

**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:**

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

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## Holland increases support for war crimes trials

The Netherlands is increasing its contribution to the Sierra Leone tribunal this year by one million euros. The Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) is an independent criminal court established in the capital, Freetown. It is mandated to try those who bear the greatest responsibility for the crimes committed during Sierra Leone's civil war in the 1990s.

"It is vital that the tribunal can continue to fight impunity without any constraint," Dutch foreign minister Maxime Verhagen said. "Perpetrators of crimes against humanity must know that they will not go unpunished."

The SCSL has played an important role in the development of international law. In a series of judgments, the court's judges defined forced marriage as a crime against humanity. They have also established that attacks on military peacekeepers and conscripting and using child soldiers are violations of international humanitarian law.

The Netherlands' extra contribution is very welcome, because the Special Court is funded entirely from voluntary contributions from governments - unlike the tribunals for former Yugoslavia and Rwanda which are funded by the

United Nations. The Netherlands has provided over 21 million euros to the Special Court since its inception in 2002.

For security reasons, the trial of former Liberian president Charles Taylor is not being conducted in Sierra Leone but in a courtroom at the International Criminal Court in The Hague. This is the first time a former African head of state has been tried by an international court. The trial's completion will mark a major step in the international fight against impunity.

The Sierra Leone tribunal is expected to complete its work in 2011.

## Witness tells of RUF's terror tactics

Paramilitary units were established as part of the Liberian security apparatus without the knowledge of former Liberian president Charles Taylor, a defense witness for the ex-Liberian president told judges at the Special Court for Sierra Leone sitting in The Hague.

John Vincent, a Liberian national who served as training commandant for Sierra Leone's Revolutionary United Front (RUF) and later as Colonel in the Armed Forces of Liberia

(AFL), told prosecutors that units could be created in the Liberian military without Taylor's knowledge - even though he was the president of the country at that time.

The issue emerged as Mr. Vincent appeared to contradict testimony of Taylor about the existence of a Special Operation Division (SOD) existed as a unit in the Liberia National Police.

In his 2009 testimony, Mr. Taylor told the court that no unit called the SOD existed in the Liberian police force. But

in his testimony, Vincent said that the SOD did exist as a unit in the police force. He added, however, that the former president may not have known about the existence or establishment of the SOD. The witness also told the court that together with his colleagues in the Liberian army, they created the Jungle Fire Quick Reaction Force in the AFL without Mr. Taylor's knowledge.

The accused's defense counsel, Morris Anyah,

*Contd. page 6*

## Witness tells of RUF's terror tactics

*From page 1*

sought clarification about how these special units could be created without the knowledge of the president.

"Now, in relation to Jungle Fire Quick Reaction Force, in your opinion, when you and others gave yourselves that name, is that something that can be the concern of the president of Liberia?" Mr. Anyah asked the witness.

"No, it cannot be the concern, no," the witness responded.

"And why do you say it cannot be the concern?" Anyah asked further.

"Well, it would only be the concern of the president if we were doing something contrary to his administration, but as long as it was in the interest of the government that we bring ourselves together to fight the common enemy, I did not see any problem with it," Vincent said.

As Mr. Vincent concluded his testimony, defense witness Charles Ngebeh - whose cross-examination was suspended on March 24, 2010, based on a request

by prosecutors - took the witness stand again.

Mr. Ngebeh, a Sierra Leonean national, told the court that before he joined the Sierra Leonean rebel force, the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), the rebels forced him and other civilians to walk for one week to a town called Pedembu in the Kailahun District of Sierra Leone. He and the other civilians were then forced to carry looted goods on foot from Pedembu to a town called Foya, in Liberia, he said. In doing so, Ngebeh asserted that the rebels used forced labor.

Among other charges, Mr. Taylor is responding to allegations that he is responsible for the rebels' use of forced labor in Sierra Leone. Prosecutors say Taylor knew or had reason to know that the RUF used forced labor in Sierra Leone but continued to support them through the supply of arms and ammunition. He has denied the allegations against him.

Ms. Brenda Hollis, Chief Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra

Leone, conducted the witness's cross-examination and asked him about how the rebels forced them to walk from Pendembu to Foya in Liberia.

"They used me as manpower," the witness said.

"And when you say you were used as manpower, what do you mean, how were you used?" Ms. Hollis asked the witness.

"They told us to assist them carry their things that they had gotten from Golahun, that's what I mean by manpower," the witness said.

Asked to explain "what kind of things" he carried for the rebels, the witness said that "they had looted food, rice - I carried rice."

He added that the rice was taken by the rebels from the military and the civilians in Sierra Leone.

Mr. Taylor, who is on trial for allegedly supporting RUF rebels in Sierra Leone, has so far presented seven witnesses since his defense team rose on January 11, 2010.

His trial will resume on April 12.

The Exclusive  
Thursday, 8 April 2010

## Sierra Leone's Special Court needs another \$26.4 million

By Cherner Ojuku  
Essay in The Hague

Registrar of the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) on Thursday, April 1 told members of the diplomatic community in The Hague that the court needs another USD 26.4million (Twenty Six Million Four Hundred Thousand United States Dollars) to cover its operations from January 2010 to June 2011. And other additional funds are required to fund the enforcement of sentences in

Rwanda.

The Registrar informed the diplomats that the current available funding will be exhausted by mid-April this year.

Mrs Binta Mansaray was briefing diplomats on the current state of the court and what is required for a successful conclusion of its operations.

Mrs Mansaray said the Special Court commenced in June 2004 and has successfully concluded and convicted nine

persons from all the warring factions including the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), Civil Defence Forces (CDF) and the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) who are presently serving their sentences in Rwanda since October last year.

The court's last trial, she disclosed is of former Liberian President, Charles Taylor, which she indicated is in the defence phase and is being heard in The Hague due to re-

gional security concerns.

Mansaray said a first instance judgement on the merits is expected by November this year with an Appeals judgement, if applicable expected by May/June 2011.

Dilating on the legacy of the court, the Registrar said the court's jurisprudence includes the first convictions in history for sexual slavery and forced marriages as crimes against humanity and for attacks on Peacekeepers and recruitment and the use of child soldiers as violations of international

humanitarian law.

She added that the court has contributed to the development of national peace and stability through its judicial activities. "The court's transparent and independent judicial process serves as a model for rule of law. Furthermore, Sierra Leonean staff has developed professionally, both from formal on-the-job training and by working for an international standard".

She furthered that the court currently employs an approximated staff of

240 of which two-thirds are Sierra Leoneans. This number will be downsized to 130 by June this number in accordance with the court's completion strategy and to 80 by January next year. A skeleton staff will be retained for a short period for liquidation purposes after the completion of the Taylor trial.

In his address to members of the diplomatic community, the Director of the United Nations and International Financial Institutions Department, Rob Swartbol announced that

*Continued page 9*

## Sierra Leone's Special Court needs another \$26.4 million

*From front page*

the Netherlands government has increased its contribution for 2010 with USD 1million (One Million United States Dollars).

Mr. Swartbol said promoting the development of the international legal order is enshrined in the Dutch constitution as such, "it is a duty that forms one of the guiding principles of our foreign policy".

The Netherlands, Mr. Swartbol added has been a staunch supporter of the fight against impunity and the establishment of the ad hoc international criminal tribunals as well as the permanent international criminal court.

He observed that the completion of the trial of Charles Taylor in a fair way sends out a clear signal to offenders of the most serious and grave international crimes worldwide that impunity is unacceptable and justice will be served.

The Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, Brenda Hollis told the diplomats that she cannot give any specific date as to when the Taylor trial will end but said she was optimistic at the progress of the trial.

Mrs Hollis said the Special Court for Sierra Leone is a success story because of the support of the international community and the courageous victims and survivors who willingly came forward to explain their horrific ordeals and experiences.

## The African Champion

Thursday, 8 April 2010

### Tejan Kabbah Hiding From His Responsibilities

Tejan-Kabbah has been conspicuously absent from the recent summit of former heads of states of West Africa nations convened in the Liberian capital of Liberia through ECOWAS. The purpose of the meeting, among other issues was to discuss aspects of the maintenance of peace and how past leaders through their experience in governance during conflict, can help advice current governments. It was an important meeting in which Sierra Leone as a former war torn nation could have well contributed. Tejan-Kabbah's absence therefore has far reaching implications. The former president's absence in the Liberian meeting also rekindles issues which contributed to the destruction of lives and other atrocities, and regenerates worst case scenarios. Is Kabbah hiding from what the Special Court has termed as "bearing the greatest responsibility," in terms of the atrocities committed in Sierra Leone under his reign and for which he also played a prominent role?

If anyone other former president had been absent, it would not have made any impact, but Tejan-Kabbah's absence has a reason, which is tied to Victor Gbeho, chairman of ECOWAS and the man charged with heading the meeting. The reason is that Tejan-Kabbah would rather confront an hungry shark in the Atlantic than face Victor Gbeho in Liberia. Let me tell you a story, as Fela Anikpulapo Kuti would sing, concerning Victor Gbeho and Tejan-Kabbah.

Victor Gbeho become a household name in Sierra Leone back in those days when Tejan-Kabbah as a grieving overthrown leader was living in grandiose exile in Conakry, Guinea. Tejan-Kabbah having been chased out of his house by mutinying soldiers had fled to Guinea where he had cried to ECOWAS leaders for military support to bomb the rebel soldiers, as the only solution. What Kabbah had not acknowledged was that he was directly responsible in igniting the problem through his government's open support for an ethnic based militia over the nation's military.

ECOWAS was tasked with the responsibility of solving Sierra Leone's problems, and Victor Gbeho, who was then the foreign minister of Ghana was among members of the delegation sent by ECOWAS to make a fact finding mission in the country. The conclusion of the fact finding mission was that there was a need for dialogue as a means of solving the political impasse and thereby avoid future blood shed. The bottom line was that no matter

what the military solution, Kabbah had messed up the country and there was a need for dialogue as any military solutions will still end with dialogue.

When the delegation's findings were made known to Tejan-Kabbah, he went livid and his supporters in Guinea, and in other parts of the world immediately released a flood of media attacks on Victor Gbeho, with many using abusive languages against the gentleman just because he had called for dialogue. Even Tejan-Kabbah joined the media affray and used some hard words against Victor Gbeho and the then Ghanaian leader Jerry John Rawlings during a BBC interview.

Tejan-Kabbah was recalcitrant in the use of dialogue and saw it as justification for the junta's hold on to power. With the support of Sani Abacha, even though Gbeho and other members of the delegation had affirmed otherwise, they proceeded with the military option, with Kabbah proclaiming that anyone left in Sierra Leone is a rebel. "I will rather rule one person in Sierra Leone ...," Kabbah is reported to have broadcast over Radio Democracy, a hate propaganda station hastily set up to act as a support group established similarly like the former Rwandan genocide related media concerns.

What can Tejan-Kabbah really tell the other former presidents and Victor Gbeho in Monrovia? Tejan-Kabbah, after causing thousands of people to die because of his bad method of governance bears the greatest responsibility. Mr. Tejan-Kabbah has a hand in the atrocities committed in Sierra Leone while he was in exile and on his reinstatement to power.

Tejan-Kabbah should have been the first accused in the Special Court for Sierra Leone, and he stands guilty just as the late Hinga Norman, and others. If Charles Taylor should today be indicted for atrocities committed in Sierra Leone, then so too should Tejan-Kabbah be held responsible. The Special Court for Sierra Leone is a mockery of justice as long as Tejan-Kabbah has not been indicted. The ones who followed Kabbah's orders have been impris-

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oned while one of them, Hinga Norman died undergoing the rigours of a trial and confinement, but Kabbah who is a senior accomplice is still a free man.

No one needs to be reminded that Tejan Kabbah's place is in The Hague, answering questions concerning atrocities for which Charles Taylor is also being tried and not in attending meetings in Liberia.

Tejan-Kabbah will never step foot in Liberia, knowing that he has to answer a lot of questions which he will never be able to do. A meeting of former heads of states of West Africa in which the past is being discussed will be like discussion old bones in the presence of the aged. The Special Court for Sierra Leone was set up through the machinations of Tejan-Kabbah aided by his then Attorney General; and later Vice President Mr. Solomon Berewa. Solomon Berewa, a man who sentenced numerous military officers to death and prosecuted and jailed numerous other civilians in truncated court proceedings is one of the witnesses to Tejan-Kabbah's involvement.

It was under the government of Tejan Kabbah that the worst case scenario in the history of Sierra Leone were committed. Cannibalism by kamajors, the ethnic based militia actively was allowed by the Kabbah administration as well as the public burning to death of people seen as opposing the government.

Innocent civilians were thrown into detention where they died as a result of demeaning circumstances. Conrad Roy, a sport journalist was detained in solitary confinement till he died, while others like Tamba Pessima, a youth leader was publicly eaten with his limbs cut off while alive by kamajors who had been armed, fed and supported by Kabbah. All this happened under the government of Tejan-Kabbah.

It is important that we continue reminding the world about the atrocities committed under Kabbah's rule as it will guard other nations. This is why the meeting in Monrovia is important and this is why one wonders if Tejan-Kabbah, in refusing to attend, is not running away from his own "greater responsibility."



## The Patriotic Vanguard

Thursday, 8 April 2010

### Sierra Leone's Special Court needs another \$26.4 million

By Chernor Ojuku Sesay, Brussels, Belgium



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The court's last trial, she disclosed is of former Liberian President, Charles Taylor, which she indicated is in the defence phase and is being heard in The Hague due to regional security concerns. Mansaray said a first instance judgement on the merits is expected by November this year with an Appeals judgement, if applicable expected by May/June 2011.

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She furthered that the court currently employs an approximated staff of 240 of which two-thirds are Sierra Leoneans. This number will be downsized to 130 by June this number in accordance with the court's completion strategy and to 80 by January next year. A skeleton staff will be retained for a short period for liquidation purposes after the completion of the Taylor trial.

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Photo, from left to right: Mr. Robert Swartbol (Director of the UN and International Financial Institutions Department), Mrs Binta Mansaray (Registrar of the SCSL) and Ms Brenda Hollis (SCSL Prosecutor)

Feature

SIERRA LEONE/LIBERIA

## No joy for Taylor's prosecutors

After two years of trial, the prosecution in the Charles Taylor case are still struggling to nail him down conclusively with the 11-count indictment announced to the world amidst great fanfare in 2004. **Lans Gberie** went to The Hague in February to watch the prosecution at work; he found them clutching at straws and apparently bereft of new ideas.

**C**HARLES TAYLOR WAS TRANSFERRED to The Hague from Sierra Leone in 2006 to fulfill a promise made to Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, the new Liberian president, who feared that trying Taylor so close to her fragile country could be destabilising. The Special Court had probably anticipated this: Article 9 of the Court's founding Act states that: "The Special Court shall have its seat in Sierra Leone. The Court may meet away from its seat if it considers it necessary for the efficient exercise of its functions, and may be relocated outside Sierra Leone, if circumstances so require."

The prosecution concluded the cross-examination of Taylor in early February 2010, telling the judges to convict him for the following offences: that he persecuted human rights activists and suppressed press freedom in Liberia; that he executed politicians and rebel commanders who he saw as threats to his quest for political power; that he had ulterior motives when he negotiated the release of UN peacekeepers held hostage by Sierra Leonean rebel forces; and that through his support for rebel forces in Sierra Leone, he brought un-

told suffering to the people of Sierra Leone. Taylor, of course, vigorously denied these charges, and his combative lead counsel – a very experienced British criminal lawyer of Jamaican descent named Courtenay Griffiths – tried hard to play it all down, insisting that the whole trial was a Western conspiracy to humiliate and convict an awkward African leader.

On 8 February, the judges granted Griffiths' request for a one-week adjournment in order for him and his client to reflect on a few issues that came out of the cross-examination. At the same time, the acting prosecutor, the Sierra Leonean Joseph Kamara, announced that the trial would be concluded by the end of this year.

This is, of course, doubtful: the judges have over \$2m to use up in salary, and ditto the prosecutors. Taylor's defence team, too, is paid \$100,000 a month by the Court (the former president pledged he was indigent) – so obviously no one is in a hurry to wrap this whole thing up. I saw this for myself when I visited the Court on 29 February.

### Prosecution at work

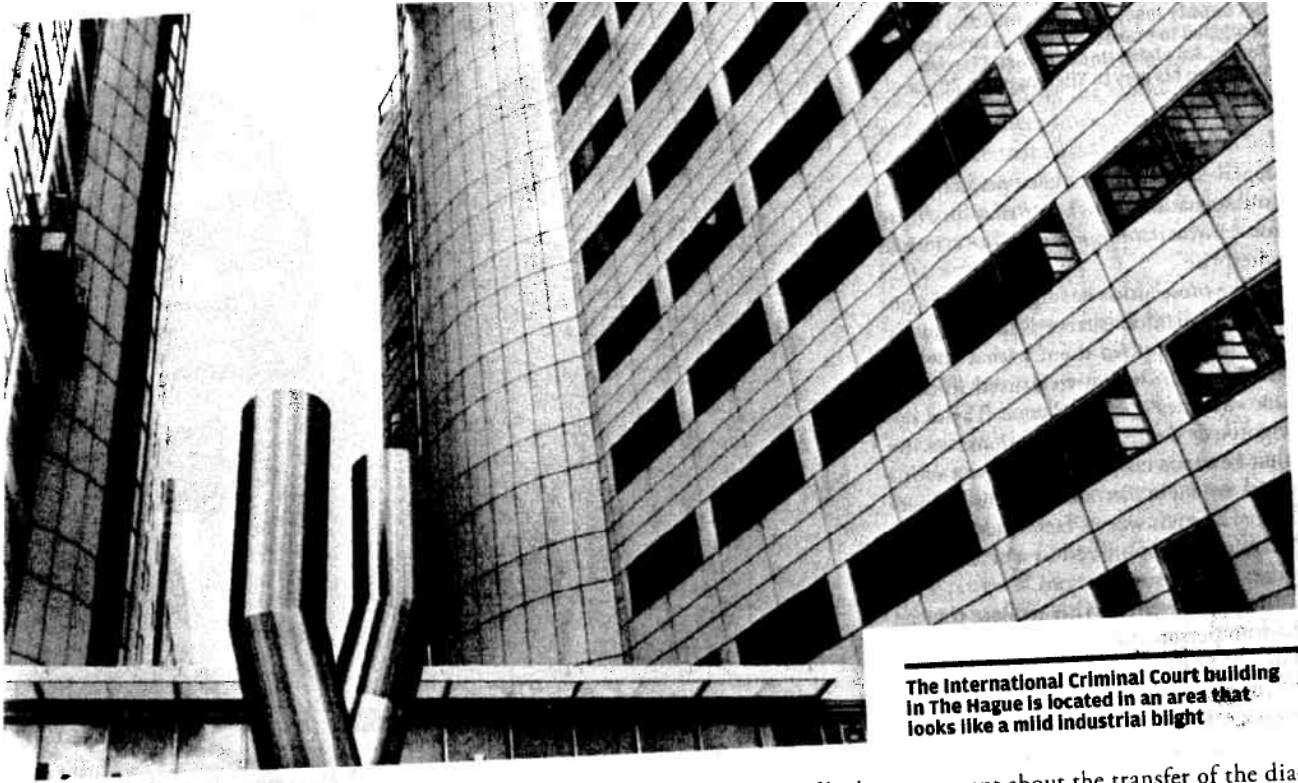
On that day, as on the previous two days, the prosecution focused on crimes Taylor



allegedly committed in Liberia both as a rebel leader and as president. This was, of course, a deviation from the charges against the former Liberian leader – for the indictment focuses exclusively on Taylor's role in the war in Sierra Leone, as a so-called "godfather" of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF).

But the intention was clear. Taylor's defence has consistently played down the brutalities of the Liberian war, claiming that it had none of the hallmarks – massive rape, amputations, arson, and pointless and mass killings – that marked the Sierra Leonean war. Liberia's Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) report published last year documented massive atrocities in the country's nearly 15 years of warfare. Citing those atrocities, the latest chief prosecutor (another ex-American military officer), Ms Brendan Hollis, told the Court that the RUF crimes in Sierra Leone were part of a pattern begun in Liberia by Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) rebel forces, of which key RUF members were a part.

"Crimes committed by all factions in Liberia including your NPFL were widespread and systematic in nature," Hollis



The International Criminal Court building in The Hague is located in an area that looks like a mild industrial blight

**“Taylor’s counsel tried hard to play it all down, insisting that the whole trial was a Western conspiracy to convict an awkward African leader.”**

told Taylor. “That is incorrect,” Taylor responded. The prosecution has alleged that Taylor bears “the greatest responsibility” for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other serious violations of international humanitarian law, committed in the territory of Sierra Leone between 30 November 1996 and 18 January 2002.

Taylor has pleaded not guilty to all the charges. In appearances at the Court, he does look the part. In his immaculate suit, Taylor looks less like the alleged colourful buccaneer who press-ganged children into delirious brutality, as painted by the prosecution, than a retired banker who has been harassed for some old unpaid loans.

“There were no amputations in Liberia. That is a blatant and diabolical lie,” Taylor

said. Hollis countered: “You yourself had armed children, some as young as eight years old,” Taylor responded: “That is total nonsense. Every child that I held I put in an orphanage.” And so it went, Taylor not conceding any ground.

**Naomi Campbell’s diamond**

There was the matter of Taylor allegedly presenting, as a gift, a large diamond to the British model Naomi Campbell. When this evidence was submitted in January 2010, the Western media – including the *New York Times* and *ABC* – carried stories about this “blood diamond” gift.

Brenda Hollis tried to introduce a signed statement from the American actress, Mia Farrow, who alleged that Naomi Campbell had informed her that Taylor had sent his men to give her a rough-cut diamond after they had all attended a dinner in South Africa hosted by Nelson Mandela. Not missing a beat, Taylor’s lead counsel Courtenay Griffiths objected that there was nothing indicating that the declaration was made under oath or whether it was a sworn affidavit. He noted further that the document was prejudicial, and that the best person to have made any

statement about the transfer of the diamond should have been Naomi Campbell herself, not a third party.

Griffiths called the document “hearsay”. “This document is complete nonsense. It is ridiculous. It should not be allowed in a court of law. It has no probative value and it is highly prejudicial, and in that situation, any tribunal of fact has the discretion to exclude it on that basis, and I invite you to do so,” Griffiths told the judges. And he was obliged. The judges threw out the document. Perhaps not surprisingly, none of the major news media outlets reported the judges’ decision.

There are three judges sitting over the trial: Judges Richard Lubrick (from Samoa), Teresa Doherty (UK), and Julia Sebutinde (Uganda). There is a fourth judge, called an “alternate judge”, El Hadji Malice (Senegal) who is acting as a sub – to be deployed in case any one of the judges is incapacitated.

A key strategy of the prosecutors has been to prove that Taylor enriched himself through his involvement in the conflict in Sierra Leone. In other words, that his involvement in the war was predicated not on politics or diplomacy, however

## Feature

## SIERRA LEONE/LIBERIA

**Lead prosecutor Brenda Hollis (right) and her deputy Joseph Kamara (middle) have struggled to make a conclusive case against Taylor. Far right: Under escort: Charles Taylor on his way to The Hague on 20 June 2006**

depraved (for this would be perfectly legal in international law), but that he did so for criminal appropriation – a “criminal enterprise”.

The prosecution has argued that Taylor received diamonds from RUF rebels and in return supplied them with arms and ammunition which were used to commit atrocities in Sierra Leone. Taylor has vigorously denied the allegations, stating that he made no money as a result of his involvement in Sierra Leone. His involvement, he said, was in fact sanctioned by Ecomog and approved by the UN and other key Western nations.

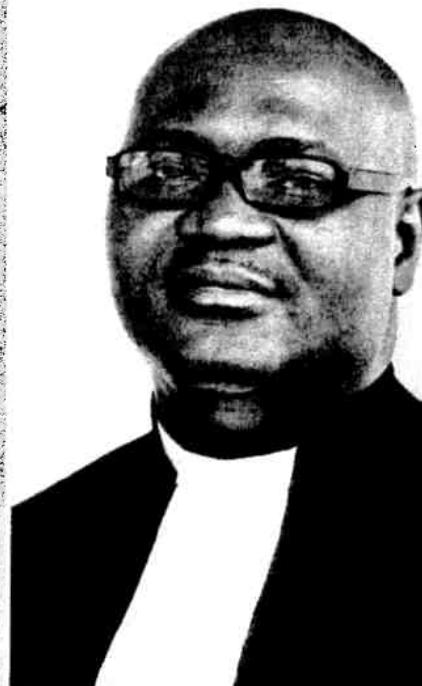
He even went further to state that he had no personal account in which “millions of dollars” were stashed as alleged by the prosecution in several out-of-court press conferences, and challenged them to produce evidence to that effect.

On 11 August 2009, Taylor told the Court: “I will tell anybody, if a bank account is found anywhere in the world that has any money belonging to Charles Taylor, then Charles Taylor has lied. His whole life is a lie.”

He continued: “There is no such thing as me lining my pocket. I will say it again before these judges: I ask anyone on this planet, if you are a banker in Europe, if you are a banker in any part of the world, if you know of any account that I spoke to you about or opened, if you know anybody that represents my interests, come forward and tell the world the truth.”

In a move clearly meant to call Taylor’s bluff, the prosecution lawyer Nicholas Koumjian (another American) came to court just before Christmas 2009 with several documents detailing records of a bank account supposedly operated by Taylor at the Monrovia-based Liberian Bank for Development and Investment (LBDI).

Koumjian read from an LBDI document dated 8 December 1999 showing the opening of a new bank account, number 00201-32851-01. The “personal, checking account” was in the name of “Charles G. Taylor”, home address “Congo Town”,



business address “Executive Mansion”, with an initial deposit of US\$1,000. The signature was Taylor’s. “It is my signature,” Taylor agreed.

But there was a second authorised signatory: Kadiatu Diarra, a lady who worked for the Government of Liberia (GOL) as personal assistant to Taylor while he was president. Taylor accepted that Kadiatu was a co-signatory, and told the Court that the prosecution had in fact interviewed Kadiatu in 2004 and she had told them that the account belonged to the Government of Liberia (GOL), and that it was not Taylor’s. But the prosecution, Taylor said, had hidden this fact from the Court.

However, Koumjian went ahead and told the Court that on 17 July 2000, Natura Holdings, a timber company operated in Liberia by the Dutch businessman, Guus Kouwenhoeven, deposited nearly US\$2m into the account. In 2006, Koewenhoven was convicted in a Dutch court on charges of “arms smuggling and complicity in war crimes in Liberia”, but was acquitted on appeal in March 2008. Taylor responded: “What the prosecution seeks to impeach is the fact that I said I had no personal account, and I had no personal account. If you look at [another document] in the

**“No-one has been able to establish that any amount in the single bank account under question came from Taylor’s dealings with the RUF rebels.”**

bundle that [the prosecution] gave us, you will see there Your Honours, that Kadiatu Diarra and Charles Taylor have the same bank account... Now what does that tell us? This account is a Government of Liberia account. I am a signatory to that account. Kadiatu is a signatory.

“If Your Honours look at the top of that page... you see there ‘Anyone’. There are two signatories on this account. ‘Anyone’ of the two [can sign and make withdrawals]. It is an operational account being operated by the Government of Liberia (GOL). It is not mine. So when you look at the deposit from Natura, and the prosecution has exhibited documents that showed that, that deposit went through the Finance Ministry ... in the box, it states ‘GOL’ on Line 1. As we go through, it further indicates for the second time ‘GOL’



[which] means Government of Liberia. It was not my personal account. Never was and never will be. That's why even on the deposit, it is stated Government of Liberia."

Taylor's response rattled Koumjian, but the American pressed on nonetheless. "If this account belonged to the Government of Liberia, why is it that it is in your name as your personal account?" Koumjian asked.

Taylor replied: "[It is]...very, very clear. I have explained this and I'm sure these financial records will be understood. Mr Koumjian, this account is opened by the president on authorisation and countersigned by Kadiatu Diarra [who] is not my wife; she is not my lover; she works for the Government of Liberia. The only reason why she is signing and is capable of signing – that's what that form said, 'Anyone' [of the two signatories] is capable of signing – is because she is acting on behalf of the government under instructions. That's the only reason why she is on the account..."

"This, Your Honours, is a covert account opened by the Government of Liberia during this period... and you will get to see where the Government of Liberia is finding means to purchase arms and

**"In all, from December 1999 till the account was closed in April 2001, a total of \$14,493,268.93 passed through it."**

ammunition to fight our war after we have informed the United Nations.

"And so it [had] to be opened in my name as President Charles Taylor but it [was] operated by a government official for the purpose intended as a covert account. So the fact that it says here 'United States dollars or checking [account]', the document will show monies going into the account as Government of Liberia... That's why it is covert... The Ministry of Finance was involved."

The account, Taylor said, was necessitated by the fact that there was an international sanctions regime on Liberia, so the government needed to set aside secret funds to break the sanctions in order to buy arms to fight the American-supported-and-armed LURD rebel forces who were fighting to overthrow his government.

In all, from December 1999 till the account was closed in April 2001, a total of US\$14,493,268.93 passed through it. But, despite telling the world in various press conferences since Taylor's arrest in March 2006 that he had "millions stashed in bank accounts around the world", the prosecution have not been able to produce in court any more accounts beyond the LBDI account.

In fact, details of the LBDI account had been published years back by the United Nations Security Council on its website as part of a separate investigation conducted by the UN Panel of Experts [on Liberia]. Its introduction in court certainly did not clinch the case against Taylor – in fact no one, including the prosecution, has been able to establish that any amount in the account came from his dealings with the RUF rebels of Sierra Leone. By bringing the account to the attention of the Court and the public, the prosecutors hoped to undermine Taylor's credibility as he was testifying in his own defence.

#### **Prosecution problems**

So, has the prosecution successfully proven their case against Taylor? To be able to do so, the prosecutors should have been able to tie Taylor down to specific crimes in the indictment, either as ordering the crimes himself or as being in a position, as a superior agent, to prevent those crimes – the notion of vicarious liability. So far, the prosecution has not been able to prove that Taylor, at any point during the time of the indictment – 1996 to the end of the Sierra Leonean war in 2002 – was present anywhere in the territory of Sierra Leone where the RUF was operating. The problem for the prosecution is that they do not have serious collaborating witnesses, people who were in a leadership position in the RUF, to testify that they got orders from Taylor to do what they did in Sierra Leone.

The most significant of these would have been Foday Sankoh and Sam Bockarie; but both are dead. Bockarie and his family were killed at the Liberia-Ivorian border after his indictment by the same Special Court trying Taylor. And Foday Sankoh died in the detention of the same Special Court.

The trial continues – and will probably go on until the end of 2011. ■ NA

**United Nations**  **Nations Unies**

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

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**UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary**  
**7 April 2010**

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

**UN News in Liberia**

**Liberia Risks Swine Flu Infection**

[Daily Observer, The News]

- Health authorities in Monrovia have disclosed that Liberia stands at risk in contracting a newly discovered deadly disease known as Influenza H1N1 (Swine Flu).
- Addressing a news conference yesterday, World Health Organization (WHO) Representative to Liberia, Dr. Nestor Ndayimirije, said 34 countries in the African region have been affected with 167 deaths.
- Dr. Ndayimirije noted that a total of 700 cases have been reported from six countries in the Economic Community of West Africa States (ECOWAS) region.
- The WHO Representative described the disease as 'harmful' as it poses breathing problems for humans.
- He named symptoms of the disease as cool and breathing problem, among others.
- According to him, WHO, in partnership with the Liberian Government, planned to respond to the pandemic.
- For his part, Health and Social Welfare Minister Dr. Walter Gwenigale said though his Ministry has yet to discover a case in Liberia, he noted that individuals with the disease are entering the country daily.
- "Liberia is at risk with this disease and that is why we are trying to fight it by giving out free vaccines," Minister Gwenigale divulged.
- The Health Minister said a total of 78,000 doses which constitute two percent are to shortly arrive in the country.

**President Sirleaf To Launch Commission For Women Health, Says WHO Boss**

[The News]

- An 18-member multidisciplinary body known as the Commission on Women Health in the African Region is expected to be launched on April 14, 2010 in Monrovia.
- WHO Country Representative to Liberia, Dr. Nester Ndayimirije, said the commission would be launched by President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.
- Dr. Ndayimirije said the commission is geared toward generating evidence on key factors influencing the current state of women's health in sub-Saharan Africa.
- The commission was established following the adoption of resolution AFR/RC58/R1 at the 58<sup>th</sup> session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa in 2008.

**Local News on Liberian issues**

**Local Media – Newspaper**

**President Sirleaf Leaves For Brazil Today**

[The Analyst]

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf leaves the country today for Brazil, at the start of an official visit.
- The weeklong visit which begins Wednesday April 7 will provide the forum for concluding a Memorandum of Cooperation between the two countries.
- During the President's absence from the country, Justice Minister Christiana Tah will act as Chairman of the Cabinet.

**Senate 'No Super Hero' ... Anger Sparked Over Proposed Threshold**

[New Democrat]

- The Senate's proposed threshold of 54,000 with a concessional one free seat has sparked acrimonious reactions amongst members of the House, with some referring to the Senate as 'no super hero' for its proposal contending that the threshold issue is now before the Supreme Court for resolution.
- Maryland County Representative Bhofal Chambers ruled out any discussion on the bill because it is now before the Supreme Court, although Senate leader Cletus Wotorson had earlier suggested the case will be withdrawn from the high court.
- Representative Chambers denied Senate claims of prior discussions with the House before the proposal was forwarded, insisting that there were no such discussions.
- Another lawmaker, Representative Elijah Sieh of River Gee County described the Senate's proposal as "disrespect."
- From one of the less populated counties, Representative Sieh prefers the 1984 figure of 20,000 until, the country is stable, he added.

### **More, Not Fewer Representatives, As Senate Disputes Published Figures**

[New Democrat]

- The Senate has disputed the New Democrat analysis on its population threshold version, but ranking House members are kicking against it, challenging its legality.
- Senators Thursday set the population threshold for legislative representation at 54,500 per constituency, plus "automatic" one seat for every county.
- The Senate's figure and calculation put the total number of representation in the next legislature at 79, instead of 59 as the New Democrat had earlier reported, meaning there will be additional 15 Representatives since the current House has 64 members, thus taking the legislature's total membership to 109.
- However, leading House members, including Deputy Speaker Tokpah Mulbah, have rejected the Senate's threshold bill, arguing it lacks the authority to allocate "free set" and that such was unconstitutional.

### **New PPCC Boss Warns Dishonest Business Houses**

[Daily Observer]

- The new Chairman of the Public Procurement and Concessions Commission (PPCC), Professor Willie Belleh says corrupt business houses risk being barred from the public procurement process.
- Professor Belleh said his administration would build strategic alliance with key stakeholders in government to weed out business houses bent on cheating.
- He said the PPCC would continue its ongoing procurement audits to ensure there is value for money in the country's procurement and concession processes.
- The new PPCC boss said his administration would also strengthen the Commission's monitoring and compliance framework of policies and practices.
- Professor Belleh spoke Tuesday when he officially took over as Chairman of the Commission replacing the late Keith Jubah who was murdered last year.

### **Presidential Envoy, Others Charged For Murder In Harper**

[The Inquirer]

- Presidential Envoy Dan Morias has been charged for murder in Harper, Maryland County.
- Mr. Morias was among seven people charged Tuesday, but he was charged separately for murder.
- Solicitor General Cllr. Wilkins Wright said six of the people were jointly charged for murder, human trafficking and other offenses.
- Cllr. Wright said government found some evidence to use in the prosecution of those charged.
- Those sent to court were among eighteen people arrested nearly two weeks ago on allegations of ritual killings in the southeastern county.
- Meanwhile, pre-trial proceedings are expected to begin Wednesday at the Harper Magisterial Court.

### **Maryland Peace Council Underway**

[The Inquirer, The Analyst]

- The Universal Peace Federation in partnership with ECOWAS Peace Building Funds is expected to launch the Maryland Peace Council in Harper later this month.
- The launching follows a two-week consultative tour of Harper and Pleebo which introduced stakeholders to peace building work.
- The consultation aimed at expanding the vision of a National Peace Council.



- A Peace Resource Centre, comprising a mini Library and computer training facility is being completed to host the Maryland Peace Council.
- Over one hundred persons have already been commissioned as ambassadors for peace.
- The National Peace Council was launched on May 6, 2006 and has the mandate to foster peace, good governance and human development among others.

### **Media And Security Executives To Brainstorm**

[The Inquirer, The News, Liberian Express, The Analyst, Public Agenda]

- The Centre for Media Studies and Peace Building (CEMESP) will today conduct a one-day symposium on complementing roles of the media and security agencies in Liberia.
- The symposium, supported by the International Freedom of Expression Exchange will bring together heads of security institutions and media executives in a brainstorming session.
- It aims at making security personnel understand and respect media freedom as well as make journalists understand the functions of security agencies.
- CEMESP believes such interaction will build a better relationship among professional bodies.
- The forum is on the theme “Complementing Roles and Responsibilities of Media Practitioners and Security Personnel in fostering Media Freedom in Liberia” and comes amidst reports of harassment and intimidation of journalists by security personnel in the performance of their duties.

### **Criminal Court ‘A’ Summons MARCO’s Management**

[The Inquirer, The News]

- Criminal Court ‘A’ has summoned the Management of MARCO to clarify allegations of threats against defense witnesses.
- MARCO is the Rubber Farm Keith Jubah managed prior to his death on November 1, 2009.
- Defense lawyers Tuesday raised the issue in a bill of information filed with the court.
- The defense alleged, MARCO has threatened to dismiss any of its workers who will testify in favor of the defendants.
- But Prosecution resisted the claim on grounds that the defense did not say which witness the MARCO management was threatening.

### **USAID Joins CBL, Others To Sign Agreements**

[Daily Observer, The Inquirer, The Analyst]

- The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is expected to join the Central Bank of Liberia, International Bank Liberia and Ecobank Liberia in a signing ceremony marking the official launch of a new development programme.
- The programme is designed to ease access to credit for Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SMEs) in the agriculture and energy sectors.
- The multi-million dollar agreements are supported by USAID’s Development Credit Authority (DCA), which has been enabling and encouraging banks to lend to credit worthy but underserved sectors since 1999.
- Through the agreements, the United States Government will support Liberia’s Poverty reduction Strategy (PRS) and focus attention on the important role that SMEs play in the revival of Liberia.
- The signing ceremony will take place at the Central bank of Liberia.

### **At Tellewoyan Hospital In Lofa: All 28 Wounded Patients Discharged**

[Heritage]

- The 28 wounded patients admitted to the Tellewoyan Hospital in Voinjama, Lofa County as a result of February’s brutal violence have been discharged, said the hospital’s Medical Director Zenebe Bekele.
- Dr. Bekele said the last of the injured were discharged in mid-March.
- Many of the injuries were inflicted by guns or machetes.
- At the same time, life is returning to normal in Voinjama following the lifting of a month-long curfew imposed in the aftermath of February’s ethnic clashes.

### **Today Is “World Health Day”**

[Heritage]

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has by proclamation declared today Wednesday, April 7 as World Health Day to be observed throughout the country as a working holiday.
- A Foreign Ministry release said the proclamation is in recognition of the importance the Government and People of Liberia attached to the creation of maximum public interest in the health care delivery system.
- The proclamation further that the observance of this year World Health Day celebration will be under the theme: "Urbanization and Health" focusing on raising public awareness of making cities healthier.

### **American Detained For Rape, Sexual Abuse**

[The News, Heritage]

- An American citizen, Richard Lee Power, has been by the Liberia national Police and charged with rape and sexually abusing three Liberian girls.
- The girls, ages 11, 13 and 19 were allegedly sexually abused by the 53-year-old American suspect between 2008 and January 2010 while they were living with him at his Airfield back road and New Georgia residences.
- The suspect is presently being detained at the Monrovia Central Prison.

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

### **President Sirleaf Appoints Debt Management Committee**

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has set up a Debt Management Committee to regulate public finance transactions in keeping with Section 28 (4) of the Public Finance Management Act of 2009.
- An Executive Mansion release said the Finance Minister would chair the Committee.
- Other members of the Committee include the Governor of the Central Bank of Liberia, the Ministers of State for Presidential Affairs, Justice and Planning and Economic Affairs.
- According to the Executive Mansion, the Committee is charged with the responsibility to approve all central government loan agreements in keeping with the Public Finance Management Act of 2009.

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

### **New PPCC Boss Warns Dishonest Business Houses**

### **Presidential Envoy, Others Charged For Murder In Harper**

### **Maryland Peace Council Underway**

### **Media And Security Executives To Brainstorm**

### **Criminal Court 'A' Summons MARCO's Management**

### **Dozens Flee Lofa County Over Witchcraft Charges**

- Reports from Lofa County say several persons are fleeing Lawalazu town after being accused of witchcraft.
- According to reports, the situation followed a traditional doctor's indictment of twenty-six persons for witchcraft activities, five of whom have denied the allegations.
- The Guinean traditional doctor came into the county two weeks ago after he signed a memorandum of understanding with citizens of Lawalazu.
- The reports quoting residents say they invited the Guinean traditional doctor because witchcraft activities were on the increase in the town.

### **Rock Hill Residents Denied Reaching Eviction Agreement**

- Residents of the Rock Hill Community near the Ducor Palace Hotel say they have not reached any agreement with government for relocation and compensation.
- The Chairman of the community said the community and government are still holding discussions to address the issue of land encroachment in the community.
- Andrew Ngolloe said in a meeting with Vice President Joseph Boakai the parties agreed for a second survey to be conducted on the property.
- Mr. Ngolloe indicated the first survey conducted last year was done outside of the law and as such there was a need to revisit it.

**Radio Veritas** (*News monitored today at 09:45 am*)

### **USAID Joins CBL, Others To Sign Agreements**

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

## Health Minister, WHO Representative On Deadly Influenza H1N1 Virus

### International Clips on Liberia

#### **The President of Liberia, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, to visit Brazil – April 7 to 10, 2010**

[http://www.mre.gov.br/ingles/imprensa/nota\\_detalhe3.asp?ID\\_RELEASE=7988](http://www.mre.gov.br/ingles/imprensa/nota_detalhe3.asp?ID_RELEASE=7988)

At the invitation of President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, the President of **Liberia**, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, will visit Brazil from April 7 to 12, 2010. She will be accompanied by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs; Agriculture; Land; Mines and Energy; Trade; and Economic and Legal Affairs. This is the first visit of a **Liberian** President to Brazil. On April 7, President Sirleaf will hold a meeting with President Lula and be honored with a luncheon at Palácio do Itamaraty. In the afternoon, she will meet the President of the Federal Senate, José Sarney, the President of the Chamber of Deputies, Michel Temer, and the President of the Supreme Federal Court, Minister Gilmar Mendes. On April 8, the Liberian President will visit Salvador, where she will meet Governor Jaques Wagner, Mayor João Henrique, and deliver a lecture on Brazil-Liberia relations at the Federal University of Bahia. She will also visit the headquarters of Odebrecht. On April 9, in Rio de Janeiro, President Sirleaf will visit the headquarters of the companies Petrobrás and OGX. On April 10, the Liberian President will visit Vale's mining complex in Serra dos Carajás.

#### **Libel Suits with Huge Penalties on the Rise in Liberia**

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/africa/west/Butty-Liberia-Media-Libel-Suits-07April10-90070112.html>

In Liberia, lawyers for the print and online editions of Front Page Africa newspaper go to court Wednesday to answer a \$2 million libel suit brought by former Liberian agriculture minister J. Chris Toe. Toe claims Front Page Africa libeled him by printing false and misleading information about him. The court appearance comes as a civil law court judge Monday upheld a \$900,000 libel verdict against the New Democrat newspaper for committing 'libel per se' against Consolidated Group, one of the companies of former President Charles Taylor. Peter Quaqua, president of the Press Union of Liberia said his organization hopes the sudden rise in libel suits is not intended to silence the independent media. "I do know that our country is currently in a fight against corruption and the media has been in the forefront of the fight, but now the media itself is being fought. We have seen at least three lawsuits. Our hope is that these lawsuits are not intended scare the media away from reporting some of these corruption cases," he said. Quaqua said his comments should not be misconstrued as condoning bad press in Liberia.

### International Clips on West Africa

#### **Ivory Coast**

##### **Ivory Coast extends deadline on debt exchange**

LONDON, April 7 (Reuters) - Ivory Coast has extended the deadline for a debt exchange offer to April 8 from April 6, according to a statement seen by Reuters on Wednesday, as some debt holders have held back from participating in the deal. Ivory Coast, the world's top cocoa producer, is exchanging six defaulted Brady bonds totalling around 2.2 billion euros and issuing a new U.S. dollar 23-year bond. The new debt will be issued at a ratio of \$800 for every \$1,000 tendered. Ivory Coast debt has been rising in recent months in expectation of the restructuring, but holders of French franc PDI (past-due interest) bonds due 2018 have so far shown less enthusiasm for the new deal. "Ivory Coast has extended its exchange offer for a further two days in order to address a lower than expected participation rate among holders of the French franc-denominated Brady bonds," said Richard Segal, analyst at Knight Capital. "As of the close of business yesterday, the participation rate on the French franc PDI bonds was only 71.9 percent, under the 75 percent threshold specified in the exchange offer document."

##### **BOA Ivory Coast float postponed due to huge demand**

ABIDJAN (Reuters) - The Abidjan-based, West African regional bourse BRVM delayed Wednesday's planned flotation of Bank of Africa (BOA) Ivory Coast by one day after demand pushed the share price beyond the daily limit, bourse officials said. The bank planned to float 600,000 shares at a reference price of 23,000 CFA francs but heavy demand immediately pushed the market price to 28,000 CFA, well outside the maximum price movement of 7.5 percent allowable per day. The flotation will now take place on Thursday at an initial price set somewhere between 24-25,000 CFA and with a one-off increase in the permissible daily trading range. That increase was not immediately specified. "It's a real success. It shows the success of the public offering -- investors who did not get

any shares then are trying to get hold of some on the market," BRVM managing director Jean-Paul Gillet said of January's offer of 120,000 BOA Ivory Coast shares. Many of West Africa's biggest companies trade on the 12-year-old BRVM, including index major Sonatel, Senegal's national telecoms company. International investors say the limited liquidity of the bourse, where sometimes fewer than 100 shares change hands each day, has been a factor holding back interest in its stocks.

### **Sierra Leone**

#### **Broadband coming to Sierra Leone at a dial-up modem's pace**

**<http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/africa/100406/broadband-coming-sierra-leone-at-dial-modem%E2%80%99s-pace>**

For all the progress Sierra Leone and other West African post-conflict nations have made in recent years, one thing has remained elusive — high-speed internet access. Internet cafes are packed with people during the day, yet most spend their time idly staring at pages loading at a snail's pace or at lost network connections. Most of the country and the region rely on satellite networks, which, by the time signals are beamed to earth and dispersed, are as slow as America's old-school dial-up speeds. Purchasing extra capacity on satellites is costly and often does little to increase speeds.

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