to help Nelson Mandela's Children's Fund, a charity he set up in 1994 not long after becoming President of a newly-democratic South Africa.

Mandela had personally invited her to attend the celebrity-studded inauguration journey of The Blue Train, South Africa's answer to the Orient Express.

'Naomi did a lot of charity work for Nelson Mandela,' says Carole White, owner of Premier Model Management in London, who accompanied Campbell on the trip. 'His charity was connected to the promotion so it was just a thing she did. It was a good thing for her to do.'

During the 27-hour, 1,000-mile journey from Pretoria to Cape Town, travelling through some of the most spectacular scenery in Africa, Campbell dined on zebra and rubbed shoulders with other

high profile guests such as actress Mia Farrow, cricketer Imran Khan and his then wife Jemima, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Michael Jackson's producer Quincy Jones as well as Mandela and his future wife Graca Machel.

And when the guests arrived in Cape Town the following day, they dined at Mandela's home, a sprawling 18th-century mansion on the Groote Schuur estate which once belonged to Sir Cecil Rhodes. It was here that Campbell met Taylor for the first time.

He had just been elected President of Liberia, and while Mandela's then partner Graca Machel is said to have expressed concern about his presence at the charity dinner, the full extent of Taylor's despotism had yet to be revealed.

At dinner, Campbell found herself seated next to the tyrant and, according to White, a woman once affectionately described by Campbell as her 'surrogate mother', it wasn't long before the subject of diamonds came up.

'It came up over dinner,' she says. 'I was there. I heard it. Charles Taylor was there and Naomi was seated next to him and then there was the Minister of Defence from his country and I was seated next to him. Mia Farrow was opposite.'



A group photograph taken at Pretoria station before the celebrities departed in the luxurious Blue Train for Cape Town

Asked why she thinks Taylor wanted to discuss giving diamonds to Campbell, she gives a one word answer: 'flirting'.

But it was Ms White who was to be in charge of the logistics.

She adds: 'I was dealing with everything - how was she going to get them, because Taylor didn't have them in his possession?

'I was asked by Charles Taylor and Naomi and his Minister of Defence to organise letting his people, who were going to bring the diamonds from Johannesburg to Cape Town, into the guest compound where we were staying.

'The diamonds came that night. Everyone was asleep.'

Ms White has already given a statement about the events of that night to the Special Court in The Hague via her lawyer in London.

Court papers show that her account has been received.

One document reads that Ms White 'personally heard Mr Taylor say that he wanted to give diamonds to Ms Campbell and she personally saw the diamonds delivered.'

White has also been told that she is one of three new witnesses who will be summoned to give evidence in July or August. Campbell is another. The third is Mia Farrow.

Her recollection of the events of that night is what sparked the entire 'blood diamond' scandal.

Last June, when she became aware of the nature of Charles Taylor's trial, she contacted the court to tell them she had vital evidence.

Farrow claims that Campbell blurted out the 'unforgettable story' about the diamonds over breakfast the morning after their dinner at Mandela's home.

'You don't forget when a girlfriend tells you that she was given a huge diamond in the middle of the night,' she told American news channel ABC.

'She said that during the night some men had knocked on her door, and she, half asleep, had opened it, and they were representatives of Charles Taylor and they had given her a huge diamond. There's no doubt in my mind.

'She said she was going to give it to President Mandela's children's charity and I thought no more about it.'

Carole White insists that Campbell - who she believed was given all six of the gems - did, indeed, give the diamonds to Mandela's charity.

She adds: 'Otherwise I would have been carrying them illegally out of South Africa.

'Even though we didn't know the origin of Taylor's diamonds we knew that anyone found in possession of any diamond by customs authorities is expected to produce certification from where it has been obtained - and I didn't have that so I wasn't prepared to do it.

'It would have been a really bad thing to do.'

White adds that they were only in Campbell's possession for 'probably a day'.

Asked if she knows who the diamonds were handed to, she says: 'Yes I do, but I'm not going to say.'

According to the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund no diamonds have ever been received from Campbell.

Certainly, it is fair to say that the charity would have been a highly inappropriate destination for Taylor's 'blood diamonds'.

They may well have been dug up by the child slaves working in Sierra Leone's diamond mines in the 1990s.

The country's diamonds were first discovered in 1930 by a British geologist and the illegally-traded gems, also found in Zimbabwe, Angola and the Congo, have a long and dark history.

During World War II, while

Naomi's closest aide speaks out ahead of appearance

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working for M16, the author Graham Greene was sent to Sierra Leone to stop blood diamonds reaching the Nazi war machine.

More recently, they have been used to fund terrorism and civil wars.

And once the diamonds have been traded for arms, middlemen pass them on to diamond cutters in places such as Tel Aviv and Antwerp where they can be mixed up with legally traded diamonds.

Taylor, who was President of Liberia between 1991 and 2003, is alleged to have taken diamonds in exchange for arming the rebel Revolutionary United Front in Sierra Leone.

He is also accused of assisting the RUF in the recruitment of child soldiers and encouraging them to hack off the arms of civilian prisoners.

Given these accusations, one can imagine why Campbell might

wish to keep her involvement with Taylor private.

There is a possibility, of course, if White's recollection is right, that Campbell is not just seeking to protect her own reputation by refusing to speak about her meeting, but is also afraid that giving evidence in court will somehow reflect negatively upon Mandela's charity.

In the past, she has often spoken about her admiration for Mandela, a man she likes to describe as her 'adopted grandfather'.

White says: 'I've no idea why she wouldn't talk about it because, eventually, what she did with the diamonds was a good thing. She didn't take them out of the country.'

And yet Campbell looked unquestionably furious when asked about the 'blood diamond' allegations by U.S. channel ABC news in April. After denying ever receiving a single

diamond, she deftly sidestepped a question about dining with Taylor: 'I had dinner with Nelson Mandela, thank you very much.'

When she appeared on Oprah Winfrey's show in the U.S. last month, Campbell gave a more civilised, if brief, explanation for her silence. 'I don't want to be involved in this man's case,' she said. 'He has done some terrible things and I don't want to put my family in danger.'

But prosecutors at the Special Court for Sierra Leone, which is being held at The Hague, claim that Campbell's evidence would show that the former president 'used rough diamonds for personal enrichment and arms purpose'.

Her spokesman confirmed to the Mail that she has accepted service of the subpoena.

How Campbell responds to this remains to be seen. But the subpoena itself states that

'wifely failure to comply with the terms of this subpoena constitutes contempt of the Special Court pursuant to Rule 77.'

It further warns that if Campbell fails to comply she faces seven years' imprisonment or a fine of two million Sierra Leonean Leones - about £350 - or both.

But in practice, it is not clear what real power the tribunal has over Campbell.

According to court spokesman Peter Anderson: 'The expectation is that anyone who receives a subpoena will go to court. That's been the case with everyone who has been subpoenaed by the court in the past and I hope it will continue.'

The wording of the subpoena states that the court 'respectfully requests the authorities of the state in which Ms Campbell is residing to assist in the enforcement of this order'.

If a witness refuses to

appear, the court can make representation under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1688 which 'encourages all states to ensure that any evidence or witnesses are, upon the request of the Special Court, promptly made available to the Special Court'.

But Campbell currently spends much of her time living with her Russian lover in Moscow from where she may well be untouchable.

The supermodel has indicated that she will fully cooperate with the subpoena - but if she does not it could do much damage to her public image, which is already fragile.

The question that everyone will be asking themselves is why 'Campbell isn't' talking about her brief encounter with Taylor, even if only to deny - or to clarify - the stories that are being told by those who were with her that memorable night.

Credit: Mail Online

Ex-rebel Denies Giving Charles Taylor Diamonds

A Sierra Leone ex-rebel has denied giving "blood diamonds" to former Liberian President Charles Taylor at the war crimes trial in the Hague.

Issa Sesay, who is serving a 52-year jail term, said Mr. Taylor had not been in charge of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebel group during the war.

Taylor is accused of using diamonds to fuel a conflict in Sierra Leone that cost tens of thousands of lives.

He has pleaded not guilty to 11 charges.

The UN-backed war crimes tribunal in The Hague has spent more than two years hearing the case, with seven months spent with Mr Taylor himself on the stand.

Sesay, 40, was sentenced in October 2009 by the same Special Court, which was set up to try suspects from the civil war.

Taylor, 62, is suspected of selling diamonds and buying weapons for Sierra Leone's RUF rebels, who were notorious for hacking off the hands and legs of civilians during the 1991-2001 civil war. Tens of thousands of people died in the interlinked conflicts in Sierra Leone and Liberia.

Sesay, the highest profile witness to testify for Taylor's defence, said he had never given Mr Taylor gems and that, as far as he knew, neither had other leaders.

"No, I don't remember giving diamonds to Mr. Charles Taylor," he told the court.

He also denied receiving weapons or ammunition from Taylor, and said the first time he met him was in May 2000. Sesay did acknowledge that some rebel commanders had been responsible for murders and rapes during the conflict.

Contd. P4



Issa Sesay: denied giving diamonds

Ex-rebel denies giving Charles Taylor diamonds

From Front Page

and said that the amputation of limbs had occurred.

But it had not been the policy of the rebel group to use such actions, he said.

Prosecutors have ordered supermodel Naomi Campbell to appear as a witness on 29 July, after claims that she received a

diamond from Taylor at a reception in South Africa in 1997.

Ms Campbell has previously declined to provide testimony.

In an interview on the Oprah Winfrey Show, she neither confirmed nor denied that she received the gem, instead saying:

"I don't want to be involved in this man's case. He has done some terrible things, and I don't want to put my family in danger."

US actress, Mia Farrow, who Ms Campbell allegedly told about the gift, may also testify.

The Exclusive
Tuesday, 6 July 2010

Issa Sesay Leaves Rwandan Prison

War crimes convict and former leader of the defunct Revolutionary United Front (RUF), General Issa Sesay who is serving a life sentence at the Mpanga Prison in Rwanda, has been taken from his cell and transported by a United Nations special plane to The Hague where he yesterday started giving testimony in the Charles Taylor trial.

Issa Sesay is a defence witness, and his testimony is expected to take 44 hours at least or eight days at most. After his testimony, he will be cross-examined by prosecutors.

An inside source at the Special Court

for Sierra Leone in Freetown told this press last night that the reason why the Defence chose Issa Sesay as a witness is because he was the one who reportedly dealt with Mr Taylor while the substantive RUF leader, Foday Saybana Sankoh, was in a Nigerian jail. It is alleged that Sesay's testimony will be very crucial for My Taylor's defence and the Prosecution will try to find loopholes in his testimony.

After Issa Sesay's testimony, he might stay in the Netherlands for about two days before he will be secretly transported back to Mpanga Prison which has become his permanent home.

Awareness Times

Tuesday, 6 July 2010

Issa Sesay starts testifying in defence of Taylor

Former RUF strongman, Issa Sesay today Monday 5th July, 2010 takes the witness stand as a defence witness in the ongoing Charles Taylor trial in The Hague. It is estimated according to reports from the Special Court for Sierra Leone that he will testify for 44 hours, approximately 8 days to be followed by cross examination from the prosecution. Issa is one of the numerous witnesses to testify on behalf of the former rebel war lord who is on indictment for war crimes and crimes against humanity allegedly perpetrated by him during Sierra Leone's eleven-year long rebel carnage that ended in 2002.

CharlesTaylorTrial.org (The Hague)

Monday, 5 July 2010

Liberia: Former Rebel Leader, Convicted of War Crimes, Testifies for Charles Taylor

Alpha Sesay

A former Sierra Leonean rebel leader, released from his jail cell in Rwanda to testify on behalf of Charles Taylor, today rejected claims that the former Liberian president received diamonds from his neighboring rebel group, nor controlled the rebels' actions during Sierra Leone's bloody civil conflict.

Issa Sesay, who led the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebel group for a short period in the late 1990s, has himself been convicted of charges including war crimes and crimes against humanity for his role in the Sierra Leonean conflict and is serving a 52-year long jail sentence. Prosecutors allege that Mr. Sesay had traveled regularly to Liberia to deliver diamonds to Mr. Taylor in exchange for arms and ammunition during the country's brutal conflict, that that he had received direct orders from Mr. Taylor. Mr. Taylor has denied all allegations against him.

"Was Charles Taylor ever in charge of the RUF, Mr. Sesay?" Mr. Taylor's lead defense counsel, Courtenay Griffiths, asked the former RUF leader today.

"To my knowledge, no," Mr. Sesay responded.

Special Court for Sierra Leone

Transfer of Charles Taylor for trial for war crimes in the Hague, Liberia

Previous prosecution witnesses have told the Special Court for Sierra Leone that Mr. Sesay was not the only rebel leader to bring diamonds to Mr. Taylor -- others, including RUF founder and head, Foday Sankoh, and leading commander, Sam Bockarie, also traveled regularly to Liberia with diamonds for the former Liberian president. In his testimony today, Mr. Sesay denied taking diamonds to Mr. Taylor, and said neither Mr. Sankoh nor Mr. Bockarie told him about taking diamonds to Mr. Taylor either.

"Did you ever give diamonds to Charles Taylor, Mr. Sesay?" Mr. Griffiths asked the witness.

"Me, I never one day gave diamonds to Mr. Taylor," Mr. Sesay responded.

"To your knowledge, did Foday Sankoh ever give diamonds to Mr. Taylor?" Mr. Griffiths asked again.

"Foday Sankoh never told me that," Mr. Sesay said.

Asked again whether Mr. Bockarie ever gave diamonds to Mr. Taylor, Mr. Sesay responded: "Sam Bockarie never told me that."

Mr. Sesay also spoke extensively about the training of RUF fighters at Camp Naama in Liberia and how the rebel group conducted itself during the civil conflict in Sierra Leone. Speaking about the RUF's plans to invade Sierra Leone in 1991, the witness told the court that Mr. Taylor never played any role in the formation of the RUF. He did, however, admit that the RUF committed crimes against Sierra Leonean civilians, including rape, murder, looting, forced labor and recruitment and use of children for combat purposes- crimes for which prosecutors say that Mr. Taylor bears responsibility (and which Mr. Taylor denies).

When asked by Mr. Griffiths whether RUF members were involved in looting, Mr. Sesay said: "yes sir, RUF members looted."

On allegations that RUF members committed murder, Mr. Sesay said "yes, RUF members committed murder."

On the crime of rape: "yes, RUF fighters, that happened."

And on the recruitment of child soldiers: "well, the children, some of the commanders used to do it but it was not an official policy of the RUF that children should be trained like adults," Mr. Sesay said.

Mr. Sesay also told the court that during the conflict in Sierra Leone, RUF rebels obtained arms and ammunition mostly from enemy forces, but that Mr. Sankoh also used to buy some from Guinean forces.

Contrary to prosecution allegations that it was Mr. Taylor who appointed him as interim leader of the RUF, Mr. Sesay told the court that he was appointed by the West African leaders during a meeting in Liberia. His appointment was not made by Mr. Taylor alone, he told the court.

Mr. Sesay's testimony continues tomorrow.

NEWS ITEM

July 5, 2010

War Crimes Convict and Former RUF Leader, Issa Sesay has been given time off his 52 year jail sentence in Rwanda and brought to The Hague to testify for Former Liberian President, Charles Taylor, the man who allegedly ordered Mr. Sesay to rain terror on his own country and people. On direct examination Mr. Sesay denied some of the Prosecution's allegations against Mr. Taylor. BBC World Service Trust, John Kollie transcribes reports for the BBC World Service Trust on the trial of former Liberian president Charles Taylor in The Hague...

Former Liberian President, Charles Taylor is accused of the supporting the defunct Sierra Rebels, the RUF with arms and ammunition in exchange for diamonds.

The Prosecution alleged that Mr. Taylor commanded the RUF and effected the change of leadership of the rebel group.

But the Former Leader of the RUF Issa Sesay who was convicted of war crimes and sentenced to 52 year imprisonment denied that Mr. Taylor controlled the RUF.

Lead Defence Lawyer Courtney Griffiths questioned Mr. Sesay about Mr. Taylor's alleged involvement with the RUF.

Mr. Sesay is giving testimonies in the Sierra Leonean Krio Language. The Media Center at the Special Tribunal for Lebanon could not get the English translation of Mr. Sesay's testimonies.

Some of the criminal charges against Mr. Taylor include the recruitment of Child Soldiers, sexual slavery, forced labour among others.

The Prosecution said the RUF under the command of Mr. Taylor committed these atrocities against the civilian population of Sierra Leone.

Defence Lawyer, Courtenay Griffiths also quizzed the witness about some of the crimes allegedly committed by the RUF.

Mr. Sesay dismissed the Prosecution claim that Charles Taylor assisted the formation of the RUF.

The war crimes convict said the Leaders of the Economic Community of West African States, ECOWAS appointed him to the leadership of the RUF, and not Mr. Charles Taylor.

Mail&Guardian (South Africa)

Monday, 6 July 2010

Former rebel chief denies getting arms from Charles Taylor

THE HAGUE, THE NETHERLANDS

A former rebel chief in Sierra Leone told a special court on Monday that he never received weapons from the former president of neighbouring Liberia, Charles Taylor, who is on trial for war crimes.

"No," answered Issa Hassan Sesay to a question from Taylor's lawyer, Courtenay Griffiths, about whether the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) had ever accepted weapons or ammunition from the Liberian former leader and warlord.

The 40-year-old Sesay, himself a convicted war criminal, was called as a defence witness for Taylor, who has been accused of covertly supplying weapons to the RUF in exchange for rough diamonds during Sierra Leone's brutal 1991 to 2001 civil war.

Taylor is on trial at the Special Court for Sierra Leone, which was to be moved to The Hague from Freetown for security reasons.

Asked by the lawyer if he had ever given diamonds to Taylor, Sesay replied: "No, I don't remember giving diamonds to Mister Charles Taylor."

Sesay was convicted by the same court -- which was set up to try suspected war criminals from Sierra Leone's conflict, war crimes and crimes against humanity -- and sentenced to 52 years in prison in October 2009.

He also claimed the first time he ever met Taylor was in May 2000.

Taylor (62) has pleaded not guilty to 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity stemming from Sierra Leone's civil war, including charges of murder, rape, conscripting child soldiers, enslavement and pillaging.

The RUF is blamed for the mutilation of thousands of civilians who had their hands and arms severed in one of the most brutal wars in modern history, which claimed about 120 000 lives.

News24.Com
Tuesday, 6 July 2010

Highlights in history on this date: On this day - July 6

2003 - Liberian President Charles Taylor accepts an offer of asylum in nearby Nigeria. US President George W Bush made Taylor's departure a condition of US troops joining an international peacekeeping force in Liberia.

MailOnline

Monday, 5 July 2010

Naomi Campbell shrugs off 'blood diamond' controversy by holidaying on Sir Philip Green's yacht

By Mail Online Reporter

It was only a few days ago that Naomi Campbell was called to testify in a war crime tribunal over her alleged acceptance of a 'blood diamond' from Liberia's former president.

But after jetting to the South of France over the weekend to continue her two month long holiday in the Mediterranean, it looked like appearing in court was the last thing on the supermodel's mind.

The 40-year-old appeared unconcerned by the court threat hanging over her head as she joined her boyfriend Vladislav Doronin and billionaire friend Sir Philip Green on the French Riviera.



The holiday never stops: Naomi Campbell shows off her slim figure in a white bikini as she hangs out on Sir Philip Green's yacht on the French Riviera

Campbell started off the day with a bit of retail therapy as she perused the expensive boutiques of St Tropez with Green's 19-year-old daughter Chloe.

After spending up a storm, the two women joined Doronin and Sir Philip at the U.S. Independence Day party at the La Voile Rouge beach club.

Being Brits and Russian, none of the four had any reason to celebrate the American holiday, but they were clearly up for any excuse to party as they joined American holidaymakers at the lavish club.



This is the life: Naomi and her boyfriend Vladislav Doronin shower on Sir Philip Green's Lionheart after their swim in the Mediterranean

Wearing a cream sundress over her bikini, the supermodel joined in the fun as she and Chloe showered themselves with £30 bottles of Laurent Perrier champagne.

The model and her boyfriend are staying with Sir Philip on his £32million superyacht Lionheart.

The Topshop tycoon bought the 206 foot Benetti-made boat in 2006, followed by its sister yacht, the smaller 109 foot Lionchase two years later.



Life of luxury: Campbell is staying on Sir Philip's 206 foot Benetti yacht Lionheart, which he bought for £32million four years ago

While Sir Philip's children Chloe and Brandon sleep in the Lionchase, the retail king has played host to dozens of celebrity friends on his Lionheart, including Kate Moss and Jennifer Lopez.

Campbell has spent most of the past two months holidaying in the Mediterranean, including a week of celebrations for her 40th birthday in May.

But after spending the winter living in freezing Moscow, perhaps spending most of the summer in the sunny Mediterranean is understandable.



Champagne shower: The supermodel sprayed everyone in Laurent Perrier champagne as she joined in the fun at an Independence Day party



Expensive fun: Campbell and Chloe Green are showered with champagne by a blonde partygoer at the La Voile Rouge beach club

In May, Campbell and Doronin chartered the £350,000-a-week Silver Angel as their base for her lavish 40th celebrations.

Campbell's return to France after spending a few days in London last week comes after a court in The Hague filed a request to subpoena the supermodel to testify at the international war crimes tribunal later this month.



Bit late for an umbrella: Naomi and Sir Philip take cover under an umbrella after being showered with champagne



Fun: Campbell's court drama looked like the last thing on her mind as she partied with Chloe

Both Campbell's former agent Carole White and actress Mia Farrow have said the model was presented with rough diamonds from ex-Liberian dictator Charles Taylor in 1997.

The court said Campbell had repeatedly declined to co-operate with the investigation, saying she fears for her family if she gets involved.

In April, she denied receiving a diamond at all during an interview with America's ABC News, saying: 'I didn't receive a diamond and I'm not going to speak about that, thank you,' before storming off camera, knocking over one in the process.



In the party mood: Naomi and her boyfriend Vladislav



Retail therapy: Campbell started off her day shopping in the boutiques of St Tropez in a floral maxi dress

Read more: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/tvshowbiz/article-1292056/Naomi-Campbell-shrugs-blood-diamond-controversy-holidaying-Sir-Philip-Greens-yacht.html?ito=feeds-newsxml#ixzz0stwo5mX0>

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 5 July 2010

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

UN News in Liberia

Truth FM *(News monitored today at 10:00 am)*

UNFPA Fistula Programme Conducts TOT

- The United Nations Population Fund Fistula Programme has concluded the first phase of the training of trainers for nurses and midwives from five counties.
- The training was carried out in Tubmanburg, Bomi County.
- The Liberian Fistula Project Assistant Manager Angie Tarr at the close of the training said the consequences of fistula are life threatening.

Local News on Liberian issues

Lawmakers' Salaries Halted, as Legislature refused to be paid Through Banks

[New Vision]

- The Government of Liberia through the Finance Ministry has with held payment of salaries to members of the National Legislature and their staffers until the lawmakers can comply with government's decision that legislative staffers and their bosses be paid through commercial banks.
- The Finance Ministry decision is a policy by the government requiring all government institutions to be paid through commercial banks of their choice.
- The Ministry said the new policy is aimed at instituting fiscal discipline and to minimize payroll corruption.
- The reports say the policy cuts across all government institutions including the National Legislature.
- According to the Finance Ministry the new measure also coincides with an apparent cheating of legislative staffers in the payment of their salaries.

Lawyers Challenge Rape Law, Petition Supreme Court for Amendment

[Liberian Express]

- A group of lawyers backed by civil society groups have petitioned the Supreme Court of Liberia seeking a change in the rape law.
- The lawyer made specific reference to the arbitrary arrest and protracted detention of accused persons without trial based on allegation.
- The petition contended that the act which created Criminal Court 'E' to try rape cases is in gross violation of individual rights as guaranteed by the Liberian Constitution.
- The Act terminates the exercise of jurisdiction by the Magisterial Court which has the power to conduct preliminary investigation in all sexual offences.
- The Act orders that all sexual offence cases be transferred to Criminal Court 'E' within 72 hours of arrest.
- The lawyers said several portions of the Act limiting the authority of the Magisterial Court are in direct conflict with Articles 20(a) and 21(f) of the 1986 Constitution and are therefore unconstitutional.

Finance Ministry, Crusaders for Peace Begin Tax Sensitization Campaign

[The Inquirer]

- The Finance Ministry through its Taxpayer Services Department has begun a campaign aimed at sensitizing Liberians on the importance of tax payment and the risk of tax invasion.
- The Director of Tax Services at the Ministry Abel Nowon said the campaign is being carried out throughout the country in collaboration with the Crusaders for Peace.
- He said tax payment is one of the main areas that support government's revenue and as such it must be paid and enforced to enhance development.

Japanese Government, UNICEF Sign US\$8.5 Million Grant Agreement

[Heritage, The Informer]

- The Government of Japan has signed a grant agreement with UNICEF for 772 million Japanese Yen (approximately US\$8.5 million) to support child friendly school developments through community empowerment in Liberia.
- Mr. Kiichi Katami, Japanese Ambassador to Liberia and Senior Representative of JICA and Ms. Isabel Crowley, UNICEF Representative to Liberia exchanged notes and signed the agreement.
- The grant is also expected to support primary education in the country at a rate of 4.2% through the child friendly school development project.
- The money is expected to support 90 schools between 2010 and 2012 in 11 counties.
- The money was raised at the fourth Tokyo International Conference on Africa Development in Japan in May 2008.

PUL Awards Journalists, Media Institutions

[Liberian Express, Front Page Africa, The Monitor, New Democrat]

- The Press Union of Liberia has held its awards ceremony recognizing contributions made by several Liberian Journalists and media institutions.
- Fifteen journalists and media institutions received prizes including computers, tape recorders and cash for outstanding performances during the year.
- Those awarded were former Star Radio Journalist also current BBC World Service Trust Reporter Joseph Cheesman as Journalist of the year; Festus Poquie and Abbas Dorley of the New Democrat Newspaper were awarded Best Feature Writer and Photo Journalist of the year and New Democrat Newspaper was also named Best Newspaper of the year.
- Star Radio, Real TV and SKY Radio's 50-50 captured the Best Radio Station, Television and Talk Show of the year respectively as Bruce Boweh and Robert Clark were awarded Judicial Reporter and Newscaster of the year.
- Others are George Kennedy of the Daily Observer Newspaper, Economic Report of the year; Julius Kanubah, Legislative Reporter of the year; Jenkins Pelenah of Sky FM, Sports Reporter of the year and Radio Kergamahn, Community Radio Station of the year.

Star Radio *(News monitored today at 09:00 am)*

Bong Lawmaker Warns of Consequences If...

- A Bong County Senator has warned of what she called negative implications if the Legislature fails to pass the population threshold bill into law.
- Senator Jewel Howard Taylor said failure to set the threshold for constituency representations in the House of Representatives would amount to no general elections in 2011.
- According to her, it would also probably lead to the setting-up of a transitional government to run Liberia.
- Senator Taylor made the statement to newsmen following her address to a student group at the AME University on Camp Johnson Road in Monrovia.
- The Bong Senator said the current Legislature will also go down wrong in the history of Liberia if it does not set the threshold.
- Senator Taylor stressed a compromise needs to be reached between the House and the Senate to settle the debate on the threshold bill.

Election Activities Paralyzed...NEC Reports

- The National Elections Commission (NEC) says its activities have come to a standstill due to the lack of benchmarks for the 2011 elections.
- NEC's acting chairman Cllr. Elizabeth Nelson said the commission can't move any further to prepare for the elections in the absence of the threshold bill.
- According to Cllr. Nelson, NEC has already completed every activity regarding the electoral process that does not require Legislative input.
- She reminded the Legislature that elections are days away and called for the settling of the constitutional hurdles.
- Cllr. Nelson identified the constitutional hurdles as the threshold bill and majority clause for elected positions.
- The NEC acting boss spoke at the opening of a two-day civic and voters' education consultative workshop for youth and student groups in the country.

Eight-member US Congressional team in town

- A high-powered US congregational delegation has begun a three-day working visit to Liberia with a pledge to strengthen the capacity of its Liberian counterparts.
- The eight-member congressional team along with its staff is led by the House Democracy Partnership Chairman, David Price.
- On Sunday, the team visited Kakata and participated in a town hall meeting hosted by the Margibi County's Legislative Caucus and officials.
- The head of the team, Congressman Price said while in the country his group would train Liberian legislators and conduct seminars amongst other activities.
- The American lawmaker believes the initiative would help the Liberian Legislators better perform on the job.
- Speaking earlier, the Chairman of the Margibi Legislative Caucus, Representative Saah Gbollie welcomed the congressional delegation to the county and commended them and the people of the United States for their numerous contributions to Liberia's recovery process.

'Media Key to Liberia's Transformation' – LTA Boss

- During the program, the keynote speaker, the chairperson of the Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA) has called on the media to become an effective instrument in the transformation of Liberia.
- Ms. Angelique Weeks said, in doing so, the Liberian media must always be objective and serve as a pillar of integrity and conscious of society.
- Ms. Weeks stressed the media must also provide the platform for the free exchange of ideas to serve the public interest.
- The remarks of the LTA's chairperson were contained in a statement delivered on her behalf at the awards night of the Press Union of Liberia by LTA information officer Jeddi Armah.

(Also reported Truth FM, Sky FM, and ELBC)

'Don't Identify Accused Male Rapists' – PUL President

- President of the Press Union of Liberia (PUL) Peter Quaqua has challenged Liberian journalists to remain professional in their reportage.
- Mr. Quaqua also made a 'controversial' remark urging the media to refrain from naming suspected male rapists in sexual abuse cases.
- According to the PUL president, it was wrong and embarrassing for the media to identify men accused of rape in the absence of a conviction.
- The PUL boss speaking at the Union's awards night said once the media does not identify a perceived female victim of rape it was equally important not to name an accused male rapist.

(Also reported Truth FM, Sky FM, and ELBC)

Nationwide Inspection of Doctors and Clinics Underway

- The Liberia Medical and Dental Council says it would conduct an inspection of all clinics and doctors throughout the country this July.
- The chairman of the Council, Dr. Robert Kpoto said the council has observed that some medical doctors were operating illegally and needed to be checked.
- Dr. Kpoto said the Council has further noticed an increase in medical doctors in the country, many of whom have not been licensed by government.
- Addressing a news Conference in Monrovia, Dr. Kpoto said the inspection exercise will start shortly and would be carried-out by Ministry of Health personnel stating that anyone found in violation would be arrested and prosecuted.
- The Health Ministry inspection team will be backed by personnel of the Liberia National Police in collaboration with the Justice Ministry.

Teachers Urged to be Agents of Change

- The Vice President of Cuttington University has challenged teachers in the country to exhibit a high degree of professionalism in the discharge of their duties.
- Dr. Fredrick Gbegbe said it was important that teachers serve as agents of change and promote understanding and tolerance in the society.
- According to him, teachers will only be effective in the conduct of their functions when they apply a wide range of teaching skills.
- Dr. Gbegbe however said public respect was needed to maintain the dignity of the teaching profession in order to realize the full potential of a good classroom teacher.
- Dr. Gbegbe spoke Saturday at the joint graduation exercises of the Kakata Rural Teacher Training Institute and Webbo Rural Teacher Training Institute in Kakata, Margibi County.
- More than 200 pre-service trained teachers received "C" certificates at the end of the 2009/2010 academic year.
- The training was funded by the USAID and implemented by the Liberia Teacher Training Program.

US based Liberian Charity head Naboth Zondo arrested

- The head of a Liberian charity in the US State of North Dakota has been arrested for illegally running a non-profit organization and making false claims.
- Dr. Naboth Zondo of the Liberian Centre for Growth and Development which is soliciting one million books for Liberia was arrested early Saturday.
- It followed the issuance of a warrant against the President of the Fargo-based group by North Dakota Attorney Wayne Stenehjem.
- The US online media, INFORUM, says the warrant relates to a cease and desist order against the Liberian aid organization because it is not registered as a charity in the State.
- The warrant also alleged the Liberian charity has been making false claims about the Governor of North Dakota, John Hoeven.
- The warrant described Dr. Zondo as a con artist who has arrest warrants in Baltimore County, Maryland for several counts of fraud.
- Meanwhile, the Liberian charity head Naboth Zondo who remains in jail pending an extradition hearing probably Tuesday has denied any wrongdoing.

Truth FM *(News monitored today at 10:00 am)*

Deputy LNP Inspector General Speaks of Plans to Takeover Security from UNMIL

- The Deputy Inspector Director of the Liberia National Police (LNP) Samuel Dakinah has spoken of plans by the Joint National Security team to take over the affairs of security from the United Nations Mission in Liberian (UNMIL).
- Mr. Dakinah maintained that human resource is strategic to the work of the LNP for the successful takeover from UNMIL.
- He spoke at a three-day capacity building and development training of officers of the LNP.
- The officers were trained in basic police investigative tactics and diplomacy.

International Clips on Liberia

Ex-rebel at Taylor trial

AP

The Hague - A former Sierra Leone rebel serving a 52-year prison sentence is testifying at the trial of former Liberian president Charles Taylor. Issa Sisay has told the court that Taylor was not in charge of the Revolutionary United Front, the main rebel group during the 11-year civil war that ended in 2002. Sisay also denied he ever gave Taylor any "blood" diamonds, and had no knowledge of other rebel leaders giving him gems. Taylor is accused of receiving diamonds and other mineral wealth in exchange for supporting the rebels. Sisay acknowledged on Monday some rebels committed murder, rape, mutilations and enslavement of their enemies. The Special Court for Sierra Leone convicted Sisay last year on 16 counts of war crimes. Taylor has pleaded innocent to 11 counts.

'Naomi got 6 blood diamonds'

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com>

Naomi Campbell has repeatedly denied allegations that she received a "blood diamond" from former Liberian president Charles Taylor but her ex-aide says the dictator gifted the supermodel six stones. The 39-year-old runway beauty, who has repeatedly refused to talk about the diamonds, has been asked by officials to appear before the Special Court on July 29 to testify or "show good cause why" she cannot in the trial against Taylor, the Daily Mail reported. The former president is accused of fuelling a civil war in Sierra Leone and is said to have provided arms to rebel soldiers in return for rough, uncut diamonds. Campbell met Taylor while she attended Nelson Mandela's Children's Fund in South Africa in 1997 and the story goes that the dictator was so smitten by the supermodel that he gave her a large diamond as a token of his affection.

International Clips on West Africa

Guinea

Guineans in Mauritania satisfied with poll results at home

PANA

Nouakchott, Mauritania - Members of the Guinean community in Nouakchott, the Mauritanian capital, said here they are satisfied with the result of the 27 June presidential election as released by the country's Independent National

Electoral Commission (CENI) this weekend. The Guineans are mostly laundry workers, hairdressers, restaurant owners and drivers. According to CENI figures, Cellou Dallein Diallo, candidate of the Union of democratic forces in Guinea (UFDG) won 39.72% of the votes, followed by Alpha Conde of the Rally of Guinean people (RPG) with 20.67%. In view this development, Diallo and Conde will go for a run-off on 18 July. Community spokesperson Sylla Mohamed, laundry worker in Nouakchott for 30 years, hailed the conducive atmosphere during the election and expressed the hope that the run-off would also be free and fair.

Losing candidates Touré and Kouyaté claim Guinea election fraud **www.english.rfi.fr**

Two candidates squeezed out of the second round of Guinea's presidential election are crying foul. Third-placed Sidya Touré claims that he has been swindled out of his rightful place in the run-off, while fourth-placed Lansana Kouyaté also claims there was electoral fraud. The 18 July run-off will see former Prime Minister Cellou Dalein Diallo face veteran opposition leader Alpha Condé. But a furious Touré, who leads the Union of Republican Forces (UFR), claims that there has been "manipulation of the figures, refusal to apply the law in relation to certain candidates, unimaginable interference". And he accuses an employee of the International Organisation of Francophonie (OIF) of collusion with the electoral commission to fix the results against him. "We noticed in the first two days that the UFR was in a position to get into the second round," he said on Sunday. "Then, all of a sudden – after the arrival of a computer expert from the OIF - in the space of just one night we saw major changes which put us in the position we've been in ever since, that's to say at about 16 per cent." "One thing I am sure of is that I could have done much better if it hadn't been for this fraud," declared Kouyaté, a former prime minister who heads the National Development party (PEDN). But he seems ready to bargain with the two candidates who have made it to the run-off and claims that they had contacted him even before the first round of voting had taken place. "Let me say that there is contact via third parties. In fact this contact had started even before the first round, which seemed a little odd to me ... We had to wait for the first round results to be able to work out what alliances were possible. There is no single party line in our party. I'm consulting with people."

Ivory Coast

Cote d'Ivoire: Ivorian authorities unable to fix election dates **PANA**

Despite holding several meetings, aimed at fixing a date for the often-postponed elections, Guinean authorities have again failed to come up with a date, PANA reports from here. The latest in the series of meetings, involving President Laurent Gbagbo, his major opponents, Henri Konan Bedie, Allasane Dramane Ouattara, the representative of the mediator (Blaise Compaore), officials of the country's independent electoral commission (CEI), was held Wednesday in the capital, Abidjan, and it also failed to come up with a date. However, the meeting charged CEI officials to prepare a comprehensive electoral register as soon as possible before elections will take place. Participants said that in view of the peaceful atmosphere at the meeting, a positive resolution of the Ivorian political problem would soon be achieved.

Sierra Leone

SIERRA LEONE, U.S. GOVTS IN TUG OF WAR OVER STOLEN DIAMONDS **www.diamondintelligence.com**

The governments of Sierra Leone and the United States are in discussion about the fate of 1,200 carats of diamonds allegedly smuggled out of Sierra Leone in 2009 by some U.S. jewelers. While Sierra Leone is appealing for their return, the U.S. State Department claims that the country does not have any law sanctioning the release or return of any items seized within the U.S. borders to their state of origin. Some 28 diamonds totaling 1,200 carats were reportedly smuggled out of Sierra Leone by two American citizens who acquired them while in the country. The acquisition was reportedly in violation of national mining policies, trade acts and laws, and the Kimberly Process Certification Scheme. While U.S. authorities were said to have valued the stones at US\$800,000, Sierra Leone's Ministry of Mines says the diamonds may be worth over US\$15 million, reports the Concord Times. Minister of Mines and Mineral resources, Alhaji Alpha Kanu, told the newspaper that President Ernest Bai Koroma was lobbying the U.S. government to ensure the gems were returned, despite the lack of U.S. legislation stipulating the return of the seized goods.

The New Times (Kigali)

Tuesday, 6 July 2010

Government Supporting Daily

Rwanda: UN Extends ICTR Judges' Mandate

Arusha — The United Nation Security Council has extended the Terms of Office for judges of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR).

A press statement from ICTR, in Arusha, said that the Security Council agreed to extend the mandates of all permanent and nine ad litem judges until December, 31, 2011 or on completion of their assignments.

The Terms of Office of the two permanent judges who are members of the Appeals Chamber were extended until December 31, 2012 or until the completion of their cases to which they are assigned, if sooner.

The permanent Judges of the Trial Chambers whose Terms of Office have been extended are Charles Michael, Dennis Byron, (Saint Kitts and Nevis), Khalida Rachid Khan (Pakistan) and Arlette Ramaroson (Madagascar).

Others are William H. Sekule (Tanzania and Bakhtiyar Tuzmukhamedov (Russian Federation).

The ad litem Judges include Aydin Sefa Akay (Turkey), Florence Rita Arrey (Cameroon) and Solomy Balungi Bossa (Uganda).

Others are Vagn Joensen (Denmark), Gberdao Gustave Kam (Burkina Faso), Lee Gacuiga Muthoga (Kenya), Seon Ki Park (Republic of Korea), Mparany Mamy Richard Rajohnson (Madagascar) and Emile Francis Short (Ghana).

The Council further called upon relevant UN bodies to work with the Tribunal to find solutions to address the problems of staff retention.

Staffing constraints, as highlighted by President Judge Byron in his last report to the Security Council, are the major obstacle for the successful implementation of the Completion Strategy.

The Council took note of the concerns raised by the ICTR President regarding the report of the Prosecutor on the lack of cooperation of Kenya in the case of fugitive Félicien Kabuga, as well as the statement and pledge made by Kenya at the Security Council meeting of 18 June 2010.

The Council in particular called upon relevant states to increase their efforts to bring Félicien Kabuga, Augustin Bizimana, Protais Mpiranya and other indictees of the International Tribunal to justice.

The Guatemala Times

Monday, 5 July 2010

U.S. Hijacks ICC conference

Francis Njubi Nesbitt

June 29, 2010. The United States managed to foil the International Criminal Court's (ICC) adoption of the crime of aggression as part of its mandate during the just-concluded review conference in Kampala, Uganda. Despite the fact that the United States is not a signatory to the Rome Statute, which established the ICC, and thus did not have a vote at the conference, U.S. negotiators cajoled a majority of the state parties to delay the definition and adoption of the crime of aggression for another seven years. Where the Bush administration used threats and tried to intimidate, the Obama team offered sweet-talk and enticements to get states to delay the amendment expanding ICC jurisdiction to include the crime of aggression. It also managed to water down the definition of aggression and to exempt U.S. personnel from prosecution. The latter was a goal of the previous administration and the reason for U.S. hostility toward the ICC.

Crowing with satisfaction, the State Department reported on June 16 that the agreement had ensured "total protection for our Armed Forces and other U.S. nationals going forward." This indemnity was achieved by a series of amendments that exempted non-state parties from prosecution and gave the U.N. Security Council the power to determine if a crime of aggression has occurred. If the Security Council finds that aggression has not occurred, then the prosecutor would have to seek a majority vote of pre-trial judges and even then, the Security Council would still have the power to thwart the process with a binding Chapter 7 resolution disapproving the action. Even if the United States becomes a state party to the ICC at some point, it could still opt out of having U.S. citizens prosecuted for aggression.

The Carrot Approach

The success in promoting U.S. interests was achieved by offering inducements, such as "generous" support for national legal systems in state parties through information sharing and support in arresting suspects. The focus on national legal remedies for war crimes and crimes against humanity has been touted as the alternative to international justice. The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda -- which I am currently visiting -- and the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, in particular have been criticized for spending hundreds of millions of dollars with little to show for it. Critics such as President Paul Kagame of Rwanda argue that the local Gacaca courts, based on indigenous norms, are faster and more relevant to ordinary Rwandans than distant international tribunals. Both the international tribunals and the local courts, however, suffer from the malady; both tend to prosecute the "losers" and ignore crimes that may have been perpetrated by the victors. The only exception is the Special Court for Sierra Leone which prosecuted both sides of the civil war.

Another incentive offered to mitigate U.S. meddling is "cooperation," such as information sharing and support in the location and arrest of suspects. ICC officials argued before the conference that the United States could provide critical counterintelligence support in the search for, and arrest of, indicted war criminals such as Joseph Kony, leader of the Lord's Resistance Army. The ICC charged Kony with individual criminal responsibility on 33 counts of crimes against humanity including, murder, mutilation, rape, mass burnings, and enslavement. It issued an arrest warrant for him on July 7, 2005. The United States has also designated Kony a "specially designated terrorist" (SDT), a designation that allows the United States to block his assets and criminalize any association with the said individual or group. Other SDTs include Osama bin Laden and Hamas.

A Renewed U.S. Role

Despite its success in delaying the ICC's jurisdiction over aggression, the United States failed in its main objective to defeat the amendment altogether. Instead, the United States tried to politicize the ICC by enhancing the role of the Security Council and therefore giving permanent members the power to subvert the process. Ironically, this is the very issue, politicization, that the United States claimed was the problem with the ICC in the first place.

This renewed engagement with the ICC suggests that the Obama administration is interested in shaping international law while remaining immune to prosecution under the very laws it helps develop. In the case of the ICC, the cover story is that the United States is concerned that its troops engaged in peacekeeping around the world may be subject to malicious prosecution.

Critics of the ICC argue that it is a toothless watchdog because it relies on member states to arrest suspects. They point to Omar al-Bashir of Sudan who continues to thumb his nose at the ICC, despite an arrest warrant issued in 2009 for war crimes and crimes against humanity in Darfur. The counter argument is that international war crimes tribunals have successfully prosecuted heads of state including former Prime Minister John Kambanda of Rwanda, and former presidents Slobodan Milošević of Serbia and Charles Taylor of Liberia.

The latter case is particularly instructive as the Special Court for Sierra Leone, which prosecuted Taylor for his role in the civil war, is a hybrid of national and international justice, bringing together both local and international prosecutors and judges. Such hybrid processes have also worked in the case of Cambodia where a U.N.-backed tribunal is trying senior members of the Khmer Rouge for violations of international humanitarian law. Locating the tribunals in the countries where the crimes were committed both enhances the capacity of national judicial systems and involves the local communities in the process. In some cases, however, powerful individuals are able to thwart efforts to establish local tribunals. In such cases, for example the recent experience in Kenya, it may be necessary to resort to international courts.

Although critics are furious at the role of the United States in shaping the agenda of the review conference, this reengagement with international institutions is a positive step. The United States can play a role in the international arena by supporting efforts to bring suspects such as Kony to justice and putting pressure on sitting presidents such as Omar al-Bashir. Meanwhile, expanding the jurisdiction of the ICC to include aggression will be revisited in 2017, giving activists and other interested parties another opportunity to advocate for the increasing role of the ICC in international law.

Washington, DC: Foreign Policy In Focus, June 29, 2010 www.ips-dc.org.

ICC

Friday, 2 July 2010

Ugandans commemorate the eighth anniversary of the entry into force of the Rome Statute



Police officers lead the march-past followed by a brass band © ICC-CPI

On 1 July, 2010, hundreds of Ugandans joined to celebrate the eighth anniversary of the entry into force of the Rome Statute, the founding treaty of the International Criminal Court. Commissioners, representatives of civil society organisations, unions of persons with disabilities, women's groups, local leaders, teachers and school children from eight

secondary schools in the districts of Soroti, Amuria and Kaberamaido participated in the events.

The commemorative events held in Soroti included a march through the main streets of the municipality, a town-hall style meeting with various key note speakers, an ICC moot court demonstration or role model play and interactive radio talk shows.



Participants march through the main streets © ICC-CPI

Over 500 people participated in the march-past. The event that was organised by the Field Outreach Unit in partnership with local NGOs, the Ugandan Coalition for the ICC and HURINET, was also attended by the resident District Commissioner of Soroti. Clad in uniform T-shirts and caps with the catchphrase, 'Say no to impunity – accountability and justice for all', the participants cheerfully marched to the rhythm of the brass-band that led the procession, with assorted banners raised high.

After the march the participants gathered at the Boma grounds to listen to various speakers.

The resident District Commission, Hon. Ben Etonu presided over the session. In his address, he noted that "...Soroti [is] one of the districts most affected by the crimes under the Rome Statute. Therefore it is an honour to host this event.' He further commented on the appreciation of the Teso sub-region of the efforts that have been made by the ICC in addressing the most serious crimes that are of great concern to the world. He also highlighted that Uganda's ratification of the Rome Statute, the referral of the situation to the ICC and the passing of the ICC related bill into national law, are genuine demonstrations of the country's commitment to accountability and justice initiatives.

Speaking on behalf of the Uganda Victims' Foundation (UVF), vice-chairperson Chris Ongom acknowledged some significant provisions in the Rome Statute, especially the inclusion of gender and sexual-related crimes, and crimes against children. He further commended the



School children participate in the eighth anniversary event © ICC-CPI

provision of rights for victims to participate in Court proceedings, which give them a unique opportunity to express their views and concerns before the judges; and the right for them to request reparation at the end of trials if an accused person is found guilty. He called upon the State Parties to the Rome Statute to strengthen co-operation with the Court as determined during the Review Conference.

In her address on the theme of the day, the co-ordinator of the Uganda Coalition for the International Criminal Court (UCICC), Joyce Apio stated that all actors should be fully involved in saying ‘no to impunity in order to create stronger pillars for accountability and justice for all.’

Following the statements, students enacted a role-play that presented the different parties and participants in the Court, which stimulated debate. Questions were asked about the distinct roles and functions of the prosecution’s team, the defence counsel and the victims’ legal representatives.

The majority of the participants expressed concerns about the outstanding arrest warrants in all situations under investigation before the Court. Some urged States Parties to galvanise efforts to arrest and surrender suspects to the ICC and to enable the Court to fulfil its mandate.

The celebrations of the day were concluded with two interactive radio talk shows that were held in parallel - one in Soroti hosted by the Voice of Teso community radio station and another in Kampala on K-FM. Over two million Ugandans followed the respective discussions that addressed the history of the formation of the Court and its achievements so far.

Background

The ICC has been established to help end impunity for the most serious crimes of concern to the international community, namely genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes committed after entry into force of the Rome Statute (1 July 2002), as well as the crime of aggression, once the conditions under which the Court can exercise its jurisdiction have been fulfilled. The Court may exercise jurisdiction over international crimes committed on the territory of a State Party, or a State having accepted the jurisdiction of the Court, or by one of their nationals. These conditions however, do not apply if a situation is referred to the Prosecutor by the United Nations Security Council. Today 111 are States Parties to the Statute.

Uganda signed the Statute on 17 March, 1999 and ratified on 14 June, 2002.

The situation in northern Uganda was referred to the Court by the government in December, 2003. The Prosecutor opened an investigation in July 2004. In the case derived from the investigation *The Prosecutor v. Joseph Kony, Vincent Otti, Okot Odhiambo and Dominic Ongwen*, five warrants of arrest have been issued against top members of the Lords Resistance Army (LRA) for crimes against humanity and war crimes committed in Uganda since July 2002. Following the confirmed death of Raska Lukwiya, the proceedings against him have been terminated. The four remaining suspects are still at large.