

**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, 9 September 2008

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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BBC World Service Trust

Monday, 8 September 2008

The amputation of civilians during the war in Sierra Leone came about after the RUF failed in their Fiti-Fata mission in Kono. 38th Prosecution Witness, TF1-585, testifying with voice and facial distortion has told the Court during a direct examination by the Prosecution counsel Mr. Mohamed Bangura that the amputation and killing of civilians by the RUF rebels was done as a means of warning to other civilians that they should keep off from the war and stop supplying the ECOMOG with information about their plans to attack. The BBC World Service Trust Mariama Khai Fornah now reports.

FORNAH: The Prosecution witness, a female, and former radio operator for the RUF who is presently giving evidence, has told the Court that the “Fiti-Fata” mission in Kono was planned in a meeting held in September 1999 in Buedu Town, Kailahun District. She said the mission was initiated during a meeting after Issa Sesay lost the diamonds belonging to the RUF in Liberia. She said Sam Bockarie said the loss of the diamonds was a big setback for the RUF.

The witness emphasized that Sam Bockarie called the meeting so as to encourage the disgruntled soldiers over the lost diamonds and plan for the Kono attack.

WITNESS: They decided at the meeting that they were to send boys – that is, fighters, to Kono, to capture Kono town, and Issa Sesay was to lead that mission. He was to go to the front line. He should be there until Kono was captured. He should clear Kono; and during that meeting they supplied arms and ammunition to the fighters there, and many other things. They gave them a lot of supplies, they gave them a lot of rice, a lot of used clothing, and brand-new sneakers, white ones. Everything was in abundance.

FORNAH: The witness informed the Court that it was because the RUF failed in their Fiti-Fata mission in Kono, that was why they engaged in another mission around the Kono axis wherein arms and legs of civilians were amputated and others were killed.

The witness said the RUF did such act so that it would serve as a warning to other civilians to let their hands off the war. She said they did so because it was the civilians that informed the ECOMOG about every plan they had to attack

WITNESS: Well, after that mission had failed, they undertook another mission, and they used to say “tell the civilians to take their hands off from the war, or take their hands off and their feet off from the war. That was the time they were amputating the civilians arms, and they were writing on them “RUF” and they cut off their feet as well.

LAWYER: [Indistinct] you just mentioned?

WITNESS: Well they said because it was the civilians who used to leak information to the ECOMOG soldiers that they were coming, so that was the reason why they failed to capture Koidu town. Komba [indistinct] was the one who led the mission.

FORNAH: The witness said Sam Bockarie ordered that the amputation be stopped since the whole world had heard about it.

The witness further said RUF also engaged in another operation named ‘Operation Spare No Soul’ immediately after the death of Sani Abacha, former commander of ECOMOG (sic.)

The witness said the mission was arranged so that they would be able to chase the ECOMOG soldiers and kill them. The witness said since at that time the ECOMOG soldiers were not in a happy mood, the RUF took the advantage to invade them.

As she continued to testify, the witness said the RUF killed all those they met on the way and those who saw them were not spared. She told the Court that the only way they spared civilians was to amputate their hands and leave them to go.

For the BBC World Service Trust, this is Mariama Khai Fornah reporting from The Hague.

Heritage (Liberia)
Monday, 8 September 2008

To Further Discussion On Taylor's Appearance

...TRC delegation arrives in Freetown



Former Liberian President Charles Ghankay Taylor



TRC Commissioner Cllr. Pearl Brown-Bull

LCAA Director General Richelleu A. Williams

A TWO-MAN DELEGATION OF THE LIBERIA'S TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION (TRC) is in the Sierra Leonean Capital, Freetown to further discussion on the appearance of detained former Liberian President Charles Ghankay Taylor before the TRC.

TRC Commissioners Cllr. Pearl Brown-Bull, Chairman of the Historical and Judicial Review Committee and John Stewart, Chairman of the Security Committee left the country Sunday, following a request by the commission to the United Nations-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone to have access to indicted President Taylor.

In an application to the court last week, the commission requested that access be granted an inquiry team from the TRC to Mr. Taylor who is now standing trial in The Hague, accused on 11-count of war crimes allegedly committed in Sierra Leone.

In the application, the TRC informed the Special Court that its inquiry process with Mr. Taylor would surround his involvement in Liberia's past and not issues pertinent to judicial matters he is presently facing.

Pursuant to the commission's mandate, the TRC has been conducting thematic hearings into the contemporary history of the conflict from 1979 to 2003. During the hearings, principal political and war actors have already been heard.

Already, former ULIMO-K leader Alhaji Kromah, INPFL leader Prince Y. Johnson, LURD leader Sekou Damate Conneh, Interim President Amos Sawyer and several others have testified before the commission.

On September 1, 2008, the Special Court for Sierra Leone received a request from the TRC for an audience with former President Charles Taylor, an accused person indicted by the Special Court in the proceeding the prosecutor v. Charles Taylor, SCSL-03-01-T, presently before trial chamber II.

Former President Charles Taylor faces an 11-count for crimes against humanity, violations of article 3 common to the Geneva Conventions and of Addition Protocol II, and other serious violations of international humanitarian law.

The Special Court for Sierra Leone informed the TRC on 2 September 2007 that any request for an audience with former President Taylor would have to comply with the "practice direction on the procedure following a request by a state, the TRC or other legitimate authority to take a statement from a person in the custody of the Special Court of Sierra Leone", adopted by the Special Court on 9 September 2003 and amended on 4 October 2003.

The practice direction sets forth the procedure to be followed upon receipt of such requests. The procedure aims to strike a balance between assisting institutions such as the TRC to achieve their mandates, as well as to ensure the rights of accused persons indicated by the Special Court and the integrity of the proceedings before

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Taylor's Appearance

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the Special Court.

Should the TRC resubmit its request in writing in compliance with the requirements of the practice direction, the registrar will notify the president, the presiding judge, the prosecutor and the principal defender of the Special Court.

Significantly, in accordance with the practice direction, the registrar will ensure that Mr. Taylor has ample opportunity to take legal advice from his counsel before deciding whether or not to agree to the questioning.

If Mr. Taylor agrees, then the presiding judge in the trial chamber II proceedings, upon hearing the parties, will take a final decision on the request. If the decision is a denial of

the request, then an appeal is permitted to the president of the Special Court in the event that both Mr. Taylor and the TRC agree to submit an appeal.

Mr. Taylor maintains the right to deny the request himself.

The request by the TRC marks the beginning of this process. The Special Court must keep in mind that "our greatest concern is the need for Mr. Taylor's right to a fair trial to be protected."

This is a question that in the end, needs to be answered by the presiding judge of the trial chamber and if applicable, the president of the court.

New Democrat (Liberia)
Monday, 8 September 2008

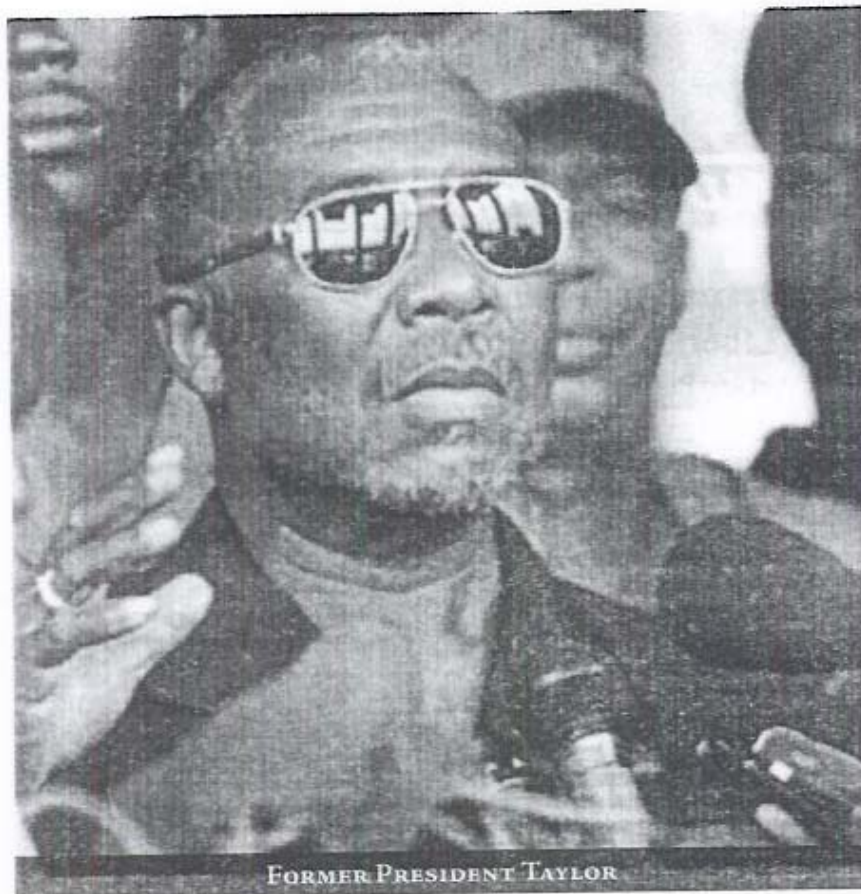
To Make Taylor Appear TRC Intensifies Efforts

The Liberian TRC says it has resubmitted its request seeking an audience with ex-President Charles Taylor to testify before it. Truth and Reconciliation Commission Chair Jerome Verdier told this paper Fri-

day that Commissioners Pearl Brown-Bull and John Stewart are expected to meet with Special Court officials today for details. Taylor, a detainee in the custody of the Special Court faces an 11-count indictment for war crimes and crimes against



TRC CHAIR VERDIER



FORMER PRESIDENT TAYLOR

humanity including rape, murder and spillage. He has since pleaded not guilty. The TRC last Monday wrote the Sierra Leone's Special Court requesting an audience with Taylor. But the Court responded on Tuesday saying any request for an audience with Taylor would have to comply with the court's established practice direction on procedures following a request by a state etc. "The Special Court for Sierra Leone informed the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Liberia on 2 September 2008 that any request for an audience with former President Charles Taylor would have to comply with the "Practice Direction on the procedure following a request by a State, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission



TRC Intensifies Efforts

or other legitimate authority to take a statement from a person in the custody of the Special Court for Sierra Leone," adopted by the Special Court on 9 September 2003 and amended on 4 October 2003," the Court said.

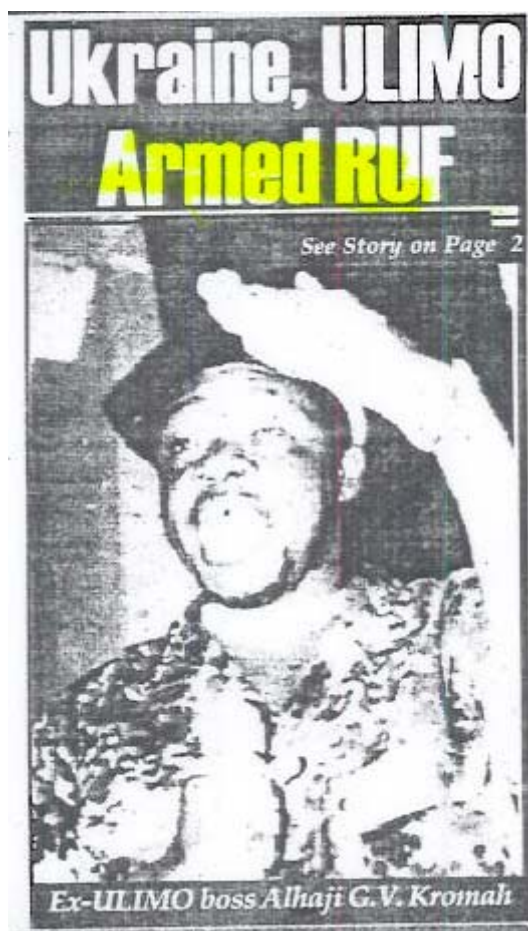
It said the procedure aims to strike a balance between assisting institutions such as the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Liberia to achieve their mandates, as well as to ensure the rights of accused persons indicted by the Special Court and the integrity of the proceedings before the Special Court.

The Court said if the TRC resubmits its request in compliance with the procedures its request will be forwarded to the Court's President, Judges, Prosecutors and Taylor's Defense Counsel.

TRC Chairman Jerome Verdier said his commission wants former President Taylor to testify about his role in the country's brutal 14-year conflict.

Verdier said it is important for the commissioners to make "as much effort as possible" to ensure Taylor tells his side of the story. They have sent him several requests to appear, he said.—*Othello B. Garblah*

Liberian Express (Liberia)
Monday, 8 September 2008



Ukraine, ULIMO

Defense lawyers for former Liberian leader Charles Taylor on trial for war crimes are reportedly making headway in shifting allegations of arms supply to the former Sierra Leonean rebel group, the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) from their client to other groups.

Under cross-examination, a witness affirmed that the RUF got ammunition from another Liberian rebel group the United Liberian Movement (ULIMO) of Alhaji G.V. Kromah.

Kromah, however, could not be reached before press time.

A dispatch from The Hague said Taylor's defense team successfully led the 37th prosecution witness to admit that the RUF and their allies, the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) also received arms from Ukraine.

The insider witness admitted to Defense Lawyer, Terry Munyard, that arms supplied to the AFRC and the RUF by the Ukrainians were negotiated by the former Sierra Leone junta leader Johnny Paul Koroma.

The witness said the Ukrainians dropped arms and ammunition from a helicopter at the Magburaka airstrip in the north of Sierra Leone.

He said the Ukrainians supplied GMG and G 3 and AK 47 rounds of ammunition as well as "Stick Grenades which had a long handle that had stick on it, and the bottom of it was black, iron black."

The witness told the court that the arms were bought from ULIMO in Lofa County, in Liberia by the then RUF battlefield commander, Sam Bockarie in 1996, and that two rebel generals of ULIMO, Farah Ilee and Musa Sedibay transacted the deal.

He said also following attacked by another Liberian rebel group, the Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD), Taylor requested RUF assistance.

The witness said RUF supplied manpower to Taylor while he provided the arms and ammunition to fight back the LURD rebels.

According to the witness, Taylor opposed the RUF disarming because he wanted weapons supplied to them to be returned to him. "He told us not to disarm to the SLPP government, and not even UNAMSIL," the witness said. *By Joseph Cheeseman in The Hague*

African Press Agency

Monday, 8 September 2008

TRC delegation off to Freetown to discuss access to Charles Taylor

APA-Monrovia (Liberia) The Truth and Reconciliation Commission on Sunday dispatched a two-member delegation to the Sierra Leonean capital Freetown for further discussions on the possible appearance of detained former Liberian President Charles Taylor before the TRC, APA learns here Monday.

TRC Commissioner Pearl Brown-Bull, Chairman of the Historical and Judicial Review Committee and Johns Stewart, Chairman of the Security Committee left the country following a request by the commission to the United Nations-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone to grant the commission access to former President Taylor now being tried by the Special Court in The Hague for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

In an application to the court last week, the TRC requested that access be granted an inquiry team from the TRC to Mr. Taylor.

In the application, the TRC informed the Special Court that its inquiry process with Mr. Taylor has to do with his involvement in Liberia's past and not issues concerning judicial matters he is currently facing.

In line with its mandate, the TRC has been conducting thematic hearings into the contemporary history of the conflict from 1979 to 2003, which has attracted principal political and war actors.

On September 4, the Special Court for Sierra Leone received a request from the TRC for an audience with former President Taylor.

According to a TRC statement, the Special Court informed the TRC on 2 September 2007 that any request for an audience with former President Taylor would have to comply with the "practice direction on the procedure following a request by a state, the TRC or other legitimate authority to take a statement from a person in the custody of the Special Court for Sierra Leone".

The practice direction adopted by the Special Court on 9 September 2003 and amended on 4 October 2003, aims to strike a balance between assisting institutions such as the TRC to achieve their mandate, as well as to ensure the rights of accused persons indicted by the Special Court and the integrity of the proceedings before the Special Court.

United Nations  **Nations Unies**

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries
8 September 2008

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

Newspaper Summary

TRC Intensifies Efforts for Former President Taylor to Appear

(New Democrat, Heritage)

- A two men delegation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Liberia is in the Sierra Leonean capital, Freetown to further discuss the appearance of detained former Liberia President Charles Taylor before the commission. TRC Commissioners Pearl Browne-Bull and John Stewart left the country yesterday following a request by the commission to the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone to have access to the former President.
- The former Liberian President is facing trial in The Hague for his alleged role in Sierra Leone's civil war that ended in 2002.
- Earlier, the Special Court informed the TRC that any request for an audience with former President Taylor would have to comply with what it called Practice Direction which aims to strike a balance between assisting institutions such as the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to achieve their mandates, as well as to ensure the rights of accused persons. The Special Court however, clarified that Mr. Taylor maintains the right to deny the request for an audience with the TRC.

Ex-Ireland President Re-affirms Support to Liberia's PRS

(The News)

- The former President of Ireland, Madam Mary Robinson has re-affirmed her organization's support to Liberia's Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS). Mrs. Robinson, who is head of an organization known as "Realizing Rights of Ethical-Globalization Initiative" told reporters that she was very pleased with the level of work that the Liberian government has undertaken in a relatively short period of time.
- She gave the assurance over the weekend when she spoke to reporters following a tour of the Mount Barclay, Barnersville, Bensonville and Todee highways rehabilitation projects funded by the International Labor organization (ILO).
- She pointed out that her organization would join other international partners to assist Liberia in its Poverty Reduction Strategy initiatives to improve the lives of its citizens. Mrs. Robinson said she was impressed with the level of work being done on the road rehabilitation project, especially with the participation of women.

Court to Decide Senator Kaine's Fate Monday

(The Inquirer, New Democrat, Daily Observer)

- The Daily Observer reports that the first Judicial Circuit Criminal Assizes "B" at the Temple of Justice in Monrovia is expected to give a ruling today, Monday, September 8, 2008, that would determine whether or not Junior Senator Roland C. Kaine, who had been charged with the crime of murder, will be tried separately from his other alleged accomplices in connection with the Timor village massacre of 16 persons. The defense team had asked for severance trial for Senator Kaine but state lawyers have resisted the severance trial motion claiming the lawmaker and other defendants acted in concert and should be tried together.

- Meanwhile, prosecution lawyers have asked Criminal Court 'B' to cancel an assignment for the murder case involving detained Senator Roland and 15 others arguing that it is currently involved with several other high profile cases. However, the lead Defense Counsel, Cllr. Francis Garlawolo wants the motion dismissed saying it violates trial procedures as such applications are served on the defense team twenty-four hours before court appearances.

Lawmakers Divided Over New Constituency Apportioning

(Heritage, New Democrat)

- Controversy has erupted in the House of Representatives over a Bill to set a new population threshold across Liberia. The disagreement followed a report by the House Committees on Elections and Inauguration, and Judiciary calling for the passage of the bill. The bill seeks to increase the population threshold from twenty-thousand per constituency to forty-five thousand.
- During Friday's Special Session of the House, lawmakers representing counties with lower population protested the passage of the bill. Sinoe County Representative, Nelson Wah Bah in his protest said the bill has both political and legal problems.
- He argued that it was wrong for the House to decide the new population threshold based on the 2008 preliminary census results released by LISGIS. The House is expected to pass the act today.

Security Officer 'Chokes' Wife to Death

(Daily Observer)

- After 30 minutes of legal arguments between two lawyers at the Buchanan City Court presided over by Associate Magistrate Richard Browne, a 38-year-old man has been charged with the crime of murder. Mr. Anthony Mensah was suspected of killing his 30-year old wife named Meme Patterson-Mensah at Camp Nahn called Dirty Way Camp of Division 33 at the Liberian Agricultural Company (LAC) in District # 3, Grand Bassa County. According to the Criminal Investigation Division (CID), suspect Mensah of the Plant Protection Division on LAC allegedly "choked" the deceased to death in their bedroom. Eyewitnesses said the incident occurred after a heated argument in which the deceased accused suspect Mensah of having extra-marital affairs.

Radio Summary

Star Radio *(News monitored today at 9:00 am)*

President Sirleaf Launches County Development Agenda

- President Sirleaf has launched the county development agenda for Liberia.
- The document which grew out of a consultative process across the country highlights development priorities at the county level.
- All of the counties share the construction of roads, education and health care as priorities.
- President Sirleaf described the document as a development path agreed upon by citizens to be implemented with the help of government.

(Also reported on Truth F.M. and ELBC)

Prosecution in the Murder Case involving Senator Kaine Opposes Assignment

(Also reported on Truth F.M. and ELBC)

Controversy over Bill to Review Population Threshold

(Also reported on Truth F.M. and ELBC)

Special Court Acknowledges TRC's Request Regarding Taylor

Malaria Control Programme Manager Expresses Frustration

- Speaking at the opening of a one-day Liberia Supply Chain Situation Analysis briefing in Monrovia, Malaria Control Programme Manager, Dr. Joel Jones expressed frustration over the

usage of donor funds for malaria control in the country.

- Dr. Joel Jones said the impact of funds being used for the programme is not being felt as the rate of malaria is still high in country.
- Presently, Liberia is benefiting from the Presidential Malaria Initiative sponsored by United States President George Bush.
- The initiative is initially giving US\$12.5 million a year to Liberia for three years for malaria control.

(Also reported on Truth F.M. and ELBC)

European and American Ministers Resolve to Help Accelerate Aid for Liberia

- A team of Development Ministers from Norway, The Netherlands, Japan, Sweden and the United States have resolved to identify ways to increase and accelerate aid for Liberia.
- This followed a two day visit to Liberia during which the team toured several areas accessing the challenges and progress of development.
- The spokesperson of the team, Henrietta Ford of the U.S. says thy will do all they can to make a difference in the lives of common Liberians.
- The team also witnessed the launch of the county development agenda a document highlighting development priorities at the county level.

(Also reported on Truth F.M. and ELBC)
