

TWO AMERICAN TOBACCO COMPANIES SETTLE BRIBERY CHARGES

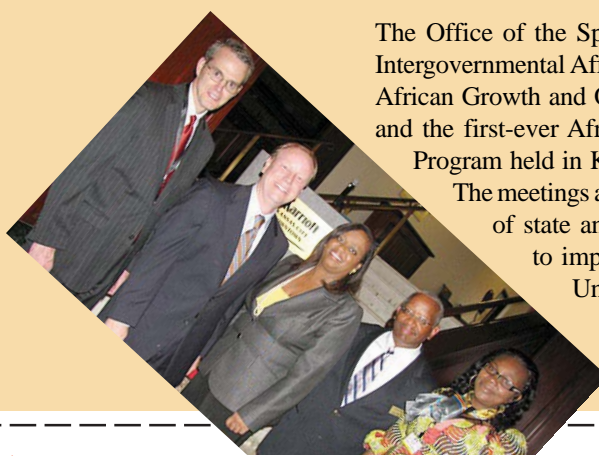


The companies, Universal Corp. of Richmond, Virginia, and Alliance One International of Morrisville, North Carolina, faced civil and criminal charges from the Securities and Exchange Commission and Justice Department, the government said.

Universal was accused of bribing officials in Thailand, Malawi and Mozambique. Alliance One is accused of bribing officials in Thailand, China, Greece, Indonesia, and Kyrgyzstan.

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FACILITATING U.S. STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT WITH AGOA COUNTRIES



The Office of the Special Representative for Global Intergovernmental Affairs — participated in the annual African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) Forum and the first-ever African Women's Entrepreneurship Program held in Kansas City.

The meetings aimed to facilitate the involvement of state and local government, and sought to improve trade relations between the United States and the AGOA-eligible sub-Saharan African countries.

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PROF. ERLINDER: BOTH HUTUS & TUTSIS SHOULD ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE RWANDAN GENOCIDE



PROF. PETER ERLINDER
William Mitchell College of Law

Interviewed By Ndze Ntuv Evaristus Tunka

Professor Peter Erlinder is no stranger to the international community. He is a distinguished Criminal Defense professor at William Mitchell College of Law, and a lead Defense Council for the UN International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda based in Tanzania. He was recently arrested by the Rwandan government on allegations of 'genocide denial' while defending Victoire Ingabire—a Hutu politician and current presidential candidate who is charged with 'propagating genocide ideology' as well. Prof. Erlinder sat down with The African News Journal's Ndze Ntuv Evaristus Tunka recently in St. Paul to talk about his ordeal in Rwanda.

ANJ: Thank you for talking with The African News Journal today. Most people might consider you a rogue lawyer, especially from your defense of such personalities as Mohammed Warsame, Sami Al-Arian, and now Victoire Ingabire....

Erlinder: First I do not consider myself a rogue lawyer. I stand for the legal process and for justice. I think it is very important that

we allow justice to take its course in any legal issue.

ANJ: So what made you decide to defend Victoire Ingabire?

Erlinder: Well, Victoire Ingabire has argued that both Hutus and Tutsis were responsible for the genocide in Rwanda, and that it was unjust to blame only one side for the genocide. I share this idea, as my research and

findings from UN documents, US government documents, and trial documents at the ICTR on what happened in Rwanda show that both the Hutus and the rebel led FDR were responsible for mass killings in Rwanda. I think that all those who were responsible, be they Hutus or Tutsis should face justice.

ANJ: When you were

arrested on May 28th, what was going through your mind? What were you thinking?

Erlinder: Well this is something that in order to talk about, I might probably have to spend some time thinking about it, and I'll probably write about it at some point; but I wasn't expecting to be arrested. However once I was arrested, my main concern was not to disappear and my view is that; had I not taken the initiative to force my captives to allow me to talk to the US Embassy, I'm not sure anybody would have known what had happened to me.

ANJ: How were you treated in the Rwandan jail and what were the conditions like?

Erlinder: What I've said to everybody that I have talked to, is that the people in Rwanda treated me quite well. The individuals that were charged with taking care of me treated me well under the circumstances. The conditions in the detention facility I was in were quite difficult per standards; that is no toilets, no beds, no blankets, and no food but this was quite normal to Rwandans, although most Rwandans in jail had family members who would bring them food, and

Prof. Erlinder

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GEORGE WEAH EDUCATED IN QUEST FOR ELECTION

By JONATHAN PAYE-LAYLEH

MONROVIA, Liberia (AP) — The photos of George Weah's football past are rapidly disappearing from the walls of his seaside villa, replaced by mementos of academic achievement and pictures of the Liberian goalscoring great with political figures. Weah, who won the FIFA Player of the Year award in 1995, went into politics in 2005 and ran for president of his native country that year. Although he beat 21 other candidates to win the vote in the first round, he lost to eventual president Ellen Johnson Sirleaf in the second round.

Many believe his lack of formal education was the reason for the defeat, and Weah appears determined not to let that undermine his chances in the 2011 election. "These are ever-since pictures," the 43-year-old Weah said in an interview with The Associated Press in the eastern Paynesville suburb of Monrovia. "I am now in my senior year and by God's help I am graduating from college next July."

Weah received a high school diploma in 2007, and said he has since been studying business administration at Devry University in Miami. He denied his desire for more education was based on his hope of becoming president, insisting he wants "to improve my potential and because I think it is the right thing to do."

Liberia, which has emerged from years of fighting and unrest following more than a decade of civil war, is plagued by wrecked industries, poor roads and limited electricity even in the capital.

Born and raised in a Monrovia slum, Weah was a star striker for AC Milan and won the top FIFA award while at the Italian club. He also played for Monaco, Paris Saint-Germain, Marseille, Chelsea and Manchester City before going into politics in a country founded and colonized by freed American slaves and nearly torn apart by the civil war started by former president Charles Taylor, who is currently on trial in the Netherlands on charges of murder, rape, sexual enslavement and recruiting child soldiers. But Weah's lack of knowledge about political activities did not prevent his good showing in the 2005 presidential poll, even if he and his youthful Congress for Democratic Party alleged that ballot-stuffing was one of the reasons he lost.

"We were a young party, organized just four months before the election," Weah said. "Things that were lacking have been put into right perspective."

George Weah

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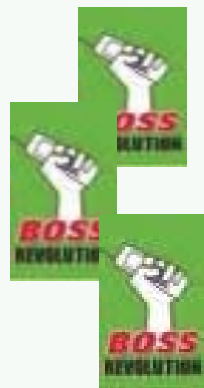
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