

CHARLES TAYLOR TRIAL REPORT (February 4 - March 14, 2008)

Overview

Following testimony by the Prosecution's 20th witness to date, the Trial Chamber adjourned for a judicial recess from March 17 - March 28, 2008. The Prosecution indicated that it expects to finish presenting its case in eight months, and intends to call a total of 72 witnesses and present written testimony of an additional 70 crime-base witnesses.¹

This report discusses various themes and strategies of the Prosecution and Defense teams, and identifies significant legal issues that have arisen during this period. It then provides a general summary of key testimony of witnesses during the period February 4 - March 14, 2008. For the full testimony from each witness, you can access the trial transcripts at <http://www.sc-sl.org/taylor-transcripts.html>. Our trial report for January 2008, is available at: <http://charlestaylortrial.org/trial-reports/>.

During the months of February and March, the Prosecution examined 11 witnesses (6 linkage witnesses and 5 crime-base witnesses) and submitted an expert report by Beth Vann summarizing war-related sexual violence that occurred in Sierra Leone during the indictment period (November 1996 to January 2002). The witnesses were as follows:

1. Perry Kamara (linkage)
2. Suwandi Camara (linkage)
3. TF1-026 (crime-base)
4. TF1-101 (crime-base)
5. TF1-192 (crime-base)
6. TF1-150 (crime-base, closed session)
7. Aruna Gbonda (crime-base)
8. Foday Lansana (linkage)
9. Mustapha Marvin Masaray (linkage)
10. Isaac Mongor (linkage)
11. Joseph D. "Zigzag" Marzah (linkage)

¹ See <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L20817080.htm>. Previously, the Prosecution indicated that it would call approximately 144 witnesses, including 8 expert witnesses, 77 witnesses would testify live or through written statements about the crimes identified in the indictment ("crime-base witnesses"), and 59 witnesses would link Taylor to those crimes ("linkage witnesses").

These witnesses provided testimony on a variety of subjects, including the purported long-standing relationship between Taylor and the Revolutionary United Front (“RUF”) and first hand accounts of RUF crimes against civilians in Sierra Leone, including sexual and physical violence and imposition of forced labor. Some of the most significant testimony was by former high-ranking RUF commanders who directly implicated Taylor in ordering certain attacks and providing arms, ammunition and other support for the RUF in Sierra Leone.

Prosecution Themes and Strategies

During the course of the testimony, the Prosecution sought to establish: (1) direct evidence of the atrocities committed by the RUF, (2) military operations executed by the RUF, (3) links between Taylor and the RUF and the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (“NPFL”), and (4) the exchange of diamonds from Sierra Leone for weapons from Liberia.

1. Atrocities. Several of the Prosecution’s witnesses gave personal accounts of murder, rape, forced labor, and amputations they witnessed in Sierra Leone. Each witness connected the atrocities to the RUF rebels. Since the Defense did not stipulate to these crimes at the beginning of the trial, the Prosecution has the burden to prove they occurred. Specific examples include:
 - Gbonda, a rice farmer in Sierra Leone, testified that he was forced to farm and give his food to the RUF, who in turn gave him very little food. Gbonda further testified that his brother was executed by the RUF.
 - TF1-026, a 24-year old female from Sierra Leone, testified that she was raped, kidnapped, and forced to work as a domestic servant by the RUF.
 - TF1-101, a witness from Freetown, Sierra Leone, testified that his arms were amputated by the RUF. He also witnessed the RUF murder villagers who resisted the amputations.
 - TF1-192, a villager from the Koranko Tribe in Sierra Leone, testified how the RUF cut off his right arm and forced him to watch as they murdered and maimed others.
2. RUF Operations. The Prosecution presented testimony from certain witnesses who described various military operations executed by the RUF, some of which Taylor was allegedly involved in planning. Examples include:
 - Mongor alleged that Taylor planned the January 1999 invasion of Freetown with Sam Bockarie. He also testified about “Operation Spare No Soul” to take the town of Njaima Nimikoro successfully led by RUF commander Morris Kallon.
 - Kamara, a former RUF communications officer, testified about “Operation Pay Yourself” in 1998 in which the RUF stole food, abducted civilians, raped women, killed their husbands, and burned homes.
3. Taylor’s Connection to the RUF. The Prosecution used testimony by former RUF radio operators and commanders to link Taylor to the RUF. Examples include:
 - Kamara testified that Taylor ordered the RUF to attack places like Kono or Sierra Rutile in Sierra Leone during the mid-1990’s, and consequently, the RUF successfully attacked Sierra Rutile.

- Mansaray, former RUF officer, testified that Taylor urged both the RUF and NFPL troops to work together, as they were all fighting for the same freedom.
 - Several witnesses testified about cooperation between the RUF and Taylor's forces throughout the 1990's.
4. The Role of Diamonds and Arms. The Prosecution sought to establish that Taylor provided weapons to the RUF in return for diamonds. Specific examples include:
- Kamara testified that Taylor would order the RUF to attack certain villages in order to obtain diamonds, and Taylor would later exchange these diamonds for weapons. The diamonds were placed in trucks, hidden and then smuggled across the border into Sierra Leone.
 - Marzah claimed that he personally delivered diamonds on many occasions from Sierra Leone to Taylor in exchange for large quantities of weapons and ammunition from Liberia.
 - Mongor recalled that he and another RUF leader drafted a letter to Taylor asking him for more supplies, and more weapons and ammunition were delivered within weeks.

Defense Themes and Strategies

The Defense only cross-examined the linkage witnesses. The Defense's primary strategy was to undermine the testimony of these witnesses by attacking their credibility and recollection of events, showing bias, and establishing prior inconsistent statements.

1. Bias. The Defense attempted to show that some of the witnesses were biased due to personal vendettas and monetary gains they received from cooperating with and testifying for the Prosecution. Examples include:
 - The Defense sought to establish that Camara resented Taylor because Taylor failed to release Camara from a Senegalese prison.
 - Kamara, Camara, Mansaray, and Lansana are examples of witnesses who the Defense suggested their testimony was bought, since the Prosecution gave them money for transportation, meals, and other incidentals relating to the testimony.
2. Prior Criminal Convictions. The Defense attempted to undermine the credibility of a Prosecution witness by introducing evidence that he had a criminal conviction, was therefore untrustworthy and had a reason to cooperate with authorities.
 - For example, the Defense impeached Lansana by discussing his criminal conviction for murder. He was convicted in the Law Court of Sierra Leone and sentenced to 150 years imprisonment.
3. Prior Inconsistent Statements. The Defense suggested that some witnesses provided false testimony based on their inconsistent prior statements. Specific examples include:
 - Marzah was heavily questioned by the Defense for inconsistent statements, particularly involving discipline by Taylor. Marzah initially denied that Taylor ever disciplined anyone for committing atrocities, but in one of his earlier

statements to the Prosecution, he described an instance when Taylor disciplined NPFL Special Forces for engaging in looting and raping.

4. Recollection of Events. The Defense also questioned the memory of certain witnesses to undermine their testimony. Examples include:
 - Camara’s memory was questioned by the Defense, particularly as it related to his direct knowledge of Taylor’s involvement in leading the forces in Sierra Leone. More specifically, the Defense sought to establish that Camara was not sufficiently familiar enough with the footpaths in Lofa County to testify that these paths were used to transport weapons.
 - Lansana’s memory was also questioned by the Defense who suggested that he did not participate in all of the events but simply heard about them.
5. Coaching. The Defense questioned whether one of the witnesses had been coached by the Prosecution.
 - For example, the Defense suggested that Mansaray had been coached because he and another witness both referred to Taylor as “ex-president.”

Legal Issues

A significant legal issue has involved protection of witnesses. According to Court officials, witnesses testifying in the trial have received death threats, deterring them from speaking in open court. The Trial Chamber has considered various motions filed by the Prosecution seeking to have certain witnesses testify in closed session. In addressing this issue, the Trial Chamber has balanced the right of the accused to have a fair and public hearing (as provided for in Article 17(2) of the Statute of the Special Court and Rules 26*bis* and 78 of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence) with the protection of victims and witnesses (and its authority to order appropriate measures to safeguard the privacy and security of victims and witnesses and exclude the press and the public from the proceedings (Rules 75(A) and 79(A)(ii)). The Trial Chamber stated in its “Decision on Confidential Prosecution Motion for Additional Protective Measures for the Trial Proceedings of Witnesses TF1-515, 516, 385, 539, 567, 388, and 390” (March 13, 2008) that “the extraordinary protective measure of closed session testimony will only be granted where it is clearly demonstrated (a) that there is a real and specific risk to the witness and/or his family, (b) that the right of the Accused to a fair and public trial is not violated, and (c) that no less restrictive protective measures can adequately deal with the witness’s legitimate concerns.” For example, after balancing the threat to Marzah’s security with Taylor’s right to a fair and public hearing, the Court denied the Prosecution’s motion to permit Marzah to testify in closed session.

Furthermore, in an attempt to protect the identity of its witnesses, the Prosecution asked the Court to make all Prosecution exhibits relating to certain witness’s testimony confidential. During Mansaray’s testimony, the Prosecution was concerned that certain exhibits clearly identified his name, position and signature, and that as a result, his safety would be compromised. The Defense objected, arguing that the documents contained the names and signatures of other people, and that it would be impossible to specifically identify the witness from them. The Defense urged that the trial remain public, and argued that a ruling against them

would interfere with Taylor's rights. The Court ruled that it has a duty to balance the right to a public trial against the security of the witnesses. Because the documents did not identify the witnesses, they posed no security threat to the witnesses, and therefore could not be marked as confidential.

Witness Testimony

(1) Perry Kamara (linkage witness). Kamara is a Sierra Leonean and former RUF radio communications officer. In 1991, Kamara was captured by a group of armed men consisting of Sierra Leoneans and Liberians who identified themselves as RUF members. Once captured, he was trained in guerilla warfare, and was later trained in radio communications by Foday Sankoh, the then-leader of the RUF. As a radio operator, Kamara both monitored radio communications and had access to certain log books used to record messages. In his position, Kamara was aware of all the messages that came from and went to the top command posts. His position also gave him the ability to attend any meeting, even if high ranking officers were present.

Kamara provided details of RUF attacks ordered by Taylor in Sierra Leone in the mid-1990's. For example, in 1994 or 1995, Sankoh allegedly said he wanted to look for a "major place that he would attack according to Mr. Taylor's advice" like Kono or Sierra Rutile. As a result, Sankoh chose to attack Sierra Rutile and the attack was successfully carried out. Kamara also described frequent communications between Taylor and the RUF leadership, Taylor's instructions to conduct certain attacks or hold particular areas in Sierra Leone, and Taylor's provision of arms, ammunition and other supplies in support of the RUF during the relevant time period.

Kamara also described the various military operations. For example, "Operation Pay Yourself" in 1998 in which the rebels stole food, abducted civilians, raped women and killed their husbands, and burned houses. According to Kamara, after arriving in Koidu, Sam Bockarie said he had consulted with Taylor in Liberia and that as long as Kono was held they would not fail in taking over the rest of Sierra Leone because Kono was one of the prominent diamond mining areas in Sierra Leone. Therefore, Bockarie ordered the RUF troops to be on standby in Kono and to make the area "fearsome" by burning down houses, destroying property, killing and constructing road blocks. Kamara further testified about the command structure of the RUF and their relationship with the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council ("AFRC") after it overthrew the government in a coup in 1997.

In addition, Kamara detailed Taylor's provision of arms and ammunition to the RUF. For example, he testified concerning a message received from Bockarie that he needed money in advance of a meeting with Taylor and ordered the attack on a bank in Koidu Town. As a result, Dennis Mingo (a.k.a. "Superman") "destroyed" the bank and Kamara witnessed the preparation of money and a "cup" of diamonds for Bockarie's trip. Later, Bockarie sent a message that he was going on a trip to Liberia to see Taylor to arrange for arms, ammunition and food. Bockarie subsequently returned with arms and ammunition from Taylor.

On cross-examination, the Defense questioned the veracity of Kamara's recollection of events as well as his involvement with and direct knowledge of Taylor's involvement in leading troops in Sierra Leone. There was a line of questioning specifically relating to Taylor's ability to be a

military adviser, given that he was an economist by trade and never served in the military. The Defense also questioned the witness about possible payments or other forms of compensation given to him by investigators or the Prosecutors, in exchange for his testimony.

(2) Suwandi Camara (linkage witness). Suwandi Camara was a member of Taylor's personal security force, the Special Security Service ("SSS"), who rose in rank from lieutenant colonel to colonel. Camara was also a member of the Special Operational Force for Africa ("SOFA"), which was led by Dr. Manneh (a.k.a. Koukoi Samba Sanyang) who initially introduced Camara to Taylor.

The Prosecution used Camara's testimony to establish a link between Taylor and the coordination of forces in Sierra Leone and Liberia. For example, Camara testified concerning the connection between Taylor and the Small Boys Unit ("SBU"), which was composed of soldiers ranging in age from nine to sixteen years old. During his time at "Cobra Base," Camara witnessed many thirteen year old boys being trained for advanced commando fighting. Taylor would frequent the base and brought food to the SBU recruits, including cows and rice. Taylor would also talk to the SBU recruits, bring badges to put on their uniform, and attend the "passing out" ceremonies where the SBU recruits would dance and sing. Taylor occasionally participated in these ceremonies himself.

Camara also testified about the connection between Taylor and the RUF, the NPFL, and the Lofa Defense Force ("LDF"). According to Camara, the LDF consisted of both NPFL and RUF fighters and they would transport ammunitions through the jungle to avoid the United Liberation Movement of Liberia for Democracy under Alhaji Kromah ("ULIMO-K") who controlled the road. Camara testified that because Taylor was in peace talks with Alhaji Kromah, the leader of the ULIMO-K, he could not attack Lofa County directly. As a result, Taylor formed the LDF to take over Lofa County. Camara testified that Taylor assigned Yakba Walo to be the political leader and spokesman of the LDF while Jallow was the military leader responsible for the operation. When a ULIMO-K spokesman on the BBC radio program announced Jallow's death, Taylor transmitted a radio message to all the RUF and NPFL bases alerting them that Jallow was not dead. After that message, the RUF soldiers gathered in Gbarnga as reinforcement for Jallow.

After four days of testifying, Camara concluded his testimony by describing Taylor's involvement in the murders of both soldiers and civilians. Specifically, he described Taylor's order to capture and kill six people who had high-ranking positions on his staff. At that time, Taylor had suspected them of conspiring with ULIMO-K, and Camara recalled some of their names. In addition, Camara had personally spoken to civilians who claimed to have been raped by RUF and/or NPFL soldiers, but he was unable to recall their names. Camara also described the atrocities he had personally witnessed, such as civilians with amputated limbs.

On cross-examination, the defense sought to discredit Camara's testimony in a variety of ways. First, they questioned the veracity of his testimony and whether he had direct knowledge of the events he described, or whether those accounts were based on what others had told him. Camara responded that "seventy-five percent" of his evidence was what he saw or heard himself. The Defense questioned Camara's knowledge of the footpaths in Lofa County and sought to establish that during the time ULIMO-K controlled Lofa County, it was impossible for the LDF to use

those paths to transport weapons. Likewise, the Defense suggested that there had been no SBUs in Cobra Base. Finally, the Defense questioned whether Camara had actually overheard top-secret military radio communications. Camara responded that he did overhear radio messages on several occasions and the messages were transmitted in his native tongue, Mandingo.

Second, the Defense focused on inconsistencies between Camara's prior testimony, focusing specifically on his confusion of dates associated with his presence in certain locations.

Third, the Defense attempted to show that Camara's testimony was biased. The Defense introduced the possibility that Camara had personal bias against Taylor because Taylor had allegedly left Camara in a Senegalese prison. They also questioned Camara's motivation for testifying, claiming that he was being paid to testify since the Prosecution .

(3) TF1-026 (crime-base witness). This 24-year old witness testified concerning RUF atrocities she witnessed when the RUF invaded her village at Wellington, Freetown, Sierra Leone on January 6, 1999. The RUF shot members of her family, burned homes in the village, and amputated the limbs of seven villagers. The RUF forced her to watch as they destroyed her village in their attempt to scare her into not escaping. The witness testified that she and other women from her village were kidnapped by the RUF rebels, held against their will, and raped repeatedly.

This witness gave a detailed description of the atrocities she witnessed and endured at the hands of the RUF. The RUF forced her and the other women captives to travel with them from Freetown to Makeni, where they were put to work as domestic servants for the wife of Brigadier Issa. They were later forced to go to Buedu, where they met "Mosquito" and were taught guerilla warfare. The witness testified that the RUF, led by Mosquito, executed any girl who tried to escape. The witness also testified that members of the RUF branded her on the chest, so that if she did escape she would be shot by civilians or government troops. The witness and several other girls were held in the training compound for six months. After training was completed, she and other female captives were given to RUF soldiers as wives.

In addition, the witness testified that after she learned that she was pregnant, at the age of 14, she escaped from the rebels and returned to her family in Freetown. She testified that after her return the villagers regarded her with suspicion, fearing that she was an active RUF member. She also recalled that her child was regarded with suspicion by other children in the village. The witness removed the RUF branding from her chest, though she still bears the scars from that incident.

During a break in the testimony, a member of the Defense team urged the prosecutors to stop asking the witness so many detailed questions about her ordeal, specifically arguing that rape details were not necessary to prove the charges against the defendant. The Prosecution replied that these details were in fact necessary to understand not only the defendant's role in the crimes committed, but also the very nature of the crimes themselves. The Court ruled that because the Defense had not stipulated to the crimes the witness testified about, the Prosecution had the burden of proving they occurred. As a result, the Prosecution was permitted to continue with its line of questioning.

The Defense did not cross-examine the witness, asserting that they were not in a position to seriously contest the evidence of the witness.

(4) TF1-101 (crime-base witness). This witness testified that he was living in Freetown when the RUF attacked that city on January 6, 1999. He described the rebels burning homes including his home and murdering civilians at checkpoints. He also testified that on January 19, 1999 he was captured by the RUF with other men, and a rebel commander ordered that the civilian men assembled have their arms amputated. Those who resisted were executed, some were shot and others were killed with an axe or machete. Ultimately, the rebel commander ordered a boy no more than 13 years-old to cut off the witness's arms. After his arms were amputated, the witness testified that "Rambo" arrived at the village, and he was angry with the rebels for killing some civilians and amputating the limbs of others. The witness reported that Rambo gave him money and told him to endure the pain, because that was what God had ordained. The witness testified that before the amputation he was a petty trader, but that since 1999, when this incident happened, his only source of income has been begging.

The Defense had no questions for this witness.

(5) TF1-192 (crime-base witness). This witness was a villager from the Koranko Tribe who was living in Bamboafuidu, in the Kono District. His testimony provided a firsthand account of what his tribe and village endured in 1998. The witness testified that the Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Groups ("ECOMOG") ordered the villagers to clear out of the brush. The male villagers then went to a nearby house to spend the night. The witness testified that during the night, two armed men entered the house and asked him to accompany them to a different location. Upon reaching the other location, the witness was forced to watch the rebels slit the throat of an old woman of the Limba tribe. The witness also described that he was forced to watch other villagers, including his sister, who were taken to the home of his father and ordered to engage in sexual intercourse. After the incident was over, the rebels beat some of the women before locking them up in a farm house. The farm house was ordered to be set on fire, but the witness testified that he broke the latch on the door and urged the women to escape.

The witness recalled another incident, in which the rebels ordered people to form a line, and then proceeded to amputate their hands. The witness was first in line and the rebels cut into his right arm, badly mutilating it and rendering it useless. The next person in line was also mutilated by the rebels before the men were released and left to search in the bush for their families. The witness's sister had her left hand mutilated and her right hand completely cut off.

The Defense had no questions for this witness.

(6) TF1-150 (crime-base witness). Testimony heard in closed session.

(7) Aruna Gbonda (crime-base witness). Gbonda was a rice farmer born in Talia in the Kailahun District of Sierra Leone. His testimony provided both direct and indirect knowledge of the RUF's treatment of civilians. Gbonda testified that from 1996 until 2000, he was forced to work for the RUF rebels. Prior to the war, Gbonda was a farmer and used his land to both feed his family and earn money. In 1996, however, the rebels entered his village and forced Gbonda to

give his food to them. He knew the rebels were affiliated with the RUF, because they would write “RUF” on the walls although they did not wear uniforms. Likewise, the women in the village were forced to fish and provide their catch to the rebels. The rebels left little food for the forced laborers, and many died from lack of nutrition and edema. In fact, five of Gbonda’s children died in 1996. He watched numerous others perish after their legs and feet became swollen from edema. Gbonda also testified that his brother was executed, along with fifty others, by the RUF rebels in Kailahun because of their alleged involvement with the Kamajors.

The Defense had no questions for this witness.

(8) Foday Lansana (linkage witness). The Prosecution next called a second radio operator, Foday Lansana, a Liberian. Lansana is a member of the Mano ethnic group and was studying electrical engineering in Monrovia when Taylor and the NPFL invaded the country in 1989. According to Lansana, he fled Liberia when then-President Doe’s forces attacked the Mano people later joined the NPFL in 1990 with other refugees. Upon returning to Liberia and joining the NPFL, Lansana was trained in guerilla warfare and given an appointment as a radio man within his platoon. He was taught how to receive and encode messages, install radio equipment, and transmit messages during bad weather. Lansana testified about events he witnessed over a broad period of time ranging from the early 1990’s until his arrest in 2000.

Lansana’s testimony provided evidence that Taylor was aware of certain atrocities committed by the rebels. After receiving information that President Doe had been killed, Lansana was told by NPFL commanders to go and work out of the Coca-Cola factory in Monrovia. While working as a radio operator in the factory, Lansana testified that he saw Charles Taylor visit the factory with his guards. During a meeting, Taylor stated that Sierra Leone was being used as a base to murder Liberians and that an Alpha jet was being sent from Sierra Leone to Liberia to kill even more people.

Some other highlights of Lansana’s testimony concerned the close relationship between Taylor, the NPFL and the RUF in the 1990’s. For example, while stationed at Voya, the RUF/NPFL headquarters in Lofa, Lansana saw trucks carrying troops, arms and food into Sierra Leone. He was then sent to Sierra Leone and installed a radio for Sankoh at his headquarters there which enabled him to communicate with Taylor. Later, as a result of on-going power struggles between NPFL and RUF leaders, Taylor ordered NPFL soldiers to go back to Liberia. Lansana learned about this order because it was transmitted over the radio when he was in the room.

However, Lansana was not one of the people who ultimately went back to Liberia, because he was promoted to the rank of overall signal commander for the RUF, and was asked to stay in Sierra Leone. He testified about various communications between Taylor and Sankoh and his presence at various meetings between high-level RUF commanders.

Lansana also testified that an internal dispute occurred between two RUF commanders. Because of that dispute, the commander that Lansana was working for was sent back to Sierra Leone. Soon after returning to Sierra Leone he was arrested by government soldiers. He was subsequently charged with being a mediator between Foday Sankoh, who had already been tried in Sierra Leone, and Taylor. Lansana was convicted in the Law Court of Sierra Leone and

sentenced to 150 years imprisonment. Lansana testified that his conviction had been based on an incident that occurred after he was already arrested, implying that he was not responsible.

On cross-examination, however, the Defense questioned Lansana's veracity, arguing that he was in fact guilty of the crime for which he was convicted. The Defense also questioned Lansana about his personal bias, asking whether he received any funds in exchange for his cooperation with investigators and Prosecutors. Specifically, the Defense established that Prosecutors had bought Lansana a new suit to wear for his interviews. The cross-examination also revealed that the special investigators tried to get Lansana released from jail and were taking care of him and his family after his release. Finally, the Defense questioned the veracity of Lansana's testimony regarding his time with the RUF. They suggested that rather than actually participating in all of the events Lansana had described, he simply heard about these events from other prisoners.

(9) Mustapha Marvin Mansaray (linkage witness). Mansaray was captured by RUF and NPFL fighters in 1991, trained in guerilla and commando fighting, and ordered to loot villages. He remained with the RUF until 2001, when he was disarmed. During his time with the RUF he held various positions, including secretary to the RUF commander in Sierra Leone, transportation officer secretary, mining commander, and several positions within the Internal Defense Unit.

From his experiences as a fighter, Mansaray gave detailed accounts of the rape, murder, amputations and forced labor of civilians at the hands of both the RUF and NPFL. Mansaray also specifically recounted when he and other RUF fighters opened fired on ULIMO soldiers who were stationed on the border with Sierra Leone. Towards the end of the war, the RUF also kidnapped 21 UN peacekeepers and took them from Sierra Leone into Liberia. As a member of the Internal Defense Unit, Mansaray knew about the misconduct of RUF soldiers. He testified that civilians would often complain about their treatment at the hands of the RUF soldiers, but discipline of these soldiers was very rare. During his tenure as the mining commander, Mansaray allocated mining work between civilians and RUF soldiers. Civilians who refused to mine for diamonds were beaten or killed.

Mansaray had both direct and indirect knowledge of Taylor's involvement in the war. Mansaray recalled the day when he personally met Taylor, who addressed the soldiers and admonished the NPFL against treating the RUF personnel badly as they were all fighting for the same freedom. After that meeting, Foday Sankoh reminded the soldiers that Taylor would supply them with the necessary arms and ammunition. As an RUF clerk, Mansaray was in charge of recording the total number of fighters and supplies that the group had. The weapons and ammunition came from Liberia, and Mansaray himself would sometimes travel to Liberia to pick up the necessary supplies. Food staples such as coffee, cocoa and kola nuts were forcibly taken from civilians and used as barter for weapons and ammunition. Mansaray also reported that during a muster parade, an order from Taylor instructed the soldiers to attack Guinea.

During cross-examination, the Defense questioned the Mansaray's truthfulness and accuracy and asked whether civilians really complained against the RUF soldiers and commanders, and whether they even knew about his role in the Internal Defense Unit. The Defense also questioned the witness's assertion that none of the discipline reports were pursued. The Defense

suggested that the Internal Defense Unit was too large and decentralized to know which matters were actually acted upon. The Defense also pointed out that the witness himself took part in some of the looting, but questioned if he ever filed a complaint against himself. The Defense questioned Mansaray's testimony by introducing evidence that it was geographically impossible for Taylor to address RUF forces when Mansaray claimed that he had. Prior inconsistent statements were introduced, calling into question whether Mansaray actually saw civilians being killed in the mines.

The Defense introduced the possibility that the witness had been coached, pointing to the fact that the witness referred to Taylor as "ex-president," using the same language as a previous prosecution witness.

The Defense also questioned Taylor's involvement within the RUF. The Defense began by asking the witness if he realized that there was disagreement among the top leaders of the RUF and the NPFL, that eventually led to a split between the two groups. The Defense also argued that Taylor may not have been able to coordinate the RUF forces because he was busy fighting ULIMO in Liberia. During questioning, Mansaray revealed that the RUF was getting some of its arms and ammunition from ULIMO-K, not just from Taylor. The Defense suggested that the RUF was not being supplied by Taylor at all, and was so desperate for supplies that it seized arms and ammunition from ECOMOG.

Finally, the Defense questioned whether Mansaray was biased in his testimony because the Prosecution had paid or reimbursed him for his appearance at Court. Mansaray received money for room and board, transportation, medical expenses for himself and his family, and school fees for his children.

(10) Isaac Mongor (linkage witness). Mongor, born in Sierra Leone and raised in Liberia, testified that he became involved in the Liberian civil war when he was kidnapped by the NPFL. He worked his way through the ranks becoming Taylor's Executive Mansion guard before being sent by Taylor to assist in training and fighting with the RUF in Sierra Leone. Taylor's role in the fighting in Sierra Leone consisted of coordinating training and attacks between the AFRC and the RUF, and delivering ammunition and weapons to the country. Mongor specifically recounted an incident in which he and another RUF leader Sam Bockarie drafted a letter to Taylor, asking him to send more ammunition to RUF troops. Though he did not have direct personal knowledge of Taylor's response to the letter, several weeks later large amounts of food and ammunition were received, and other commanders informed him that the supplies were sent by Taylor. Diamonds were used to pay for these deliveries.

Mongor also testified about two RUF military operations. The first one failed ("Operation Fita Fata") but was designed to capture Koidu and kill anyone they could. However, "Operation Spare No Soul" was successfully led by RUF commander Morris Kallon to take the town of Njaima Nimikoro.

Mongor's testimony was cut short by the Prosecution so that it could call Joseph "Zigzag" Marzah, after the Court ruled that a closed session for Marzah would not be allowed. Marzah would only testify if additional measures were put in place to protect him and his family, and for

reasons not fully explained, such measures could only be undertaken during the week of March 10th. Mongor's full testimony will be discussed in more detail in the next trial report.

(11) Joseph D. Marzah (linkage witness). Marzah, a Liberian, testified that he was one of 17 members of Taylor's NPFL who invaded Liberia in 1989. He indicated that Taylor's troops were encouraged to rape and loot, and described NPFL checkpoints where human intestines were used as rope and heads were placed on sticks.

Marzah testified of direct contact and communication between himself and Taylor. Marzah recalled specific occasions on which he contacted Taylor to report on troop developments or to ask for money and more supplies. He also testified about delivering diamonds to Taylor personally, in exchange for large quantities of weapons and ammunition that were sent to Sierra Leone. In addition, Marzah described how Bockarie and his men were integrated into various military and police units in Liberia after in-fighting between Bockarie and Issa Sesay.

Marzah stated that executions of soldiers and civilians in Liberia were carried out on Taylor's orders. He recalled a specific incident at Camp Carter in which over 600 civilians were murdered, purportedly on Taylor's orders. In another massacre in and around Gbarnga, Marzah said he and his men had cut open the bellies of pregnant women and killed babies. Marzah also recalled an incident which took place in 1995, where Taylor and some of his followers buried a pregnant woman alive and sacrificed a sheep over her grave.

Marzah also described the execution of RUF commanders, including "Superman" (whose death was allegedly organized by Benjamin Yeaten on Taylor's orders after Taylor believed he had been betrayed), "Jungle" in Sierra Leone (allegedly on the orders of Yeaten), and Johnny Paul Koroma (Marzah was told by a soldier named "Sweet Candy" that Koroma had been executed on Taylor's orders because Taylor claimed Koroma had betrayed him).

On cross-examination, Marzah contended that he and Taylor were part of a secret religious society, and that Taylor himself had eaten human hearts on multiple occasions. The Defense asked Marzah whether he felt guilty about the atrocities committed by him or by those under his command. He responded that he felt he had to obey Taylor's orders, or that his own life and family would be put in jeopardy. He reiterated that he acted directly on Taylor's orders. The main themes of the extensive cross-examination were: (1) inconsistencies between the statements made by Marzah in the past and the testimony he was presenting at the court, (2) that Taylor lacked control and direction over RUF troops, (3) that Taylor disciplined his troops, and (4) that Marzah was not senior enough to take orders directly from Taylor.

Beth Vann (expert witness report). The Prosecution sought to introduce into evidence extracts of Beth Vann's expert report, in addition to the full report and summary of her expert report on war-related sexual violence between 1996 and 2002. The Prosecution presented Vann as an expert in the field based on her education, extensive work and research, and particular focus on gender-based violence in populations affected by armed conflict. Vann's report was based on her field research and first-hand experiences between 1997 and 1999. The violence detailed in the report was committed by RUF rebels throughout the country, against women of all ages. The report included personal accounts of amputations, torture, killings, and sexual slavery at the hands of

the RUF and AFRC forces. Beth Vann's findings were confirmed by a Human Rights Watch Report.

The Defense objected to the introduction of extracts from her report. The Court agreed with the Defense, ruling that two extracts were from reports that had been previously rejected by the Court. Accordingly, the Prosecution opted to tender the expert report as submitted, to which the Defense did not object. Prosecutor Shyamala Alegendra read a brief summary of the report into the record and the expert report without extracts was entered as an exhibit (note that a copy of the report may be found on the documents tab of the blog site).