

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



An aerial view of outskirts of Lungi village

PRESS CLIPPINGS

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

as at:

Friday, 18 October 2013

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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Local News

Charles Taylor Arrives in Britain / <i>The Exclusive</i>	Pages 3-4
As Taylor's Jail Moves From Netherlands To UK... / <i>Sierra Leone News Hunters</i>	Page 5
Charles Taylor: How He Reached His Waterloo? / <i>Global Times</i>	Page 6

International News

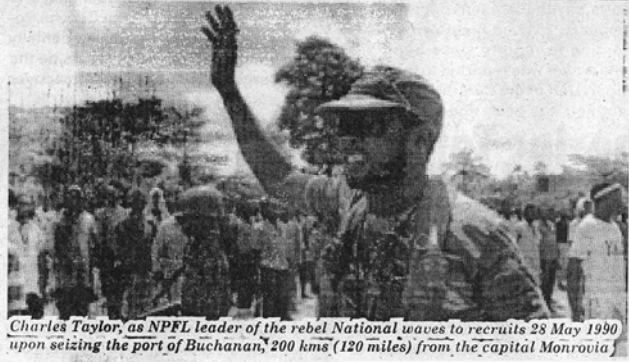
...I Worked With Former Child Soldiers In Sierra Leone / <i>WWW.Xojane.com</i>	Pages 7-9
US Prosecutor Condemns Hague Trials of Kenyan Leaders / <i>The Guardian</i>	Pages 10-11
Politics This Week / <i>Chicago Tribune</i>	Page 12

The Exclusive
Friday, 18 October 2013

Charles Taylor Arrives In Britain



Rebels loyal to Charles Taylor take position behind a truck in May 1990 in Monrovia



Charles Taylor, as NPFL leader of the rebel National waves to recruits 28 May 1990 upon seizing the port of Buchanan, 200 kms (120 miles) from the capital Monrovia



Arrested and on the way to The Hague for trial by the Special Court for Sierra Leone



Civil war: In this June 10, 1997 file photo, soldiers from Sierra Leone's RUF supported by Taylor ride in a pick-up truck at their base on the outskirts of Freetown

Charles Taylor Arrives In Britain

Mr. Charles Taylor's protest against being sent to a British jail for fear that he could be attacked and killed by fellow inmates serving jail terms there, the former Liberian rebel warlord and eventually President was transferred from The Hague to the United Kingdom early Tuesday morning to serve the remainder of his 50 year-sentence.

A Special Court release said Mr. Taylor departed the Netherlands in a chartered plane at 10:54 a.m. local time (8:54 GMT), and arrived in the UK at 12:00 p.m. (10:00 GMT) where he was handed over to representatives of Her Majesty's Prison Service. He was accompanied by Special Court detention and security officials.

The release detailed that on 4th October, pursuant to Rule 22 of the SCSL Statute and Rule 103(B) of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence, Special Court President, Justice George Gelaga King, signed a confidential order, designating the UK as the State in which Mr. Taylor would serve his sentence.

That order was made public on 10th October 2013. Taylor's transfer was made in furtherance of the President's order, and in accordance with the terms set down in the Enforcement of Sentences Agreement concluded between the Court and the UK on 10th July 2007.

Taylor had written the Special Court of Sierra Leone, protesting being sent to a British jail for fear that he could be attacked and killed by fellow inmates serving jail terms there. His family members had also argued that Taylor be preferably jailed in Rwanda, which they said would be less expensive for visits unlike the United Kingdom.

But Special Court Spokesman Peter Andersen said the concerns raised by the Taylor family is a non issue because such concerns are considered in the court's Statute, Rules and Practice Direction, including measures to ensure Taylor's physical safety, the availability of voca-

tional and educational programs, religious accommodations and medical services, among others.

"The Special Court can only send prisoners to countries with which we have enforcement agreements. We have no such agreement with Rwanda in respect of Mr. Taylor, and we have no enforcement agreement at all with Norway," Andersen clarified.

In his letter to the Special Court of Sierra Leone, Taylor wrote among other things: "Most of my close relations, including my wife, ex-wife, and most of my children, reside in Liberia. Travel for them to Rwanda is much less costly and easier than travel to the UK for several reasons.

First, Liberians wishing to visit the UK must first obtain a visa in Accra, Ghana - which itself is prohibitively costly and time-consuming journey. Liberia visitors to Rwanda, in contrast, can obtain a visa at Kigali airport.

Second, the cost of staying in Rwanda is much less than would be required to stay in the United Kingdom. Accommodation can be secured for dollars a day, whereas the hotel anywhere in the United Kingdom costs many times that amount, to say nothing of the cost of having to travel within the United Kingdom."

Taylor was convicted by Trial Chamber II on 26th April 2012 for 11 counts of war crimes, crimes against humanity, including serious violations of international humanitarian law.

The Trial Chamber sentenced him on 30th May 2012 to a term of 50 years in prison, and on 26th September 2013, the Appeals Chamber upheld both his conviction and his sentence, clearing the way for Tuesday's transfer.

Mr. Taylor will be given credit for the time he served in detention since his arrest on 26th March 2006, meaning he would serve 42 years in the UK, having already served eight years at the Special Court in The Hague while facing trial.

As Taylor's Jail Moves from Netherlands to UK ... **DISHONORABLE MEN AND DIRTY TRICKS!!!**

By Christopher Koker: Political Analyst, Commentator

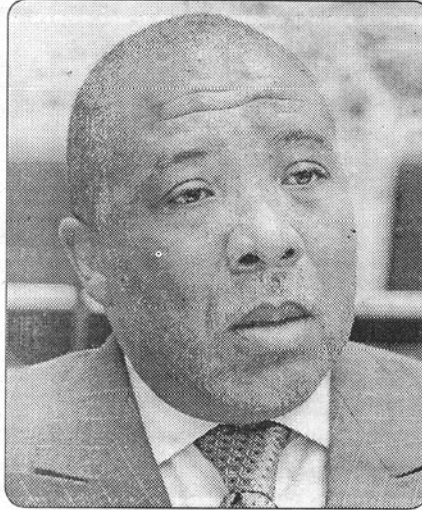
It was the noble Mark Anthony who said, the following quoted words in William Shakespeare's -Julius Caesar: "the evil that men do lives after them... the good is oft interred with their bones." Because Sierra Leone was used as a MILITARY BASE for ECOMOG troops during the Liberian civil conflict /war in 1989, Mr. Charles G. Taylor, who was very desperate to rule the Republic of Liberia as President, did make the unfortunate statement that Sierra Leone shall/will indeed taste the bitterness of war/conflict.

True to his threat, Charles Gangay Taylor, followed through his promise to afflict, suffer, distress and tribulate Sierra Leone in supporting the Late Corporal Foday Saybana Sankoh's rebel/guerrilla war attacks on this country, on Sunday, 23rd March, 1991, from the north western and south-western frontiers of the Republic of Liberia.

The Late Corporal Foday Saybana Sankoh firmly believed in becoming President of Sierra Leone by way of, or, through the bullet, rather than through the ballot.

That dishonorable dream of Corporal Foday Sankoh to use the bullet rather than the ballot, to rule Sierra Leone as President did very much indeed, receive the dishonorable grace, favor, planning and plotting; financing and direction of the dishonorable Charles Taylor.

Both dishonorable men and their DIRTY TRICKS; that is to say, Foday Sankoh and Charles Taylor, unleashed and waged the world's most ruthless, brutal and horrendous rebel war/civil conflict in

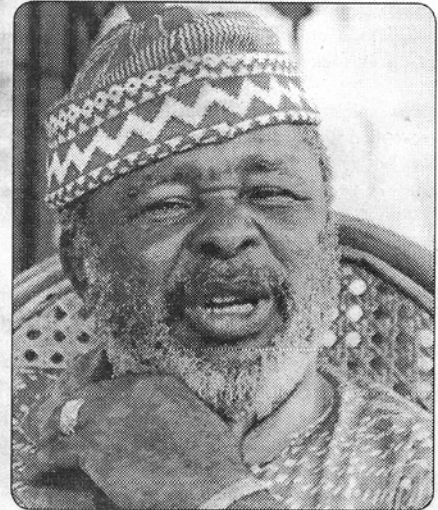


*Charles Taylor:
The evil that men do, lives after them*

Sierra Leone from March, 1991, ending finally, and finally on Friday, January 18, 2002; that is to say, eleven years of national misery, tribulation and woe. Foday Sankoh died at the T. Choithram Memorial Hospital up at Hill Station in 2002 while in admittance there. May his soul rest where it belongs.

It was reported that his corpse/remains were exhumed and cremated for reasons Satan only knows.

Charles Taylor arrived in the United Kingdom on Tuesday, October 15, 2013, where he shall serve the



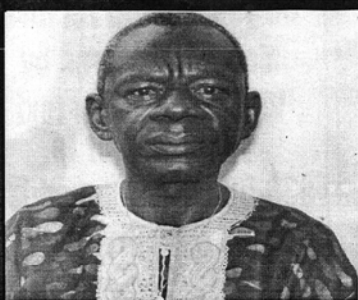
*Late Foday Sankoh:
May his soul rest where it rightly belongs*

remainder of his 50 years jail sentence, having been transferred from The Hague-Netherlands to there. Dishonorable men and dirty tricks!!!

Anyhow and in any way; mortals at all levels and on all angles must know and realize, that, whatsoever seed that a man or a woman soweth, the fruits, indeed, he or she, shall surely reap; believe it or leave it.

The long and short of it is that... for whatever one does in this complex WEB of LIFE, there is PAY DAY, SOME DAY!!!

Global Times
Friday, 18 October 2013



A sage once said "most wars fought begin with a little man's quarrel magnified a thousand times." Let us take for example, Charles Taylor's war against his own Liberian people that he extended to the people of Sierra Leone.

Charles Taylor was Director-General of the General Services Agency (GSA) in the government of his friend-turned enemy, the late President Samuel Kanyon Doe. The position of Director-General Services Agency carried with it a cabinet minister's status and was indeed a very envious position in the Liberian government at the time. The office of the GSA was responsible for the procurement, supply and maintenance of all Liberian government properties and logistics - housing, vehicles, furniture, petroleum products and stationeries among others.

The late President Doe offered Taylor the plumb job as compensation for the role he played as President of the Liberian Students Union in the United States of America that helped to discredit the government of the late President William R. Tolbert, who was eventually assassinated in a bloody military coup in 1980. At the time this author was Chief Reporter on the government-owned New Liberian newspaper and he covered most of Charles Taylor's activities any time he visited Liberia.

As Director General of GSA Taylor lived a fulfilled life - fashionable, expensive and elegant. He basked in flamboyance and extravagance. He fancied Italian shoes and procured a lot of pairs that cost no less than US\$1,000 a pair. He spotted the latest and most valuable French and tuxedo suits, dark goggles and often chewed at Havana cigars. As custodian of government properties and logistics, Taylor was chauffeur driven in sleek model vehicles that were unique. He introduced the use of tinted car glasses in Liberia that became fashionable; sometimes he dressed like a Mafia don. Taylor had great admiration for Liberia's longest serving president, the late President William V.S. Tubman whom he imitated in so many ways.

US\$900,000

The conspicuous life style of the red-skin man invoked considerable curiosity at the Executive Mansion and other high places in the country, and was subsequently unceremoniously removed from the GSA and transferred to the Ministry of Trade and Industry, this time round in an unenviable position as Deputy Minister.

Taylor's successor at the GSA, Clarence Momolu no sooner he took office than he unraveled the secret that was behind the boisterous man's conspicuous consumption. Momolu through an audit report uncovered that Taylor had robbed the Liberian tax payers hundreds of thousands of dollars out of the GSA funds. It was further discovered that Taylor had secretly diverted a huge sum of US\$900,000 meant for the procurement of government logistics into his foreign account in the United States of America.

Investigation into the theft had hardly begun when Taylor the rat, smelling the cat in the long arm of the law that was about to devour him, took to his heels and fled the country. He went to the USA where the long arm of the Liberian law sought and locked him up pending his extradition to Liberia to face criminal charges. Miraculously, Taylor broke the American jail and disappeared into the wide world. That was in 1988.

RAIN

Most rumours have some, if not the whole truth in them. Throughout the month of December 1989, there was a rumour doing the rounds in Liberia to the effect

The Joint

With George S. Khoryama

CHARLES TAYLOR: HOW HE REACHED HIS WATERLOO (Part 1)

that on Christmas day that month there would be a downpour of rain which upon contact with the human body would burn like a rash on the raw nerves. The rumour spread like fire in the stubble.

It was at the time of that rumour that this author lost his 19-year old daughter, Florence Khoryama on December 12, 1989. (May her soul rest in perfect peace). Immediately the funeral I left for home at Manowa, Kailahun district, Republic of Sierra Leone for vacation.

It was while at Manowa that we heard about the 1989 Christmas Eve rebel attack on Butuo, a border town in Nimba County in Liberia. Asked the author's late father George J. Khoryama who was in August 1989 whisked from his sick bed by Charles Taylor's rebel and battered to death: "Son, are you still returning to Liberia with all the news about rebel war in that country?" I told dad that Monrovia where I lived and worked was far removed from the area of the rebel attack and therefore, there was no cause for worry. Two weeks later I returned to Liberia with my family.

Brooding over the news of the rebel attack on our way back to Liberia it only dawned on me that it was in fact what was shrouded in that Christmas day yellow rain rumour.

FUGITIVE

The news of rebel attack on Butuo featured the name of a man who had been declared by both the Liberian and USA governments as a fugitive to be the rebel leader. That man was Charles Taylor. After a year on the run Charles Taylor startled the Liberian people in that maiden BBC interview on Focus On Africa following the showdown at Butuo that he was leading the rebels to come and unseat President Samuel Kanyon Doe because according to him, Doe was corrupt.

BATTLE LINE

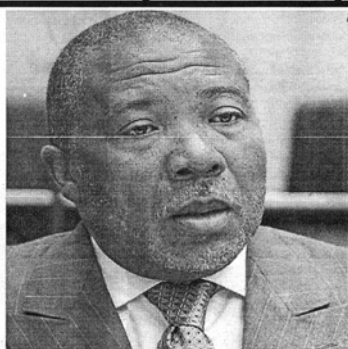
Doe upon hearing Taylor's bellicosity did not only call him a fugitive, but also defied him to ever mess with his presidency. Taylor barked back and called on Doe to either resign or face the storm.

Already Doe as Commander-In-Chief of the Armed Forces of Liberia had opened the floodgate of the nation's stock-pile of weapons of all categories and dimensions and detailed his military to Nimba County in order to teach Taylor a bitter lesson. The troops however encountered formidable resistance posed by the marauding rebels who were armed to the teeth. The war raged on fiercely and in less than three months, Taylor's rebels had covered considerable ground from government troops, capturing several major towns in Nimba County such as Tapitta, Sacleapea, Ganta, Saniquelle and the Lamco Iron Ore Mining Company at Yekepa.

Meanwhile, President Doe continued to change his army Commanding Generals one after another for poorly executing the war. In fact at some point he decided to lead the army to the war front himself only to stop at Ganta, returned to Monrovia and again changed the Commanding General and invited Taylor to come down to Monrovia for the real fight.

GOOD TIME

Meanwhile, business was as usual all over the country except in Nimba County where the battle was raging. As horrible report of atrocities and mass destruction came filtering in from Nimba County along with exodus of war victims, Liberians elsewhere continued to indulge in good times in their homes, bars, parties and in other pleasures that they could fancy. Many treated the war as if it was outlandish. In the homes, bars, offices, night



clubs, street corners and other places, Liberians discussed the war with careless abandon.

To compound matters the congenial hatred between the Krahn tribe of President Doe and the Mano-Gio tribes of Nimba County boiled over with consequences that were fatal to the three tribes and the nation as a whole. The Krahn tribe who were in the majority in the army and police took advantage of their power and shopped out the Mano and Gio tribal people and eliminated them en masse.

As smart as Charles Taylor was, he seized advantage of the tribal hatred between the three tribes and recruited thousands of Gio and Mano tribes into his rebel outfit as he over ran Nimba County. Most of the recruits were in their teens and had witnessed the ghastly scenes where and when their parents, wives, husbands, children and relatives were being slaughtered by the military. These recruits were bitter, hardened and settled for nothing less than vengeance.

The war raged on in Nimba County. Occasionally government forces fought gallantly and repelled the rebels from their strongholds. However, when the rebels launched their counter attacks they were more often than not, more deadly for the government forces to withstand. The latter retreated from time to time until the entire Nimba County fell to the rebels and Charles Taylor began to reign supreme.

With that initial success, Charles Taylor and his National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) rebels were well on their way to over running the entire country. The good time in Monrovia and other places still went full blast; it dawned on only few people that no sooner than later life would not be the same again for a long time to come. They went to work, to football games, to schools, to night clubs, to beaches, etc.; the privileged few still went abroad for vacation and leisure with their families and sweet hearts and returned. Some even started to idolize Taylor calling him 'Charlie Boy'. They wished him to finish the job sooner.

MADINGOS

But there was one tribe that never took chances. They were the Madingos. The rebels singled them out for the worst punishment for allegedly aiding and abetting the government troops in Nimba County. The Madingos who survived the carnage in Nimba County and others elsewhere in the country began to leave town in droves. They happy-go-lucky Liberians waved them goodbye and condemned them as being cowardice. (Read Part 2 in the Monday edition)

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Friday, 18 October 2013

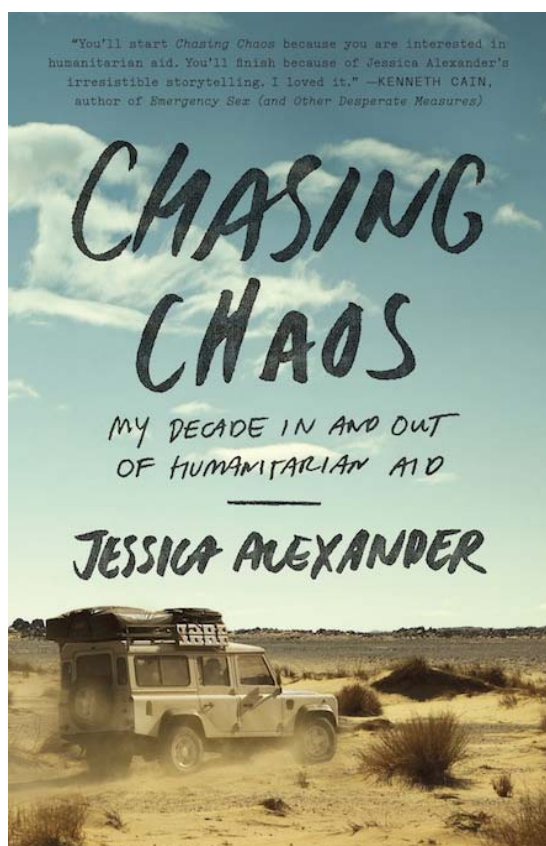
IT HAPPENED TO ME: I Worked With Former Child Soldiers In Sierra Leone And Helped Put Away A War Criminal



Jessica Alexander

Seven years ago, I won a Fulbright grant to conduct research about former child soldiers in Sierra Leone.

One day, a boy no older than 12 lifted his shirt to show me the letters, R-U-F, etched into his chest. The Revolutionary United Front, a rebel group in the civil war, carved them into his skin during their initiation ceremony for child soldiers. He begged me to help remove them. A medical agency had come to remove the scars on abducted children like him, but they'd missed this one. Now there was nothing I could do.



He was just one of the nearly 7,000 children who were forcibly conscripted in the Sierra Leonean civil war between 1998 and 2002. Children were an uncomplicated target for the rebel groups. They did as they were told, their innate obedience heightened by the drugs the rebels administered through injections or by cutting a child's skin and rubbing the chemicals directly into the wound.

In order to extinguish any family ties, rebels forced children to kill or rape their relatives. This was torture, and a kind of insurance policy: Now, even if they wanted to escape, the children would have no home to return to.

Girls as young as seven were taken as bush wives. Some of the older ones became pregnant, and some of the younger ones bled to death after sex. Often, girls needed surgery to repair the damage to their bodies caused by rape and early pregnancy. Those who gave birth had their children labeled rebel pikin -- rebel children -- and were rejected back home.

After the war, for those who endured the physical damage, it was the psychological scars that lingered. My research missions took me to former Interim Care Centers (ICCs),

where demobilized children received assistance from local social workers while waiting to be reunified with their families.

One of them, Francis, sat with me on a wooden school bench outside a classroom and recounted children's temperament after they left the army.

"They were so stubborn. Troublesome. They picked fights," he recalled, shaking his head. He looked ahead as he remembered more. "They were boastful about their exploits. One boy, he came up to me and

said, ‘Do you know how many arms I’ve cut off? Two boxes of arms and I will soon be a second lieutenant.’ They didn’t think they had even done anything wrong.”

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Coincidentally, I arrived in Sierra Leone in 2006 on the same day that Charles Taylor, the former President of Liberia, was brought there to stand trial at the Special Court (SCSL), an international criminal tribunal. During the first few months I was in Sierra Leone, the Taylor case had been moving along at a slow crawl. The prosecution was trying to track down someone who could testify about the use of children as soldiers during the war.

They had children who could testify, just as they had other victims -- amputees, rape victims, people who had watched their relatives be murdered -- but they needed more evidence and research to establish that child abduction was a widespread, systematic activity. Since I was in the midst of carrying out my own research on this group, they asked me to verify that the abduction of children during this conflict was a widespread occurrence, and that these kids were legitimate.

My first task was to find a way to prove that the ages of children who were considered child soldiers were under the age of 15 -- the cut-off age according to the court to be considered a child. But without birth certificates or any sort of written record of their ages, how could we be sure? Any ambiguities in our report would permit the prosecution to assert that the people whose stories were recorded in the files were, in fact, adults at the time of recruitment.

I interviewed social workers who had received children and asked the same questions that I anticipated being posed by the defense. In Kailahun, a district in the East, I sat down with Fatima, a social worker who now dealt with child protection issues -- cases of abuse or neglect, labor violations, the trafficking of children as domestic workers -- for the local Ministry of Social Welfare.

We met at her office, which was a small room with some papers scattered on a large desk. No computer, no electricity. It was no wonder that so little got done in these places, which lacked even the most basic resources. Fatima barely had enough credit on her phone to schedule our appointment.

The efforts Sierra Leoneans made in the face of these obstacles and the victories they managed to achieve impressed me time and again. A solid, motherly woman with a stern voice, Fatima had been in charge of the reunification process after the war for this province and she explained the system to me: “Usually the child didn’t know how old he was. We asked them to try to remember what grade he was in when he was abducted. What major milestones of the country he could remember. Like who was the paramount chief at the time you were born? How old were you when this city council building was built? We asked whether he had younger siblings and how many. Did he care for these siblings before they were abducted?”

They took note of physical signs as well.

“We looked at their teeth,” Fatima said. “Did they have molars? Did they have their front teeth in?”

She pointed to her incisors and grinned widely, so I could see her back teeth. “You listen to their voice. You can tell if they’ve been through puberty yet. For boys we measured the size of their calves, looked to see if they had an Adam’s apple or underarm hair. For girls we looked if they had breasts.”

It may not have been the most scientific approach, but it was the best they could do, and it sounded pretty reasonable.

“You can tell a ripe corn by its looks,” she said.

The mean age of the 2,300 children entered on the Ministry forms -- each one filled out by someone like Fatima, who’d carefully estimated the child’s age as nearly as possible -- was still only 11 years old. Eleven was four years away from 15, the court’s designated cutoff age. So even if the approximations were off by a year or two in either direction, it wouldn’t make a difference. These were children.

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On the first day of the trial in April of 2006, Taylor remained expressionless as the judges read aloud the crimes for which he had been indicted: rape, murder, maiming, looting, theft and abduction of children. Taylor stood up and defiantly refuted the charges. “Most definitely, Your Honour, I did not and could not have committed these acts against the sister Republic of Sierra Leone... Most definitely I’m not guilty.”

The court thought differently. In September 2013, Charles Taylor was put behind bars for the next 50 years, which means he will certainly die in prison. During the months that I spent in Sierra Leone, my research on child soldiers was submitted as testimony to help reach this outcome. Contributing to his conviction, even in the most marginal of ways, has been about the most exciting opportunity of my career.

While I was doing my interviews, I had asked a few children what they thought of the Special Court, if the ones living far from Freetown even knew of it. One boy, not even 13 at the time I met him, put it best: “For some of us, our lives were miserable, they trained us to come up in a bad way. By trying them, it shows people that if you do bad, there will be consequences.”

Adapted from Chasing Chaos: My Decade In and Out of Humanitarian Aid by Jessica Alexander. Copyright © 2013 by Jessica Alexander. Published by Broadway Books, an imprint of the Crown Publishing Group, a division of Random House LLC, a Penguin Random House Company.

The Guardian
 Friday, 18 October 2013

US prosecutor condemns Hague trials of Kenyan leaders

Daniel Howden in Nairobi

David Crane says international criminal court prosecutors have ignored political realities and created a lose-lose situation

A former chief prosecutor of the international criminal court has condemned its cases against Kenya's president and vice-president, warning that the indictments could damage the fledgling international justice system.

David Crane, the US lawyer who built the case against Liberia's former president Charles Taylor, said his successors at The Hague had ignored political realities in pursuing the Kenyan prosecution, which he said "could be the beginning of a long slide into irrelevance for international law".



David Crane, the former chief prosecutor of the special court for Sierra Leone. Photograph: Ben Curtis/AFP/Getty Images

Uluken Kenyatta, Kenya's president, is due to stand trial next month at the ICC, the first time a sitting head of state will have done so. Along with his deputy, William Ruto, whose separate but related trial has already begun, Kenyatta is

accused of masterminding the violence that killed at least 1,300 people in the wake of a disputed election at the turn of 2007-08.

Last week the African Union passed a resolution calling for immunity for all serving African heads of state.

"I would never have indicted or gotten involved in justice for the Kenyan tragedy," said Crane, a former chief prosecutor of the special court for Sierra Leone, a precursor to the ICC. "It's placed them in a situation where they are damned if they do or damned if they don't."

The African Union has called on the Kenyan leaders not to attend hearings at The Hague until the UN security council, which oversees the ICC, has responded to its recent demands.

France is working on a UN resolution that would defer the Kenyan cases for 12 months, according to a senior diplomat in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi.

Human rights groups have said giving in to AU demands for immunity would set a terrible precedent that would encourage heads of state to trample constitutional term limits, cling to power and rig elections. "It's become a lose-lose situation," said Crane.

Crane said the cases he built during three years of investigations in west Africa from 2002-05 had taken into account local politics as well as the law. "Politics is the bright red thread of modern international law, a successful prosecution must factor in the international stage."

After ad hoc tribunals dealt with the fallout from civil wars in the Balkans and west Africa, as well as the genocide in Rwanda, the ICC got a permanent home in the Netherlands and issued its first arrest warrants in 2005.

Under the Argentinian lawyer Luis Moreno-Ocampo, the prosecutor's office pursued high-profile African leaders, including Sudan's Omar al-Bashir – who has ignored the warrant – and a number of alleged warlords in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Crane said Moreno-Ocampo had a "political tin ear" and had been overly ambitious in his indictments.

When Kenya came close to a civil war and as many as 400,000 people lost their homes after a contested election result in 2007, mediators brokered a deal under which a national tribunal was meant to be set up to try the guilty. The ICC stepped in as a court of last resort when the Kenyan parliament could not agree on a local alternative.

Moreno-Ocampo became a celebrity in Kenya, with minibus taxis named after him, but his initial popularity waned, and this was exacerbated by his decision to name Kenyatta and Ruto, political rivals whose supporters had fought during the violence, among the indictees. The pair united in a "coalition of the accused" and won elections this year in a campaign that portrayed the ICC as a colonial throwback.

Moreno-Ocampo was replaced last year as chief prosecutor by Gambia's Fatou Bensouda.

Crane said the ICC should have used the threat of its intervention to nudge for reform rather than launching prosecutions that the Kenyan elite would never support.

"It's a question of some justice versus no justice," he said. "If it's perceived that Kenyatta and Ruto have won then we're thrown back to the pre-Taylor era in Africa."

Chicago Tribune

Thursday, 17 October 2013

Politics this week

Charles Taylor, a former president of Liberia, arrived in Britain to serve the remainder of a 50-year prison sentence for war crimes, after his request to serve his jail time in Rwanda was rejected. Mr Taylor was convicted last year by a UN-backed special court in The Hague for crimes committed in Sierra Leone during its civil war in the 1990s.