

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



PRESS CLIPPINGS

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

as at:

Tuesday, 8 May 2012

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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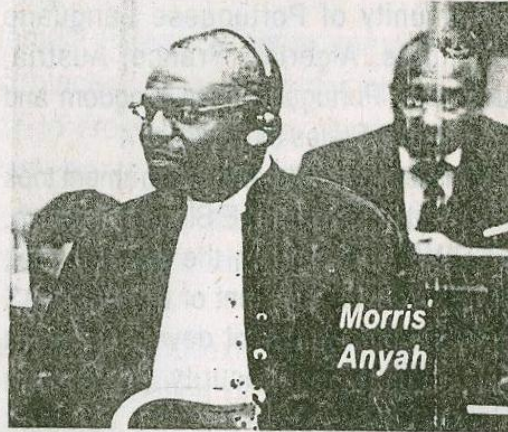
Morris Anyah named lead defence counsel for Taylor appeal

The Principal Defender has appointed Morris Anyah, an experienced international appeals lawyer, as Assigned Appeals Counsel to conduct the appeal of convicted former Liberian President Charles Taylor. Mr. Anyah has served as co-counsel on the Taylor Defence team since 2007.

Apart from the Special Court for Sierra Leone, Mr. Anyah worked at the ICTY as a legal officer in the Office of the Prosecutor between 1999 and 2001. In 2000, he presented arguments before the Appeals Chamber in the genocide case against former Rwandan Prime Minister Jean Kambanda, and in two other genocide cases.

Since 2011 he has served as victims' counsel before the International Criminal Court (ICC), representing over 200 victims in a case involving two defendants charged with crimes against humanity in Kenya.

Mr. Anyah was educated in the United



States, and called to the Bar in 1996. From 2002 to 2007 he worked in private practice, and from 1996 to 1999 was Assistant State's Attorney in Chicago.

Special Court for Sierra Leone, Office of the Principal Defender

The Special Court is an independent tribunal established jointly by the United Nations and the Government of Sierra Leone. It is mandated to bring to justice those who bear the greatest responsibility for atrocities committed in Sierra Leone after 30 November 1996

The Exclusive
 Tuesday, 8 May 2012

ICC lawyer to lead Taylor appeal

Morris Anyah, the Nigerian-American lawyer who represented Kenyan victims in one of the cases at the International Criminal Court has been appointed to lead appeal case for former Liberian president Charles Taylor. Taylor, who has been declared guilty of war crimes, is being tried by the United Nations-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone, also based in The Hague.

The lawyer acted for 229 victims in the case of Deputy Prime Minister Uhuru Kenyatta and Mr Francis Muthaura who resigned as head of public service. The two are awaiting trial by the Hague-based court for charges of crimes against humanity committed during the 2007/8 violence.

During pre-trial hearings, Mr Anyah distinguished himself as a meticulous and eloquent interrogator of the two accused and their witnesses. The decision on whether Mr Anyah will continue representing the victims will be made by the trial judges. In an interesting turn of events, in the Kenyan case, Mr Anyah is pitted against Mr Karim Khan, Mr Muthaura's lead counsel, who at one time led Taylor's defence.

He also questioned the actress Naomi Campbell over "blood diamonds" at The Hague during which the star acknowledged receiving "dirty looking stones". Mr Anyah has served as co-counsel on the Taylor defence team since 2007. This week, prosecutors announced they would seek an 80-year jail term for the former Liberian strong man. (READ: Taylor prosecutor seeks 80-year sentence)

Ahead of the sentencing hearing scheduled for May 16, which will be fol-

lowed by the sentencing judgment on May 30, the principal defender of Taylor named Mr Anyah the appeals counsel.

In 2000, the lawyer made arguments before the Appeals Chamber in the genocide case against former Rwandan Prime Minister Jean Kambanda. And between 1999 and 2001 he was a legal officer at the International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia.

While in Kenya in March, Mr Anyah accused the government of protecting suspects at the expense of internally displaced families. He said non-governmental organisations had sounded the alarm over increasing anti-ICC rhetoric in "prayer" rallies organised by Mr Kenyatta and Eldoret North MP William Ruto who is also accused at the ICC. "If statements in any way expose our clients to harm we will bring it before the court," he warned.

He added that the government had not demonstrated "sufficient empathy" in what the victims went through by waging an equally spirited campaign to seek justice for those who lost relatives and property in the violence.

"The government is reacting to the ICC as if it is the Republic of Kenya and its people who are on trial. It is individuals. The government sees the process as the enemy and an attack on the Republic of Kenya," he said. Mr Anyah has also argued that justice cannot be rendered unless there is a mechanism to try middle-level perpetrators - the foot soldiers.

And the special tribunal must have a reparation and compensation element as well as involve victims.

The Exclusive
 Tuesday, 8 May 2012

18 Massacred By Sankoh & CO

By Ayodele Deen Cole

Youth Arise Sierra Leone will today issue a strong solidarity message to government in relation to this same day, ten years back, May 8 2002, when 18 people lost their lives during a protest match organized by society activists groups at the residence of late RUF leader, Corporal Foday Sankoh.

Ishamel Abu Kamara, Coordinator of Youth Arise disclosed that the solidarity message to be delivered calls for government's compensation to the family and relatives of those 18 patriotic Sierra Leoneans who sacrificed their lives asking for the rule of law and democracy to prevail in Sierra Leone. "There are also those that sustained injuries during that protest March, and most of them are still alive with disabilities," the Coordinator told The Exclusive.

The Coordinator also disclosed that they have been able to indentify the grave sites, where the 18 activists were buried at Kissy road cemetery. However, he called for the upgrading of the grave site which is currently at a deplorable stage. "Those of us still alive today owe the dead sympathy and, this calls for stakeholders to support the Youth Arise to pursue

the cause of those who laid down their lives for democracy and human rights adherence to thrive in this country," he said.

According to Ishmael A. Kamara, their graves must be preserved to serve as a national historic site, which attaches great importance to the civil society in the country. He went on to say that proper contacts have been made to demarcate the grave site.

Kamara adds that they are currently working with other youth groups to generate a data that contains a reliable source of information regarding the wounded victims and other information about the killing of the 18 people to serve as a national compendium for future references.

On May 8, 2002, the 18 Sierra Leonean civil society activists, most of them youths, died at the residence of the former leader of Revolutionary United Front, Foday Sankoh, at Sheriff Drive, West of Freetwn. The bloodbath was one of many ugly events during the rebel war.

Youth Arises is also celebrating Green Day today and asking all Civil Society Organizations to address the myriad environmental issues in the country.

Special Court To Open Peace Museum

As it raps up its activities in the country, the Special Court for Sierra Leone has presented plans for a Peace Museum to reflect the deeds of the war and reconciliation process for members of the public.

By Jeffrey Williams

Visitors will have the opportunity to reflect and recollect their experiences of the war and pray for the deceased relatives.

Member of the Sierra Leone Peace Museum Management team,

Joseph Bangura, said as the mandate of the Special Court for Sierra Leone draws down, the Sierra Leone Peace Museum Management team has been

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Special Court To Open Peace Museum

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created to use some sections the court premises for a memorial on the war.

He said the team has secured funds to the tune of US\$185,000 for the creation of an archive, a peace museum and peace garden to show the war and reconstruction process.

He said the lower car park of the court will be used for the peace garden and waiting hall of the court as peace museum.

Member of Sierra Leone Peace Museum Management team, Fatty Hafna, said the museum project will have a place for people to find facts about the war, see drawings showing images of the war, while the peace garden will have drawings of the aftermath of the war for people to reflect and pray for lost souls.

Ms. Hafna said the Peace Garden, which is yet to be constructed, will be done with the top four designs and

construction will commence as soon as the work of the Special Court for Sierra Leone is completed.

Chairperson of the Peace Museum Management Project said that the museum will be a memorial to lost souls in the war, which is something they deserve.

She said that the museum will show a brief history of recent happenings in Sierra Leone and will allow families of those that died during the war to reflect. Another member of the team, Marie Bob Kandeh, said the competition was opened in August last year and the 1st winner will take home ten million Leones, second place five million Leones, third three million, and fourth three million Leones.

A drawing from a team of people in Germany by Sonja Hohenbild, Tejan Lamboi, Umaru Jah, Juliane Westpald won the best drawing.

Lavish life of an ICC war criminal inside a Rwandan jail

Saturday, May 5, 2012 3:57 PM
By Andrew M. Mwenda (email the author)

By all standards, Issa Hassan Sesay, a convicted international war criminal and former leader of Sierra Leone's Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebel group, is a remarkable man.

"Imagine, I am convicted for rape, torture and killing and sentenced to 52 years in jail," he tells a young student of journalism from Uganda somewhat wistfully.

"Yet the UN Tribunal knows, or should know, that that is the stuff war is made of." Convicting him for such crimes, Sesay believes, is like convicting Lionel Messi for scoring a goal in the European Championships League or the Spanish La Liga. He adds that the Allies committed worse war crimes during World War II and were not punished for them.

I had brought a group of 21 students from Makerere University and Uganda Christian University, most of them studying journalism, to Mpanga Prison as part of a tour of Rwanda. The students belong to a discussion group I manage where we debate national, regional and global political economy. Since Rwanda features a lot in our discussion, we decided to visit the country in order to have a firsthand experience of its realities.

The students had heard numerous stories of suffering in Rwandan prisons — congestion, dirt, torture, disease — but after hearing about decent conditions at the prison in Butare, where the inmates even played a game of volleyball with us, I brought them to the international section of Mpanga for another impression.

Protected by the UN, these convicted war criminals are more likely to feel free to express their unhappiness with their conditions than the local convicts. And Sesay, the man who took over command of the RUF after the arrest founding leader Foday Musa Sankoh, is now the leader of the prisoners here. And true to form, he was ready to disabuse the students of the "rosy" picture painted of Rwandan prisons by its government and its propagandists.

He first complained bitterly about me. He said I had visited him last year, listened to his story, taken pictures and written nothing about his predicament.

His fellow prisoners agreed. Yet to my recollection, Sesay did not have many complaints then. He had told me the Rwandan prison warders were treating him well. His complaint was against the UN for convicting him of war crimes, even though whatever he had done had been "political." I promised to publish a story about his complaints if he told me about them.

"We are going through untold suffering here," he told the students. "We are being mistreated by these Rwandan prison warders. I am telling you all this to their face because I really no longer care. They are bad people," he said as the Rwandan prison guards look at him in silent wonderment. From the expression on the face of the chief of security at the prison, he was clearly uncomfortable at Sesay's open hostility perhaps regretting allowing us into the premises. The students seemed all too happy to hear it all. And Sesay was ready to tell it.

Laundry list of complaints

First, Sesay said, the prison cooks did not always follow the menu. For example, on April 9, he was served tea with sugar, powdered milk, sausages, baked beans and bread for his breakfast. But the menu also said he was supposed to be served yoghurt as desert. He didn't get any. Besides, he added, with the confidence of a man who knows his rights, the menu was substandard because it should have included scrambled eggs as well.

"I tell you, these people don't follow the menu," he declared as students stretched their necks to look at the paper he was holding in his hand, "On April 12, I was supposed to be served mineral water for lunch but instead these cooks gave me a soft drink — a Coke. How can they?"

And on another day, Sesay told the amused students, he was supposed to be served a fruit salad after his dinner, which the cooks omitted. He brought out the book where he signs every time he is served food as proof. True to his claim, the menu stated that there would be fruits served after dinner but the cooks gave him a cheese cake for desert.

"Believe me when I tell you that these people don't follow the menu... you see?"

He also complained that he is tired of chicken, fish, beef and groundnuts on his menu daily. "I have not eaten the whole of this week," he went on, "the menu is monotonous."

Moving around the international section of Mpanga prison, led by an angrily gesticulating Sesay, is an experience to remember. Behind us was a group of baffled and clearly embarrassed Rwandan prison officials and guards. Sesay, on the other hand, walked with a swagger. He was wearing a designer jacket on top of an expensive T-shirt and tracksuit bottoms complete with brand new white sneakers. Although

Sesay complained that the prisoners are "only" allowed to call their families six days a week (Monday to Saturday), but not on Sundays. That, he said, amounts to torture.

in his mid 50s, Sesay looks to be in his mid 30s and has the air of a man who knows he would have become president of Sierra Leone had the UN, Ecowas, Tony Blair and other such enemies of the revolution not intervened to block him.

Sesay complained that the prisoners are "only" allowed to call their families six days a week (Monday to Saturday), but not on Sundays. That, he said, amounts to torture. Why not allow him to talk to his wife and children on Sunday, a day of worship? And to make matters worse, the prison provides him newspapers like The EastAfrican, Daily Nation, Daily Monitor, New Vision and New Times. But they don't provide him and his group newspapers from West Africa, which is where he comes from. Or they could provide him the Financial Times and the Wall Street Journal that have global significance.

This, he told us, has made his life in Rwanda difficult. I was saddened to hear that the Rwandans don't give him the Independent, the newspaper I work for. Perhaps with that he would complain less.

In the TV room, Sesay and his colleagues have a 32-inch plasma flat-screen complete with DSTV. Upon entering the room, we found a live English Premier League match on "That is not enough for Sesay," Isaac Musimenta, one of the journalism students complained sarcastically on Sesay's behalf. "He needs a 50-inch plasma screen in HD so that he can watch his games properly."

When we visited his gym and saw a shower next to it, another journalism student, Nicolas Bwana, said — again sarcastically — that Sesay should have been provided a bathtub instead. Sesay turned to accept the recommendation with the assurance of a man realising that his listeners had got his point: "You see?" he said, "That is what I am talking about."

In his self-contained room, Sesay has a radio, newspapers, blockbuster movies and books on a reading table. He also has a wardrobe full of clothes, a shower and flush toilet. He has a long line of shoes stretching from one corner of the room to another. In the bathroom, he has toilet soap, Vim and Harpic. He complained that those are the only disinfectants provided by Rwanda's mean prison guards — ignoring other vital items such as air freshener. The students were now making a game of it; now Sandra Akello asked why Sesay did not have a Jacuzzi, at which Sesay nodded enthusiastically.

When we visited the computer lab, where he and fellow prisoners take lessons in computer science, business management, economics, political economy etc, Sesay was not amused at the excitement our group expressed at the HP desktops provided to him and his fellow prisoners.

"We are not allowed access to the Internet," he pointed out. I chipped in that he should have been provided Macs instead of HPs, at which he turned and looked at me with shining eyes. I added that he should be provided with a fully loaded iPad, a suggestion he embraced with open arms, although it seemed to me he did not know what a Mac or iPad really was.

Finally, it was time to visit his tormentors in the kitchen. There it was: The freezer, stocked with frozen fish, goat meat and chicken, icecream and butter.

"They bought most of this stuff when they heard that you were coming to visit," he said in a low voice. Realising that one cook had overheard, he changed the tone and claimed that his problem was not the absence of food but the prison cooks not adhering to the menu.

Inside the dry food store were packed juice, tinned beef, UHT milk, biscuits, eggs, instant coffee, tomato ketchup, fresh pineapples, baked beans, powdered milk, packets of tea leaves etc. Some students joked to prison guards that they would like to take Sesay's place in prison. Even I envied Sesay since my freezer at home does not have such an assortment of goodies. It all looked like a 5-star hotel, not a prison.

But Sesay did not see any of that. At least I would agree that his room, although much better than any students' room in the best hostel at Makerere University, was certainly not to 5-star hotel standards. And for a man who would have become president of Sierra Leone if the evil Blair had not intervened, who can question his right to complain of mistreatment in Rwanda's Mpanga Prison?

The writer is the publisher of The Independent of Uganda

Concord Times
 Tuesday, 8 May 2012

Africa: On The Charles Taylor Verdict-Is Justice in Africa?

Analysis

By Michael Keating

The conviction of Charles Taylor is certainly some kind of justice. Many in Sierra Leone will feel that their suffering has been acknowledged by the international community. In Liberia many others will rejoice while some will grumble that Taylor, the Liberian "patriot", is just a victim of white man's justice.

Given the tsunami of suffering that Taylor unleashed upon West Africa, the overly constrained proceedings in the Hague are really more like a show trial, a demonstration of Western judicial power rather than a real exploration of the facts and figures surrounding the series of events that destroyed hundreds of thousands of lives across the region.

For most of the world the narrative is simple: Charles Taylor = blood diamonds + child soldiers + limb chopping = war criminal. Fair enough. That case was made.

What was missing from the dock in the Hague, as opposed to say the Nuremberg Trials, are the countless other personalities and political entrepreneurs that animated many of the events that to the West seemed more like antics in a Hobbesian charnel house than acts of sovereign states.

Whether or not one believes that it was the CIA that engineered Taylor's escape from prison in Massachusetts (which many in Monrovia firmly swear to) it is certainly the case that the Reagan-era State Department was displeased with Samuel Doe. After showering Doe with money in the first years of his reign, American diplomats looked on aghast as Doe turned into an embarrassing kleptocrat. It was also after Doe's rigged elections in 1985 that Liberians in exile, many in the United States, began plotting to get rid of Doe by any means necessary.

Those means were provided by U.S. educated Taylor who had one time worked in the Doe regime but who had to flee Liberia after being accused of embezzlement. It was on those charges that Taylor was imprisoned in the U.S. while awaiting an extradition hearing.

At that point the young idealist Taylor no doubt viewed himself as a liberator. He would launch a counter-revolution against Doe. In order to do so he would first have to get arms, money and rear echelon support. Taylor and his partner Prince Johnson -- who sits in the Liberian Senate to this day -- travelled to Burkina Faso and assisted the coup that assassinated the popular Burkinabe President Thomas Sankara- the so-called Che Guevara of Africa- in exchange for support of their own coup plans against Doe. Taylor was also invited to Libya to meet with Gaddafi and was given

financial and tactical support in the context of Gaddafi's own pan-African hallucinations.

When Taylor finally launched his incursion from friendly Cote d'Ivoire in 1989 all the stars were aligned in his favour, including the support of current Liberian President Sirleaf. Unfortunately, he had the resources to launch his campaign but neither a disciplined revolutionary party nor a competent officer corps to carry it forward. Instead he had an undisciplined armed mob and a group of associates who quickly turned on each other when it was clear that the liberation of Liberia would be a winner-take-all affair.

By the time he became the elected President of an exhausted and terrorized Liberia in 1997, Taylor had succumbed to all the ills that befall a dictator. He had ruled his personal catchment called "Greater Liberia" with a toxic combination of terror and patronage.

His frustration in not being able to capture Monrovia -- due to blocking maneuvers from other West African nations -- only fuelled his megalomania and greed. This led him to start selling off large swathes of precious hardwood forests to greedy European buyers. He also began supporting monsters like Foday Sankoh in next door Sierra Leone whose access to diamonds provided Taylor with a virtual bloody ATM machine. There is no doubt that the insanity he unleashed had begun to affect him. However, he always put on a good face for foreign visitors. One was the Rev. Jesse Jackson who came as Clinton's special envoy and supposedly tried to make the dubious case that both Taylor and the madman Sankoh were worthy of American support. Another was the

Rev. Pat Robertson of 700 Club fame who allegedly came to Taylor's Liberia looking for diamonds in exchange for lobbying President Bush on Taylor's behalf. In the end, Taylor became increasingly erratic with rumors of secret rituals and even cannibalism swirling around his inner circle.

It was at this point that Islam also emerged in the conflict. One of Taylor's most serious miscalculations was his oppression of the Mandingos, an Islamic ethnic group spread out across several West African countries including neighboring Guinea. It was Guinea, with help from Nigeria, that supplied Liberian-Mandingo leaders like Alhaji Kromah - now a professor of mass communications at the University of Liberia - with money, weapons and logistical support in his quest to topple Taylor from his presidential perch. It was a mirror scenario to the one which aided Taylor a decade before.

Ironically, it has been suggested that Taylor's conflict diamonds helped finance several Al Qaeda operations, one of which may have been 9/11. Taylor should be happy he's imprisoned in the Netherlands. The U.S. would probably like to see him in Guantanamo.

So what are we left with in the Taylor judgment? Robin White, the former BBC journalist who covered the events in question, told the BBC that he felt the money that went to the prosecution - reportedly \$50 Million - should have been given to amputees in Sierra Leone instead, many of whom are living in abject poverty. What about Taylor's victims in Liberia, what satisfaction do they get? Taylor's millions are still rolling

around the international banking system with no serious efforts afoot to capture them for the benefit of the Liberian people.

Unlike the Nazis who obsessively and absurdly documented all of their crimes and thus handed their prosecutors an airtight case, the trial of Charles Taylor has left out of the record much more than it revealed. To say that western understanding of Africa is based on cliché and disinformation is an understatement. That same might be said of prosecutions of Africans in Western courts, both present and future.

Taylor will likely die in prison. His son, the infamous "Chuckie" Taylor will do so as well. Many of his family and former cronies are now wealthy businessmen and influential politicians in Liberia, even though several of them remain under a U.N. travel ban. Neither of the reverends Jackson nor Robertson will likely see the inside of a jail cell for having consorted with a convicted war criminal.

Like all would-be revolutionaries, Taylor unleashed the forces of unintended consequences. One of the most remarkable was that it was his doings in Sierra Leone that brought him down, not his destruction of Liberia. The other was that with his incarceration, most of the other unquestionably guilty will rest more comfortably in their freedom.

Until Africans take control of their own justice, it will be an expensive dog's breakfast indeed.

Michael Keating is a Lecturer in International Relations at the University of Massachusetts Boston with a special interest in the Mano River countries of West Africa.