

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



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 March 2008

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

Thursday, 6 March 2008

“Kabbah is important to prove the innocence of Issa Sesay” - RUF Lawyer

Wayne Jordash, lead counsel for the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) Special Court indictee Issa Sesay defence in an exclusive interview told Awoko the reason why they decided to file a motion of subpoena for former president of Tejan Kabbah. Mr Jordash said that the application made by the defence team has huge merit, and that the prosecution's response has none. Due to this, "I think Kabbah was in a unique position to be able to provide evidence of Mr Sesay's innocence so to that extent I think the subpoena should be issued and I think Kabbah should be ordered to provide that evidence." The evidence of the former president, the lawyer said, is related to the UNAMSIL count on the indictment and the evidence of Tejan Kabbah is very important to prove the innocence of Issa Sesay. Stressing that "Kabbah's evidence is directly on specific issues that is the UNAMSIL count and particularly what evidence Kabbah has about communications between Sankoh and Sesay or as we say lack of communication between the two over the issue of the UNAMSIL incident." He continued "what we say is the information that Kabbah could provide with reference with the prosecution allegation that Sankoh ordered Sesay to lead attacks on the UNAMSIL between May and September 2000. We say that Kabbah knows perfectly well that Sankoh could not do have done that because Kabbah has ordered Sankoh's arrest and he was held without communications to the RUF leadership. With regards to that Kabbah clearly he can provide evidence which can rebut the prosecution's allegation." Questioned whether the evidence of ex-president Kabbah is to sensationalise the trial, the defence lawyer said that the purpose of Kabbah's evidence is to obtain the truth. General Opanda, and before that we will have Brigadier Alie Hassan will be giving evidence on Friday on the defence of Issa Sesay. We don't need witnesses that will sensationalise the trial we have more witnesses as important as Kabbah and as distinguished and as high profile as Kabbah. So we don't need high profile witnesses simply to bring publicity to the case we need witnesses to provide concert evidence such as president Kabbah it is about obtaining truth about the innocent of the accused" Speaking alignment to both sides Wayne Jordash disclosed that there is not reason for the ex-president to align himself to either the prosecution or defence as he should only be interested in helping the court to know where the truth is and that there is no need for the for Ex-president Kabbah to be hostile if they succeed in getting him to testify for the accused. As was the case of the late Chief Hinga Norman who included the name of the ex president Kabbah as his witness but at the end of the day could not get the president to testify in his defence, the Issa Sesay defence team did not include Kabbah on their list. Questioned on the reason for this? Mr Jordash said "we can't name a witness in the list unless the witness agree to give evidence and Kabbah actively avoid the defence team. His name was not included in the list because we think it will be highly improper to include someone in the list when they had not agreed to be a witness. This is not only improper but potentially dangerous because there is a degree of possible security risk in giving evidence for either prosecution or defence that is a proposition which is being accepted by the trial chamber in their special measure decisions." He continued "Kabbah has not indicated his willingness to testify. So to place his name to the public domain as a witness for the Sesay defence would not have been true and we would have placed him in some sort of security risk so the way to do it is, obtain the evidence first whether it is as we think it is important evidence and then and tell the court about his willingness to testify and at that stage we can worry about adding it to our witness." As this is not the first such request has been made, the first was the late Samuel Hinga Norman but was dismissed by the trial chamber, for the RUF the lawyer said "each case has to be decided on the merit." "One has to look at the importance of the evidence which is being served by the party and we will say the evidence in our case is much more important than it was in the CDF case. In that the evidence in our case he could sincerely prove that Mr Sesay was innocent with relation to the UNAMSIL count on the indictment. In the CDF case it couldn't be argued as it can be in ours that the evidence is paramount to prove innocence that is the difference" he added.

Concord Times
Thursday, 6 March 2008

Court wants Taylor to return stolen funds

The Special Court for Sierra Leone has asked the UK government to help track down money believed to have been stolen by Liberia's ex-leader Charles Taylor.

He is on trial accused of funding rebels in Sierra Leone while in office. Taylor denies the charges, but the chief prosecutor says if he is convicted for pillage he wants his alleged stolen millions to be returned.

"If we can get the money back to the victims, that's a critical part of justice," Stephen Rapp told the BBC.

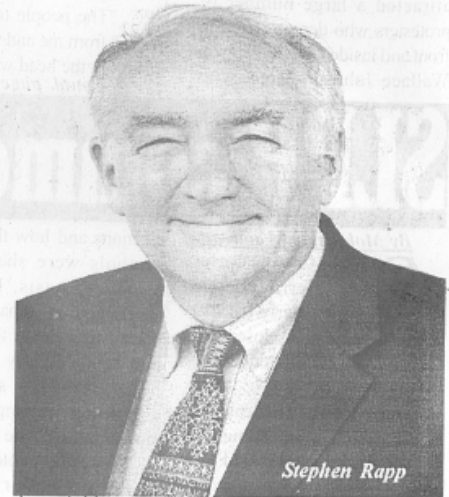
During Sierra Leone's decade-long civil war, which officially ended in 2002, tens of thousands of people died and thousands more were mutilated, raped and had their limbs amputated.

Taylor's war crimes case has been transferred from

Sierra Leone to The Hague for security reasons, although it is still being conducted by the UN-backed court. The former Liberian president is charged with 11 counts of crimes against humanity and war crimes.

Rapp has been in London to meet with the UK government to discuss the alleged looted money, which is believed to be in the region of several hundred million dollars. "It may be even close to a billion dollars when you add together all the resources and the money that went through the government of Liberia when he was president," Rapp said on a BBC programme yesterday.

"Indications are that some \$650m was due to the people, due to the treasury - that money all flowed



Stephen Rapp

through his personal bank accounts. Tracking down the funds was an "ongoing forensic effort", but governments around the world have been co-operative when asked for help," he said.

"If we obtain a conviction for him on pillage we're going to go forward and try to obtain the restitution orders," the chief prosecutor said.

Rapp said the real tragedy of the war in Sierra Leone is that not enough was being done to help the victims of the war. He said he hoped any recovered money would go to a victim reparation programme.

"For the thousands of people who had arms and legs and sometimes ears and other body parts chopped off cruelly during the course of the conflict - and victims of sexual violence."



Charles Taylor in The Hague

The Pool

Thursday, 6 March 2008

Ex-UNAMSIL Commander to Appear at the Special Court

Former UNAMSIL Force Commander, Kenyan born Lt. Gen. Daniel Opande is expected to testify on Monday, March 10th at the Special Court for Sierra Leone in defense of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) on going trial in Freetown a Press release from the court states. Though the release did not elaborate further but our court sources says, the former UNAMSIL Commander who supervised the complete disarmament programme in Sierra Leone is one of the witnesses to give an account on the role played by Issa Sesay.

[Note: There was no Special Court press release. There was an SMS text message.]

Awareness Times
Thursday, 6 March 2008

US\$ 100,000 monthly for Taylor's Defence

About US\$ 100,000 is reportedly been spent monthly on Charles Taylor's Defence Team in The Hague and officials dealing with the case at the Special Court in Freetown. This amount is being provided by the United Nations Security Council. Critics are reported as saying that the amount is too colossal and should preferably have been used to help alleviate the living standards of war victims.

Awoko

Thursday, 6 March 2008

'500 million small arms in circulation' – *Military spokesman*

By *Abibatu Kamara*

“The proliferation and abuse of over 500 million small arms and light weapons in circulation in the world caused million of deaths in the last decade alone”.

This was disclosed by the Deputy Chief of Defence staff and military spokesman,

Brigadier Nelson Williams while delivering his keynote address yesterday at the China House Friendship hall in a National Youth Conference on post election peace building organized by the Sierra Leone Action Network on Small Arms (SLANSA) in collaboration with other partners.

He added that these weapons include the assault rifles, light and heavy machine guns, rocket propelled grenades, individual portable mortars, missiles and anti personnel landmines.

The Deputy Chief of Defence noted that readily

available, affordable, easy to maintain, conceal, smuggle and use, light weapons have prompted ordinary citizens and self-styled freedom fighters and non-state actors in Africa to try to solve their problems and achieve their goals by violent means.

On October 31st 1998, he recalled 16 heads of states of the Economic Community of West Africa (ECOWAS) declared a three year moratorium on the importation, exportation and manufacture of small arms and light weapons and encouraged the international community to support the implementation of the said moratorium.

Mr Nelson- Williams maintained that Sierra Leone like other countries in ECOWAS is striving to come to terms with the proliferation of Small Arms Weapon (SALW), adding further that, “the danger of proliferation of SALW are exemplified not only in the plethora of civil conflicts in the sub region but also illegal dealing in SALW and serious crime.

In a democracy, like Sierra

Leone he went on, some of the most critical decisions that our leaders must take are decision about peace, war and security.

Those decisions must be taken with the best interest of the people without tribal affiliations, a benefits or sentiments said the chief of defence staff.

He said youths have a crucial role to play in post elections peace building and that they must remember that “the citizens of democratic Sierra Leone value the contributions of youths toward protecting the nation from internal and external enemies.

The military spokesman pointed out that, he expect every member of SLANSA, West African Network for Peace Building (WANEP) and Media

Foundation for West Africa to maintain a sense of professionalism, commitment to preservation of peace, security and loyalty to elected leaders.

In her statement, Theodora Williams from Ghana who represented FOSDA said that despite the intensity of the political tension during the elections youth stood their ground to maintain peace and free and fair elections.

She revealed that, “the unfortunate thing about the conflicts that bedeviled Africa in the last two decades is that the vulnerable youth are most victimized.


They are enrolled as child soldiers, their education is disrupted prolonging their years in schools if not permanently terminated, some loose their parents and families which makes integration back in to society a lot more difficult said Ms Williams.

In his statement, Member of Parliament Ibrahim Sorie Kamara said that, “we are committed to ensure that democracy work and we are committed to ensure that good governance prevail and

New Democrat (Liberia)
Wednesday, 5 March 2008

Ex-RUF Commander Testifies Of More NPFL Links

A commander of the former Sierra Leone Revolutionary United Front (RUF) has linked former President Charles Taylor to that country's war, telling the court that Liberians were involved in the conflict from the onset.



Mr. Mustapha Marvin Mansaray, 36, told the court that the late RUF leader Foday Sankoh arrived in Sierra Leone with Liberian bodyguards assigned by Mr Taylor. He said:

"In April 1991 the RUF and NPFL entered Pujahun town carrying guns. They captured us."

"The Commander in Chief for RUF operations visited the training base. The first time I saw him in person he said his name was CIC, Foday Sankoh. CIC means Commander in Chief."

"He introduced himself and then told us that he is the leader for the RUF-SL movement, but all of us fighting the war were fighting it for ourselves, he was just there as the leader. He said..."

...in Liberia, adding that it was a two weeks trip.

Ex-RUF Commander Testifies

he did not have money to buy arms to fight the war in Sierra Leone. But he has a friend who is prepared to assist him to fight the war in Sierra Leone. He said that the name of his friend is Charles Ghankay Taylor and he is in Liberia. He is prepared to give him fighters and also prepared to give him arms and ammunition to fight the war in Sierra Leone. So he said that to us. We were all happy, We clapped for him."

Published by THE ANALYST, LIBERIA

Address: Carey St., Gibson Bldg., Opp. Central Bank of Liberia (CBL), GSM: 06 816 334

Taylor Bounces Back



**-Appears In Court As RUF Commander Testifies
-As Special Court Seeks Charles Taylor's Millions**

Former Liberian President Charles Gbankay Taylor, who fell sick recently in open court, has bounced back with his health and was present in Court when witness opposed to his legal interest testified against him.

Taylor is facing 11 charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity, including raping, conscription of child

soldiers, gun running and crimes he is yet to exonerate himself of.

He called the attention of his lawyer a fortnight ago to inform

him that he was not feeling well and his lawyer requested the Special War Crimes Court for Sierra Leone for the former rebel leader to be submitted to medical attention.

Following a few days with the doctors, Taylor regain his health and was buoyant

enough to appear in Court to listen to his adversaries tell the world all the worse thing they know about him.

The courtroom opened to an empty gallery for the second session, a little after noon.

Prosecution sought to rescind the previous protective measures for

Cont'd on page 10

UP Local Chair Narrates NPFL's Atrocities

-Says Victims Were Transported On ECOMOG Truck

Despite the incident in Fish Town involving two commissioners of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), public hearings are ongoing this

Gedeh County.

At Monday's hearing, it was disclosed that fighters of the defunct Independent National Patriotic Front of Liberia (INPFL) massacred scores of

ECOMOG peacekeeping soldiers tried to evacuate them from Liberia.

According to the witness, the victims were transported onboard five ECOMOG trucks

Center (BTC) to the Freeport of Monrovia on September 11, a day following the death of President Samuel Kanyon Doe to await evacuation when INPFL fighters under the command of General Prince Johnson stormed the port and demanded that

Taylor Bounces Back

Witness TF1-337. The court will proceed in open session without previous protective measures. Defense did not object.

The witness walked in with a blue shirt and baggy blue jacket, and testified in Krio. Charles Taylor was in the courtroom, wearing his aviator sunglasses.

The witness, who testified in open court, was Mustapha Marvin Mansaray, 36 year old, belonging to the Mende tribe.

The Prosecution started by taking the witness back to 1991 Pujahun town in 1991.

Wit: In April 1991 the RUF and NPFL entered Pujahun town carrying guns. They captured us.

Pros: Who do you mean by captured us?

Wit: the civilians were all captured. Pros: What happened after you and other civilians were captured?

Wit: After some time, I went to my village, Funima. On 20 April 1991 RUF and NPFL fighters captured me in my village and I was taken to a training base in a town called ChisWolo for the RUF.

I met other civilians there who said they were recruits and we were to be trained in guerrilla training and commando training. There were about 500 other recruits. The other civilians at the camp were aged between 14 to 45 years of age.

(The witness sniffed and dabbed his face with a yellow handkerchief.)

Judge Doherty: Are you feeling alright witness?

Wit: I am okay. Pros: You went through two types of training - did all civilians under go that training? Can you describe it?

Wit: Guerrilla training is the physical training that we received. Taught how to shoot a gun against the fighters. Using light weapons like the AK and hand grenade, and heavy weapons. When you undergo training, you will enter the Halaka - when you enter, you will go around it running, if they ask you to drop down you will fall down, you will be commanded to crawl on your stomach. During all this the training instructors will be standing around flogging you with sticks. After that the training instructors told us to fall on the ground when someone shoots at us. We were tested that if we go to the front line, we have to be confident enough to be with the other soldiers. Sometimes they would use live bullets in the halaka. They told us as long as you stayed still even if the gun is shot continuously, nothing will happen to you, but if you stand up, you will die.

Some mornings they would take us to the bush and set up an ambush. We would be divided into fighters and enemies so if there is such a situation we can face it.

Pros: What did you do when they trained you attacked enemies?

Wit: To attack the enemy, we are taught that sometimes we will attack them surprisingly when they are not expecting us, sometimes through ambush, and tactics that we applied if there are soldiers in the town. We go close to the town. We may have to capture a civilian to ask them how the soldiers are positioned in the town. If we can't capture a civilian, 2-3 fighters will go into the town and see where they are positioned. (The witness is speaking too fast for the interpreter - he was told to slow down). The witness sniffed throughout the testimony.

Wit: When we went in the town, we would bring all the civilians together in the center of the town or the court bary, and for houses

where soldiers have been resident, we will go in and search for ammunition or guns. Those civilians we bring together, we will search in case there are any soldiers among them. If there are no soldiers, whatever we will capture in the town, whatever items we are looting clothes, food, whatever property we needed we forced the civilians to carry the property.

Pros: Court you explain what you mean by court bary?

Wit: Sometimes when we captured towns during fighting, there will be a big house where local courts are held. We called it a court bary. Sometimes we will gather civilians together to search among them. So when you ask me about the court bary, that is the reason why that big house is called a court bary.

Pros: After you captured a town, you would force the civilians to carry the items. Is there anything else about an attack on a town?

Wit: When we captured those towns, before we start searching among the civilians, if there are roads leading to the town, the commander leading the mission could appoint fighters to stand by the roads, so that if there are soldiers who escaped, they could not come back to attack us by surprise. So those are some of the tactics we apply when we capture a town.

The Special Court for Sierra Leone has asked the UK government to help track down money believed to have been stolen by Liberia's ex-leader Charles Taylor.

He is on trial accused of funding rebels in Sierra Leone while in office.

Mr. Taylor denies the charges, but the chief prosecutor says if he is convicted for pillage he wants his alleged stolen millions to be returned.

"If we can get the money back to the victims, that are a critical part of justice," Stephen Rapp told the BBC.

During Sierra Leone's decade-long civil war, which officially ended in 2002, tens of thousands of people died and thousands more were mutilated, raped and had limbs amputated.

Mr. Taylor's war crimes case has been transferred from Sierra Leone to The Hague for security reasons, although it is still being conducted by the UN-backed court.

The former Liberian president is charged with 11 counts of crimes against humanity and war crimes.

Mr. Rapp has been in London to meet with the UK government to discuss the alleged looted money which is believed to be in the region of several hundred million dollars.

"It may be even close to a

billion dollars when you add together all the resources and the money that went through the government of Liberia when he was president," Mr Rapp told the BBC's World Today programme.

"Indications are that some \$650m was due to the people, due to the treasury - that money all flowed through his personal bank accounts."

Tracking down the funds was an 'ongoing forensic effort', but governments around the world have been co-operative when asked for help, he said.

"If we obtain a conviction for him on pillage we're going to go forward and try to obtain the restitution orders," the chief prosecutor said.

He said the real tragedy of the war in Sierra Leone is that not enough was being done to help the victims of the war.

He said he hoped any recovered money would go to a victim reparation programme.

"For the thousands of people who had arms and legs and sometimes ears and other body parts chopped off cruelly during the course of the conflict - and victims of sexual violence."

Court Goes After Taylor's 'Millions'

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PAP

PRISONERS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM BY

The Inquirer (Liberia)
Wednesday, 5 March 2008

Sierra Leone Court Chases Taylor's Millions

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UK government to discuss the alleged looted money

The Special Court for Sierra Leone has asked the UK government to help track down money believed to have been stolen by Liberia's ex-leader Charles Taylor. He is on trial accused of funding rebels in Sierra Leone while in office. Mr. Taylor denies the charges, but the chief prosecutor says if he is convicted for pillage, he wants his alleged stolen

millions to be returned. "If we can get the money back to the victims, then that's a critical part of justice," Stephen Rapp told the BBC. During Sierra Leone's decade-long civil war, which officially ended in 2002, tens of thousands of people — died and thousands more were mutilated, raped and had their limbs amputated. Mr. Taylor's war crimes

case has been transferred from Sierra Leone to The Hague for security reasons, although it is still being conducted by the UN-backed court. The former Liberian president is charged with 11 counts of crimes against humanity and war crimes. "Forensic evidence" Mr. Rapp has been in London to meet with the

Cont'd on Page 16



Fmr. Pres. Taylor

Sierra Leone Court

Cont'd from front Page

which is believed to be in the region of several hundred million dollars. "It may be even close to a billion dollars when you add together all the resources and the money that went through the Government of Liberia (GOL) when he was president," Mr. Rapp told the BBC's World Today programme. "Indications are that some \$650m was due to the people, due to the treasury that money all flowed through his personal bank accounts," Mr. Rapp said. Tracking down the funds was an "ongoing forensic effort", but governments around the world have been co-operative when asked

for help, he said. "If we obtain a conviction for him on pillage we're going to go forward and try to obtain the restitution orders," the chief prosecutor said. He said the real tragedy of the war in Sierra Leone is that not enough was being done to help the victims of the war. He expressed the hope that any recovered money would go to the victim reparation programme. He said this would go to the thousands of people who had arms and legs and sometimes ears and other body parts chopped off cruelly during the course of the conflict - and victims of sexual violence.

The Inquirer (Liberia)
Wednesday, 5 March 2008

Blah's Doctor Expresses Fear

The doctor of former Liberian President Moses Blah says he is still afraid for his life amidst threats issued out to him by some individuals, who have warned that he stops providing medical services to the former president.

Dr. Felix Ikuomola told this paper over the weekend that he feels insecure as a result of the threats and that his movement has been restricted nowadays.

He said as a medical personnel, he is not used to the presence of too much security around him, stressing that because of the latest threat, he just can not go to certain places.

Dr. Ikuomola, who is the medical director of the Aframed Clinic on the Old

Road, said although since he received the 1981 text message threatening his life, he is yet to receive a latest one, but to protect himself from the would be assassins, security around him has been beefed up just in case of any eventuality.

"But I am not use to this and I am feeling insecure because I am not use to too much security around me," he said.

Asked what former President Blah has said about the threat on his life, he said the former head of state is

concerned and has asked him to be very security conscious as he himself (President Blah) has received similar threats and has taken appropriate security measures to handle the issue.

On the issue as to whether he thinks the former president's health condition requires that he leaves the country to seek treatment abroad, Dr. Ikuomola said Mr. Blah, being very concerned about his health, has been coming over to him for regular check up for preventive purposes; something which he said most Liberians do not like to do.

Dr. Ikuomola, who claimed to be the personal doctor of the former president for the last several years, said Mr. Blah's situation is not grave, that warrants foreign medical attention and added that even if this was the case, he would be the one to prepare the medical report.

Asked whether the former president has informed him about plans to travel to the Hague, he said at no time has Mr. Blah said anything about traveling to the Hague.

He vowed to continue treating Mr. Blah in spite of the threats and wondered

why people would choose to attack some one like him, who is just rendering medical services.



Dr. Ikuomola

BBC World Service Trust

Wednesday, 5 March 2008

By Abdul Rashid, at The Hague (translation from Krio)

The Special Court has denied a Prosecution motion asking to keep confidential three Prosecution and one Defence document which they submitted as exhibits during the testimony of Witness TF1-362. Prosecution Witness TF1-362 is a protected witness who testified in closed session. The public and media does not get information from closed session court sittings.

In his application, Prosecution lawyer Mohamed Bangura to prevent the Court's Registry from making four exhibit's from Witness TF1-362's testimony public, said if that happened, it would go against the Court's rule concerning protected witnesses. Mr Bangura said the exhibits show things like a signature that would show a link with the witness.

The Defence team for Charles Taylor objected to the motion to keep the four exhibits confidential. Defence lawyer Morris Anyah said the Prosecution as late with its application. He told the Court that the motion should have come before the witness took the stand. Mr. Anyah added that if the Court hides the exhibits from the public, it will violate the right of the former Liberian president to a public trial.

After the three Judges conferred, Presiding Judge Teresa Doherty ruled against the Prosecution, saying they didn't see anything to identify the witness if the exhibits are made public.

As this was going on, Prosecution witness number 20, Mustapha Mansaray continued with his testimony. Mustapha told the Court how Sam Bockarie and Issa Sesay seized cacao and coffee from people's plantations in Kailahun and sold it to Guinean traders to buy arms, ammunition, and food.

He also told the Court how the RUF captured UN peacekeepers and how Issa took them to Liberia.

The Prosecution has ended its examination-in-chief. The Defence will continue with its cross-examination on Thursday.

Abdul Rashid for Search for Common Ground and BBC World Service Trust, at The Hague.

New Democrat (Liberia)
Thursday, 6 March 2008

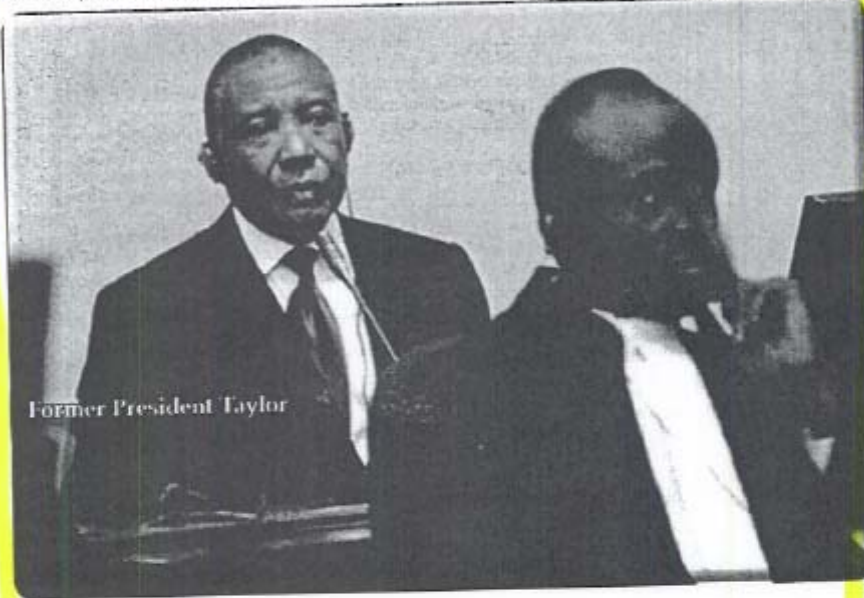
Many Buried Alive

Thrown In Wells - Witness

An ex-Sierra Leone rebel commander continued his testimony against ex-President Charles Taylor Wednesday, with detailed brutality

Charles Taylor, wearing glasses and dressed in a grey suit, white shirt and blue tie, sat quietly often taking notes.

Taylor was present in November 1991. Mansaray had told how the RUF fighters had crossed back into Liberia after being chased by Sierra



Former President Taylor

ties against civilians while telling the court that Mr Taylor addressed them in 1991 and told them the war was freedom.

Court transcripts say Mr Taylor,

Mustapha Marvin Mansaray, 36, the latest in the strings of witnesses that have testified for the prosecution, also described a meeting, near Timne in Liberia, at which Charles

Leonean soldiers. That evening, Foday Sankoh and Charles Taylor arrived to address the fighters. Charles Taylor arrived in a grey car, introduced himself. [Page 10](#)

World's No.1 For Teenage Mothers

Liberia is rated as having the world's highest population of teenage mothers, according to UNICEF Country Representative, Rozanne Chrolton.

Speaking at the UNMIL, regular press briefing Wednesday ahead of the International Women's Day celebration Saturday, Ms. Chrolton said a survey conducted last year in Lofa County alone shows that 73% of teenage girls in that part of the country are teenage mothers.

She said this figure is very high compared to other parts of the world and the Africa continent. Ms. Chrolton further said Liberia probably has the world highest maternal mortality rate, adding that this is understandably so, due to the high number of teenage mothers in the country.

"...We still have probably one of the highest maternal mortality rate in the world, really, really high. And



when you see girls who are teenagers as mothers then we probably understand why that rate is very, very high. There was a survey done in Lofa last year, which shows that

73% of the teenage girls are mothers that is a very high figure compare to other parts of the world and the African continent actually," Ms. Chrolton added. [Page 10](#)

Many Buried Alive

and told the RUF that the NPFL fighters should not treat the RUF fighters badly, as they were all fighting for the same freedom. The RUF clapped for him. After Taylor left, the RUF leader Foday Sankoh said the RUF should not allow Liberians to kill or mistreat the RUF members. He said his friend, Charles Taylor, would help him to continue the war with arms and ammunition. Those weapons were being exchanged that night. Mansaray said he got back in one of three cars which were loaded with weapons, including anti aircraft guns. The cars drove Mansaray and others back towards the town of Tinne to search for the Sierra Leonean soldiers. He and others opened fire on the Momo soldiers (Momo soldiers were Sierra Leonean fighters in the time of the Momo regime - they were fighting for the Sierra Leonean government). They captured Tinne that very day.

In Krio, Mansaray described his progression through the RUF ranks after being captured at the start of the war, in April 1991, as a civilian. He was trained as a fighter and after this training, he joined the RUF until 2001, when he was disarmed. He described his rise from junior fighter, to the RUF's mining commander in Nyaiga, in Kono district.

He explained the work and composition of the RUF's joint security board investigation panel. This panel included members of the RUF's internal defense unit, the intelligence office, military police and C5 (soldiers in charge of civilians) and operated effectively as a semi-court for the RUF. If any fighter or commander violated a law of the RUF, this panel would investigate, and submit a report with recommendations, including demotion, transferral to the front line, or placement in a guard room (jail equivalent). Between 1996 and disarmament, this Joint Security Board Investigation Panel would report to RUF chief security officer, Augustine Gbao. Any reports he would receive from this panel had to be passed to the RUF's field commander, Sam Bockarie (who held this position between November 1996 to December 1999). Under the RUF guidelines, Bockarie was supposed to approve the recommendations made by this body, but according to Mansaray, he approved very few reports. This meant that the fighter, junior officer or commander who committed the crimes described in the report would be set free.

Mansaray described Sam Bockarie as a man who was only interested in fighting the war. He had no interest in bringing soldiers to justice for crimes committed against civilians. He and his bodyguards, moreover, had committed crimes against civilians. In 1995 in Peyama, for example, when Mansaray was stationed there, Sam Bockarie ordered that 10 civilians who had been captured by RUF fighters while searching for food, were to be tied up and thrown in a deep water well. All the civilians died in that well. Another time, Bockarie told fighters to go in search of food. They brought 5 civilians back at gunpoint together with two cows. Sam Bockarie shot three of them. He then told RUF fighters to tie up the other two civilians and to dig a grave. The two civilians were buried alive.

The joint security board investigation panel held a meeting and wrote a report against Sam Bockarie for these murders. When Bockarie was told of the report, he arrested three of the RUF commanders, who were present during the killings, and threw them in jail. He also ordered that the man who physically delivered the report be flogged and thrown in jail also. Meanwhile, Bockarie threatened to kill the joint security board members.

He had earlier described the killing of civilians by soldiers at checkpoint in Bumpah Ferri back in 1991 if they refused to hand over their belongings to the RUF (food, clothing, money).

The Analyst (Liberia)
Thursday, 6 March 2008

Liberia 20

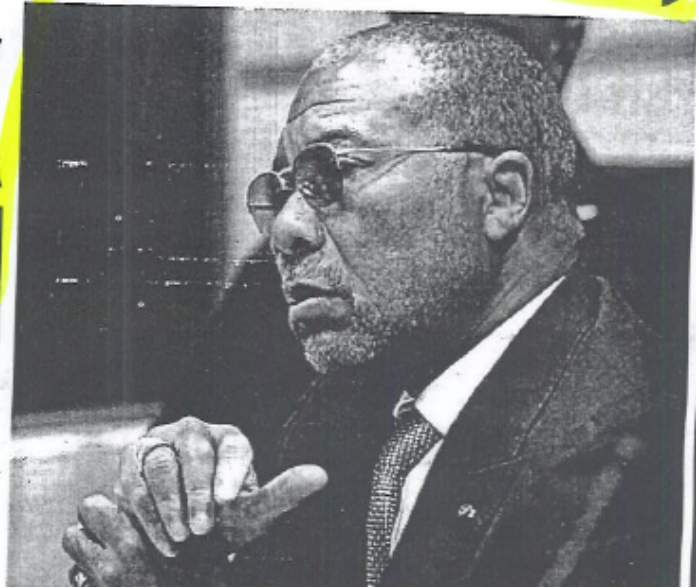
www.analystnewspaper.com/www.allafrica.com

Tales Of Taylor, RUF Link

-Witness Unearths 'Hidden Things'
-Talks About Plans To Dethrone Guinean Leader

The trial of former President Charles Taylor ongoing in The Hague is steadily reaching its apex and is not even far from ending. Witnesses are taking the stand, giving their accounts of what they know transpired during the worst moments of war in Liberia and Sierra Leone. Most of them are testifying against the former President who is facing eleven-count charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity. One of the witnesses, an RUF Insider, Mustapha Mansaray is now on the floor telling the court more tales of Taylor, RUF marriage and an alleged plot to dethrone Guinean President Lansana Conte. The Analyst brings you detailed accounts (un-edited) as cued from the trial's website.

Cont'd on page 10



Tales Of Tay

Prosecution witness, RUF insider, Mustapha Marvin Mansaray, 36, continued his testimony from yesterday. As he sat, wearing a white T-shirt under a grey button-down dress shirt, he looked calm throughout much of his testimony. He did not seem to suffer from the same watery eyes and nose as he did during yesterday's sessions. Charles Taylor also sat calmly throughout the testimony, at times taking notes.

Mansaray continued his description of the foodstuffs that the RUF had claimed for its benefit, forcing civilians to hand over supplies of coffee, cocoa and kola nuts from their plantations in order to sell them to get money to buy arms and ammunitions for the RUF. Civilians who resisted would be beaten and their property taken from them.

Around the same time, Mansaray described meeting with a man called Jungle at Sam Bockarie's house in 1997, but Mansaray and Jungle had actually known each other previously. Jungle was one of the men who Foday Sankoh would send to Liberia to get arms and ammunitions and to Guinea to get foodstuffs for the RUF.

In 1998 when Mansaray moved to Kuiva, he described lootings and killings of civilians, as the RUF and AFRC established a battalion headquarters there and took over civilian houses. The morning after the RUF and AFRC fighters arrived in the town, corpses littered the street. Around the same time, Mansaray described the decaying odor of 20 corpses of civilians who had been killed in Kailahun, allegedly by Sam Bockarie because Bockarie suspected them of being Komojors. No action was taken against Bockarie for these killings. When Mansaray moved to Shegwema, he also spoke of an RUF fighter who shot 25 civilians. Mansaray reported these murders, but his superiors did nothing about it. He described similar patterns in other places he worked throughout the war.

Mansaray described in-fighting within the RUF and AFRC in 1999 in Makeni, which led to a split. Sam Bockarie, Issa Sesay and Morris Kallon headed one group, and Dennis Mingo and Gibril Massaquoi headed the other. The two groups fought against each other, resulting in killings. At a muster parade in a nearby town of Mabroka around the same time, he found out that Morris Kallon and Siem Kollah (an RUF vanguard) had a vehicle loaded with ammunition and arms which the Kallon/Bockarie/Sesay split planned to use against the Dennis Mingo group. These arms and ammunitions had come from Liberia. Kollah told Mansaray that Sam Bockarie had got these ammunitions and arms from Charles Taylor.

Mansaray then moved to describing his time in Pedembu from June 1999, where he worked as the RUF's First Brigade Internal Defense Unit (IDU) Chief Clerk. He was responsible for issuing travel passes to fighters who wanted to visit their families, and for screening approximately 500 civilians who had been captured by the fighters. After the screening, the civilians could be signed out by their families, but for those who did not have families to sign them out, a

women, RUF fighters would often come to sign for them and take them to the fighter's home to have sexual intercourse or to make the women do domestic work.

During the same period, Mansaray described the arrest of UN peacekeepers by an RUF member called Dennis Lansana on the orders of Issa Sesay, then the RUF's overall commander. These peacekeepers were kept under house arrest as the RUF leadership prepared six charges against them, including one that the peacekeepers had joined hands with the Sierra Leonean government to destroy the RUF. The peacekeepers were then taken to Liberia, by either car or helicopter, at the request of Charles Taylor, according to Mansaray. What happened to the peacekeepers after they arrived in Liberia was not canvassed in today's testimony.

Mansaray then went on to describe his role in Koina Budena from July 2000. Part of his duties were to record the RUF's arms and ammunitions stock, and the number of fighters. He said a stock of arms and ammunitions existed at Makeni, which had come from Issa Sesay in order to run the RUF's operations. Issa Sesay had addressed a muster parade of RUF fighters in 2000, and told them that Charles Taylor had given him the mission to launch an attack against President Lansana Conteh in Guinea and overthrow him. Issa Sesay had told the muster parade that Taylor had supplied the arms for the mission in Guinea, and the fighters should accomplish the mission set for them.

Mansaray went on to describe his work as mining commander in the Ngaiya area from January 2001, where he controlled more than 200 diamond mines. He described a system in which civilians were forced to work in the diamond mines. Though technically the RUF had a system where they would divide the gravel into two piles - one meant for the RUF, and the other meant for the civilians the RUF would always confiscate any big diamonds found by civilians. If civilians refused to hand over the diamonds, they were beaten or killed.

Mansaray also described an RUF training base in the area where he was the mining commander. He said that Issa Sesay had gone there one night and killed a group of recruits. When Sesay was confronted about this by the RUF's General Security Officer, Pa Kosia, Sesay threatened him. Nothing

lor, RUF Link

rs killings.

The Prosecution and the Defense, during cross examination, focused on Mansaray's role in the RUF's Internal Defense Unit, and whether this Unit received and acted upon complaints by civilians of mistreatment by the RUF. In short, IDU would act upon complaints by civilians in 1994 and 1995. When Sam

Bockarie took over as the RUF's field commander, however, reports were rarely acted upon (he said 90 per cent of the time, the IDU's reports were not acted upon). Between 1996 and disarmament in June 2001, Mansaray agreed that the rules and regulations of the RUF were effectively shattered as the RUF's commanders, from 1996, "took the law into their own hands" and complaints were no longer, or rarely, acted upon.

UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries 5 March 2008

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

Newspaper Summary

Ellen Wants Oil Deal Published

(The Inquirer)

- President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf has renewed her earlier call to the management of the Liberia Petroleum Refining Company (LPRC) to publish the oil deal that was entered into between the governments of Nigeria and Liberia in 2006. The President said it has been her position over and over again that the controversial deal be published but contrary to the stance of the President, the LPRC management has said that no where in the world can such an agreement reached by the agreed parties be made public.
- Speaking yesterday on a live phone programme, "Conversation with the President," President Sirleaf said she has been informed by the LPRC management through its Managing Director Harry Greaves that he has made copies of the agreement available to some lawmakers who have raised questions over the agreement.
- President Sirleaf said in addition to this, she has informed journalists seeking information on the controversial deal to feel free and go to the LPRC central offices, to look at the files of the agreement so that they can 'satisfy' themselves as it relates to their doubts over the agreement. Addressing herself to calls made to her that she should approach the Nigerian government so as to get more oil to assist the country, in the midst of the rising increment of the commodity, President Sirleaf said she will not put her hands in what she called, "any more oil deal."

Illicit Tapping Continues Unabated in Firestone

(Heritage, The Informer)

- Illicit tappers roaming the concession area of the Firestone Plantation Company have tapped seven tanks within the vicinities of Tanks 14 and 15 in Division 44 near Harbel. According to a Firestone news release, the gang of unknown individuals early Monday morning went ahead of the employees and used torch lights to carry out the act.
- The release said while waiting to collect the latex and other rubber products they had stolen, a company patrol team arrived forcing the illicit tappers to flee the scene and abandon their wares which were collected by personnel of the Plant Protection Department and taken to Harbel. This is the second incident to occur at Tanks 14 and 15 in less than a month. Similar incident occurred in late February when illicit tappers attempting to scare away the patrol team fired single barrel guns at the team before abandoning several barrels filled with latex.

Nigerian UN Unit Hands Over Electrical Training Workshop

(Heritage, Public Agenda)

- A Nigerian peacekeeping unit of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) has handed over an electrical training workshop it established through the expertise and financial contribution of its personnel. According to an UNMIL press release, speaking at the hand over ceremony, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ellen Løj, stressed the importance of technical and vocational training for Liberia youths in assisting them become skilled and productive members of the society.

- "We need these kind of skills that can be implemented with little capital to set up small ventures and business activities," the UN Envoy said. She then commended the Nigerian Signal-Six (NISIG-6) unit for funding and identifying the need for the workshop, which will now be run by the Catholic-run Don Bosco Youth Centre.
- The Commander of Sector One of UNMIL, Brigadier General Olayemi Abidoye, said the contributions of the NISIG-6 unit honour the memory of soldiers who gave their lives during the peacekeeping operations of the West African regional forces in Liberia. The Nigerian unit, which maintains communications between UNMIL Force and Sector headquarters, employs a wide-range of advanced equipment and skilled manpower, UNMIL said.

New AFL Soldier Arrested With 6.7Kg of Marijuana

(Heritage, Radio Veritas)

- An officer of the new Armed Forces of Liberia(AFL) was on Monday afternoon arrested in Nimba County by officers of the Drug Enforcement Agency(DEA) for allegedly being in possession of 6.7Kg of marijuana which street value is put at LD\$17,500. Pvt. Carson Cooper was picked up on board a truck in Ganta, Nimba County by officers of the DEA while enroute from Tappita to Monrovia.
- Authorities of the DEA said they are investigating and preparing charge to possibly prosecute the soldier but what is not clear is whether he can appear in court while not officially disrobed. The arrest of Pvt. Cooper comes in the wake of statements by President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and Ministry of National Defense Officials that soldiers of the new AFL are being recruited under a robust vetting process.

INPFL Rebels Massacred Krahns....Witness Testifies at TRC Hearings

(Public Agenda, The Analyst, The Informer, Daily Observer)

- Fighters of the defunct Independent National Patriotic Front of Liberia (INPFL) massacred scores of ethnic Krahns in 1990 when ECOMOG peacekeeping soldiers tried to evacuate them from Liberia, a witness told commissioners of Liberia's Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Monday. Testifying at day one of the ongoing TRC hearings in Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County, Henry Zonweaye said the victims were transported on board five ECOMOG trucks from the Barclay Training Centre (BTC) to the Freeport of Monrovia on September 11, 1990, a day following the death of former President Samuel K. Doe to await evacuation when INPFL fighters under the command of General Prince Johnson demanded their turn over. He said several of the evacuees were turned over and were later taken to the Caldwell Bridge and massacred.
- Meanwhile, The Analyst reports that President Ellen Johnson appears to be evading the TRC from comments made during her regular phone-in programme "Conversation with the President" in which she is quoted as saying she does not want to make a spectacle of her appearance and that she was busy writing a book of her experiences. The paper however said it sees no correlation between her book and appearance at the TRC.

Radio Summary Local Media – Radio veritas (News monitored today at 9:45 am)

President Sirleaf Brokers Peace Deal between Police and Judiciary

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf yesterday presided over a peaceful settlement of a longstanding land dispute between the Judiciary and the Liberia National Police (LNP).
- Last week, the Supreme Court issued writ of contempt against the top brass of the police for allegedly stalling construction work at the Temple of Justice.
- Speaking to reporters following the intervention, President Sirleaf said the dispute has now being settled and said the Judiciary can now go ahead with its project.

(Also reported on Star Radio, Truth F.M. and ELBC)

DEA Investigates "Drugs" Carrying AFL Soldier

- Authorities of the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) said they are investigating Pvt. Carson Cooper of the new Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) for allegedly trafficking 6.7grams of marijuana.

- The DEA said it is preparing a charge to possibly prosecute the soldier but what is not clear is whether he can appear in court while not officially disrobed.
- Radio VERITAS reports that though the Defense Ministry has not issued a statement on the incident but has inquired about the name to verify if the soldier was a bonafide member of the new army.

TRC Denies its Commissioners' involvement in Fistfight

- In an interview, the Executive Director of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), Nathaniel Kwabo denied media reports of a fistfight between two female commissioners of the TRC.
- Mr. Kwabo said media reports that Commissioners Pearl Brown Bull and Massa Washington were involved in a fistfight were exaggerated.
- He however confirmed that a dispute erupted between the Commissioners but said it did not degenerate into a fight.

Star Radio *(News culled from website today at 09:00 am)*

Senior Ivorian Security to Testify In Treason Trial

- It has been confirmed that government intends to bring in some senior Ivorian security personnel to testify in the re-trial of the treason case.
- Judge Peter Gbaynee-wleh said government has forwarded the name of the Ivorian Regional Commander, Wright de la Foss to testify.
- De la Foss is the army personnel with whom Dorbor was allegedly striking the deal for 200 AK-47 riffles and three thousand military uniforms before his arrest. There are reports that the Ivorian Chief of Staff might also be brought in to testify.

BBC

Wednesday, 5 March 2008

Ugandan rebels 'will sign deal'

Uganda Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebel leader Joseph Kony is prepared to sign a peace deal, a northern Ugandan politician and peace negotiator says.

Norbert Mao's comments to the BBC come as rebels failed to get international indictments against LRA leaders lifted.

This key rebel demand has threatened to derail the proposed deal to end the 22-year rebellion in northern Uganda.

But Mr Mao said the warrants should be withdrawn once the rebels are tried in Ugandan courts - as agreed in the pact.

Mr Kony is one of two other LRA leaders who remain alive wanted by the International Criminal Court (ICC) on war crimes charges.

The arrest warrants were issued at the request of the Ugandan government before peace negotiations began with rebels.

The rebellion has left thousands of people dead and nearly two million displaced.

The rebels have been notorious for abducting children to be used as fighters, porters and sex slaves.

'Calculated risk'

Mr Mao, chairman of Gulu district in the north of the country, said Mr Kony's messengers communicated with him on Sunday.

"They told me he has confirmed that he will come in person," Mr Mao told the BBC's Focus on Africa programme.

The signing ceremony is expected to take place on 28 March in Juba, the capital of southern Sudan where the peace negotiations have been mediated for the past 18 months by south Sudan's deputy leader Riak Machar.

"He says he wants his security to be in the hands of Dr Riak Machar and after signing he will go back to the bush to reorganise his troops," Mr Mao said.

"The agreement gives him about one month to organise his troops for demobilisation and disarmament."

Mr Mao said he believed that Mr Kony was taking a "calculated risk".

High alert

Earlier this week, ICC prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo refused to meet LRA representatives and



Mr Kony remains in DR Congo because of the ICC warrant

“ If anything happens to Kony [during the signing ceremony] that will be the end of the entire peace process in which everybody has invested so much hope ”

Norbert Mao
Gulu district chairman



Almost two million people have fled their homes

said the indictments remained in place.

But the Gulu district chairman said he believed Kony understood he would not be handed over to the ICC.

"Also his troops will still be in the bush and presumably on high alert so if anything happens to him that will be the end of the entire peace process in which everybody has invested so much hope."

Over the last few weeks the rebels and government have signed a few documents in the lead up to the expected comprehensive peace agreement.



One of the accords deals with justice and accountability, and it was agreed a special division of the Uganda High Court will be set up to try those accused of serious crimes.

Mr Mao said that it had also been agreed by Uganda's president and other mediators that the UN Security Council would be approached to suspend the LRA arrest warrants.

"That suspension for one year will give the opportunity for the government to implement the alternative justice mechanism which will then make the ICC case just collapse on its own," he said.