News vendor Kanu Kargbo brings the newspapers each morning which provide the basis for the press clippings.

PRESS CLIPPINGS

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

Thursday, 11 May 2006

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

At Special Court, Chief Norman’s Health Deteriorates / *Awareness Times*  
Pages 3-4

Witness Explains How Kamajors Fell out … / *Awareness Times*  
Page 5

Koribondo …, Moskito Shot Five Kamajors / *Awoko*  
Page 6

Norman’s Witness Discloses … / *Awoko*  
Page 7

Making False Accusations? / *For di People*  
Page 8

Former UN Chief Investigator Vindicates Yaya Jameh / *Standard Times*  
Pages 9-10

Charles Taylor Should be Watched / *Standard Times*  
Page 11

Lessons of Charles Taylor / *New Vision*  
Page 12

### International Press

Sierra Leonean Police Holding American Man / *Associated Press*  
Page 13

United States Man Held for War Crimes Pics / *News24.com*  
Pages 14-15

Taylor Trial Faces Hitches / *The Analyst*  
Pages 16-20

American Arrested For Taking Pics / *Associated Press*  
Page 21

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary / *UNMIL*  
Pages 22-24
At Special Court

Chief Norman’s health deteriorates

By Theophilus S. Gbenda Coordinator of the Civil
Family members of the Defence Force (CDF), Chief
detained former National

Contd: page 2
Chief Norman’s health deteriorates

Sam Hinga Norman, who until his arrest by the UN backed Special Court for Sierra Leone on war crime charges was Minister of Internal Affairs under the present government, have raised concerns over what they refer to as his “deteriorating health condition”.

The family raised their concerns over the state of health of the Chief in a letter dated 19th April 2006, and addressed to the Registrar of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, with copies dispatched to eminent personalities around the world including the President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, Alhaji Dr. Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, the United Nations Secretary General Mr. Kofi Annan, the British Secretary of State – Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Mr. Jack Straw, the US Secretary of State Dr. Condoleezza Rice, and the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Olusegun Obasanjo.

The said letter reads as thus:

“We the family members of Chief Samuel Hinga Norman wish to draw your attention to, and seek an urgent up-to-date medical report regarding his health and wellbeing.

Our concern is based on the fact that for quite sometime now, our father and husband has not only complained about being unwell, but has also been observed on several occasions to be using a wheelchair and walking stick to aid his mobility.

It would be recalled that prior to his arrest and detention at the Special Court, Chief Norman was an active and healthy man, but in the last three years of confinement, his health has deteriorated. This is mainly due to lack of appropriate medical and recreational facilities at the Special Court detention centre in Freetown.

To reiterate, we the family are very concerned about his health and wellbeing, and wish to request for an up-to-date medical report as well as any information regarding plans for appropriate treatment and care.

We have also asked Dr. Bu-Buakei Jabbie, Chief Hinga Norman’s Solicitor and Barrister, to follow-up this matter”.

The letter was signed by Florence Norman, Josephine Norman (Mrs), Samuel Hinga Norman (Jr.), and Juliet Norman.

According to investigations, Chief Norman, apart from other health complications, is presently faced with severe pains he suffered when he fell in the police vehicle that was conveying him to the Special Court detention on the day of his arrest.

Reports have it that he presently has a swollen leg which has made it impossible for him to put on a shoe.

Unconfirmed reports disclosed that desperate efforts were made by the Special Court to take him to Ghana for medication but the Ghanaian government refused to accept him in their country.

In a telephone interview with Peter Andersen, the Deputy Chief of Public Affairs of the Special Court, he denied knowledge of the letter, saying he has not seen it.

He also however noted that the Special Court has an adequate medical facility right in its detention facility, to take care of the medical needs of the ten detainees.

He also denied knowledge of moves taken by the court to take Chief Norman to Ghana, and the Ghanaian government’s consequent refusal to accept him in the country.
At Special Court...
Witness explains how Kamajors fell out with soldiers

By Saffia S. Kabba and Tomi E. Tommy

The fourteenth defence witness testifying in the ongoing trial of Chief Sam Hinga Norman and co. at the Special Court for Sierra Leone, yesterday explained how Kamajors fell out with their counterparts in the Sierra Leone Army in 1996.

The Kamajors, he said, were fighting in concert with the soldiers to get rid of rebels who were rampaging parts of the country.

The witness, who identified himself as a businessman named Borbor Brima, and a resident of Koribondo, said in 1996 the chief of Koribondo announced that they needed volunteers to be initiated into the Kamajor movement.

After recruiting a good number of Kamajors, he said they stated fighting alongside the loyal government soldiers to dislodge the rebels.

The witness noted that this collaboration lasted until May 25 1997 following the coup which saw the temporal overthrow of the legitimate SLPP government.

Following the coup, the witness said the soldiers put out an announcement that all Kamajors should surrender their arms and ammunition to the nearest police station.

This announcement, the witness said, did not augur well with the Kamajors, adding that they deliberately refused to comply by the terms of the announcement.

According to him, most of the Kamajors fled to nearby towns and forests to keep themselves away from their former allies turned enemies.

The disappearance of the Kamajors, the witness said, led the soldiers to launch an attack on Koribondo, adding that while the “People’s Army” as they were called were there, they were behaving as if they were Kamajors so as to disguise their identities.

He said it was at this juncture that the Kamajors mobilized themselves and launched their first attack on Koribondo, though that attack was unsuccessful.

According to him, the relationship between the two former allies became even more sour by the said attack, adding that since then, the relationship remained hostile on to the day the war was declared over by no less a person than HE the President, Alhaji Dr. Ahmad Tejan Kabbah.

Also testifying was Wuyater Sheriff who in her testimony explained how they were mistreated by government soldiers who occupied Koribondo, before the Kamajors finally succeeded in taking over the town from them.

He said when the Kamajors succeeded in liberating the town; the retreating soldiers took away with them a number of civilians and set some houses alight.
Koribondo attack...

Mosquito shot five Kamajors

By Betty Milton

As the Civil Defence Forces (CDF) trial continues, more has been revealed at the Special Court. Borbor Brima, witness for the first accused Chief Samuel Hinga Norma, yesterday told the court that during the Kamajors’ attack at Koribondo, he saw ‘Mosquito’ taking out his pistol and shot at point blank five Kamajors.

Borbor Brima further recalled that during the first unsuccessful attack by the Kamajors to take over the town, occupied by soldiers, some Kamajors were captured while some sustained serious injuries.

Narrating further, Mr. Brima said at this point he saw Mosquito, who was commander of the rebels, took out a pistol from his holster and shot five captured Kamajors.

The witness also stated that before the second attack, which took place in June 1997, the Kamajors sent a message to the civilians in the town to leave so that they would not be hurt but that some civilians who did not heed the message suffered from this attack.

Mr. Brima stated that there was another attack which took place in February 1998 but this, he said, did not take long and they were ordered by the soldiers to come out of their houses which they did.

The businessman said on the 17th there were rumours that more soldiers would be coming to the town which prompted some civilians to flee.

He said a soldier confirmed to him that the AFRC/RUF soldiers had been removed from power and that Johnny Paul and other soldiers would be coming to Koribondo to set up a base. “This made me to pack my things and left for Bo with other civilians,” he disclosed.

Earlier, the witness stated that before the May 1997 coup, soldiers and Kamajors were living amicable but after an announcement that all Kamajors should surrender to the nearest police station, the Kamajors fled the town.

Some of the rebels, he said, were using Kamajors’ uniform “ronko” to wrack havoc.
Norman’s witness discloses how soldiers burn houses in Koribondo

A witness for the defence team of Chief Samuel Hinga Norman, Wuyata Sheriff, yesterday revealed at the Special Court how soldiers burnt down houses in Koribondo, southern Sierra Leone.

The witness, who spoke in the Mende language, stated that before the coup the soldiers were residing in Koribondo together with civilians.

Later, she recalled that they were informed that males should be initiated into the Kamajor society and so her husband went for the initiation.

The husband, she went on, was forbidden to sleep with her during that time. A quarrel later ensued between the two factions (the soldiers and Kamajors), leading to the Kamajors fleeing the town.

Wuyata Sheriff maintained that her husband also went into hiding at a village called Mandugbagbo where he stayed for three months, and that she always visited him there.

After one of her visits, she was summoned at the “barray” together with the chief and some of her relatives. The soldiers, she stressed, informed her that they had heard rumours that she had been visiting her husband and inferred that she had been taking information to the Kamajors about their activities. “But the chief and elders pleaded on my behalf on the grounds that since I had been in the town I had not caused any trouble and so I was released,” she disclosed.

Continuing she said, “the soldiers later held a meeting in which they informed civilians to persuade their relative to return to the village. So I persuaded my husband to return which he did. We returned very late at night and so I decided that I would hand over my husband the next day but that was unfortunate as there was an attack that very night by the Kamajors.”

Narrating further, the witness said the first attack was not successful but the soldiers did not stay long as they later left the town.

Before they left, the witness said, they burnt down most houses in the village, “and I even saw my grandmother’s house in flames. This made us fled the town.”

The witness also recalled that after they came from hiding, they were summoned by the Kamajors. During this meeting, the witness stated, Chief Norman addressed civilians and told them that there should be cordial relationship between them and the Kamajors.
Making False Accusations?

HARPINDER ATHWAL, the Political Adviser and Special Assistant to the Prosecutor reacted to a front page story written by JIA Kangbai and had this to say among others that the story titled: Special Court May Indict Pa Kabbah, "makes false accusations and is based on complete fabrication and therefore must be retracted."

That even if Kabbah is not indicted the matter of him being the pivotal witness named by all the Kamajor indictees as well as Peter Penfold and a top British officer puts the Special Court in a position to now rule on this most sensitive matter.

So even if there are no plans to indict Kabbah by the Special Court it would be possible to assume that he might be invited as a witness in the matter and that in its if holds many ramifications for the Court and the nation at large. If he does not appear then the Special Court would tell us how they might proceed with the trial without the star witness.

Athwal cites medical, family and work commitments for de Silva's departure even though he appears to want to come back and that he has fulfilled his promise to bring Taylor to trial.

Well, thanks to Nigeria's political machinations, Taylor might still be a distance from the Special Court but the important point here is that Athwal should've told the public whether for example de Silva represented Hingga Norman after he committed the first coup in Sierra Leone, whether he knew Kabbah before or they worked in the same legal firm etc.

There's no doubt about the legal professionalism of de Silva but the past must be totally clarified to make it according to Athwal a "complete fabrication".

Over to you Political Adviser Athwal.
Complicity in blood diamonds from Sierra Leone...

Former UN chief investigator vindicates Yayah Jammeh

Dr. Alan W. White, former Chief of Investigations at the UN backed Special Court for Sierra Leone, has vindicated President Yayah Jammeh of reports on the AllGambia.net website, suggestive of the Gambian leader's involvement in the 'blood diamond and trafficking' during the 10-year infamous civil war in Sierra Leone.

In a six-paragraph rejoinder posted on the same website, Mr. White said: "Although I am not at liberty to discuss any of the facts of the Charles Taylor investigation, I am at liberty to set the record straight.

As the former Chief of Investigations for the Special Court for Sierra Leone, I was responsible for gathering the evidence that led to the indictment of Charles Taylor. I traveled throughout Africa and the world putting together the case against Charles Taylor and indicted others, who bear the greatest responsibility for the crimes committed in Sierra Leone during the temporal jurisdiction of November 30, 1996 to the present. The organized criminal conspiracy of Charles Taylor was far reaching and involved a great deal of people."

However, Mr. White disclosed that Taylor's criminal conspiracy included some Gambians, but then added: "It never reached the Office of the President. Quite the contrary, President Jammeh was the first African Head of State to speak out about the Charles Taylor issue, publicly acknowledging the threat Taylor posed to the sub-region and the need for his extradition to the Special Court."

The former head of Investigations of the UN backed Special Court for Sierra Leone says that President Jammeh further provided "this information to the Special Court in writing and received nothing in return, rather only grief from some of his fellow Heads Of State. He did so because it was the right thing to do and he wanted to go on record as an African Head of State. He did so because it was the right thing to do and he wanted to go on record as an African Head of State to demonstrate his support for the rule of law and for the greater good of the region."

CONTINUED PAGE 11
Former UN chief investigator vindicates Yayah Jammeh

FROM PAGE 1

This line of action, according to Dr. White takes a "great deal of courage and political will that is unique in Africa, as well as the world and I applauded his action then and I applaud it now. He went public when no other African Head of State would do.

It was neither politically correct nor something that generated any public benefit for The Gambia. However, now that Charles Taylor has been brought to just, the political stock of President Jammeh has risen significantly. He should be given his due credit for speaking out as the sole voice of Africa. He was on an island unto himself". "I lived in the region and know it very well and I personally know who the bad actors are in the region.

I wanted to set the record straight and let people in West Africa know that the leadership and courage of President Jammeh is unique and very much needed.

Africa is a work in progress and developing nations need strong leadership.

The type of strong leadership exhibited by President Jammeh is and I believe the international community needs to recognize this type of leadership and work closely with him to help shape and mould Africa, "he opined.

Alan White acknowledged that The Gambia is experiencing "some growing pains just as any other country in Africa, but then he said: "However, the strong leadership demonstrated by President Jammeh and his genuine commitment to the development of his country for the betterment of the people of The Gambia are rare qualities that need to be acknowledged and rewarded."
Charles Taylor should be watched

BY SALIFU CONTEH

This is not an addendum to previous concerns raised by various media houses within and without Sierra Leone, but a stern warning to all stakeholders of national security to fix an eye on the former Liberian president and warlord, Charles Taylor, who has committed heinous crimes against the people of this peaceful land.

Charles Taylor who was caught in an official vehicle along the Nigerian border with his half wife, son and two briefcases loaded with money, was escorted to Sierra Leone via Liberia under stiff security.

He was a one-time prisoner in the US where he was incarcerated for alleged crimes committed in that country, but whiles waiting for judgment by the court, Mr. Taylor vanished into air only to resurface in Liberia as a warlord after trained by his godfather Gaddafi of Libya, to topple the Samuel Doe regime.

If Taylor can beat the security apparatus in the USA, with all the sophisticated devices and make a clean escape, can the walls of the Special Court contain him?

May be in the USA he used mystical powers to escape, will he not at this time resort to a more potent one to get out of the Special Court cell?

Basically, even in our maximum cell at Pademba road that has high barbed-wire walls, there have been instances of prisoners escaping.

It is no doubt that since this crafty and slippery criminal was brought in this country, many of his NPFL fighters have secretly filtered into the country, lying in wait for the moment to make their move.

That is why many Sierra Leoneans have suggested to government and the international community to kindly transfer Charles Taylor to The Hague.

On the other hand, others are contemplating that since the crime was committed here in Sierra Leone, the trial should be done here, as the Special Court too is capable of providing security for its indictees.

Besides our prison guards can do anything to get rich. If people are wickedly giving their sons, daughters or wards for money to be used for rituals, don't you think, they will do the same to aid Taylor's escape?

Few weeks ago, Taylor requested for a change of cell because he was unexpectedly woken up by an unknown sound. Don't you think this is one of his escaping schemes?

The security officers from Mongolia attached to the Special Court should be smart and brave with this criminal.

Charles Taylor should be watched to an extent that even his families or those coming around to visit him should be thoroughly screened and watched, if not then another history is in the pipeline.
Lessons of Charles Taylor

The arrest and detention of Charles Taylor at the UN-backed Special Court in Freetown, Sierra Leone by the United Nations and the international community ought to serve as a lesson to all dictatorship regimes and those in the habit of taking the law into their own hands.

Actually high-handedness and the lack of respect for the rights of other people is not only limited to the ex-Libyan President Charles Ghankay Dahirpannah Taylor, but to many people in Liberia, Sierra Leone and the entire world.

Some people are just used to believing that all men are equal, but some are more equal than others.

The arrest and detention of Charles Taylor is a pointer that all men are equal before the law and that everyone is subject to be sanctioned in the instance of the violations of the law. In other words the law applies to everyone irrespective of creed, colour, ethnic, regional origin or nationality. When the Chief Prosecutor of the Special Court at the time David Crane issued an arrest warrant and indicted Charles Taylor, Hinya Norman, Sam ‘Maskita’ Bockarie, Johnny Paul Koroma and others about three years ago, there were those who doubted whether the Special Court is really vested with the jurisdiction to prosecute the President of Liberia so as to answer to war crimes charges in Sierra Leone.

This is because of the short comings and the obstacles that were posed on the way. In the first place there were fears that the possible arrest of Taylor could lead to another war in both Liberia and Sierra Leone. But over time the tensions provoked by the crisis in the two sisters Mano River countries had dissipated. Taylor was arrested without a single bullet being shot.

Essentially it is good that we take heed of the signals that the international community is trying to send. That nobody is above the law. The ex-warlord never realized that the invasion of a sovereign state constitutes the violation of the territorial integrity of that country punishable under international law.

It is high time that people learn that little things count. It is a universal phenomenon that where the rights of an individual ends, the right of others begin. The arrest and detention of Charles Taylor is therefore a signal to enable us cultivate good moral values and respect for lives and properties.

Everyone was made in the image and likeness of God. Some African leaders are in the habit of tampering with donor funds or the national budget to the detriment of the citizens of the country. Some manipulate the Constitution to enable them prolong their stay in power while others abuse their offices by unilateral appointments without parliamentary confirmation. The international community ought to impose arrest warrants on such leaders. Charles Taylor is not alone in this regards!
Sierra Leone police holding American man who took pictures of war-crimes tribunal

By CLARENCE ROY-MACAULAY

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone (AP) - An American man was arrested for taking photographs of the U.N.-Sierra Leone war-crimes tribunal compound where ex-Liberian President Charles Taylor and other defendants are held, officials said Wednesday. Police detained the man May 2 after questioning him about why he had flouted rules against taking pictures of the court complex, where 11 war-crimes suspects are held, top police official Musa Bockarie Lappia said. No charges have been filed against the man, Lappia said. He did not identify the man by name or give any further details.

The U.S. Embassy said it was informed of the man's detention, but had no other information. Court officials had no comment. Sierra Leone police holding American man who took pictures of war-crimes tribunal.
US man held for war crimes pics

Freetown - An American man was arrested for taking photographs of the UN-Sierra Leone war crimes tribunal compound, where ex-Liberian president Charles Taylor and other defendants were held, said officials on Wednesday.

Musa Bockarie Lappia of police said that they detained the man on May 02 after questioning him about why he had flouted rules against taking pictures of the court complex, where 11 war crimes suspects were held.

Lappia said that no charges had been filed against the man. He did not identify the man by name or give any further details.

The United States embassy said it was informed of the man's detention, but had no other information. Court officials had no comment.

Taylor escapes from prison

Taylor was transferred to the court's custody in March after Nigerian police caught him trying to flee his exile there.

Now the United Nations-backed tribunal was seeking to try the feared former warlord outside the region he helped lead into conflict, saying his mere presence in West Africa was destabilising.

Taylor escaped from an American prison in the 1980s, reportedly by shimmying down a rope made out of knotted sheets. Many in West Africa feared Taylor's allies could try to help him break out of the high-walled, maximum-security compound, where he was being held in the Sierra Leone capital, Freetown.

Taylor faced 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity stemming from his alleged backing of Sierra Leonean rebels who terrorised victims by chopping off their arms, legs, ears and lips.

Taylor, a former rebel leader who became Liberia's president before leaving power and fleeing into exile in 2003, had pleaded not guilty to the charges.
**UN security council resolution**

The tribunal had requested that Taylor's trial be moved from Sierra Leone to The Hague for fear that the former warlord could still spark unrest.

The Sierra Leone-based Special Court would still conduct the trial, but The Hague would provide a courtroom and a jail cell pending trial.

The Netherlands had agreed - but only if the arrangement was endorsed by a UN Security Council resolution, The Hague-based International Criminal Court agreed to provide the venue. No country had yet agreed to take in Taylor, and the court proceedings had stalled.

The UN and Sierra Leone established the Sierra Leone Special Court after that country's 1991-2002 civil war. The court’s prosecutors indicted a total of 13 men; Taylor is the most prominent in custody.
Taylor's Trial Faces Hitches

By the time the former president of Liberia, Charles G. Taylor, landed at the UN-backed Special War Crimes Court in Freetown, there was no doubt in the minds of observers that he would be given fair and speedy trial. Investigation shows that the unanimity was based on assumptions that the Special Court had collected enough prima facie evidences against Mr. Taylor since he was indicted in May 2003. But that assumption seems to no longer hold any water-- the issues of trial venue and the legal technicalities regarding transfer of jurisdiction and the provision of support funds are currently in hot contention. The Analyst Staff Writer leafed through the contentions and weighed the implications of all this for a case that many expect will set precedence against impunity in Africa.

Two human rights organizations of global repute have set conditions for the security of justice in the Taylor trial, prompting observers to presage hurdles or hitches in the process.

The two, Amnesty International (AI) and the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and its member organization, the Liberia Watch for Human Rights (LWHR) in separate communications, last week, said unless the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) addressed certain assumptions with reference to the change of venue and funding, the UN-backed Special War Crimes Court in Sierra Leone is likely to collapse under the weight of funds needed for continued trial, justice is likely to be delayed as the result, and the basis for the establishment of the Sierra Leonean court would be eroded.

Besides issues related to the flaws which AI and FIDH said are inherent in the UN draft resolution setting forth conditions for the transfer of Taylor's trial to The Hague, there is running legal wrangling over which European country might house the indicted former Liberian president should he be convicted by the International Criminal Court.

This question, observers say, is likely to further delay proceedings in Freetown for at least six months of the trial which has yet to commence.

The need for the change of venue in the Taylor trial was prompted by fears entertained by officials for the Special Court for Sierra Leone that trying Taylor in Freetown poses security threat for the sub region.

The fears took into consideration the fact that the trial could take many months and even years to end and that therefore the likely place was the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague.
But even while the AI and FIDH contend that a careful study needed to be conducted by the UN to establish the necessity of transfer, it seems initial transfer arrangements are not proceeding as fast as expected, all the time hitting cul-de-sacs.

"The Netherlands agreed to allow the Sierra Leonean Special Court to use ICC courtrooms, cells, and facilities in The Hague. But it dictated that the UN Security Council had to authorize the trial; that the ICC and the Sierra Leoneans agree on cost sharing; and that arrangements be made for the transfer of Taylor to another state once the trial is over," an AI statement said.

Even though a spokesperson for the ICC confirmed that its officials and those of the Special Court for Sierra Leone had reached an agreement on the use of ICC facilities and on how to split the cost of the trial, there is still no news on which country will take Taylor after the trial.

"It's imperative that the international community step forward and offer up facilities to incarcerate Taylor if he's convicted at trial. It's disturbing given that Taylor is in effect recognized to pose a threat to the peace and security of West Africa that states have not been more forthcoming in offering up their prison facilities to house him," said Richard Dicker, head of the international justice programme at the NGO Human Rights Watch.

A Swedish Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Nina Ersman confirmed Sweden had been approached by the UN to accept a convicted Taylor and disclosed that the government last month submitted legislation to the Swedish parliament that would change Swedish laws to allow it to host an international war criminal, but that parliament would not meet on the matter until after 1 June.

"The appeal must be passed through the parliament as Sweden cannot in its present legal framework receive this person. The legislation still has to be passed and then there has to be a decision on the case. The request was put forward specifically because of the Charles Taylor case," said Ersman.

Other countries being considered are Finland which said it does not have the right legislation for such legal arrangement, and Denmark which reports said has already rejected the appeal.

"Denmark is a country that has always promoted international law and the rule of law so it was a natural one to think of. We've also taken some people convicted in the Yugoslav tribunal, so there is a tradition of these kinds of cases. But Denmark does not have the facilities needed to house Charles Taylor," said one Danish official who did not elaborate.

While the UNSC and the special court grapple with the issue of venue change, AI and FIDH insists that arguments that prompted the idea in the first place needed to be re-evaluated for adjustment and appreciation of what is required and what is available.

"The transfer of criminal proceedings should take place if, and only if the international community cannot provide effective security for proceedings in Sierra Leone," AI demanded in its statement.
It said even if it were established that the security condition in Sierra Leone cannot support the trial and therefore a change of venue is necessary, the Security Council should consider other venues in Africa.

In the event that venue is changed, according to the AI, steps must be taken to minimize delays in transferring the case given that significant investment will be required to relocate the trial effectively.

AI then urged the Security Council members to resolve its concerns and those of the FIDH before they decide whether to authorize the Special Court to transfer the criminal proceedings to The Hague.

According AI and FIDH, the Special Court of Sierra Leone (SCSL) was established in Sierra Leone, where the crimes took place, within the society it aims to rebuild, and close to the victims and that uprooting it now would subtract from those objectives.

"Conducting trials in Sierra Leone has been crucial to facilitate to re-establishing the rule of law, to rebuilding the national justice system, and to ensuring that justice is done, and is seen to be done, by the victims and the people of Sierra Leone as a whole," said Sidiki Kaba, president of FIDH.

Kaba said leaving the SCSL to assume alone the entire costs of the proceedings against Charles Taylor in The Hague might create another major financial crisis within the SCSL whose budget is made of voluntary contributions.

"It will be the responsibility of the members of the Security Council and the international community to support such necessary increase," said Sidiki Kaba.

He was responding to the draft resolution of the Security Council that recalls that all the costs of the trial in The Hague should be drawn from the SCSL budget.

With the special court, which is currently stranded financially, identified as a major contributor to the funding of Taylor's trial in The Hague, there are indications that Taylor's case may not be heard immediately and if heard, it is unlikely to proceed as expected.

**Draft Security Council Resolution Concerning The Location Of Criminal Proceedings Against Charles Taylor**

respect for human rights and to restore and maintain international peace and security, in accordance with international law and the purposes and principles of the Charter,

Expressing its appreciation to Liberian President Johnson Sirleaf for her courageous decision to request the transfer of Charles Taylor in order that he may be tried at the Special Court for Sierra Leone, Expressing its appreciation to President Obasanjo of Nigeria on his decision to facilitate the transfer of Charles Taylor, and noting the role Nigeria has played in securing and promoting peace in Liberia and the wider sub-region, including President Obasanjo's decision in 2003 to facilitate the removal of Charles Taylor from Liberia which allowed the Comprehensive Peace Agreement to take effect, Recognising that Charles Taylor facing the charges against him in the Special Court for Sierra Leone will contribute to achieving truth and reconciliation in Liberia and the wider sub-region, Special Court for Sierra Leone: Issues for consideration regarding the location of the trial of Charles Taylor

Expressing that it remains committed to assisting the governments of Liberia and Sierra Leone in their efforts to a more stable, prosperous and just society, Reiterating its appreciation for the essential work of the Special Court for Sierra Leone and its vital contribution to the establishment of the rule of law in Sierra Leone and the sub-region, Welcoming the transfer of former President Taylor to the Special Court for Sierra Leone on 29 March 2006, Determining that the presence of former President Taylor in the sub-region is an impediment to stability and a threat to the peace of Liberia and of Sierra Leone and to international peace and security in the region, Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. Takes note of the exchange of letters between the President of the Special Court for Sierra Leone ("the Special Court") and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands dated 29 March 2006; and takes note also of the intention of the President of the Special Court to authorise a Trial Chamber to exercise its functions away from the seat of the Special Court, and his request to the Government of the Netherlands to host the trial, including any appeal;

2. Welcomes the willingness of the Government of the Netherlands, as expressed in the letter from its Minister of Foreign Affairs to the President of the Special Court dated 29 March 2006, to host the Special Court for Sierra Leone for the trial of former President Taylor, including any appeal;

3. Requests all States to co-operate to this end, in particular to ensure the appearance of former President Taylor in the Netherlands for purposes of his trial by the Special Court for Sierra Leone, and encourages all states as well to ensure that any evidence or witnesses are, upon the request of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, promptly made available to the Special Court for Sierra Leone for this purpose; Special Court for Sierra Leone: Issues for consideration regarding the location of the trial of Charles Taylor

4. Requests the Secretary-General to assist, as a matter of priority, in the conclusion of all necessary legal and practical arrangements, including for the transfer of the former President to the Special Court for Sierra Leone in the Netherlands and for the provision of the necessary
facilities for the conduct of the trial, in consultation with the Special Court for Sierra Leone, as well as the Government of the Netherlands;

5. Decides that the Netherlands shall not exercise its jurisdiction over former President Taylor during his presence in the Netherlands, except with the express consent of the Special Court for Sierra Leone;

6. Decides further that the Government of the Netherlands shall facilitate the implementation of the decision of the Special Court for Sierra Leone to conduct the trial of former President Taylor in the Netherlands, in particular by: a. Allowing the detention and the trial in the Netherlands of former President Taylor by the Special Court for Sierra Leone; b. Facilitating the transport upon the request of the Special Court for Sierra Leone of former President Taylor within the Netherlands outside the areas under the authority of the Special Court for Sierra Leone; c. Enabling the appearance of witnesses, experts and other persons required to be at the Special Court for Sierra Leone under the same conditions and according to the same procedures as applicable to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia;

7. Decides to exempt former President Taylor for the purposes of his trial before the Special Court for Sierra Leone, as well as for the purpose of the execution of the judgment from the travel ban in accordance with paragraph 4 (c) of resolution 1521 of 22 December 2003;

8. Recalls that the costs to be incurred as a result of the trial of former President Taylor in the Netherlands are expenses of the Special Court for Sierra Leone in the sense of article 6 of the Agreement and that no additional costs shall be incurred by the United Nations or the Netherlands without their consent;

9. Decides to remain seized of the matter.
American Arrested for Taking pics

An American man was arrested for taking photographs of the U.N.–Sierra Leone war–crimes tribunal compound where ex–Liberian President Charles Taylor and other defendants are held, officials said Wednesday.

Police detained the man May 2 after questioning him about why he had flouted rules against taking pictures of the court complex, where 11 war–crimes suspects are held, top police official Musa Bockarie Lappia said.

No charges have been filed against the man, Lappia said. He did not identify the man by name or give any further details.

The U.S. Embassy said it was informed of the man’s detention, but had no other information. Court officials had no comment.

Taylor was transferred to the court’s custody in March after Nigerian police caught him trying to flee his exile there. Now the U.N.–backed tribunal is seeking to try the feared former warlord outside the region he helped lead into conflict, saying his mere presence in West Africa was destabilizing.

Taylor escaped from an American prison in the 1980s, reportedly by shimmying down a rope made out of knotted sheets. Many in West Africa fear Taylor’s allies could try to help him break out of the high–walled, maximum–security compound where he was being held in the Sierra Leone capital, Freetown.

Taylor faces 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity stemming from his alleged backing of Sierra Leonean rebels who terrorized victims by chopping off their arms, legs, ears and lips. Taylor, a former rebel leader who became Liberia’s president before leaving power and fleeing into exile in 2003, has pleaded not guilty to the charges.

The tribunal has requested that Taylor’s trial be moved from Sierra Leone to The Hague for fear that the former warlord could still spark unrest.

The Sierra Leone–based Special Court would still conduct the trial, but The Hague would provide a courtroom and a jail cell pending trial.

The Netherlands has agreed – but only if the arrangement is endorsed by a U.N. Security Council resolution, The Hague–based International Criminal Court agrees to provide the venue and Taylor leaves immediately after the trial, even if he is acquitted.

No country has yet agreed to take in Taylor, and the court proceedings have stalled.

The Sierra Leone Special Court was established by the United Nations and Sierra Leone after that country’s 1991–2002 civil wasr. A total of 13 men were indicted by the court’s prosecutors; Taylor is the most prominent in custody.
International Clips on Liberia

Chicago Tribune 10 May 2006
Liberia's leader brings message of hope to Chicago
By E.A. Torriero
Tribune staff reporter

She survived jail and exile to become Africa's first elected female president. On Tuesday, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, president of war-gutted Liberia, was feted in Chicago. She was shuttled around in a stretch limousine to meetings with the mayor, governor, congressmen, South Siders, her native people living in Illinois and grade school pupils wanting to send textbooks to Liberian children. At every stop, her story told of hope and offered gender inspiration. A nation in tatters can be rebuilt—and not by men, but by poor illiterate women who voted to put a Harvard-educated grandmother into one of the toughest offices in the world, she said.

Government and UN Vow to Investigate Sex Trade Report

Monrovia, May 09, 2006 (UN Integrated Regional Information Networks/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) --The government of Liberia and the UN peacekeeping Mission on Tuesday promised to conduct investigations into a report by British-based charity Save the Children those government workers, peacekeepers and aid workers are giving Liberian girls money, food and favors in return for sex. And ordinary Liberians told IRIN that growing poverty appeared to be fuelling promiscuous sexual behavior.

International Clips on West Africa

Associated Press 05/10/2006 07:34:53
Sierra Leone police holding American man who took pictures of war-crimes tribunal
By CLARENCE ROY-MACAULAY

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone _ An American man was arrested for taking photographs of the U.N.-Sierra Leone war-crimes tribunal compound where ex-Liberian President Charles Taylor and other defendants are held, officials said Wednesday. Police detained the man May 2 after questioning him about why he had flouted rules against taking pictures of the court complex, where 11 war-crimes suspects are held, top police official Musa Bockarie Lappa said.
Sweden Studies UN Peace-Building Experience in Sierra Leone

Freetown, May 09, 2006 (Concord Times/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- A high-level Swedish delegation, comprising officials from New York and Stockholm, visited Sierra Leone from 4 to 7 May to acquire first hand information on vital components of peace-building efforts and the role that the United Nations can play in this regard. Sweden expects to be actively engaged in the work of the Peace-building Commission that has been established at the end of last year within the framework of the ongoing UN reform process.

Local Media – Newspapers

Senate Confirms Associate Justice Nominee

- The Senate, in plenary session yesterday, confirmed former Justice Minister Kabineh Ja'neh as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court after adopting a motion for reconsideration to overturn his earlier rejection.
- Cllr. Ja'neh's earlier rejection was prompted by petitions filed by rights groups and individuals, which opposed his nomination based on his alleged undermining of the rule of law and violation of human rights while serving as Justice Minister.

Police Arrest Bank Analyst for Fraud
(Daily Observer, Heritage and The Informer)

- The Liberian National Police in conjunction with Interpol yesterday arrested Central Bank of Liberia analyst Chris Taylor for allegedly defrauding the CBL of over US$144,000. The Liberian National Police officer responsible for Interpol affairs, Theodore Simons, said that Mr. Taylor siphoned the money in collaboration with partners at the state-owned Monrovia Transit Authority.

Côte d'Ivoire Recruits Demobilized Liberian Soldiers
(National Chronicle)

- About 75 percent of Liberian soldiers who were demobilized and paid severance benefits were reportedly recruited in Monrovia recently by a senior Ivorian army officer to beef up the Ivorian army’s strength in its war with the rebels.

Chief Justice Warns Lawyers against Tampering with Judges
(The Analyst and Heritage)

- Speaking at the Temple of Justice yesterday at a special program for the qualification of Attorneys-at-Law and the admission to the Montserrado County Bar of new Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law graduates, Chief Justice Johnnie Lewis warned that drastic measures awaited lawyers who prefer to tailor court rulings by judges. Chief Justice Lewis said that effective 1 July salaries and allowances for judges would be raised to comfortable levels.

Local Media – Radio Veritas (News monitored yesterday at 18:45 pm)

Senate Confirms Former Justice Minister as Associate Justice
(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)
Lawmakers Call on Government to Keep Youths in National Service

- Speaking to journalists in Monrovia yesterday, Grand Gedeh County Legislative Caucus Chairman Zoe Pennue called on the government to retain qualified youths in government to enable them to contribute to national development.

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

Police Arrest Bank Analyst for Fraud

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

Defense Ministry Demands Apology from Striking Soldiers

- Acting Defense Minister Dynicious Sebwe said that the Ministry is demanding an apology from former soldiers of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) for destroying the Ministry’s property during their recent demonstration. In an interview yesterday, Minister Sebwe said that the apology remained a precondition for the payment of their arrears.
- UNMIL soldiers and international police yesterday prevented the former AFL soldiers from approaching the Ministry in demand of their salary arrears.

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

Drug Enforcers Frown at Arbitrary Releases of Drug Users

- In a press statement issued in Monrovia, the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) criticized the constant release of drug suspects by courts in the country. The agency cited the release of a suspected drug dealer Augustine Voker from detention by the Monrovia Magisterial Court. The DEA called on the National Legislature to pass the National Drug Law to make the trafficking or possession of narcotics a non-bailable offense.

(Also reported on Star Radio)

ELBS RADIO (News monitored yesterday at 19:00 pm)

Massacre Survivors to Testify Before Truth Commission

- Scores of survivors of the Maher massacres yesterday said that they were ready to give testimony to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission about how the massacres occurred and who perpetrated them.

Former Government Official Says Education Sector Corrupt

- Addressing a news conference yesterday, a former member of government said that the education sector is the most corrupt sector in Liberia. Mr. Francis Dunbar suggested the need for government to overhaul the entire educational system by raiding it of corrupt teachers and school administrators.

STAR RADIO (News culled form website today at 09:00 am)

Sinoe County Police Nab Suspected Ritual Killers

- Sinoe County Acting Police Commander Col. Samuel Foka said that five persons, including a ten-year old boy, were arrested in connection with the death of a six-year-old boy. Col. Foka said that one of the suspects had confessed to selling the boy for L$20,000. The boy was later found dead with parts missing from the corpse.

Complete versions of the UNMIL International Press Clips, UNMIL Daily Liberian Radio Summary and UNMIL Liberian Newspapers Summary are posted each day on the UNMIL Bulletin Board. If you are unable to access the UNMIL Bulletin Board or would like further information on the content of the summaries, please contact Mr. Jeddi Armah at armahj@un.org.