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:
Monday, 4 February 2008

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday. Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact Martin Royston-Wright Ext 7217
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local News</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Human Rights Commission Gears Up for Operations / <em>Awoko</em></td>
<td>Page 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lunch With Gen. Butt Naked / <em>Concord Times</em></td>
<td>Page 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>International News</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Moses Blah Claims Death Threat / <em>The News</em></td>
<td>Page 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I Will Only Testify If - Moses Blah / <em>The Inquirer</em></td>
<td>Page 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secret Witness Under Marathon Questioning / <em>New Democrat</em></td>
<td>Page 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prince Johnson Sets Condition to Appear Before TRC / <em>The Inquirer</em></td>
<td>Pages 8-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Report Shoots Holes in Boy Soldier’s...Memoir / <em>Sunday Times</em></td>
<td>Pages 10-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Possibility of Indicting Soeharto After His Death / <em>Jakarta Post.com</em></td>
<td>Pages 12-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberian Newspaper Clippings for January / <em>Various</em></td>
<td>Pages 14-59</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Human rights commission gears up for operations

The Human Rights Commission in Sierra Leone has started a massive capacity building project for its newly recruited staff over the weekend.

According to the commission's deputy chairman Edward Sanz, the training will continue this week until Thursday.

He said the training is an induction programme for the new staff who will be primarily looking at the functions of the commission, the history and its establishment. These new recruits would also be emboldened in the chronology of human rights.

During the orientation of the various sessions of induction, the commission's chairperson Jamesina King presented an overview and functions of the commission.

She highlighted the Lome Peace Agreement and other peace negotiations that led up to the formalization of the commission.

She talked about the various studies by international researchers for the need of a national human rights commission to fulfill the needs of the Paris Principles and the functions of the commission in their protection of human rights.

Commissioner Edward Sanz took the new recruits into the chronology of human rights in Sierra Leone from pre-colonial days through independence, post-independence up to the war and up to the conclusion of the 2007 elections.

Reverend Moses Kanu, one of the erudite commissioners who is also a mover and shaker in the religiosity of Sierra Leone and was the coordinator for the TRC reconciliation project for Western Area, shared the experience of the Inter Religious Council which was entrusted with the Herculean task by the TRC to oversee the reconciliation phase of its work after the war.

Mr Joseph Stanley, another commissioner, instructed the new recruits in handling human rights violation, how to handle complaints and investigations and also staff's obligations under human rights laws.

"The objective of this intensive training is to adequately prepare the new staff in the effective performance of their duties," the commission's deputy chairman stated. This training came few weeks after the commission had developed a plan of action for the year in which it set up ambitious goals. Key among them is the vigorous and vigilant monitoring of the human rights violations in the country.
Concord Times
Monday, 4 February 2008

**Lunch with Gen. Butt Naked**

By Lawrence Gbokie

I had badly wanted to meet with Joshua Milton Blahyi, formerly General Butt Naked, after reading his sensational testimony to Liberia's Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). I had arrived in Liberia a week after the TRC began its hearings, and was staying at the Royal Hotel in Sinkor, a once pretty residential area of Monrovia. Blahyi had volunteered to the Commissioners and the Liberian public (the hearings were public) the startling information that he had killed 20,000 people during Liberia's war. He was now an evangelist, a very ostentatious one; and his confession, he made clear, was meant as a sign of contrition.

About a week later I got an email note from my friend Stephen Ellis asking whether I could buy him a copy of Blahyi's book, Trading Priesthood for Priesthood: A Testimonial Account of a Liberian Brutal War General and Traditional Priest that dramatically met Christ and is now a Christian Ambassador. I hadn't known about the book, so I dialled one of the numbers Stephen gave me as contact for the book. Blahyi himself answered the phone. He said that the books were not available in Liberia because President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf had told him not to bring the books into the country for sale - they were published in Nigeria, and were on sale mainly in Ghana and the US. He said he was angry about the President's decision; I was baffled about it myself, until I started reading a torn copy of the slim volume. Here Blahyi is describing something that he and his gang (about 36 naked but armoured teenagers) routinely did during the war:

My soldiers and I moved to the frontlines on the new bridge and started the ritual by opening the little girl's back and plunging out her heart. I shared the little girl's heart with my soldiers. After we ate, I requested my boys to go to the river and bring some water for me to wash my hands.

I told him I would very much like to meet with him all the same. He promised to call me. That day I had met with Abdoule Dukule, a famous Liberian journalist who edits the online journal Perspective; the paper had become prominent during the Charles Taylor era for its incisive attacks on that regime. Dukule and I met for lunch at Mamba Point Hotel. He told me he had a copy of Blahyi's book, and he was meeting him after our meeting. He said he'd pass on my wish to get a copy of the book to Blahyi. The next day, just before lunch time, Blahyi called. He was in a garage not far from our offices, so I would pick him up? I said I would. A few minutes later I drove to the garage. As Blahyi emerged to enter the car, a group of men, total strangers it seemed, came smiling to him. They praised his courage and outspokenness, and Blahyi embraced one of them, his face beaming with satisfaction: he had become something of a celebrity. We drove to Beirut Restaurant, run by a matronly Lebanese woman, in downtown Monrovia. The setting was almost surreal: the elegant, well-maintained restaurant, the stain, degenerate surrounding; the easy, relaxed ambiance in a desperately harsh city that has succumbed in so much blood so recently.

Blahyi is physically striking. He is very well-built; his muscles indicating an ascetic body-building obsession. He is good looking without being handsome. But in spite of myself I couldn't see him in this purely physical way. I couldn't help seeing in the mischievous, vapid face a bottled up viciousness. I feared the accretion would wear out quickly under close scrutiny. I was slightly scared. Blahyi, however, appeared unawed but somewhat fidgety, as though anticipating disapproval or scepticism. He told me he is 57, and he looked it. When I ordered mango juice he quickly said that's what he wanted as well. He said he doesn't take alcohol. This looked to me like an affrontment, a cute desire for approval, an attempt to strike a serious pose. I thought I had encountered this kind of pose before - in Sierra Leone, in 2003, when, in a corner of a small downtown bar I had wanted to buy beer for Augustine Gbou (soon to be indicted and arrested by the UN-created Special Court for Sierra Leone). Smiling in a disarming, cordial way, Gbou had turned down the offer, saying he doesn't drink, and accepting soft drink instead. So this detail seemed routine (a British military observer had written of how a red-eyed, drunk and bawling Gbou, while still a commander in the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) army, had raised a UN post in northern Sierra Leone and held soldiers at gun point, preempting one of the biggest disasters in UN's peacekeeping history.)

But Blahyi went further. He insisted on having only French fries, though I ordered liver.
Moses Blah Claims Death Threat

By Alloysius David

The NEWS has learnt that some unknown persons have threatened to assassinate former President Moses Z. Blah and his family if he did not abandon plan to testify against indicted war crimes suspect Charles Taylor in The Hague.

Some unknown persons have reportedly circulated leaflets about the death threat. A copy of the leaflet which is in the possession of this paper indicates: “You Moses Blah who called yourself former president, we are after you day by day for your special court connection.”

The leaflet posted on a building added that Mr. Blah was preparing to proceed to The Hague to give evidence against his former boss, Taylor.

The unknown writer (s) also noted that they can establish that Mr. Blah has hosted individuals from the Special Court and that he received money to testify in The Hague.

The leaflet did not name the individuals. Mr. Blah has dismissed ongoing threats.

However, Mr. Blah has disclosed that he has no intention to testify against Mr. Taylor. Blah is calling on the Liberian government and UNMIL to provide him adequate security protection.

I Will Only Testify If...

By Patrick K. Worlpin

You cannot have any reason to testify against anybody in Liberia except if the law demands you to do so, but for me to voluntarily get up and say I am going to testify against anybody in this country for any reason, it will not be so.

The above were the direct responses of former Liberian President, Moses Blah when he spoke to this paper yesterday.

Answering a question as to whether he would take up the offer should it be called by the prosecution counsel at the Sierra Leonean Special War Crimes Court sitting in The Hague, to testify against his former boss, President Charles G. Taylor who is now facing trial in The Hague for allegedly committing war crimes and other crimes against humanity and against the people of Sierra Leone.

News report that surfaced earlier this week claimed that some unknown persons have issued threat on the life of former President,

I Will Only Testify If...

Cont’d from front Page

BY: Patrick K. Worlpin

the former President. The report alleged that an anonymous leaflet, which was reportedly discovered at the residence of the former President threatened to have him assassinated should he agree to testify against former indicted Liberian President, Charles Taylor.

But when he spoke to this paper yesterday on these alleged threats, former President Blah in response to a question from this paper as to whether he was ever contacted to testify against former President Taylor said, “No, nobody has requested me to do so.”

The former Care-Taker President, who took over the mantle of authority of the country after former President Taylor resigned and was taken into exile in Nigeria, said at the moment an investigation was ongoing to determine the source of the leaflet. Asks whether there is much security being provided to protect his life from the alleged threat, Mr. Blah said, “I was heavily guarded before I put it, sold it to UNMIL and personnel of the Special Security Services (SSS) among others are stationed at his residence to provide him with security.

According to him the security forces have been at his residence ever since he turned over the Presidency providing him with security protection stressing that this has been so, because he, as an individual who played a key role in pursuing former government of Liberian fighters to disarm, it was suspected that one day, he could be targeted.
I Will Only Testify If - Moses Blah

By Patrick K. Wrokpoh

"I do not have any intention to testify against anybody in Liberia except I am forced to or if the law demands me to do so, but for me to voluntarily get up and say I am going to testify against any body in this country for any reason, it will not be so."

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But when he spoke to this paper yesterday on these alleged claims, former President Blah in response to a question from this paper as to whether he was ever contacted to testify against former President Taylor said, "No, nobody has requested me to do so."

Asked whether he had any intention to do so, former President Blah said, "Not at all." He confirmed that a leaflet was discovered around his residence but added that he does not know where such threats have come from.

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According to him these security forces have been at his residence ever since he turned over the Presidency providing him with security protection stressing that this has been so, because he, as an individual who played a key role in pursuing former government of Liberian fighters to disarm, it was suspected that one day, he could be targeted.
Secret Witness Under Marathon Questioning

For the fifth day, a witness testifying against ex-President Charles Taylor is answering questions from the prosecution, which began last Thursday.

Known only as TF1-371, with an unknown nationality for safety concerns, the witness is giving evidence of Taylor’s alleged RUF connections, according to Court sources.

The trial continued in closed session yesterday. The courtroom was locked with curious drawn to hear the testimony of Prosecution witness TF1-371.

Ministers and journalists were informed by court personnel that the Prosecution was still conducting its direct examination of TF1-371, which began last Thursday afternoon. The Defense’s cross-examination was expected to begin at some point this afternoon, also in closed session, and continue until at least tomorrow (Oversley, May: The Trial of Charles Taylor).
Prince Johnson, former leader of the defunct National Patriotic Front of Liberia (INPFL) now Nimba County Senior Senator, says he is prepared to appear before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) only if those who instigated the 1980 coup d'état and killed President Tolbert are made to appear before the Commission.

Reacting to a statement from the TRC that he failed to appear before the TRC to explain about the death of Samuel K. Doe, Sen. Johnson stated emphatically that at no time did he refuse to appear before the TRC. He wondered, "How can I appear before the Commission when no one has accused me yet?"

The Nimba County Senior Senator then noted, "If I do not appear before the TRC, my character will be at stake. I'm willing to appear only if my name is called by victims but not people from the TRC who want to cause problem in this country."

He said prior to its hearing, the TRC sent out statement takers to every part of the country and even abroad to hear from people who were grossly affected by the war and now that the TRC has opened officially, they are expecting these victims to come out with names of those who carried out those atrocities in the country.

"If I refuse to appear before the Commission whenever my name is called then I will be putting my future and character at stake but if my name is called then I will appear to defend my character," Sen. Johnson said. He said it should not be the TRC to cite him for the death of the late President Doe when in fact he has since reconciled with the Doe family.

He further noted, "There were other people who came before me and killed President Tolbert, many of them are in government today, why is it that the TRC is not inviting these people to explain their role in the death of President Tolbert and the execution of the thirteen government officials who were all civilians?"

He then wondered, "There are people who constituted the 17 men of the AFL who killed Tolbert that morning who are in the very Legislature that I'm in presently, why is the TRC not talking about inviting these people? The TRC talked about investigating matters from 1979, why are they now starting from the 90s?"

Sen. Johnson said the families of Doe who are victims should have complained to the TRC but have forgotten about the matter. "If you are interested in the death of Doe, why are you not interested in Tolbert's death? He said the people of Nimba County are unhappy about his name being in the media by the TRC noting, "The people of Nimba were the direct victims under the Doe regime. They were killed in their numbers by the Doe government and I came to redeem my people."

"If the TRC is interested in knowing the death of a sitting president, let them start from Tolbert. Let the Tolbert people begin to appear and explain their roles in his death then I will have no choice but to also appear before the Commission," the former rebel general added.
Sen. Johnson stated further that his appearance before the TRC will cause many big names to come out. He added that it was an international conspiracy that led to the death of Doe. He said the death of Doe was initiated by the international community and Liberian politicians as well as Church leaders in the country.

Sen. Johnson disclosed that the international community including the then UN Secretary General, OAU (now AU), Chairman and the ECOWAS Chairman were all in The Gambia to form an interim government when in fact Doe was still a sitting president.

Sen. Johnson said he was being used by ailing Archbishop, Michael Francis and some Liberian politicians to remove President Doe so as to make way for former interim President, Amos Sawyer.

In conclusion, Sen. Johnson said, "I'm a target; this is witch-hunting and I will resist it; you can put rope on my neck and hang me but I will never appear when others who should have appeared before my turn have not been invited."
School report shoots holes in boy soldier’s bloody memoir

Bryan Appleyard

DOCUMENTS found on Friday at a school in Sierra Leone may destroy the credibility of a best-selling book by a child soldier in the 1990s civil war.

The discovery is the latest in a series of revelations casting doubt on the story told in Ishmael Beah’s A Long Way Gone, which has sold 650,000 copies in the United States and has just come out in paperback in Britain. The book is a brilliant account of the war through the eyes of a child and has become the primary text of campaigners against using children in war.

Beah, 27, who has become a Unicef advocate, said he stood by his story. “I don’t worry about it. For me, my story is accurate and I presented it accurately and I stand by it. I’m not worried about it.”

Speaking before the emergence of the latest document, he indicated the attacks were motivated by jealousy. “If you go round waving a book in Sierra Leone and asking, ‘Who knows this person?’, somebody is going to say, ‘Of course, that’s my son or could be my brother’.”

His story began in January 1993 when his village, Mattru Jong, was attacked by rebel forces. Beah, then aged 12, escaped into the bush. He spent almost a year on the run before being handed an AK-47 by a government commander. He was 13 and for the next two years massacred his way around the country, high on various drugs.

Asked last week how many people he had killed, he said: “I’ve no idea. I really don’t know. I was in it for quite some time; each day of the war, we were fighting or there were exhibition killings. When we captured prisoners, it wasn’t like real war, where you take them to prison. We lined them up and . . . It was a way of indoctrinating new recruits.”

The new documents, obtained by Peter Wilson, a London-based correspondent of the newspaper The Australian, are academic records of Beah’s school. They show his marks for the period ending March 1993, indicating that he did not leave the school when he said he did.

They seem to confirm what Wilson had already discovered - that the attack on Mattru Jong actually took place in January 1995. Since Beah is known to have been picked up by Unicef in January 1996, he can have been on the run and/or been a soldier for only a year.

Wilson has also investigated an account in the book of a fight between boys from rival factions at a Unicef rehabilitation centre in Freetown that reportedly ended with six dead. Unicef has been unable to find evidence of such an incident. But it said it was “not aware of any discrepancies in Ishmael’s story. It is our view that even one day as a child soldier is one day too many”.

Beah said: “Whose word do they [the press] have for saying it didn’t happen? They said there was an official in government who said he didn’t want to disclose his identity. They said if this thing happened they would have known about it. Then I think to myself – Sierra Leone, do they know how many children were killed in the war? Does the government know or care about that? Of course not.”
Wilson suggests that “at every step of the way Ishmael was given incentives to exaggerate”. In Freetown a Unicef nurse encouraged him to tell his story and rewarded him with a Walkman. He won a trip to New York in 1996 with his graphic descriptions of life in the war. There he met Laura Simms, a writer he now calls his mother, who helped him to make his narratives more vivid. Finally, while he was studying at Oberlin college in Ohio, a creative-writing teacher spotted his literary gifts.

Beah is angry about the inquiries into his story. His father was killed in the fighting and he points out that reports that his father was still alive were found to be false.

“They never actually apologised for dragging me through that emotional thing . . . Every other day now, I go on The Australian’s website and they have a new instalment. This is what I think: they went and they didn’t find anything so they tried to find something else just to discredit me.”
The possibility of indicting Soeharto after his death

Jennie S. Bev, San Francisco Bay Area

Soeharto has died after more than 20 days of being hospitalized. While his family members, close friends and cronies are expressing their grief, more than one million people who have lost loved ones are waiting anxiously for the news that he -- even after his death -- will be held accountable for his alleged crimes against humanity: the genocide of at least 500,000 during the 1960s, 183,000 during the East Timor occupation and 100,000 in West Papua.

This 86-year old former dictator of Indonesia, who had ruled for 32 years, was very impressive. Not one entity in the world has been successful in bringing him and his allies to justice for all the wrongdoings he allegedly committed against humanity.

In Javanese tradition, a leader's charisma stays until, or even after, he has died. It is common knowledge that many Indonesian leaders, particularly politicians, who belong to this ethnicity practice kejawen, Javanese mysticism.

Mystical reasons aside, there were and are political and legal obstacles to bringing Soeharto to justice.

First, due to his influential power during the New Order, he was able to maintain ad nauseam charismatic influence after he had been removed from power. Current political leaders lack the political will to bring him to justice, reportedly due to his "generosity" and "ability to win friends" by sharing wealth and engaging in other political maneuvers. In short, if they had brought him down, they would have brought themselves down too.

Second, he escaped a series of Indonesian criminal lawsuits since 2000 for his alleged grand corruption acts, on the grounds of ill health. No domestic impartial investigative commission or truth commission to create an authoritative record of his responsibility for crimes against humanity has been formed either. And it is common knowledge the Indonesian judiciary requires a major overhaul due to its impotence and corrupt officials.

Now, with more impossibilities than possibilities to have Soeharto prosecuted for his alleged crimes against humanity, there is still a light at the end of the tunnel provided there is a moral force strong enough to pressure international law bodies to take part.

In general, there are two courts with jurisdiction to prosecute such cases: the International Criminal Court and the International Tribunal Court. The former is a permanent court, while the latter is an ad hoc.

The International Criminal Court, which was established on July 1, 2002, following the signing of the Rome Statute by 102 countries, including Indonesia, is the first choice, provided that it would apply to Soeharto's case.

Unfortunately, it does not apply retroactively, which precludes it from prosecuting any crimes occurring prior to 2002, even though it is currently conducting investigations in Congo, Darfur, Sudan and Uganda. Indonesia intends to ratify the Rome Statute this year to serve as a deterrent for future crimes.
The International Tribunal Court, an ad hoc court formed under the supervision of the United Nations Security Council, might be the last hope. On Jan. 22, 2008, Michael P. Scharf, a member of the international team of experts that provided training to the judges of the Iraqi High Tribunal, and also a trainer of judges and prosecutors of the UN Cambodia Genocide Tribunal and a professor and director of Frederick K. Cox International Law Center at Case Western Reserve University, said, "Since Nuremberg, where Adolf Hitler's deputy, Martin Bormann, was prosecuted though he was already dead, international law has frowned on prosecutions in absentia".

He added that the best solution would probably be to set up an international and domestic investigative commission or truth commission to create an authoritative detailed record of his crimes against humanity. Alternatively, after his demise, such records could be used against his chief lieutenants. As such, trials would reveal Soeharto's involvements in ordering or condoning their actions.

Ad hoc tribunals have been formed for the former Yugoslavia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone and Cambodia, which can be used as a model for Soeharto's case.

The road to hold Soeharto accountable for his alleged crimes against humanity is an uphill one. The light at the end of the tunnel, however, can be magnified by concerned citizens of the world who work together in pressuring the UN Security Council and Indonesia's current president and new president, whoever comes to power after the 2009 election, to listen to their consciences and set a precedent that such titanic atrocities will not happen again in Indonesia and the world.

The writer is a columnist, doctoral candidate, former law lecturer and a graduate of the University of Indonesia law school. She can be reached at jenniesbev.com.
"We’ve More Evidence Than Necessary..."

Footage Of Amputee Victim Shown At Taylor Trial

Dismissing claims of lack of evidence tying Charles Taylor to atrocities in Sierra Leone, Chief Prosecutor Stephen Rapp says there is more evidence than necessary to convict the former Liberian leader.

Meanwhile, a video footage of amputees in Sierra Leone has been shown in court following the presiding judge Uppy's's judicial overruling of the defence's objection.

Reuters reported late Monday that prosecutors began their war crimes case against Liberia's Charles Taylor on Monday with footage of a Sierra Leonean whose hands were cut off by rebels.

See Page 10

"We’ve More Evidence"

testimony on the diamond trade that funded a brutal war.

Prosecutors showed scenes from a documentary in which a Sierra Leonean diamond miner described how his hands were hacked off by laughing RUF rebels who then torched his house, killing his wife and children sheltering inside.

Prosecutors also called as their first witness Ian Smillie, a Canadian expert on the trade in conflict diamonds or "blood diamonds," smuggled out of Africa and used to buy arms.

"Diamonds are the most concentrated form of wealth on earth," Smillie said, adding diamonds from Sierra Leone were of much higher value than those from neighboring Liberia, worth around $280 per carat compared with $25-30 per carat.

The chair of Sierra Leone's amputees association told the BBC they would press for reparations from states that sponsored Sierra Leone's rebels.

"We have more evidence than necessary," Mr Rapp, an American, told the BBC in an interview Monday shortly before the trial could commence. He said one of the witnesses, amongst several linkage witnesses, to testify against Mr Taylor is an insider who has worked with Mr Taylor dating from the 1980s to the time of his as President of Liberia.

Regarding the charge of rape and whether the prosecution can prove a case against Mr Taylor, he said it is inconceivable that a sitting president would leave his office in Monrovia to rape women in Sierra Leone. But he added that the prosecution's case is that it has evidence indicating that Taylor organized, funded and directed the crimes. He said such evidence will come from documents and individuals who themselves participated in the crimes but are prepared to testify against Mr Taylor.

Prosecutor Rapp: "This is an important test for international justice ... it will have ramifications throughout the world." Prosecutor Stephen Rapp said Monday of the trial he hopes will end decades of impunity for African strongmen. "There have been other cases involving chiefs of state that have not gone well ... But I am confident that we can present the case and show that it is possible to hold a chief of state responsible in a fair and just trial."

They expect a judgment by the end of 2009, though an appeal would likely stretch into 2010.
Several Shun Taylor Trial Prayer

As Loyalists Ask God For Fair Taylor Trial

Dozens of former officials of former President Charles Taylor Sunday gathered at a Congo Town Baptist church where they prayed for their beloved one to receive fair trial and triumphantly return home. But nearly all opposition party leaders and government officials invited to pray along did not participate.

President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, officially invited, said she had prior engagements that prevented her from attending. CIT. Varney Sherman said he would pray in private for the former President.

The prayers and sermons were largely political, with some pastors saying Taylor should not bear the brunt for the alleged collective crimes of others. Taylor is charged with being responsible for crimes committed in Sierra Leone allegations that he financed and directed.

Though Mr. Mulbah gave reasons for the absence of other political party officials, read out two letters from Government and CIT. Sherman, in which it pressed regrets of not being able to join them due to engagements.

Mrs. Jewel Howard-Ti an interview with you said she was not disturbed over the absence of political leaders and the government from the service. Asked whether she thinks her husband would be set free, she said she believes God will intervene on his behalf.

In rather political statement the First Baptist Church Pastor, Rev. Joseph G., described the current political leaders and group of rebels saying "is just one reaping state power from another rebel."
The war crimes trial of accused former Liberian President Charles Taylor resumed Monday with prosecution first witness taking the stand.

The trial at The Hague comes six months after he boycotted the opening session in June 2007 and called the trial a “charade.” Mr. Taylor was seen in court dressed in a dark blue suit swinging left, right in the chair he sat in. The former Liberian leader appeared passive as he watched his trial.

Yesterday, prosecution produced its first witness in person of Canadian author Ian Smillie, who is considered an expert in the trade of blood diamonds (so-called because funds from their sale fuel African rebel groups).

He testified for the prosecution, explaining how the trade in “blood diamonds” exacerbated the conflict.

Taylor, who was president of Liberia from 1997 to 2003, is charged with five counts of crimes against humanity, including murder, sexual slavery, violence and enslavement. He also faces five counts of war crimes, including acts of terrorism and torture, and Sierra Leone’s capital, Freetown, to The Hague last year because of concerns that Taylor’s presence would harm stability and security in the Western African subregion.

The trial opened in June 2007, but Taylor boycotted the first session, saying he could not expect a fair trial.

In a letter read out to the court by his defense counsel, Kemal Khan, Taylor said he could not take part in what he called “this charade that does injustice to the people of Liberia and the people of Sierra Leone.”

In the same letter, Taylor also dismissed Khan from the case and asked to represent himself. However, British lawyer Courtenay Griffiths, now leads Taylor’s defense team.

Mr. Taylor is the first African head of state to go on trial for war crimes before an international tribunal. For the benefit of the public, we bring you full account of prosecution’s first witnesses in person of Ian Smillie (15).

The following are legal interactions at The Hague.

The trial began at 9:00 in The Hague, (9:00 in Sierra Leone and Liberia), but there is a

Cont’d on page 3
WAR CRIMES

Half hour delay in the video and audio feed, so we still have about ten minutes before we can know what's happening.

Charles Taylor appeared in court Monday morning, and the first prosecution witness is expected to be an expert on diamonds and weapons trafficking in West Africa. He will be followed by a victim witness, and then a "character" witness, whom the prosecution says is a former associate of Charles Taylor.

Prosecution witness Ian Smilie has been sworn in. The prosecutor is asking Ian Smilie to describe his background.

Q: After finishing my education, I taught English, French and history in a secondary school for one year in the eastern Sierra Leone town of Koidu. Koin District.

A: Did you observe any mining?

Q: Koidu was a mining center in Sierra Leone, almost like the Koidu West. Thousands of people had come to dig for diamonds.

A: What did you do at that time?


A: Describe a work history with various Canadian NGOs. From 1983-1989, worked as an unaided consultant in development issues, working for the Canadian government, UN agencies, Africa and other NGOs. Starting in 1995, started to work with Partnership Africa-Canada on the diamond issue in Sierra Leone.

Q: What is a kimberlite pipe?

A: Kimberlite pipes are where the kimberlite never reached the surface. Kimberlite dikes are in Congo. Kimberlitie dikes are similar. Kimberlite pipes in Sierra Leone are concentrated around Kono.

Q: Tell us about mining in Sierra Leone.

A: Beginning in the 1950s, SL government allowed license of artisanal diamond mining - small mining by hand. There was no more to mine. Beyond licensed mining, there was local illicit mining using these isolator industries. Industrial mining was a pipeline down into the kimberlite pipe, which requires major capital investment. Secondary-industry mining means that diamonds are below the surface, requiring modest investment, equipment such as bulldozers.

Q: What are tailings?

A: Kimberlite pipes. The Sierra Leone Selection Trust equipment only picked diamonds larger than 1/4 pound. The tailings from diamond mining can be re-mined for the smaller diamonds.

A: 11:30 with half-hour delay. Court is back in session.

Q: Question for Smilie. Tell us about the organization CLUDO that you worked for, as a teacher in Koidu, and elsewhere.

A: CLUDO: it's the Canadian University Service Overseas (CUSO), also the American Peace Corps, which sends people overseas to assist developing countries.

Q: Was information in the clip we've just seen accurate?

A: Yes, it was general, but accurate.

Q: Is there a linear relationship between the number of cars and a diamond's value?

A: Value increases exponentially with size, and there are other factors such as color and clarity. A five carat diamond is worth more than a five one-carat diamonds. But the diamond also determines its final value, but the quality of the rough diamonds. Unless the diamond is of high quality, it may not be worth as much.

Q: Perfectly arrived on the diamond. Two general categories: industrial diamonds and gems.

A: How are diamonds created?

Q: All through volcanism and pressure in the earth. Can be very small - ranging from half the size of a grain of sand, to half a millimeter wide. Kimberlite pipes can be found in South Africa. Diamonds were formed 50 million years ago. In some places, the top of the pipe has been washed away, and the diamonds are washed out by rivers and called alluvial diamonds. In some cases the rivers are no longer there. So Namibia, the diamonds have washed into the ocean, so mining is done on the ocean floor off the coast. In Sierra Leone, Liberia, etc., alluvial diamonds are scattered over hundreds of square kilometers. Sometimes diamonds are trapped on the surface, or just below.

Judge Sebutinde: What is the relevance? Does it affect the relevance of the indictment?

Pros: There are works in Sierra Leone, important for judges to understand how mining is done in Sierra Leone. Related to the indictment because prosecution proctors will show that campaign finance was used to control illicit diamond mining. Important to understand how diamonds are spread out.

Scene: OK, but keep it short.

To Smilie: Can you describe how diamonds go from mining to sea?

Q: A lot of small miners in Sierra Leone, Congo, etc. MINNA gets to dealers who sell to exporters, who send them all over the world.

Pros: What's shops' role?

A: Used to be main center of polishing. That's no longer the case, but Antwerp remains main hub of diamond trade. Much of the polishing is done in India.

Smilie: Expert panel's report doesn't list ailments. Some people we met with were very nervous and requested anonymity about their meetings with the panel.

The prosecution is requesting to play another clip from the documentary Blood Diamonds. Defense is objecting to the clip being played because Smilie doesn't appear in the clip, so the witness can't speak to it. Pros: Clip is about the diamond industry, and the witness is qualified to say whether they are accurate.

Judge Sebutinde: Why is the clip necessary? Why can't Smilie just testify to the facts if he's an expert? Pros: visual is helpful in understanding how diamond mining works, etc.

The clip provides an overview of diamond mining worldwide, how they're processed and traded. More than half of all diamonds are sold in the United States. History of diamond mining in Africa during the 19th century. The clip describes how diamonds are created in "kimberlite pipes" in the earth's crust.

Q: Question for Smilie: have you spoken with people in the diamond industry?

Pros: Yes, extensively at all levels.

Q: Is the World Diamond Council?

Smilie: Made up of diamond traders like Goldschmidt and others.

Pros: There's a group that was established to work on the Kimberley Process. NGOs meet with members of the World Diamond Council.

Q: Do you know the individual who's the namedaul Goldberg?

Smilie: I don't know him personally, but he's a Goldberg company, which is a large, respected New York diamond company.

Judge Sebutinde has just interrupted to announce that the proceedings would pause now as scheduled for 25 minutes, set to resume at 11:30. With the delayed audio and video feed to the press room here, that means we'll continue our coverage at 11:30.

Pros: I want to ask you about arms shipments later in the report of the expert panel. Pros: how did the panel work?

Q: We worked as a team on some aspects, in smaller groups.

Q: Are you familiar with the UN arms embargo affecting SL and Liberia at the time your panel was formed?

A: Yes. There was a complete embargo on Liberia, and an embargo on all shipments to parties in SL except for the government.

Q: Who's Leonard Marin, mentioned in your report?

A: He flew arms to Liberia and throughout the region. Subsequently, he was arrested. He's been sentenced to prison.

Pros: The report discusses various flights of an aircraft owned by Marin. What was your source?

A: There were two sources. The Angola expert panel told us about the plane taking several shipments of arms from Burkina Faso. We wanted to find out what happened to those weapons. Our air traffic control expert went to Spain to review flight logs for this aircraft, also in Burkina Faso.
First Witnesses Testify Against Charles Taylor

The trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor on charges of directing atrocities in Sierra Leone resumed in The Hague yesterday with prosecutors due to call their first witnesses to the stand. Taylor, once one of Africa's most feared warlords, faces charges of rape, murder, mutilation and recruitment of child soldiers at the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone, set up to try those most responsible for the 1991-2002 conflict.

The 59-year-old has pleaded not guilty to all charges.

A relaxed-looking Taylor appeared in the courtroom wearing a dark suit and tie.

"This is an important test for international justice. It will have ramifications throughout the world," Prosecutor Stephen Rapp said at a briefing Friday of the trial he hopes will end decades of impunity for African strongmen.

There have been other cases involving chiefs of state that have not gone well... But I am confident that we can present the case and show that it is possible to hold a chief of state responsible in a fair and just trial.

More than 250,000 people were killed in the sustained wars in Liberia and Sierra Leone which shocked the world with stories and images of child soldiers high on drugs, killing, raping and looting.

Taylor is accused of trying to retain control of Sierra Leone's mineral wealth, particularly its diamonds, and seeking to destabilize its government by supplying the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels.

Prosecutors have said their first witness will be an expert on the trade in conflict diamonds, followed by a victim of the violence in Sierra Leone, another anti-Taylor regime official.

In Sierra Leone, a generation of civilian amnesties - their hands or legs hacked off by rebels - are a painful reminder of the cruelty of the conflict, in which hundreds of thousands of civilians were raped and killed.

Prosecutors intend to call 150 witnesses but hope half of them can submit their testimony in writing, allowing the prosecution team to wrap up their case in about eight months.

They expect a judgment by the end of 2009, though an appeal would likely stretch into 2010.

Taylor boycotted the opening of his trial last June in a dispute over the resources allocated to his defence, prompting legal wrangling and repeated delays.

More funds were eventually made available to Taylor and a new defence team was appointed in July.

The former strongman is receiving legal aid despite suspicions he amassed a considerable personal fortune.

In the past, ousted African dictators have often fled overseas to live out their days unpunished. Taylor found exile in Nigeria after being overthrown in 2003, but was later handed to the court under international pressure.
Taylor Shows
No Emotion
As Witness Testifies

The war crimes trial of
former Liberian
President Charles
Taylor has resumed in The
Hague yesterday, marking a
significant step in
challenging his alleged
responsibility for crimes
committed during his
administration.

The trial opened in June
last year but proceedings
were postponed after Mr. Taylor
fired his defense lawyer and
announced the opening of the
trial.

He now has a new defense
team—a senior British lawyer,
who is being paid for by the
state, as Mr. Taylor says he
cannot afford to hire one.

The trial is expected to last
about 18 months.

It is being held in The
Hague for fear that staging it
in Sierra Leone might lead to
fresh unrest there.

If convicted, the UK has
offered to jail him again in
the event of his presence in
West Africa leading to
unrest.
The long awaited landmark trial of the first former African president, facing charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity, yesterday resumed in The Hague after many legal hiccups since the UN-backed Special Court of Sierra Leone took custody of Charles Taylor in March 2006. Noted as one of the great achievements of the 21st Century by human rights activists and protagonistic against pervasive impunity within the continent, the trial is taking place amidst ghastly video clips in a secured institution beyond the fragile West African environment that the atrocities were allegedly committed. But whether or not distance will yield the desired justice for the thousands of victims of the neighboring West African country of Sierra Leone is the question that animates debates around the sub-region. Now The Analyst pieces together this report for our esteemed readers.
GHASTLY VIDEO OPENS TAYLOR'S TRIAL

“Will it be back, God willing,” said former President Charles Taylor on the steps of his departure from Liberia on August 15, 2003. He turned to the crowd and thanked them for their sacrifice and vigilance.

Doing so, Mr. Taylor came back in court to face the charges against him at the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone.

The former Liberian President pleaded not guilty to an 11-count indictment against him for war crimes and crimes against humanity, including rape, murder, conscription of child soldiers, among others, when he was accused of crimes in Freetown.

Following a period of repossession of legal issues in Freetown, Taylor's trial was transferred to The Hague, where it is expected to face more than 120 witnesses and 25,000 pieces of evidence.

Taylor: last year dismissed his lawyer, Karim Khan, before the Special Court scheduled the trial to yesterday.

The trial began at the Hague with the first witness taking the stand. Almost 30 witnesses from Liberia and elsewhere are lined up to testify against the former president who is being tried for war crimes and crimes against humanity. Mr. Taylor has formally denied his involvement in the Sierra Leonean war conflict.

At yesterday's trial ceremony, a ghastly video footage of massed victims of Sierra Leone rebels was shown. The video was described as a war crimes trial of the former Liberian President.

The trial, which was delayed for nearly six months following Taylor's dismissal of his former lawyer, Karim Khan last year. Following this development, the new defense team requested for ample time to examine the video and find adequate response to the more than 12,000 pieces of evidence that the court prosecution has presented against the former Liberian President.

Former President Taylor was initially charged with 17 counts, but the court had reduced the list of charges to fewer, including those that Taylor must now face. He is the British Crown Counsel, Courtois/Griffths.

That would submit to censure since he was denied responsibility for atrocities committed by RUF rebels during the civil war in that country.

A video highlighting a Sierra Leonean diamond mine was also shown. In that video, the miner described how his hands were hacked off by Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels who later burned down his house, killed his wife and children.

He said the horrors were very real as he accessed over this line Smillie witness.

The prosecution intends to call 134 witnesses, including many from Liberia, who claimed that they were killed or tortured in the Sierra Leone conflict.

As the first international criminal prosecution against a former African ruler accused of crimes against humanity, the case is of crucial importance, as expected.

Mr. Taylor has pleaded not guilty to all 112 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The prosecution will also be calling a Liberian witness, who is said to have belonged to Mr. Taylor’s inner circle.

Both witnesses are protected, which means their names have not been revealed.

It all the prosecution intends to call 134 witnesses, though only half are likely to appear in person.

The trial is expected to last about 18 months.

It is being held in The Hague for fear that staging it in Sierra Leone might lead to fresh warfare there.

If convicted, the UK has offered to jail him — again in case he refuses to face the court in West Africa for the first time.

As the first international criminal court, the case is crucial.
As Taylor Goes to Trial

The first day of the trial yesterday, video footage ofdiamond miners was shown in court. Former Liberian President Charles Taylor looked well groomed.

Mr Taylor - who is accused of trading weapons for diamonds - showed no emotion as the first witness, an expert on "blood diamonds", gave evidence.

The delayed trial has resumed at The Hague after a six-month delay. Mr Taylor is the first African former head of state to face an international war crimes court and faces 11 charges.

Witness Ian Smillie, who wrote a report for the United Nations on conflict - or "blood" - diamonds.
TAYLORITES

diamonds, said the former RUF rebels used brutality to frighten people away from diamond fields that earned them up to $125m (£63m) a year.

He said figures showed that during the war in Sierra Leone, Liberia exported far more diamonds than it could have produced itself.

He said that when he met Mr Taylor in 2000, the former president had told him it was “highly probable” that the former RUF rebels were dealing in diamonds, and that some of them might have been going through Liberia.

“But, he said this was not official, and he didn’t know anything about it,” Mr Smillie told the court. “He said the border were very porous and he had no control over this.”

Mr Taylor’s defence objected to some of Mr Smillie’s testimony as hearsay, but most of it was accepted by the court.

Funded defence

The trial opened in June last year but proceedings were postponed after Mr Taylor fired his defence lawyer and boycotted the opening of the trial.

He now has a new defence team - a senior British lawyer, who is being paid for by the court, as Mr Taylor says he cannot afford it himself.

The BBC’s Mark Doyle in The Hague says this will surprise many people in Liberia, who claim he made lots of money by selling timber and diamonds.

Mr Taylor is accused of responsibility for the actions of Revolutionary United Front rebels during the 1991-2002 civil war in Sierra Leone, which included unlawful killings, sexual slavery, use of child soldiers and torture.

RUF fighters were also notorious for hacking off the arms and legs of the civilian population with machetes.

As the first international criminal prosecution against a former African ruler accused of misdeeds, the case is of crucial importance, our correspondent says.

Mr Taylor has pleaded not guilty to all 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The prosecution will also be calling a Liberian witness who is said to have belonged to Mr Taylor’s inner circle.

Both witnesses are protected, which means their names have not been revealed.

In all, the prosecution intends to call 144 witnesses, though only half are likely to appear in person.

The trial is expected to last about 18 months.

It is being held in The Hague for fear that staging it in Sierra Leone might lead to fresh unrest there.

If convicted, the UK has offered to jail him - again in case his presence in West Africa led to instability.
MONROVIA: President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf Sunday boycotted the prayer service for former Liberian President Charles Taylor, whose trial commenced in The Hague, the Netherlands by the Sierra Leone United Nations backed War Crime Court.

The Monrovian office of the former Liberian President headed by John T. Richardson and other associates invited President Johnson-Sirleaf to attend and worship with family members and associates of the former President, but she did not turn out for the occasion as the trial resumed yesterday, January 7, 2008 in The Hague.

Though Presidential Spokesman, Cyrus Rado, could not be reached to give reasons why President Johnson-Sirleaf downplayed the Taylor family’s invitation, but sources at the Foreign Ministry which now hosts her office, said she received the invitation but replied.

Flashback: President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf and former President Taylor sharing ideas in April 2002.

Conf’d on page 2
Cross River State in Nigeria that played a key role in his downfall. By midday of March 29, 2006, the day the eclipse covered Nigeria, following hours of purported arrests, Taylor was reported to have been arrested in a bordering state of Nigeria, in minutes of that arrest news, Taylor was boarded on a presidential Falcon jet and hurried to the Roberts International Airport near Monrovia where he was then handcuffed by the Ellen's government security high-ups, and immediately handed over to United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) troops and subsequently whisked away to Freetown, Sierra Leone.

On the eve of Christmas in 1989, a group of rebellious Liberians headed by Taylor, styled as the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL), said to be organized and funded by a "love" group of Liberians in the Diaspora, including Madam Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, Amos Sawyer, the LPRC Harry Greaves among others, launched what would later become a journey in a valley of drumbeats of guns with a dance of death beside the rivers of blood just to undo the Samuel K. Doe presidency of Liberia.

The then spokesman of the NPFL, Tom Wonuoyu, has lately accused President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf of fueling the war with USD500,000.00. Over 350,000 Liberians lost their lives; a horde were either internally displaced or went to seek refuge in neighboring countries.

It can be recalled how Madam Sirleaf was always busy on international wire, not limited BBC and Radio France International, promoting the fighting forces of Taylor while the NPFL war was ongoing. In one of her many interviews with BBC's Robin White, when the late President Doe was still holding fast of the supposed committed in another country while he served as President of the Republic of Liberia.

However, in his welcoming address during the worship service, the Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church (FBC) in Oldest Congo Town, Rev. Joseph Gardee Johnson, explained that "we received the request to host the Taylor prayer service at this church edifice. We are aware of the international community conspiracy to the case. The Baptist prelate said he believes in justice and anything that is not done fairly and truly is not done at all. We as church believe in justice for all."

Rev. Johnson maintained that it is the responsibility of the church to pray for any human being no matter of his tribe, political affiliation or color. What they cannot do as a church is that they cannot pray for Satan. He said his church this, FBC has been offering praises for prisoners, patients in the various hospitals and prison compounds and if it is no mistakes to also offer prayer for Mr. Taylor who is a Liberian former president.

The worship service for the former Liberian president was jammed pack, as former president Moses Z. Blah, former vice president John Gray, former Information Ministers Joe Mulbah and Reginald Goodridge, former foreign minister D. Musuleng Cooper, former First Lady, now Senator Jewel Howard Taylor. Also attending the worship service were Taylor's children and family members as well as other Liberians who came from all walk of lives to grace the occasion.

Meanwhile, as the trial resumed, reports say Taylor appeared happy and confident as the first witness against him from Canada was crossed examined. The report further the witness explained the alleged diamond between he and the defunct RUF. The trail...
The war crimes trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor resumed Monday at the Hague, six months after he boycotted the opening session and called the court a "charade."

The first witness Monday was Canadian author Ian Smillie, who is considered an expert in the trade of blood diamonds, so called because funds from their sale fueled African rebel groups. He was testifying for the prosecution, explaining how the trade in "blood diamonds" exacerbated the conflict.

Taylor, who was president of Liberia from 1990 to 2003, is charged with the crimes of crimes against humanity, including murder, sexual slavery, and war crimes. He also faces five counts of war crimes, including attacks on civilians and torture, and one count of other serious violations of international humanitarian law.

Taylor, who has pleaded not guilty to the charges, is accused of fueling a bloodless civil war in Sierra Leone that led to widespread murder, rape, and mutilation.

The war, which led to the diamond-rich country to the United States and the Sierra Leone government established the Special Court for Sierra Leone. The court is now handling Taylor's defense.

Taylor, who is the former head of state, went on trial for war crimes before an international tribunal.

The court has convicted Taylor of war crimes in Sierra Leone in 2002, but Taylor was acquitted in the second trial. He is now appealing the conviction.

In the same letter, Taylor also disavowed his previous decision to stand trial. He is now represented by British lawyer Rupert Black.
HORRIFIC EXPERIENCES IN TAYLOR'S TRIAL

...Sierra Leonean Pastor Gives Account

The grounds of the International Criminal Court in the Hague where the Special Court for Sierra Leone is sitting seem to be a venue of horrific and terrifying experiences from the ten years brutal civil war of the West African State.

On Tuesday, day two of the trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor prosecution second witness Alex Tamba Teh who is a Sierra Leonean pastor and an alleged victim took the witness stand with a terrifying testimony.

In his testimony in chief, Teh, 47, told prosecuting and defense counsels in his native language Krio that in early 1998 Kamajors went to Koidu, Kono District, claiming that they had gone in the area to protect the District from the rebels. Kamajors were local...
A pastor, Ale Tamba Toba, on the stand, testified Tuesday, narrating his experiences in rebel captivity when he saw several people executed and amputated before him.

The pastor said one of his captors was a Liberian, carrying the Rocky with his real name as International Williams.

The Pastor, courtesy web site The Trial of Charles Taylor, says he was captured on the way to the market and was stripped of their clothes, and they started counting them up. He said, "At about 30 or 31, I stopped counting. At the time, I wondered whether there were more. I stopped counting. At the time, I wondered whether there were more. That's what I think," he said.
was a commandant, but I didn't know his real name. Later I learned his name. Rocky came down and asked me: "where is the pastor?". I asked three times, but I was unable to answer, but I thought they would kill me so I refused to answer.

"Then Sylvester Kithi, one of the rebels, asked me: "didn't you say you were a pastor?" I said yes. Rocky then said that I should pray for everybody. They asked him to bring his "bariga" - I didn't know what that was. They brought him a gun with a long barrel with bullets on it. The boy who brought it had the belt with bullets wrapped around his body. He passed the gun to Rocky. Rocky said: "those of you who are praying thank you and thanks to ECMOC, I want to tell you what we are doing. We are rebels, we are ECMOC, and we belong to you. I am telling you to Teyai Tobok to tell them that we are here. We called me again and I became nervous. I took the gun. At the 3rd step he fired the gun and I thought he was shooting at me. I shot all of the adults to death. I thought he was going to be the first person shot - I was nervous. After he killed the civilians - the other adults - he instructed that they should be decapitated. It was Rocky who gave the order to the SBUs. SBUs are small boys below the age of 15-26, very small boys. They're the ones they called SBUs. They couldn't even carry their guns. They were dragging on the ground. Some had cutlasses. After I spoke, these boys decapitated all of those who had been shot to death by Rocky. It was at that time that Rocky disguised his identity to me. I knew the last word commandants because Rocky referred to them as "you are the commandants". Rocky said how many there were - he said there were 36 including himself and Rocky. Rocky voted to have me killed and said others who wanted me killed should come and stand with him, and put them aside. Those opposed should go and stand with Rocky, who had refused to kill me. It made me go to stand with Rocky, so there were 15 others with Rocky. There were 14 others, you and me, and Rocky knew. He had told me to join him, and he should bring me to the commandants. They decided to kill me. As they approached him, they convinced him to save me. Some people came to stand with Rocky, so there were 16 of us. Rocky and his subordinates led me back to Tanaa Mosquito.

At night, after the SBUs told 10 commandants, Rambo told them, "Rocky has refused to carry out my instruction, and they should leave on my behalf. I knew the last word commandants because Rambo referred to them as "you are the commandants". Rambo and me, and others who wanted me killed should come and stand with him, and put them aside. Those opposed should go and stand with Rocky, who had refused to kill me. It made me go to stand with Rocky, so there were 15 others with Rocky. There were 14 others, you and me, and Rocky knew. He had told me to join him, and he should bring me to the commandants. They decided to kill me. As they approached him, they convinced him to save me. Some people came to stand with Rocky, so there were 16 of us. Rocky and his subordinates led me back to Tanaa Mosquito.

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Rambo said, "Roxy, I am going to hand this man over to you until I sell Mosquito about him. You have to keep him until then." At that time I didn't know the person referred to as Mosquito. Later I learned who he was. Rocky stayed at Wondedu, Konde District, where he was displaced. Rocky took me to Wondedu. Then I met other civilians and other rebels. The civilians were in captivity. They never did anything on their own. They were used as manpower, to find food, to press palm fruits, and used the women as sexual objects, with force. At night, they forced the women to have sex with them. Sometimes I heard them scream - and say to this day why you have captured me to use you? You haven't killed me. They were sexual abuse. In the morning I asked a woman named Rebecca why she was crying and screaming so much at night. She told me that the men with guns were raping them and "using them as women". Civilians were sent to find food for the rebels. They called this the "government property". In Wondedu at the time, that meant that the rebels were the government, and the civilians were sent to find food. They called this "use of government property". A rebel said that I had advised them to hide and not believe the stealing or wash clothes. But the other civilians told him that the same thing. They didn't let it or say yes to it. He took a Louise at his head. He said: "You don't let me look at the and Buvaya threw the gun and in the ground between his legs said Rambo ordered me to take Superwoman Stone at Wondedu, it was referred to as Buvaya. Alfred Mensah went. I still there. Buvaya told me I was a lucky man not to be killed. He told me something that was terrible. He took off his pants and put on a stick like a ruler. With the back of his hand, he knocked out most of my eyes. He then took out his rifle and shot me in the face. My teeth fell into my mouth, and blood all over my mouth, no medic attention. My head swelled. In 2002, my father came from France and told me that there was a commandant but I didn't know his real name. Later I learned his name. Rocky came down and asked me: "where is the pastor?". I asked three times, but I was unable to answer, but I thought they would kill me so I refused to answer. "Then Sylvester Kithi, one of the rebels, asked me: "didn't you say you were a pastor?" I said yes. Rocky then said that I should pray for everybody. They asked him to bring his "bariga" - I didn't know what that was. They brought him a gun with a long barrel with bullets on it. The boy who brought it had the belt with bullets wrapped around his body. He passed the gun to Rocky. Rocky said: "those of you who are praying thank you and thanks to ECMOC, I want to tell you what we are doing. We are rebels, we are ECMOC, and we belong to you. I am telling you to Teyai Tobok to tell them that we are here. We called me again and I became nervous. I took the gun. At the 3rd step he fired the gun and I thought he was shooting at me. I shot all of the adults to death. I thought he was going to be the first person shot - I was nervous. After he killed the civilians - the other adults - he instructed that they should be decapitated. It was Rocky who gave the order to the SBUs. SBUs are small boys below the age of 15-26, very small boys. They're the ones they called SBUs. They couldn't even carry their guns properly, they were dragging on the ground. Some had cutlasses. After I spoke, these boys decapitated all of those who had been shot to death by Rocky. It was at that time that Rocky disguised his identity to me. I knew the last word commandants because Rocky referred to them as "you are the commandants". Rocky said how many there were - he said there were 36 including himself and Rocky. Rocky voted to have me killed and said others who wanted me killed should come and stand with him, and put them aside. Those opposed should go and stand with Rocky, who had refused to kill me. It made me go to stand with Rocky, so there were 15 others with Rocky. There were 14 others, you and me, and Rocky knew. He had told me to join him, and he should bring me to the commandants. They decided to kill me. As they approached him, they convinced him to save me. Some people came to stand with Rocky, so there were 16 of us. Rocky and his subordinates led me back to Tanaa Mosquito. At night, after the SBUs told 10 commandants, Rambo told them, "Rocky has refused to carry out my instruction, and they should leave on my behalf. I knew the last word commandants because Rambo referred to them as "you are the commandants". Rambo and me, and others who wanted me killed should come and stand with him, and put them aside. Those opposed should go and stand with Rocky, who had refused to kill me. It made me go to stand with Rocky, so there were 15 others with Rocky. There were 14 others, you and me, and Rocky knew. 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Charles Taylor Trial Watch

were disappointed about indications of Taylor’s involvement. We were trying to be objective without adding personal views.

Def: Are you now hostile towards Taylor?

Pl: We felt sorry for him because he had missed a huge opportunity in Liberia. He missed an opportunity to lead Liberia into peace.

Cross-examination of Ian Smillie has ended. The prosecution is moving to enter all exhibits into evidence.

1045

Defense objects to admission of all of the video clips from the documentary “Blood Diamonds” into evidence. Defense: Much of the material in the video clips doesn’t relate to diamonds, and we don’t know who all of the people in the video are. Prosecution will be calling live victim witnesses whom the prosecution can use to try to establish facts.

Prosecution: All of these clips have to do with diamonds. There is a link between diamonds and the conflict, as Smillie testified. Exploitation of a natural resource is important for the rebels to control the population. The terrorism depicted in the video clips is distressing to watch, and that is why defense is objecting. But this gives us all insight into the terror that these people experienced. Video evidence is used to illustrate how the diamonds are mined, as if we had shown a series of diamonds to the court. All of this is relevant, and we ask the court to admit all of it.

Judge Sebutinde: Pursuant to rule 11, the chamber may admit any relevant evidence. The clips do contain relevant evidence. Defense has valid objections, but these go to issues of weight. At end of trial we will determine how much weight to bend the evidence in the clips.

All six of the video clips are now being admitted into evidence.

1106

Defense is objecting to admission into evidence of the UN Panel of Experts report. The UN Panel of Experts report is relevant and admissible into evidence. Issues raised by defense are pertinent, but go to the weight of the document. We will consider the merits of that in due course.

Def: We object to admission of the UN Panel of Experts report. The Panel of Experts report was prepared by a group of experts, and it is not relevant.

Judge Sebutinde: We will argue these in individual order. For now, we are only concerned with the UN report.

Prosecution: Report was a group effort, including input from all of the experts whose backgrounds the defense reviewed. This report reviewed the situation and its recommendations. The report considered the issues of the diamond industry, its impact on the war, its effects on the economy, and its impact on the war. The report established that the Belgian import figures are not reliable.

Judge Sebutinde: Smillie has also exhibited special knowledge in the field of diamonds, which qualifies him as an expert under the Special Court’s statute. The reliability report is a question of weight, and that will be decided at the appropriate time.

Ian Smillie’s report is being admitted into evidence.

Court is now adjourning for half an hour. It will return at 11:05. The delayed video and audio available will resume our summary here at 11.05.
Taylor’s Trial Continues

Child soldiers serving with rebels in Sierra Leone dismembered a screaming boy before tossing him into a toilet pit, a pastor who survived the massacre told the trial of Charles Taylor on Tuesday.

The former Liberian president, once one of Africa’s most feared warlords, is on trial for orchestrating rape, murder, mutilation and recruitment of child soldiers during his 1991-2002 civil war in neighboring Sierra Leone.

In harrowing testimony, Alex Tambe Teh, 47, told the U.N.-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone how he saw a rebel commander from Liberia he called “Rocky” shoot 101 people. Rocky spared his life only because he was a pastor.

“After he killed the civilians he gave the instruction that they should be decapitated. Rocky gave the order to the small boy...”

Cont’d on Page 10
SUPPORTERS OF former Liberian President Charles Taylor have been reacting to the resumption Monday of his trial in The Hague.

Chief Cyril Allen is chairman emeritus of Taylor's former National Patriotic Party of Liberia. Chief Allen told VOA the defense would prove that there is no evidence linking Mr. Taylor to war crimes in Sierra Leone.

"It is very difficult and almost impossible to do that because if you are talking about evidence it has to be internationally accepted. Anyone can make any allegations and any group of people can sit and collate a lie that can send any man to his grave. So no one is expecting that you will have honest people coming forward to present professional evidence. You will expect that most of these people are thoroughly briefed, and they will tip the case to wherever they want it to go."

See Page 6
Eastern Europe at the fall
the Russian Empire that
went into Western Europe
and was falsely declared
from various Africa
countries, including
Liberia and Sierra Leone.
I thought it were such
an expert, he would have
told me that," Allen
said.

Supporters of Charles
Taylor held a prayer service
in the Liberian capital.
Maximilien Allen
said the prayer service
was a show of support to prove
that Mr. Taylor is not guilty.
"Quite honestly, there are no
crimes in Liberia that believe
that anyone is guilty unless
they have been proven so.
International law and all
international accepted
principles and pressures
say that you have to prove
beyond all reasonable
certainty that someone is
guilty before they are
actually guilty. You are
talking about female genital
mutilation and complicity.
And you are talking about rape
and all those things that you need
to have a lot of evidence
that Charles was sitting
in the Executive Mansion in
Libera and all those girls in
Sierra Leone, or that he
gave instructions in that
case," Allen said.

He also said Taylor could
cannot have committed such
crimes for which he has
been accused because
Allen said Taylor is a
Christian.
"We keep saying that Mr.
Taylor is a Christian and
we know that he is a
Moslem doctrine. It has
nothing to do with Liberia.
It was the legacy of how
those people conducted
their war in Sierra Leone.
And it could not have been
on his orders," he said.

At the start of the trial last
June, Taylor expressed
concern that he would not
get a fair trial. Allen said the
defense would prove Mr.
Taylor innocent.

"This trial would be the first
time in the history of the
International Criminal Court that someone has
been indicted and they have
come out clean. Once they are trying to link Mr.
Taylor to the activities in Sierra Leone with the
Rebel Forces (RUF), they cannot produce
evidence because there is no real
evidence that he was
there," Allen said.

Meanwhile, ex-Liberian
President Charles Taylor's
war crimes trial has heard
how Sierra Leone rebels
killed some 100 men before
ordering the mutilation of a child.
Sierra Leone churchman
Alex Tamba Tarl too testified at
The Hague that he was
part of a group of 250
civilians killed by rebel
forces in April 2009.
He said a rebel leader
massacred some of the
civilians with a machine
gun.

Prosecutors are trying to
prove a link between Mr.
Taylor and war crimes, he
has pleaded not guilty to 11
charges.
"Mr. Taylor's case is
taking much longer to deal with
than the cases of other leaders.
His case is a test case for the
defense team. The court is
trying to show that Taylor is
not guilty," Allen said.

Mr. Tamba Tarl told the
court that his family was
among a group of 250
people captured a
decade ago in Sierra Leone's
diamond mining
district of Kono by rebel
troupers.
The men were separated
from the women and
children and a rebel
commander, known as
Teacher, told the prisoners
to pray for them before
opening fire with a machine gun.
Mr. Tamba Tarl's son
was taken to cut the heads off
the corpses.
The commander said some of
the boys were too small
to lift the guns but they were
eating around.

Later, a captured child
was dragged to a log by some
child soldiers and had his
head and eyes cut off
with machete.

Mr. Tamba Tarl had told the
court: "He was crying,
screaming, asking 'What have
I done?'" He said the
child was then
mutilated by the
stumps of his limbs and
thrown into a mass grave.
The boys did not
scream in the event.
Mr. Taylor, who was
attending the trials,
said he was
screaming through the
aftermath.
The EEC's Mark Doyle in
The Hague says Mr.
Taylor's defense team
believes the testimony of
victims is an emotional
distraction that seeks to
portray Mr. Taylor as
a monster.
Rather, the court
should be trying to establish
whether Mr. Taylor
ordered the rebels to
commit the war crimes.

Mr. Tamba Tarl told the
court that he later
survived and saw a split
among the commanders on
whether he should live or
die. The court heard that the
rebels had piled up a body
with the commanders,
who were repeatedly raped.

Captives had the
acronyms of the rebel
groups, such as the
Revolutionary United
Front (RUF) carved on
their chests and backs with
razors and knives.

Mr. Tamba Tarl said:
Mr. Taylor denied
responsibility for actions
committed by rebels
during the civil war
in neighboring Sierra Leone.
The trial opened in June
last year but proceedings
were postponed after Mr.
Taylor fired his defense
lawyer and boycotted
the opening of the trial.
Insider Blows Whistle on Alleged Taylor-RUF Links

 infield, told the court on the third day that he was sent into Sierra Leone in... to bring RUF Commander Sam Bockarie to Monrovia. He said Taylor trusted him and that he traveled with armed men on many occasions. It is the international security of- ficer. He said, he was instructed on a mission to contact the RUF.

At this meeting they told me to go to RUF territory to get Sam Bockarie. They didn’t explain in detail why, but this happened while the Liberian government was calling ECOMOG to leave Liberia. Taylor didn’t tell me why he wanted to bring Bockarie to him. I had heard Bockarie’s name, because we used to fight against each other. So we used the name "Mos- quoite" Sam Bockarie. Mosquito and Sam Bockarie are the same person. I did not know him personally. At the time I was given this assignment, I knew Rodney Sherman had been arrested in Sierra Leone and that Bockarie was the leader of the RUF.

I accepted the assignment. I was given no letter of introduction to Bockarie because if ECOMOG had intercepted a document it would be a problem. I didn’t accept a document. On this assignment I was in the SBS uniform - blue and navy blue. I left for Sierra Leone the same day.

The prosecution is seeking to build a case that although atrocities were committed in Sierra Leone, Mr. Taylor was not connected to them.

The former security state’s testimony details weapons arrangements with Burkinabe Faso, amongst others. The

Sam Bockarie came out and executed up to five men because he said they were Kama- jors. We watched Bockarie execute the people with a gun...

details.

Mr. Sheriff directed this travels to meet Bockarie:

"I went through a number of towns (the witness traces his route on a map of Liberia and Sierra Leone). When I crossed the border from Liberia to Sierra Leone, we did not have problems because we were in our uniforms. When we got to Pendedumbu, the RUF commander stationed there questioned me. I don’t remember his name. He was a Sierra Leonean. I told him I came from Monrovia and had a mission to see Sam Bockarie. They didn’t ask more questions and said I could pass to Kailahun. We went to Kailahun and we went to Kailahun. There we saw a group of armed men. One of my bodyguards went to them to get someone who could get Sam Bockarie for us. We were lucky. The people we came was one of Bockarie’s bodyguards, and he pointed out Bockarie standing in the group. He told us that Bockarie was seeing some Kamajors. Sam Bockarie came out and executed up to five men because he said they were Kamajors. We watched Bockarie execute the people with a gun. Then he issued orders to have others killed by the time we got to the hotel. I don’t know what happened to those people. After the execution, Bockarie got into his vehicle and drove off. His bodyguard said we should follow him.

More than half of full of armed men were Bockarie’s convoy when he drove off. We followed. We traveled to Beuda. When we arrived in Beuda we met a checkpoint. They asked our mission. I told them I was from Liberia, from the Executive Mansion, with the SSF, one that we needed to come back, they apologized to us and showed that we were welcome there. We went to Sam Bockarie’s house. When I got there, he asked my mission. I told him Taylor sent me, and that he should come to see Taylor. He asked my name. He said ‘aren’t you from ULIMO? I don’t think you should send me in NFIFF. I told him because there were some ULIMO-K fighters still in Liberia who weren’t discriminated, so I can pass through Liberia without problems. NFIFF people could have problems in Liberia if they had been seen. Taylor hadn’t given me this mission, but this is how I explained it.

After I explained this to him, he said he would call Monrovia to find out. He said we should sleep there until the next day so he could con- tact the Executive Mansion. We were worried because we didn’t know how he would contact Tay- lor. He gave us a room to sleep in that house. The next day he said we should go to the radio room. We walked about 20 yards from the house. Sam Bockarie told the radio operator to contact Monrovia, the Executive Mansion. I was worried because I didn’t know whom he would contact at the Executive Mansion and whether they would know of my mission. Not many people in the Executive Mansion knew of my mission. I knew that the RUF had any direct link with the Executive Mansion. I didn’t provide them with any information about how to contact the Executive Mansion. After the instruction was given, the radio operator contacted the Execu- tive Mansion. The call was answered.

In my duties, I travelled with Taylor to Taiwan in 1997/99. On the return from this trip, I spoke with Charles Taylor. I told him about the faction that hadn’t disarmed as they were supposed to under the peace agreement...

about my mission. Bockarie asked Montgomery about my mission, and Montgomery told Bockarie that whatever instruction I had through an instruction from Taylor and that he should comply with it. On the radio Montgomery gave the code "50", which was his number. My code was "58". Those codes were for the SBS, and those codes are still used today in peace time. The case was heard in 1992. While in Sierra Leone we fought ULIMO and RUF. We know they were fighting each other and when we captured we were fighting "NFIFF" and captured people of all ages and females 21-29 years. We saw by the Sierra Leoneans and Liberians, NFIFF, and RUF. In SLI was
close to Kumanovo. Then we moved to Zimic toward the border. We crossed the Mavro River into Zaječar in two boats. I handed the leader of the Zaječar Liberation Army. My headquarters in the city of Tetovo. We were fighting against the NPF.

When we reached Tetovo, we ran into the LUF because the LUF had already captured Tetovo. We were fighting against the LUF because of the agreement we made with the LUF. Then we captured Tetovo, and we continued to fight against the NPF.

We were fighting in the city of Tetovo in 1992-1993. We moved from Krusevo to Kukubolas, to Kruja. Later, in 1993, we fought the LUF in Gorni Jaz. We were fighting the LUF because the LUF had already captured Gorni Jaz.

Later, we captured Gorni Jaz because the LUF had already captured Gorni Jaz. We were fighting against the LUF because of the agreement we made with the LUF.

We captured Gorni Jaz because the LUF had already captured Gorni Jaz. We were fighting against the LUF because of the agreement we made with the LUF.

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Yeaten, Duo, Mulbah Others Implicated

In Taylor’s S/Leone Link

...Varmuyan Sheriff, Prosecution’s Third Witness Testifies

By: president Charles Taylor

Prosecution third witness in the ongoing trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor in The Hague, former SSS Director for operations, Varmuyan Sheriff has told the war crimes court that several former security officials of the erstwhile Taylor government are knowledgeable of the former president’s interaction with the RUF rebels of Sierra Leone.

He cited instances where some of these security officials held meetings clandestinely with RUF former commander Sam Brown in Sierra Leone. He said Johnson would often use female personnel to communicate with the RUF rebels in Sierra Leone.

Former SSS Director Benjamin Yeaten Boukan in Liberia and in Sierra Leone. The following is a verbatim testimony of witness Varmuyan Sheriff.

10:43

Prosecutor Brenda Hollis calls the third prosecution witness, TF1-406, who will testify in open session using Liberian English.

Sebulde: The witness has waived his protective measures?

Pros Hollis: Correct.

The witness is being brought to the court.

11:00

3rd Prosecution witness, Varmuyan Sheriff takes the stand.

The witness has sworn on the Koran to tell the truth.

Prosecutor Hollis asks a series of questions about the witness’s identity and story:

Wit: My name is Varmuyan Sheriff; born on June 7, 1988 in central Liberia, a hospital close to Gbanda. My father was born in Voinjama, Lofa County, Liberia. My father was Mandingo. My mother was born in Sierra Leone. She was Mende. I am Mandingo. My education stopped after high school, the 12th grade.

In 1990 I was in Kakata, Liberia. I was attending school there, in the 12th grade. I don’t finish the school year because the war was coming and we all ran away from Kakata. The NPFL was coming and we went to Monrovia. I was there for a week, then we went to Voinjama because we couldn’t stay in Monrovia because of the war. My father’s family home was in Chocolate City, a quarter of Monrovia.

Prosecutor shows a map with marks to the witness. Witness confirms those are his markings and his signature. The map is before the witness, with arrows. He is pointing out Gbanda, Kakata, and Voinjama.

Pros: How long in Voinjama?

Wit: I was there for a month, then I went to Sierra Leone. The war extended and the war was coming closer to Voinjama - NPFL forces were coming. The village I went to was close to Bomar, in Sierra Leone, which was my mother’s land. I went there because it was my mother’s home. I went to my mother. I was there for almost six months doing farming for my mother. Then we saw people coming and running. The war was coming to Sierra Leone. I went to a refugee camp near Kenema [Sierra Leone]. While I was in my mother’s village, I spoke Mende. I had to leave because the NPFL was coming into Sierra Leone.

11:05

The prosecution witness continues his story in answer to a series of questions from prosecutor Brenda Hollis.

Witness: I was at the refugee camp in Kenema when the war came to Sierra Leone.

Cont’d on page 2
Yeaten, D.0., Text edited by C. S. and translated from the Lithuanian.

The news, Thursday, 10 January 2004 - MOROVILO, LIBERIA

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YEATEN, DUO

answered gave the code 4025. I knew he was an NPF man who came with Taylor from the NPFL. I recognized his voice too. He said, "I'm going to contact Joseph Montgomery."

I felt relieved because Montgomery knew about my mission. Bockarie asked Montgomery about my mission, and Montgomery told Bockarie that whatever instruction I had brought was an instruction from Taylor and that he should comply with it. On the radio Montgomery gave the code 523, which was my number. My code was 563. These codes were for the SSS, and those codes are still used today in peace time. (Witness recounts many codes for various officials by title.) I also recognized his voice. We worked together for a long time. I knew his voice. Later I saw the separate communications area on the third floor of the Executive Mansion after the mission to Sierra Leone. I learned that the separate system had a long-range radio for use from country-to-country.

After the communication, Bockarie told me "I am satisfied now. Go prepare to leave." He asked about the route I had taken to get to Buedu. He wanted to use a different route to go back because he was still afraid to go through Lofa. Bockarie wanted to travel with all of his bodyguards and escorts because he was afraid of traveling by land. There were three cars. They all had weapons. We went to Koidu, then Mandekoma. He had three vehicles behind him in the convoy. The vehicles were loaded, because I could see the markings. They appeared to be NGO vehicles. They didn't use keys: they started them by touching the ignition wires. When we arrived in Koidu, Bockarie decided that one of the vehicles - one with a mounted weapon - should go back. We put all of the weapons together in one vehicle and covered them in a tarpaulin because we would have problems with ECOMOG in Monrovia if they saw the weapons. Once the vehicle was clear, we now proceeded in a total of three vehicles. Court has been adjourned for lunch. It will resume at 2:30. With the half-hour delay, this running sum-

ny will resume at 3:00 (200 in Sierra Leone and Liberia).

4-31

Court has resumed, and the witness, Vornmun, Sheriff, is continuing his testimony to questions from Counsel Brenda Hillier. From Koidu we went to Voinjama. We went to my house there. Bockarie advised me to have a bath and a haircut. He took off his jacket to take his bath at the back of the house. He and I were there, and one of my maids, called Master Gener. While taking his jacket off, I saw a man in a police uniform. It was a policeman in a police uniform. That policeman was an intelligence officer, Robert Biah. He came to see me, and he said Taylor had sent him to confirm that we had the body of Sam Bockarie. When Bockarie emerged from the bathroom, the man confirmed from a picture that it was Bockarie. We traveled back through Voinjama (witness describes route). We reached Basse, a village near Bissrma. I met my boss coming from Monrovia, Benjamin Yeaten, and his wife, Musa Case. He thanked me and said he would take Bockarie alone to Monrovia. They told me that ECOMOG had a checkpoint at Galle and one another. They said they were going to use another route to bypass the Galle checkpoint and to Roberts Field road, and take Roberts Field road to Monrovia. They said to take Bockarie’s men to my house in Monrovia. The next day Bockarie came to Taylor’s escort jeep and talked with his men. He took a radio to communicate with his men. He was speaking Mandingo, and I speak Mandingo. He told them "You men in Tonko and Konko should be alert. SLA-soldiers are coming. Johnny Paul Koroma is missing, and I want you to be alert to rescue him." Johnny Paul Koroma was the leader of the SBC, which had overthrown Tejan Kabbah.

Bockarie left my house. The next day, Taylor sent two men to White Flower to tell me they were present. Taylor was very happy with me. He gave me some money. He asked me if I knew where Yeaten and Musa Case took Sam Bockarie from you, from your vehicle. Just drive back there, if you don’t see them there, just wait a bit. I went back to the house and told Bockarie’s men and vehicle and drive to Bissrma. Bockarie came ten minutes later. We drove together. Bockarie thanked me for taking him to see Taylor. He said he had started small, and until then he had only communicated with Taylor by radio, and he was very happy to meet Taylor. He said Taylor had given him a satellite phone and money. He showed me the money. I didn’t know how much it was, but it was US dollars. The money Taylor had given me at White Flower was also in US dollars.

I drove back to Voinjama, to Kolanu, to Foya, to Monrovia, then to the Mandekoma border. There I stopped and returned to Monrovia. Taylor called me. He instructed me that I should no longer bring arms and ammunition to Monrovia, but take them all to Sir Bockarie instead. At that time I had only one more load to get. Taylor also said should go to Lofa and tell people to allow the RUF to transit. People in Lofa should feel free to provide arms and ammunition to the RUF. When I went back to Lofa - Voinjama and Foya - and told the men that if anyone wanted to do business with the RUF and sell weapons, they were free, and that the RUF should have free access to Lofa. Both sides of the border were now open to the RUF. The fourth load of ammunition and arms was taken to Sir Bockarie. I was supposed to meet him in Lofa. I was busy meeting in Foya, and told him we should go to the border together so that I could give them the arms and ammunition. There I handed them the arms and ammunition. We snapped some photos.

The prosecutor is now reviewing photographs to the court. The witness is being shown original copies. He identifies the first photo myself, driver assigned to me from the NPFL, Montgomery’s bodyguard, and two other bodyguards. He says the load in the pickup truck is full of arms and ammunition. The photo was taken at Mandekoma on the border between Liberia and Sierra Leone. Second photo is shown, and the witness discusses: picture shows myself in the SSS uniform provided by Taylor, my bodyguard, one of the officers, Master General. This picture was taken in Foya. When we went to the border I had to change into other clothes. At Foya I had to change into my uniform to travel back to Monrovia. This uniform is back - special uniform. After take the arms and ammunition to the border, I turned over to Sam Bockarie. The vehicle was full, but I don’t know the exact quantity. AK-47 rounds, RPGs and some other guns. I did not provide him with anything else.

The next day back in Monrovia, Taylor called me back to White Flower. He said we should work for some of the most senior officers of ULIMO-K, to work alongside Sam Bockarie in Sierra Leone. The former ULIMO-K fighters would now feel free to go to RUF territory. In the course of the previous mission, they would encourage ULIMO-K fighters to join Bockarie in Sierra Leone. I contacted Abu Keita, the deputy chief of staff of ULIMO-K. His rank was major-general, one of the most senior officers. He told me he was suspicious about going because the RUF had been fighting against him, and he didn’t know if his life would be secure. After this, in September fighting broke out when Roosevelt Johnson went for a medical check-up outside the country. When he came back immigration officials could not identify through which border he returned. Taylor was nervous and summoned Johnson. Roosevelt refused and Taylor ordered his arrest. Fighting broke out at Camp Johnson Rozic in Monrovia. After this, Abu Keita accepted the offer. Musa Case contacted me and said I should take Abu Keita to General Yeaten’s house because Sam Bockarie was there waiting for him. Yeatan’s house was located just behind Taylor’s house - White Flower - it was the very next house. I took Abu Keita there. They were in a meeting. I saw Joe Turay.
YEATEN, DUO
Dcpl Dextonet Xeke and Benjamin Yeaten. DCpl Merkerzon was one of Taylor's four-star generals. Xeke was supposed to be used as a rebel leader in the 1987-88 war. The following paragraph was written by Taylor's aide-de-camp, Juma. Yeaten instructed Bockarie to open an RUF attack on the UN base in Monrovia. In 1995, Yeaten was sentenced to death for war crimes.

Pro: What other individuals were involved in providing arms and ammunition to the RUF? Yeaten was a prominent figure in the RUF and was known for his military exploits.

In December 1995, Yeaten was appointed to the UN mission in Monrovia. He was a key figure in the RUF's military operations.

Yeaten was sentenced to death in 1996 for war crimes.

Yeaten was a key figure in the RUF's military operations.

Yeaten was sentenced to death in 1996 for war crimes.
A former senior bodyguard of Liberian ex-President Charles Taylor has told his trial of an alleged secret radio link with Sierra Leone rebels.

Varmay Sheriff told the court in The Hague he discovered the link after being sent to make contact with Sierra Leone rebel commander Sam Bockarie.

Correspondents say the defense is likely to challenge Mr. Sheriff's story.

Mr. Taylor, 59, is charged with having command responsibility for the rebel atrocities. He has pleaded not guilty.

He is the first African leader to face a criminal trial internationally.

Mr. Bockarie - alias Mosquito - was also indicted by the U.N.-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone for crimes committed during the 10-year civil war, but was killed in 2003.

The BBC's Mark Doyle in The Hague says this was a big day for the prosecution, with the case against Mr. Taylor getting under way at last.

Mr. Sheriff said he worked as one of Mr. Taylor's senior bodyguards in charge of the presidential armed convoy and protection of his official residence.

He said he was sent to try to convince Mr. Bockarie, a senior Revolutionary United Front (RUF) to visit Mr. Taylor in the Liberian capital, Monrovia.

But the rebel was suspicious and decided to check his credentials.

The next day Mr. Sheriff was taken to a radio room where Mr. Bockarie made contact with Mr. Taylor's Monrovia mansion.

When he was satisfied that the message was genuine, Mr. Bockarie was on his way to Monrovia within hours, the witness said.

Mr. Sheriff later discovered a special high-frequency radio on the fifth floor of Mr. Taylor's mansion.

Correspondents say Mr. Sheriff is the first so-called insider witness to establish a link between the Liberian ex-president and Sierra Leone rebels.

His evidence follows that of Sierra Leone churchman Alex Tamba Teh, who in Tuesday described a massacre of civilians by the rebels in April 1999.

The witness did not draw any link between the events he described and Mr. Taylor.

The trial opened in June last year but proceedings were postponed after Mr. Taylor fired his defense lawyer and boycotted the opening of the trial.

The ex-Liberian president is accused of responsibility for the actions of RUF rebels during the 1991-2001 civil war in Sierra Leone, which included unlawful killings, sexual slavery, use of child soldiers and looting.
Vamuyan Sheriff tells Special Court

Charles Taylor's trial is getting on a serious note with the first witness taking the stand at the Special Court in The Hague.

Vamuyan Sheriff, a former Assistant Director for Operations of the Special Security Service, STL/SL, a former fighter of ULIMO-K.

Mr. Sheriff was initially a protected witness but later waived his protective status, and he’s now testifying in open court. He said he traveled with former President Charles Taylor on three foreign trips.

The prosecution asked the witness said Taylor conspired with him on several operations.

See here for more.

Taylor sent me on operations

The accused former Liberian Leader attended court with his reconstituted defense team headed by QC Courtney Griffiths.

The prosecution led in court by junior Attorney Brenda Hollis. Chief Prosecutor, Stephen Rapp followed the next day on Tuesday.

Mr. Charles Taylor looks incredible calm. He was dressed in dark suit, white shirt and dark pair of glasses and took his own notes.

An Expert Witness, Ian Smiley took the stand first discussing the diamond trade and its impact on the conflict in the sub-region.

At the end of Mr. Ian Smiley testimonies he would cross examined by Taylor’s Defense Team headed by Courtney Griffiths.

Mr. Smiley wrote a book entitled the Heart of the Matter on the conflict in the Mano River Sub-region.

Mr. Smiley said he worked in Sierra Leone as a teacher in the diamond rich district of Kono.

He said there was always a diamond rush in this district especially by illicit diamond miners.

This Expert Witness brought in by the prosecution is to help the court understand the geography and history of Sierra Leone’s diamond and its role in the conflict.
SSS Ex-Dep. Director Testifies Against Taylor

He is the first African leader to face a criminal trial internationally. Mr. Bockarie, alias Mosquito, was also convicted of UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone for crimes committed during the 10-year civil war, but was killed in 2003. The BBC's Mark Doyle in The Hague says this was a big day for the prosecution, with the case against Mr. Taylor getting under way in earnest.

Mr. Sheriff said he worked as one of Mr. Taylor's senior bodyguards in charge of the president's armed convoy and protection of his official residence.

Cont'd on Page 5

The Inquirer (Liberia)
Thursday, 10 January 2008
A former senior bodyguard of Liberian ex-President Charles Taylor has told his trial of an alleged secret radio link with Sierra Leone rebels. Vamuyar Sheriff told the court in The Hague he discovered the link after being sent to make contact with Sierra Leone rebel commanders. Sam Bockarie, a one-time West Africa's most notorious warlord, was one of the rebels' leaders. He was indicted by UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone for crimes committed during the 10-year civil war, but was killed in 2003. The BBC's Mark Doyle in The Hague says this was a big day for the prosecution, with the case against Mr. Bockarie getting under way in earnest. Mr. Sheriff said he worked as one of Mr. Taylor's senior bodyguards in charge of the presidential armed convoy and protection of his official residence. He said he was sent to try to convince Mr. Bockarie, a senior Revolutionary United Front (RUF) leader, to visit Mr. Taylor in the Liberian capital, Monrovia. But the rebel was suspicious and decided to check his credentials. The next day Mr. Sheriff was taken to a radio room where Mr. Bockarie made contact with Mr. Taylor's Monrovia mansion. When

Taylor Aide
From = Front Page
he was satisfied that the message was genuine, Mr. Bockarie was on his way to Monrovia within hours, the witness said.
Mr. Sheriff later discovered a special high-frequency radio on the fifth floor of Mr. Taylor's mansion.
Correspondents say Mr. Sheriff is the first so-called insider to establish a link between the Liberian ex-president and Sierra Leone rebels. His evidence follows that of Sierra Leone churchman Alex Tamba Tien, who on Tuesday described a massacre of civilians by the rebels in April 1990.
The witness did not draw any link between the events he described and Mr. Taylor.
The trial opened in June last year but proceedings were postponed after Mr. Taylor fired his defense lawyer and boycotted the opening of the trial.
The ex-Liberian president is accused of responsibility for the actions of RUF rebels during the 1991-2001 civil war in Sierra Leone, which included unlawful killings, sexual slavery, use of child soldiers and looting.

Called from the BBC
The trial witness in the trial of former President Charles Taylor has detailed weapons transactions between the RUF and Liberia, saying he saw National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) rebels along with Lebanese in the town of Julien, then headquarters of the rebels.

Demba Koker, a former soldier in the Sierra Leone Army, recounted his experiences with the RUF, where he said he saw slavery in practice, describing the indiscriminate execution of civilians and the burning of their homes.

Mosquito (Sam Boclair) let us know they had come to see him. These people were speaking the Liberian dialect and wearing camouflage and black caps. Some had polo T-shirts that said NPFL Navy Rangers. I saw them myself.
I Saw NPFL Men

It was sky blue, navy blue and black mixed multicolored. "Material" was a code name for ammunition. I was sent to the ammunition area where the material was brought. As a military man, I was sent to list the material as it was unloaded. I was standing at the door of the truck and took out the ammunition. I tossed everything before it fell inside. Mosquito sent me twice, but not on the other three times. The second time he sent me, Mosquito himself came with a lot of Liberians in vehicles and trucks. There were a lot of people. My mother came from Kailahun, my grandmother was 10 miles from the Guinean border. Liberians are related to Sierra Leoneans. When Liberians talk, they know they are off-loaded. Mosquito sent me twice, but not on the other three times. The second time he sent me, Mosquito himself came with a lot of Liberians in vehicles and trucks. There were a lot of people. My mother came from Kailahun, my grandmother was 10 miles from the Guinean border. Liberians are related to Sierra Leoneans. When Liberians talk, they know they are

was stored. The truck had six wheels in the back. We called it a three-wheel dat (3w). The container of the truck was about 20 feet long and the width was about 7 feet. This delivery of material in July 1998 included: rocket-propelled grenade tubes and bombs, a turret gun that is put on your shoulder and can shoot down an Alpenjet by following the jet's exhaust. (An Alpenjet is a fighter jet. We call them Alpha jets, and at this time ECOMOG was using Alpha jets. They had anti-air mines with a mine and anti-personnel mines. 20 caliber AA ammunition is shot at jets, 50mm and 81mm mortars, TNT that could be fused on an AK to shoot down jets. Some of these materials were in boxes, some in cans, others in plastic containers, or in sealed wooden boxes.

I saw two deliveries. I only heard about two others. Mosquito would send one MP to help Liberians. It was in the same month that Mosquito went and came back with the Liberians, including General Balls. They said he was a commander at Koya Kama in Loma County. He spoke with him. There were many more vehicles this time. Loyalists, rebels, civilians, some were Liberians too. I was at Mosquito's house when the truck came. I had come from the cafe to make sure the MPs there weren't sleeping. The vehicles parked at Mosquito's house. They asked me to call Tom Sande. I did. Sande sent me to go help unload the things and list them. That night we spent about four hours off-loading things. I was listing them. I gave the list to Tom Sande and he took it to Mosquito. That time Mosquito did not only bring guns, but also rice. There were two big trucks, two mini-vans, a Ranger, and another jeep with Liberians in it. The rice was in the mini-vans - Action Farm vehicles.

There was also rice on top of the guns in one of the trucks. In one truck there was no rice, just materials. One Land-Cruiser had rice and people. Two trucks had materials - one was full and other wasn't tall - they'd put rice on top of it. This second time I personally saw materials arrive. I saw a AK ammunition, G-3 guns (German made), a lot of G-3 ammunition, many RPG tubes and bombs, many mortar bombs, heavy machine guns (HMG) and ammunition for them, many mines. G-3 is an old type of weapon made by the Germans during the Second World War. It's not a heavy weapon. The magazine holds 20 rounds. It fires 27 rounds in a flash. It's an automatic weapon.

There were more Liberians this time. General Foya brought his bodyguard and they lodged near our house. They brought Ossie Litu, Foya Sande's wife. Some of the Liberians were in military uniforms, some were in civilian dress. They wore boots and had guns. The uniforms were sky blue mixed with black, navy blue and red. They had black berets and boots.

Two other times Liberians came. Once for Tom Sande and I saw them. At the time the Niigerian prisoners of war, ECOMOG soldiers, were in my custody and I had to load them up. Whenever anyone arrived, we would go to the MP's for clearance. I saw the documents there. The 'Scorpion Regiment, Second Battalion, Lt. Col. . . .' I saw it with my own eyes.

I left Boldt on December 14, 1995. I went to Kailahun and stayed there in 2000. It was there where 200 Indians came. I left the Boldt but when they said there was a cease-fire, I came back with the United Nations in February 2003. The Indians stayed in Kailahun and fought. On July 7, 2000, there were peace talks, Sandok sent a message that there should be peace. We were happy.

Court is now adjourned for the lunch break. Proceedings will resume at 2:30. Our coverage will continue at 4:30 (2:30 in Liberia and Sierra Leone).
**I Pretended Stupid**

...Not To Fight In Guinea...

Following defense lawyers insistence that former Taylor’s Assistant Director and former ULIMO General Varmayan Sheriff was mentally deranged, the witness revealed that he pretended to be "stupid" so as not to obey Charles Taylor’s order to attack Guinea. Lead counsel Courtney Griffiths told Sheriff that the motive of his testimony was against Taylor because the NPF killed his (Sheriff’s) family, a charge the witness denied, saying, “I helped him in Liberia.”

Def: He invited you to work for the government?
Wit: Yes.
Def: Given your admission this morning that you hated him and that you fought him, did this appointment surprise you?
Wit: No. I was one of the strongest commanders in 1996-1997. I had influence over remote territories. I thought he could use me.
Def: So he was seeking to reconcile differences in Liberia by recruiting people like you?
Wit: Yes, he started that.
Def: Given the expanse had gone through sharing what was going through you working for this man you had. Wit: I felt bad, but that didn’t last. I hated Mr. Taylor at that time.
Def: So you were able to...that behind you?
Wit: Yes.
Def: In this period following appointment as Assistant of Operations... Defense asks witness to... document interview notes...prosecution in November... Def: You said within one... Taylor’s election. Taylor sent Montgomery to invite with... meeting near the Nigerian passage states that Taylor witness in his government still... important commander. Stevenson Taylor consulted with...bin to gain trust various... MO-K commanders in Lofa.
From S/Leone:

"CHARLES TAYLOR RECEIVED LOOTED MONIES, VALUABLES"

5th Witness Tells Court

The trial of former President Charles Charkay Taylor continues at The Hague with the fifth witness, Dennis Casker, a Sierra Leonean, taking the stand.

In his testimony, Casker told the court that monies and other valuables that were looted from Sierra Leone were taken to Taylor in Liberia.

According to BBC's "Hour Against the Dictator for Common Ground" monitored by this paper, witness Casker saw the transportation of such goods to Liberia.

Casker said the items and monies were transported from Kalabah to Kondu in Sierra Leone and later to Liberia.

He also said that a Liberian was the operational commander in Kondu when the RUF and the AFRC Juma Forces drove the Konamy militia and captured the area.

Testifying before the UN-backed special court in The Hague, Casker said he heard Sam Bockarie on a satellite radio ordering Salawu Sisay to launch an operation code named, "No Living Thing," in Kondu.

The former Sierra Leonean army commander told the court that the operation led to the burning of every house in Kondu.

He said the reason for the destruction was to prevent ECOMOG and the Sierra Leone Army (SLA) from occupying Kondu.

*Continued on Page 6*
TOM KAMARA: TAYLOR'S FRIEND YESTERDAY AND FOE TODAY

Tom Kamara has resurrected to talk the Taylor trial, which is virtually relegated to back waters by the government that turned him over to the U.N.-backed Sierra Leone Court for onward transmission to The Hague for prosecution. The only story that Kamara religiously has denied is the Liberian reading public is the genesis of Taylor’s quest to violently overthrow the elected government of the late President Samuel Kanyon Doe. Any story that is told from the middle will not be fully understood.

As the Truth and Reconciliation Commission has begun its hearings, it is now prudent that the alleged major actors also begin to reveal the revolution long before Adolphus Dolo, Paul Mulbah and Momo Gebah joined the bandwagon. It is necessary before the TRC began invoking its subpoenaed powers to ascertain pertinent information on the genesis of Taylor’s portion in the fundamental revolution which plunged this once glorious and peaceful nation into bloodshed.

While Mr. Kamara continues to cash in on the past played by other major actors, it is gallant and fair that he does not continue to cowardly hide the truth of his participation from the long-suffering people of Liberia. The part that he Kamara played from the day Taylor walked out of the high security penitentiary of Boston, Massachusetts, on that fateful day in the yellow Volkswagen Beetle.

That story is known by a few persons, whom are still alive today and are willing to tell the TRC.

If he is so hell-bent on sending his former friend and colleague to the gallows, it is only prudent that he simply tell the TRC the part he orchestrated in the 26-year so-called revolution, before being subpoenaed by the TRC. Do not check out now, Mr. Revolutionary and Progressive. The die is cut.
A n expert witness has told the war crimes court hearing charges against former President Charles Taylor that he recruited foreigners to facilitate his expansionist and war crimes activities, and that Libya, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast backed his war.

Dr. Stephen Ellis, author of The Mask of Anarchy, a book that catalogues atrocities in the Liberian war, amongst others, said Taylor also used Sierra Leone diamonds to finance the war.

He named several foreigners in Taylor’s employ:

“Col. Fredi) Rindel is a former colonel in the South African defense force under the apartheid government. He had extensive experience with guerrilla warfare. According to a UN report, he received a contract to fight in Liberia. Rindel gave one of the UN panelists a full account of his contract, which dated from late 1998. There were also some press reports of this. I saw some correspondence in the archives of the Executive Mansion in Liberia, and I received confirmation from a South African general. Pro: What was his association with the accused?

Rindel acknowledged signed a contract with Taylor’s government. Pro: What role did Leonid Main play?

“I am not a businessman. He has a number of people at the national, arms trafficer, with a kind of business. He’s also in business. He was arrested, but the trial was never conducted. There was a lot of information about him in the media. A panel documented that perversely weapons were sent to Taylor’s men.


Pro: You cite this report of your finding that Taylor weapons to the NUF in war.

Wit: Yes.

Dr. Ellis, a professor at the Institute for Security Studies Center in the Netherlands, described the contents of the sources on the diamond as “overwhelming.”

One source is the book by Hyman, a lawyer and an expert on the Democratic Republic of the Congo. He has written that despite evidence to the contrary diamonds from the weapons sent to the PRD were not destroyed by the Liberian government at the time.”
Several family members of prosecution witness Yarmuyan Sheriff, who has completed his testimony against former President Charles Taylor, say their Free War home has been stormed by unknown individuals, and that threats continue to be made against them in retaliation for the testimony.

Family members of the witness...
Sheriff's Family "Besieged"

mostly women and children, were seen sitting around the house helpless with no knowledge as to what steps to take.

Family members said since the testimony started last week, "they (the anonymous callers) call us every night and threaten to attack us and burn our brother's house down."

A brother of Vamuyan: Sheriff, Dauda Sheriff, left in charge of the house, said they do not sleep at night.

"We keep guard the whole night. We change shifts. We are expecting them any time."

"When they (unknown callers) are passing by our house in the night they can say be expecting us anytime because your brother has gone and lied on the former president even though all of these things were true."

He said Sheriff left his neat card with them before leaving the country, thus enabling those familiar to him to have access to the number and issue threats.

"Since Vamuyan has given testimony in The Hague, they say they will get rid of us in the area."

"We want government to come to our rescue. They should give us security or they relocate us, since they say they will kill somebody amongst us before they will be satisfied, too."

Dauda said. 

When the New Democrat visited the residence last night, the only girl left in the house to cook for the boys was seen running through the back door thinking that her perceived attackers had entered the house.

The source of the stone throwing and attacks is not known, but Mr. Sheriff, in his testimony this week, said Mr. Roland Duo and other members of the erstwhile National Patriotic Fronts had threatened him before to dissuade from testifying. He said Mr. Duo, who he said was also a commander in Foya, Lofa County, told him and others that the Sierra Leone would jail them.

Mr. Sheriff: "From 2004, and when I was being interviewed by the Special Court, I told them I fear for my life and my family. Until 2007, when my family was threatened by Roland Duo and NPFL supporters, and that if I was going to testify, they needed to get me out of there first..."

"Roland Duo was headquartered in Foya; he also operated in Buchanan (Grand Bassa County) and Monrovia. The commander of the Marine Division was Fassu. In 2001-2002 the marine division was operating in Voinjama. It had a mandate to operate inside and outside, to attack Guinea and defend Voinjama..."

- Abbas Dulleh
TROUBLING, DAMNING EVIDENCE AT THE TAYLOR TRIAL

EX-PRESIDENT, CHARLES G. TAYLOR, has never ceased denying UN-leveled charges against him and for which he stands on trial at the Hague, Netherlands. Taylor has gone the length of accusing his accusers of international conspiracy, claiming he had no connection to Sierra Leone's civil war and its consequent crimes. But prosecution witnesses at the trial are beginning to reveal troubling, damning information. The third of these witnesses gave his testimony on Tuesday, January 15, 2008, with such detail that Taylor's lawyers will find it a challenge discrediting him.

DENNIS CAULKER, a Sierra Leonean who formerly served his country's army, gave this detailed, conclusive testimony: "Mosquito (rebel name for Sierra Leonean Sam Beckett) let us know they had come to see him. These people were speaking the Liberian dialect and wearing camouflage and black caps. Some had Polo T-shirts that said, 'NPFL-Navy Rangers.' I saw it myself. It was sky blue, navy blue and black mixed camouflage. 'Material' was the code name for the ammunition. I was sent to the ammunition dump where the 'Material' was brought. As a military man, I was sent to list the material as it was unloaded. I was standing at the side when they opened the truck and took out the ammunition. I listed everything before it was stored.

'THE TRUCK HAD six wheels in the back... We called it a six-wheeled daf. The container of the truck was about 20 feet long and the width was about 7 feet. The delivery of material in July 1998 included: rocket-propelled grenade tubes and bombs, a jet-facer gun that is put on your shoulder and can shoot down an Alpha jet by following the jet's exhaust... They had artillery mines with a plate, and anti-personnel mines. 50 caliber AA ammunition to shoot at jets, 60mm and 82mm mortars, TNT that could be fixed on an AK to shoot down jets. Some of these materials were in plastic containers or in sealed wooden boxes.

CAULKER CONTINUED: 'I saw two deliveries. I only saw about two others. mosquitoes would send one MP to help offload. Mosquito sent me twice, but not on the other times. The second time he sent me, Mosquito himself came with a lot of Liberians in vehicles and trucks. There were a lot of people. My mother came from Kailahun. My grandmother is connected to the Gbandi people. Liberians are related to Sierra Leoneans. When Liberians talk we know they are Liberians. It was in the same month that Mosquito went and came back with the Liberians, including General Payah. They said he was a commander at Foya Kama in Lofa County. I spoke with him. There were many more vehicles this time. Land Cruisers, cars, trucks, came were Liberians, too. I was at Mosquito's house when the truck came. I had come from patrol to make sure the MPs there weren't sleeping. The vehicles parked at Mosquito's house. They asked me to call Tom Sandle. I did. Sandle sent me to go help offload the things and let them. That night we spent about four hours off-loading things. I was listing them. I gave the list to Tom Sandle and he took them to Mosquito. The next time Mosquito did not only bring gugs, but also nax. There were two big guns, two mini-guns, a Range Rover and another jeep with Liberians in it.'

HENCE, DENNIS CAULKER directly links NPFL-Nax; Rangers; Liberians and Lebanese to the arms trade with Liberia. His testimony, to date, is one of the closest to linking ex-President Taylor to the RUF. Troubling and damning. Taylor's lawyers need a formidable defense to surmount this.
As testimonies continue against former President Charles Taylor, accused of 11 counts of war crimes, a prosecution witness says Mr. Taylor did acknowledge the atrocities that were being committed in Sierra Leone.

Dr. Stephen Ellis, an extensive researcher on Liberia and Sierra Leone, told the court:

"Taylor was acknowledging the terrible atrocities taking place in Sierra Leone."

The British man, author of The Mask of Anarchy, dwelled into the history of the NPFL, telling the court that the late RUF leader, Foday Sankoh, lived in Liberia as part of the NPFL along with other foreigners: "Sankoh was spending a lot of time in Liberia. That's the background to the start of the war in Sierra Leone in 1991. A number of West African governments were aware that the invading party included people of various nationality - some had been trained in Libya or Burkina Faso. Gambians who had been involved in a coup attempt were involved. They feared if a revolutionary government took hold in Liberia, conflict would spread. In a way, that's what happened..."
Judges Hear Testimony of Taylor's Misrule

Judges to decide the fate of former President Charles Taylor on war crimes charges have been told he ran Liberia via eliminating rivals and creating state institutions only in name, with all powers exercised through parallel state structures.

Prosecution expert witness, Dr Stephen Ellis, said although ministries existed, they did so in name only.

Dr. Ellis: "There were a number of ministries and organs of administration with few powers or funds. The cutties were implemented by unofficial individuals who owed loyalty to Taylor. They were like Premünk villages."

The exchange below between Dr. Ellis and Taylor's defence lawyer touches on the nature of government after the 1997 elections:

"Def: You say Taylor's administration was marked by a personality cult and that Amos Sawyer said Taylor often boasted he made decisions alone within the NPFL. That's unusual about that?"

Wit: Nothing. It's just that some governments are more collegial than others.

Def: You say Taylor maintained a number of different armed and security units armed by rival commanders. He inherited a number of units, including the Special Anti-Terrorist Unit set up by Israel for Doe?"

Wit: A panel of experts report in 2003 dealt with detail about how Taylor reorganized revenues from the shipping registry. Lester Hyman was key in the reorganization, and that's why I regard him as an important source. Money was diverted to arms purchases without going to the Liberian treasury. This
Judges Hear Testimony of Taylor's Misrule

In that category, most of the Liberian political class left Liberia after 1980, many to the United States. Taylor was in the US in 1983 and was imprisoned at the request of Liberia on charges of embezzlement. He escaped from prison in the US in 1985, which was a felony under US law. That’s one reason many may have returned to W. Africa. These elements came together to broadly support the idea of a broad insurgency against Doe. Several attacks were being planned at the time of the NFLF attack in December 1989.

Wit: Once the civil population was armed, they didn’t just attack the government but any people suspected of supporting the government. There were largely identified by ethnicity. It was a very anarchic situation.

Def: That anarchic situation continued throughout the war.

Wit: I disagree. None of the factions had bureaucratic control, but I think there wasn’t the sort of freelance killings we saw in 1990.

Def: Tack Nijeria sent their military.

Wit: The government had last legitimacy.

Def: We know Lu didn’t intervene. When ECOMOG sailed in, it acted with considerable force and brutality.

Wit: At the time, Taylor was becoming acknowledged as the NPFL leader. He made clear he would oppose ECOMOG and that there was fighting in Monrovia when ECOMOG arrived. Prince Johnson and the INPFL welcomed ECOMOG and provided them a base. It was a declared situation.

Def: After Doe’s death in September 1990, ECOMOG was conducting effectively a civil war against Liberian groups.

Wit: In the early months of 1990, Liberia had descended into anarchy. Groups of armed civilians were conducting arbitrary killings. There was the INPFL. A unit of the INPFL was led by Emo Johnson. Doe’s forces were conducting massacres. After May 1990, there was a lot of international media attention. Atrocities were being conducted in front of television cameras. The media found it hard to understand. Where America didn’t intervene, the Nigerians took the lead.

Wit: We’ve skipped over too much. It’s not possible to clearly understand events without including some other details. After the events of April 1990, there was acceptance by governments in W. Africa and the US that Taylor would win elections. He had support in some parts of the country and led the largest faction. That happened. The hope of many people internationally and of many Liberians that Taylor would use his new position to consolidate peace. That’s not what happened. In Dec. 1997, close Taylor associate Samuel Doe died and his family disappeared. He was murdered. I was in Liberia at the time, and people thought, ‘If he’s killing his own friends, what is he going to do with everyone else?’ ECOMOG forces were supposed to retrain the Liberian military and police under the Abuja accord. But Taylor refused this. In September 1998 there was heavy fighting in Monrovia when opponents of Taylor were shot. They were likely planning a coup. Liberians revolting against Taylor and his poorly trained, untrained forces were seen in Monrovia. This was followed by war and fighting through 1999 and 2000. The UN then intervened in Liberia, and the African Union was given peacekeeping support. It was a situation of total war.
"Taylor Sent Us To Fight In Congo, S/Leone"...Gen. Deblah Discloses

The News (Liberia)
Monday, 21 January 2008

EX-GEN. RECOUNTS how the TPTU were used by Gen. Deblah as his bodyguard when he was in power. He said the fighters were trained and equipped by the US and used in various conflicts in the region.

EX-GEN. RECOUNTS how the TPTU were used by Gen. Deblah as his bodyguard when he was in power. He said the fighters were trained and equipped by the US and used in various conflicts in the region.