

tensions and sporadic violence in countries like Algeria and Nigeria, offered opportunities for al-Qaeda, still the world's leading organizer of global terrorist attacks. This jihadist organization has repeatedly found allies involved in what started out as local quarrels and is attempting to internationalize them.

Africa, like the rest of the developing world, has been a successful recruiting area for al-Qaeda. The so-called "underwear bomber," Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab of Nigeria, was recruited by al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) to detonate a bomb on a Northwest Airlines flight as it approached Detroit on December 25, 2009. In its effort to become the leading al-Qaeda affiliate, AQAP has aligned itself with Islamic extremists beyond its native Yemen. Across the Gulf of Aden, the longstanding chaos in Somalia created a likely ally in al-Shabaab.

This designated Foreign Terrorist Organization was created by young Islamic jihadists who sought to establish a "Greater Somalia" under sharia law as a reaction to a transitional government run by former warlords, who to this day are believed to be engaged in corrupt activity. Despite its alliance with al-Qaeda, al-Shabaab still appears to be focused more on attacking the Transitional Federal Government, African Union peacekeepers and Somali citizens than foreigners not in their country.

Could that change? Of course it could. Some of the many young Somalis who left the United States to fight for what they believed was the sovereignty of their homeland are returning to this country, and one must wonder to what extent they have adopted a jihadist mentality. They could be merely disillusioned young men returning from an idealistic adventure, or they could be sleepers ready and willing to strike inside our homeland at some future point.

Boko Haram in Nigeria has gained significant attention recently for its well-publicized attacks on Christians. There was the Christmas Eve 2010 bombing in Jos; the February 15, 2011, shootings at a church in Maiduguri, and the April 8, 2012, suicide car bombing at a church in Kaduna. However, to say that Boko Haram is strictly an anti-Christian terrorist organization would be to mischaracterize this violent movement.

Boko Haram objects to moderate Muslims, as embodied for them by the Sultan of Sokoto. The Sultan's religious authority over Nigeria's Muslims was established by the British during colonialism, and he is now seen as a tool of the central government in Nigeria and by extension America and the West—both of which would be considered as being under Christian control. Boko Haram has killed Muslim leaders it considers insufficiently fundamentalist and still seems focused on opposing and embarrassing before the world a central government it considers to be worldly and neglectful of development in northern Nigeria. There are credible reports that Boko Haram is training with al-Qaeda in the Maghreb (AQIM) in northern Mali along with Tuareg rebel groups that have taken over that region.

Could they pose a threat to the American homeland? Perhaps at some future date.

AQIM itself is a homegrown African terrorist organization. This Foreign Terrorist Organization was established as the Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat in 1998 when other Islamic extremists laid down their arms in their fight against the Government of Algeria. That

fight stemmed from the 1992 nullification by the Algerian government of a second series of parliamentary elections that appeared to be poised to empower the Islamic Salvation Front political alliance. Since then, the group declared allegiance to al-Qaeda and in 2006 became Al-Qaeda in the Maghreb.

This group has repeatedly declared its intention to attack Algerian, Spanish, French and American targets. It has taken advantage of the revolt in Libya and the unrest in northern Mali to expand its affiliations among African internally-focused terrorists. As an active al-Qaeda affiliate, it definitely has international aims beyond its original Algeria targets. The Tuareg groups now concentrating on declaring a homeland in northern Mali (and perhaps other parts of the Sahel) and Boko Haram certainly offer allies who may provide recruits for more global attacks.

As for the Lord's Resistance Army, it is an outlier in this group of terrorist organizations. The LRA emerged in northern Uganda in 1987, the year after Yoweri Museveni, a rebel leader from southern Uganda, seized power and ended nearly a decade of rule by northeners. Following Museveni's victory, Alice Lakwena, a spiritual leader from the northern Acholi tribe, emerged as a key figure among northern rebel factions seeking to overthrow the government. Lakwena's Holy Spirit Movement was defeated by the Ugandan military in 1987, and Lakwena fled to Kenya. Joseph Kony, a reported relative of Lakwena, emerged and laid claim to Lakwena's legacy with the LRA.

Kony's LRA began to target civilians in northern Uganda and sought support and protection from the Government of Sudan. This Ugandan member of the State Department's Terrorist Exclusion List killed more than 2,400 people and kidnapped more than 3,400 others between 2008 and 2011 alone. This has included people from not only Uganda, but also South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Central African Republic. However, the LRA is not known to be affiliated with any element of al-Qaeda, and their cross-border terrorist activities are more a function of being chased by regional militaries, and now a U.S. advisory group, than any effort to take over territory.

Whatever their motivations, these terrorist organizations pose a great challenge to governance, peace and security in Africa. We must be concerned about the possibility of future attacks on U.S. citizens and interests abroad and even the U.S. homeland. However, to end the threat these terrorist groups pose, we must understand their origins and determine what can be done to reduce their base of support in their home countries. In doing so, we not only help add to the stability of those countries, but also minimize the larger threat to peace and security globally.

TRIBUTE TO BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S 34TH ANNIVERSARY HALL OF FAME RACE

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 27, 2012

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Bronx Community College, which will

hold its 34th Anniversary Hall of Fame 10K–5K Run & 2 Mile Fitness Walk on Saturday, May 5, 2012.

The Hall of Fame Race was founded in 1978 by Bronx Community College's third President, Dr. Roscoe C. Brown, Jr., who was recently given the Congressional Medal of Honor as one of the famed Tuskegee Airmen. This important tradition continues under the leadership of Dr. Carole M. Berotte Joseph, the new President of Bronx Community College. The race's mission is to promote physical well-being and higher education, as well as highlight the Hall of Fame for Great Americans, a national institution on the BCC campus that is dedicated to those who have helped to make America great.

I have had the pleasure of running this race many times before, and I can attest to the excitement it generates throughout the Bronx. It is truly wonderful to see several hundred people run along the Grand Concourse, University Avenue, and West 181st Street. There is no better way to see our Bronx community and to underscore the importance of fitness.

The Annual Hall of Fame Race has three components: a 10K run, a 5K run, and a 2 Mile Fitness Walk. The 2 Mile Fitness Walk is dedicated to Professor Michael Steuerman, a committed and loyal faculty member at Bronx Community College for more than 30 years who passed away in 2006. This event also recognizes the contributions of David Hernandez, who was an avid runner and served Bronx Community College's grants officer.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the individuals and participants who are making the Bronx Community College's 34th Annual Hall of Fame 10K–5K Run & 2 Mile Fitness Walk possible.

JUSTICE IS SERVED

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 27, 2012

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark a historic occurrence—the first conviction of a head of state in an international war crimes court since World War II. Of course Adolph Hitler, convicted at the Nuremberg Trials, had committed suicide prior to the verdict.

Charles Taylor organized and ordered armed attacks throughout Sierra Leone to terrorize the civilian population and ultimately punish them for failing to provide sufficient support to the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), or for supporting the legitimate government. The attacks were brutal in nature and routinely included unlawful killings, abductions, forced labor, physical and sexual violence, the use of child soldiers, looting and Taylor's trademark—mass amputations.

I visited Sierra Leone in 1999 with my good friend, former Member of Congress Tony Hall. I heard the tales of horror with my own ears and witnessed with my own eyes the nightmare Taylor left in his wake. Taylor's interest in promoting and supporting the RUF insurgency was driven by greed—specifically Sierra Leone's vast diamond resources. Victims told us that when the RUF would arrive in a village, they would ask their victims if they wanted "a long sleeve" or "a short sleeve" and amputate accordingly.

While it was years in the making, this week's historic verdict marks a triumph for justice. I especially want to note the dedication of Dr. Alan W. White, chief investigator responsible for putting the case together, David M. Crane, chief prosecutor at the Hague, and my former staffer Chris Santoro who served as a trial attorney in the Taylor case.

Perhaps most significantly, Taylor's conviction, in the words of an Associated Press story that I submit for the RECORD, sends a "warning to tyrants." Foremost among them is Sudanese president Omar Bashir—himself an internationally indicted war criminal with blood on his hands. Furthermore, this verdict ought to be a wake-up call to the countries and governments that persist in hosting Bashir on official travel—they will find themselves on the wrong side of history.

CHARLES TAYLOR CONVICTION SENDS WARNING
TO TYRANTS

(By Mike Corder)

LEIDSCHEIDAM, Netherlands.—Former Liberian President Charles Taylor became the first head of state since World War II to be convicted by an international war crimes court, a historic verdict that sends a message that tyrants worldwide will be tracked down and brought to justice.

The warlord-turned-president was found guilty on Thursday of 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity for arming Sierra Leone rebels in exchange for "blood diamonds" mined by slave laborers and smuggled across the border.

Judges at the Special Court for Sierra Leone said Taylor played a crucial role in allowing the rebels to continue a bloody rampage during that West African nation's 11-year civil war, which ended in 2002 with more than 50,000 dead. Ten years after the war ended, Sierra Leone is still struggling to rebuild.

The rebels gained international notoriety for hacking off the limbs of their victims and carving their groups' initials into opponents and even children they kidnapped, drugged and turned into killers. The rebels developed gruesome terms for the mutilations that became their chilling trademark: They would offer their victims the choice of "long sleeves" or "short sleeves"—having their hands hacked off or their arms sliced off above the elbow.

The 64-year-old Taylor will be sentenced next month after a separate hearing.

The court has no death penalty and no life sentence. Judges have given eight other rebels as much as 52 years in prison.

The verdict was hailed by prosecutors, victims and rights activists as a watershed moment in efforts to end impunity for leaders responsible for atrocities.

The ruling "permanently locks in and solidifies the idea that heads of state are now accountable for what they do to their own people," said David Crane, the former prosecutor who indicted Taylor in 2003 and is now a professor of international law at Syracuse University. "This is a bell that has been rung and clearly rings throughout the world. If you are a head of state and you are killing your own people, you could be next."

U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon hailed the judgment as "a significant milestone for international criminal justice" that "sends a strong signal to all leaders that they are and will be held accountable for their actions," said U.N. deputy spokesman Eduardo del Buey.

U.S. State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said Taylor's prosecution "delivers a strong message to all perpetrators of atrocities, including those in the highest positions of power, that they will be held accountable."

Despite optimism over the verdict, international efforts to prosecute leaders have been spotty at best. Slobodan Milosevic died in his cell before a verdict could be reached on charges of fomenting the Balkan wars. Moammar Gadhafi was killed by rebels last year before he could be turned over for trial. Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir is openly defying attempts to arrest him on international genocide charges.

In one success story, prosecutors at the U.N.'s Yugoslav war crimes tribunal are close to wrapping up their case against former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic although it took more than a decade to have him arrested.

The global implications meant little to survivors of the war in Sierra Leone who celebrated Taylor's conviction.

"I am happy that the truth has come out . . . that Charles Taylor is fully and solely responsible for the crimes committed against the people of Sierra Leone," said Jusu Jarka, who had both his arms hacked off by rebels in 1999 and who now runs a support group for fellow amputees.

Crowds that gathered to watch the verdict live on television in the Sierra Leone capital, Freetown, sighed with relief when the conviction was announced. Some carried posters that exposed still-simmering anger. "Shame on you Charles Taylor. Give us your diamonds before going to prison," one read.

Prosecuting Taylor proved how hard it is to bring leaders to justice. He fled into exile in Nigeria after being indicted in 2003 and wasn't arrested for three years. And while the Sierra Leone court is based in that country's capital, Taylor's trial was staged in the Netherlands for fear it could destabilize the region.

There was no clear paper trail linking Taylor to rebels, and the three-judge panel wound up convicting him of aiding and abetting the fighters. He was cleared of direct command responsibility over the rebels.

In their verdict, reached after 13 months of deliberations, the judges said Taylor regularly received diamonds from rebels. But they made no mention of the most famous witness to testify about the gems—supermodel Naomi Campbell, who recalled being given a bag of "very small, dirty-looking stones" at a 1997 dinner at Nelson Mandela's official mansion in South Africa.

Taylor attended the dinner, and prosecutors had hoped Campbell would testify that he gave her the diamonds. But Campbell did not, and Taylor's lawyer, Courtenay Griffiths, dismissed the testimony on Thursday as "a large, fat zero."

Taylor, impeccably dressed as usual in suit and tie, said nothing in court and showed no emotion as the verdict was read.

There was emotion enough during the five-year trial as 91 prosecution witnesses outlined the horrors of Sierra Leone's war, many of them describing murders, mutilations, torture and acts of cannibalism by rebels and the children they turned into merciless killers.

Taylor insisted he was an innocent victim of neocolonialism and a political process aimed at preventing him from returning to power in Liberia. In seven months of testimony in his own defense, he cast himself as a peacemaker and statesman in West Africa.

Crane—a vocal supporter of efforts to hold leaders accountable—concedes that while war crimes tribunals are independent, they are hard to separate from geopolitical realities.

Syrian President Bashar Assad's regime is widely accused of atrocities as it battles to put down a popular revolt, and yet the prospect that he or any of his generals will be indicted anytime soon appears remote. Syria does not recognize the International Crimi-

nal Court, meaning prosecutors there cannot intervene unless the U.N. Security Council asks them to. Russia and China would likely veto any such move.

The ICC has indicted al-Bashir for genocide in Darfur, Sudan, but he has openly defied an international arrest warrant by flying to friendly nations and has recently cranked up war rhetoric in his country's border dispute with South Sudan.

Most likely the next former leader to face justice will be former Ivory Coast President Laurent Gbagbo, who is jailed in The Hague on charges of attacking political opponents as he attempted to cling to power following elections last year.

Edward Songo Conteh, of Sierra Leone's Amputee and War Wounded Association, was in court Thursday to watch the verdict. His only regret was that Taylor was not immediately sentenced.

"I want to see this man behind bars for the rest of his life," said Conteh, who had one of his hands hacked off by child soldiers.

IN HONOR OF GEORGE RATHMANN

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 27, 2012

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of the father of biotechnology. On Sunday, April 22, 2012 George B. Rathmann passed away due to complications from pneumonia at the age of 84. He is survived by his wife, Joy, of 61 years, his five children, and thirteen grandchildren. Dr. Rathmann had the vision to see how biotechnology could revolutionize the practice of medicine and he brought that vision to life.

Dr. Rathmann and I were both born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Growing up, George was drawn to science by his older brother, who was also a chemist. He received his doctorate in physical chemistry from Princeton University and went on to work for several pharmaceutical firms before venturing into the fledgling field of biotechnology. Dr. Rathmann co-founded Amgen in 1980 working out of makeshift trailers, in Thousand Oaks, California. Today, Amgen works to discover, develop, manufacture and deliver innovative human therapeutics. Under Dr. Rathmann's leadership, Amgen was one of the first companies to realize biotechnology's promise by bringing safe, effective medicine from the lab to the manufacturing plant and, finally, to the patient.

In 1990, Dr. Rathmann retired from Amgen. He quickly became bored with sedentary life. He returned to the biotech industry the following year, when he founded Seattle based ICOS Corporation. In addition to his successful career, George was a philanthropist. He created the Rathmann Foundation, which donates to worthy causes in the health, education, arts, and environmental arenas.

I invite my colleagues to join me in remembering a man who dedicated his life to science and discovery. Dr. Rathmann was a brilliant man whose work in biotechnology revolutionized the industry, produced countless scientific breakthroughs, and saved many lives. He has rightfully earned the title of the Father of Biotechnology.