

Statement of Mr. Alvin Smith, Chief Investigator, International Justice Group
House Foreign Affairs Committee
Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission
Hearing On

Liberia: Next Steps toward Accountability for War & Economic Crimes

My name is Alvin Smith, Chief Investigator for the International Justice Group Base in Washington DC, I am honored to appear before The Chairman, Co Chairman and member of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Bipartisan Commission (LTHRC).

I would like to personally thank both Co-Chairmen, Congressman Smith and Congressman McGovern of this Commission for holding this very important hearing as we move forward in discussing the next steps toward accountability for War and Economic Crimes. In your previous hearing, you both supported the establishment of the War and Economic Crimes Court for Liberia in seeking justice and accountability for the 250,000 victims that lost their lives during the two civil wars in Liberia. As we will discuss today, current Liberian President Joseph Boakai has taken steps towards establishing the War and Economic Crimes Court for Liberia.

For the past 10 years, I have served as the Chief Investigator for the International Justice Group (IJG) is a US based Non-governmental Organization based in the Washington, DC area. Joining IJG gave me an opportunity to advance support for the establishment of the War and Economic Crimes Court for Liberia. Currently, I work in the global security sector as a US government contractor with an experience in Criminal Justice, Homeland Security and Counterterrorism. I hold a master's degree in criminal justice with a concentration in Homeland Security. Recently, I completed my studies for a master's degree in international relations and Global Security with concentration in Conflict Resolution. As a global security specialist, I have served in war countries, such as Bosnia and the former Yugoslavia and witnessed the aftermath of war, abuse of human rights and war crimes that were committed. In support of the IJG mission in Liberia, I have employed my education and experience to conduct investigations and research to document human rights violations and other offenses.

IJG is chartered to conduct many responsibilities, but we have focused on Liberia and reporting on human rights violations, war crimes, and crimes against humanity by studying and investigating involved parties. We disclose our findings for Global Magnitsky Act sanctions in Liberia and other activities. We strongly support the War and Economic Crimes Court for Liberia and demand justice and accountability for all Liberians. Cllr. Jerome Verdier, our Executive Director, was the former Chairman of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Republic of Liberia, and the major author of the 2009 report recommending the court's establishment.

The IJG is pleased with the actions of President Boakai and his administration in their support of the court's establishment and the issuance of the Executive Order creating the office to facilitate its establishment. Nevertheless, we have received a plethora of information regarding a variety of NGOs that are interested in participating in this process. Regrettably, these organizations have ulterior motives, primarily for personal and financial

benefit. The credibility of the court would be undermined from the outset if these NGOs were to become affiliated with the War and Economic Crimes court. It is essential to be aware of the identities of these NGOs, the allegations against them, and the evidence that corroborates the allegations, as the US Congress is being asked to support this court. Additionally, it is crucial that the US Congress refrain from providing any financial or other assistance to these NGOs, and that the US government does not provide any financial or other assistance to them.

As the Chief Investigator of IJG in Liberia in 2014, I learned about a program for recruiting, training, and compensating witnesses that was being utilized to sabotage war crimes cases of specific people. Darious Tweh provided the information; he subsequently turned into an insider witness and collaborated for many years with Hassan Bility, the Executive Director of the Monrovia, Liberia based Global Justice Research Project NGO, and Alain Werner, the Executive Director of the Geneva, Switzerland-based Civitas Maxima NGO and the Center for Justice and Accountability California, USA.

Tweh reported that they were all involved in a fraudulent scheme to maliciously prosecute individuals for war crime cases involving accused war actors with cases in the United States and Western Europe. The process was to obtain phone numbers of the targeted persons, and social media information for identification purposes for the recruited, coached paid witnesses in order to identify accused persons. With this information, they will then submit fraudulent affidavit under oath to indict their targeted person to be arrested.

Alain Werner, a Swiss lawyer, and Hassan Bility, a Liberian co-conspirator, fully understand what they are doing. They continuously engage in criminal behavior to fraudulently and maliciously prosecute individuals for war crimes by suborning perjury and using coached witnesses to provide false statements and testimony against accused war actors. Here are a list of cases involving their malicious prosecution.

Gibril Massaquoi - A Special Court for Sierra Leone witness was falsely accused by Werner and Bility. This led to his arrest and detention for nearly two (2) years. He was acquitted twice on all charges, once on April 29 2022 and then recently on January 31, 2024. The two acquittals of Massaquoi confirmed that they provided coached witnesses who lied under oath. There are allegations that Bility lied under oath multiple times against Massaquoi. This demonstrates that Bility has engaged in perjury. Many witnesses under cross examination by Massaquoi's defense counsel revealed that they had never seen him before and were coached to lie about him committing war crimes. In return for their false testimony, they were paid by Alain Werner and Hassan Bility.

Bility and Werner conspired to maliciously prosecute Gibril Massaquoi for war crimes, a protected witness of the United Nations backed Special Court for Sierra Leone. They suborn perjury by providing false statements and false testimony from coached witnesses they produced to the Finnish government. Their criminal actions led to the arrest and detention of Massaquoi which lasted for 2 years. They falsely accused him of leaving a guarded safehouse in Freetown, Sierra Leone where he was a protected witness, and went to Liberia and committed war crimes. Bility perjured himself by claiming he was tortured by Massaquoi on Independence Day of Liberia 2002 and he was sent by Joe Tate, the Liberian National Police Boss (courtesy of Charles Taylor trial) This was a calculated lie because Joe

Tate died in plane crash in Liberia in 1999. Bility had made 9 different statements about his arrest and torture at Klay with regards timing and the doers of his torture. I can prove this beyond doubt. Massaquoi was acquitted twice on all charges by the Finnish District Court and then again by the Appeals Court and the entire process lasted for 4 years. Massaquoi is currently suing Werner and Bility for \$50 million USD for malicious prosecution and damages caused by them to his person and family.

Agnes Reeves Taylor - Darious Tweh, while acting as an insider witness, got recruited, coached and paid, as part of our undercover investigation. He was coached by Bility to provide a false statement against Mrs. Agnes Reeves Taylor to Detective Garry Titherly and his team from the British Metropolitan Police War Crimes Team. He was then flown to Accra, Ghana to make the false statement to the British Metropolitan Police team. His statement can be subpoenaed as well as a dossier that highlights all the information on the NGOs involved in this criminal enterprise of conspiracy and malicious prosecutions of individuals for war crimes, carried out by Alain Werner of Civitas Maxima, Switzerland; Hassan Bility of Global Justice Research Project, Liberia; along with Nushine Sarkati, Karthleen Roberts, and Carmen Cheung Ka-Man of the Center for Justice Accountability, California.

In addition, both Werner and Bility provided false affidavits to the British Government about Agnes Reeves Taylor. They stated that she tortured Alieu Varfley Kanneh during the Liberian civil war. As a result of this coached statement, he got granted asylum from a false affidavit prepared by Bility in Britain. Moreover, they brought another coached witness called Morris Jarbarte who said that Agnes Reeves Taylor ordered the execution of Margibi County Superintendent, Amos Bohn in 1990. In truth, Bohn fled Liberia during the war. He is alive and residing in London, UK. Based on their false information in sworn affidavits, Mrs. Taylor was arrested and placed in solitary confinement for 27 months and after the case fell apart, she was released. She is currently suing Werner and Bility for \$15 million USD for malicious prosecution and other damage caused to her.

Michel Desaeleer - Bility and Werner, they both lied again on American/Belgian citizen Michel Desaeleer where they conspired to maliciously prosecute him for war crimes, gun running and blood diamonds. They conspired to suborn perjury by providing witnesses who provided false statements and false testimony. Witnesses close to Desaeleer and even to the late Foday Sankoh the RUF leader, confirmed he was never involved in war crimes or arms trafficking and confirm he was falsely accused. These reckless and false

charges led to his arrest and detention in Belgium where he committed suicide causing an unintended death tantamount to involuntary manslaughter.

The IJG strongly supports and advocates for the prosecution of war and economic criminals and those who commit crimes against humanity. We do not believe in the ends justifying the mean and certainly not a criminal conspiracy to maliciously prosecute individuals and suborn perjury by using coached witnesses to provide false statements and false testimony to achieve a conviction while seeking fame and fortune. IJG has received information that revealed Werner has received millions of US dollars and Euros over the past decade from donors to fund operations of Civitas Maxima and their sister organization Global Justice Research Project led by Bility. No doubt, there is a personal and financial

gain engaging in this criminal enterprise. In Liberia, Bility owns three (3) homes, one of which has a front porch displaying large concrete cinder blocks of dollar signs.

Now that a new government is in place in Liberia, that is committed to fighting corruption and the re-establishment the rule of law, two criminal complaints were filed against Werner and Bility in Liberia with the Inspector General of Liberia National Police and the Attorney General of Liberia. The complaints are their conspiracy to maliciously prosecute individuals for war crimes and suborn perjury by coaching witnesses to lie under oath. The witness coaching scheme operations are primarily done in Liberia and used on all of their cases. Now, is the time to hold Werner and Bility who participated in the criminal conspiracy accountable and be brought to justice.

I stand ready to work with the United States Congress to investigate the involvement of these NGOs and why the US government supports and promotes these people in the human rights community and uses their services both in the US and abroad. Civitas Maxima, Global Justice

Research Project, Center for Justice and Accountability can't come anywhere near the Liberian War and Economic Crimes Court. They lost all levels of credibility to be in the line of work. Once they are permitted to participate in the Liberian War and Economic Crimes Court process, their scheme of recruiting, coaching and paying so called witnesses will be at higher gear to make false statement to war crime investigators and at court trials.

In conclusion, IJG is recommending that the US government should not support or fund any organization such as Civitas Maxima, Global Justice Research Project or the Center for Justice and Accountability who are involved in malicious prosecution of accused war actors.

So, we call on the US Congress to make sure that the US government does not allow Alain Werner of Civitas Maxima, Hassan Bility of the Global Justice Research Project and any others affiliated with them to be involved in way with the establishment of the court.

We also request that the US Congress fully support the establishment of the court and ensure there is adequate funding at the onset and annual appropriations are made to sustain the operations of the court until its work is completed.

Thank you again for all your support and assistance in bringing justice and accountability to

Liberia!