


SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
PRESS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

PRESS CLIPPINGS

Enclosed are clippings of the latest local and international press on the Special Court and related issues obtained by the Press and Public Affairs Office as of:

Tuesday, May 25, 2004

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.
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Terms: **permanent war crimes court faces tough choices ahead of first investigation** ([Edit Search](#))

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May 24, 2004, Monday, BC cycle The Associated Press

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May 24, 2004, Monday, BC cycle

SECTION: International News

LENGTH: 804 words

HEADLINE: **Permanent war crimes court faces tough choices ahead of first investigation**

BYLINE: By ANTHONY DEUTSCH, Associated Press Writer

DATELINE: THE HAGUE, Netherlands

BODY:

From jungle warlords and cult leaders to bankers and presidents, prosecutors are lining up their targets for the first cases by the new **permanent war crimes court**.

But nearly two years after the **court's** creation, it has yet to launch a full **investigation**, and already it is running into a dilemma that goes to the core of its independence: When does political support for the **court** erode impartiality?

Nearly 800 complaints of **war crimes** and crimes against humanity have flooded into the International Criminal **Court**, which has temporarily set up in a former telecommunications building. They present a grim litany of mass murder, systematic rape, child abductions and persecution.

But most complaints are disqualified by the **court's** rigid jurisdiction limits. Unless the U.N. Security Council intervenes, only people from countries that have signed the **court's** founding treaty - 94 so far - can be prosecuted.

That means citizens of the United States, Russia, China, Israel, Iraq and all other Arab countries except Jordan are beyond reach. Thus, the **court** has no jurisdiction to try either ousted Iraqi President Saddam Hussein or U.S. soldiers accused of abusing Iraqi prisoners.

In the 94 signatory nations, the **court's** prosecutors can initiate **investigations** if they see **war crimes** going unpunished, or a government may ask the **court** to prosecute its own citizens.

Uganda has made such a request. In January, President Yoweri Museveni asked the **court** to prosecute leaders of the Lord's Resistance Army, a ruthless rebel group known for kidnapping

children to use as fighters or sex slaves. It is led by Joseph Kony, a cult figure who shrouds himself in the Bible and magic powers.

Museveni's appeal was seen as a coup by Chief Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo, bolstering the tribunal's legitimacy.

But human rights groups say Museveni, who seized power in 1986, also should be investigated for alleged abuses by Ugandan troops. They criticized Moreno-Ocampo for appearing with Museveni to announce the impending **investigation** of the rebels, noting Moreno-Ocampo made no reference to excesses by the Uganda military.

A failure to investigate both sides of the conflict could risk appearing biased. Yet, an **investigation** of Uganda's military might risk Museveni's government ending its cooperation on any cases, although Museveni reportedly has promised to cooperate should he be investigated.

Michail Wladimiroff, a Dutch lawyer who defended the first suspect at the special Yugoslav **war crimes** tribunal, said the International Criminal **Court** must guard against wading into politics.

"They can't escape negotiating with governments, but he (Moreno-Ocampo) wasn't as tactful as he could have been. He has to avoid appearing brotherly" with potential suspects, Wladimiroff said in an interview.

In April, Congo offered another boost to the **court** by becoming the second country to hand over jurisdiction of a case.

It involves crimes committed in Congo's war-wracked Ituri province, and Moreno-Ocampo said the **investigation** would look at financiers of the tribal warfare and businessmen who stoke tribal animosities to exploit illicit trade in gold or diamonds.

Moreno-Ocampo, an Argentine, earned his reputation prosecuting members of his homeland's former military regime, which was blamed for thousands of killings during a "dirty war" against leftist activists 25 years ago.

He is assembling a team of experienced prosecutors from around the world. Christine Chung, a veteran of the Manhattan district attorney's office, will handle the Uganda case. Deputy Chief Prosecutor Serge Brammertz, a Belgian, will head the Congo **investigation**.

About 30 prosecutors have been recruited, many lured from the U.N. **war crimes** tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. They are among nearly 200 full-time employees from 35 countries who are sifting through complaints and preparing **investigations**.

But the **court's** first trial could be years away.

By comparison, the Yugoslav tribunal issued its first indictment within a year of its creation in 1993 and has conducted a string of trials, including the current proceeding against former President Slobodan Milosevic.

But legal experts say the comparison isn't fair because the new **court faces** greater challenges, particularly the fierce opposition of the U.S. government.

"The Yugoslavia tribunal was established by the U.N. Security Council and had superior authority to try crimes in Yugoslavia. It could impose its will upon the Yugoslav states," said Wladimiroff, who now represents former president Charles Taylor of Liberia.

"The ICC can only work with the cooperation of the country. It would be unreasonable to expect the ICC to have a case in no time."

On the Net:

International Criminal **Court:** <http://www.icc-cpi.int>

GRAPHIC: AP Photos NY330-331 of May 24

LOAD-DATE: May 25, 2004

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Terms: **armed groups vigorous abuses of human rights worldwide documented in amnesty internationals 204 annual report** ([Edit Search](#))

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U.S. Newswire, May 24, 2004

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May 24, 2004 Monday

SECTION: Assignment Desk, Daybook Editor

LENGTH: 346 words

HEADLINE: **Armed Groups' Vigorous Abuse of Human Rights Worldwide Documented in Amnesty International's 2004 Annual Report** Release

BODY:

News Advisory:

Armed Groups' Vigorous Abuse of Human Rights Worldwide Documented in Amnesty International's 2004 Annual Report Release

-- Tactics of "War on Terror" Failing to Bring Security

The release of **Amnesty International's 2004 Annual Report** will highlight the myriad of atrocities committed by more than 175 **armed groups** in 65 countries and the misguided tactics - themselves **human rights** violations - that governments have used in responding to these **abuses**. The 339-page report, a comprehensive analysis of the year's setbacks and advancements for **human rights** in 155 countries and territories, will be released May 26 during a morning press conference in Washington, D.C.

"**Armed groups** are increasingly agile and cunning in their **abuse of human rights**. From forced recruitment of child soldiers in Africa to illegal attacks on US servicemembers in Afghanistan, their threat is pervasive and indiscriminating," said Dr. William F. Schulz, executive director of **Amnesty International** USA. "Meanwhile, the US-led 'war on terror' is exacerbating the danger by fighting injustice with injustice and serves to legitimize and fuel the actions of these rogue **groups**."

Dr. Jessica Stern, a terrorism expert and author who currently is a Public Policy Lecturer at Harvard University, will address whether governments are winning the "war on terror."

For embargoed media materials, please call 202-544-0200 ext. 302.

WHO:

-- Dr. William F. Schulz, executive director, **Amnesty International** USA

-- Dr. Jessica Stern, lecturer and faculty affiliate of the Carr Center for **Human Rights** at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government

WHAT: Release of 2004 **Annual Report** on **Human Rights** in 155 Countries

WHEN: 10 a.m., Wednesday, May 26

WHERE: National Press Club; Washington, D.C.; 14th and F Streets, N.W.

Journalists can view a Webcast of the organization's London launch at <http://news.amnesty.org> and radio broadcasters may download relevant audio statements from **Amnesty International** by going to <http://radio.oneworld.net>.
<http://www.usnewswire.com>

CONTACT: **Amnesty International** USA, 202-544-0200 ext. 302

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Terms: **armed groups vigorous abuses of human rights worldwide documented in amnesty internationals 204 annual report** ([Edit Search](#))

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Source: Agence France-Presse

Date: 24 May 2004

West African grouping opens peacekeeping strategy summit

ACCRA, May 24 (AFP) - The west African ECOWAS grouping opened a five-day summit in the Ghanaian capital Accra on Monday to plot strategies for improving peacekeeping capacities for the restive region.

Among the 15 nations included in the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), three -- Ivory Coast, Liberia and Sierra Leone -- are under UN peacekeeping operations that have as their backbone forces from the rest of the region.

The five-day summit, jointly sponsored by the French and Ghanaian governments, comes amid ECOWAS efforts to marshal its military forces to act cooperatively to ward off regional threats and civil wars.

ECOWAS troops will join in a major military exercise set for November 29 - December 11 in member state Benin that will also gather several other African nations under the direction of the European Union and Canada.

"Actions of peacekeepers should be in line with what is reasonably acceptable in the eyes of the international community," Ghana's deputy foreign minister Akwasi Osei Adjei said to open the summit.

"The acid test is whether or not we are infringing on the rights of the very people we are supposed to protect."

And in a jab at the recent prison abuse scandal involving US soldiers operating in Iraq, he added: "The treatment of Iraqi prisoners by American soldiers is an ample evidence of embarrassment your actions may cause your country in the diplomatic fraternity."

Speaking on behalf of the French government, Pierre Jacquemont sought to reassure ECOWAS countries -- eight of which are former French colonies -- of France's continued commitment to help resolve Africa resolve its own conflicts and crises.

"It is the will of the French government to see African countries resolve critical issues so as to develop their countries by themselves," he said, lauding ECOWAS for the leadership role it has taken in efforts to end 19 months of tensions in member state Ivory Coast.

"France is also prepared to look at the will expressed by African States without any ambiguity," he added.

Ghanaian President John Kufuor is half-way through his second year as head of ECOWAS, which has since 1975 grouped Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.

ben-lg/rm ECOWAS-peacekeeping-Ghana-France

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Top

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Terms: **mano river summit in guinea vows action against rebels** ([Edit Search](#))

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BBC Monitoring International Reports May 24, 2004

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BBC Monitoring International Reports

May 24, 2004

LENGTH: 1223 words

HEADLINE: MANO RIVER UNION SUMMIT IN GUINEA VOWS ACTION AGAINST "REBELS", "MERCENARIES"

BODY:

Text of final communique issued at the end of the **summit of the Mano River** Union held in Conakry on 20 May; published by Guineenews web site on 21 May

At the invitation of His Excellency General Lansana Conte, president of the Republic of **Guinea, the summit** of heads of states of the **Mano River** Union was held in Conakry on 20 May 2004. The **summit** recorded the participation of Their Excellencies Alhaji Dr Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, president of the Republic of Sierra Leone; and Charles Gyude Bryant, president of the Transitional National Government of Liberia.

The **summit** was enhanced by the presence of the presidents of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire and of the Republic of Mali, Their Excellencies Laurent Gbagbo and Amadou Toumani Toure. Also present was His Excellency Ambassador Daudi N. Mwakawago, special representative of the UN secretary-general in Sierra Leone.

This **summit** is part of the drive to revive the activities of the **Mano River** Union because of the new atmosphere of peace prevailing in the subregion.

1. The **summit** expressed delight at the considerable progress recorded as part of the consolidation of peace and the restoration of state authority throughout Sierra Leone.
2. The **summit** greatly rejoiced over the smooth implementation of the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) programme that enabled the voluntary repatriation of Sierra Leonean refugees.
3. The **summit** received with real satisfaction the setting up of the Transitional National Government in Liberia and hailed the efforts of the international community for ensuring the return of a normal constitutional life and for enabling the full participation of all Liberians in the reconstruction of their country.
4. The **summit** undertook to support all initiatives that will to promote the atmosphere of confidence and security in the subregion so as to strengthen cooperation among countries and speed up their lasting and integrated development.

5. The heads of state examined with particular attention the recommendations of the meeting of foreign ministers and the joint committee on security held in Conakry on 19 May 2004.
6. After amending the report of the foreign ministers, the heads of state felt that any individual or group of armed individuals conducting destabilizing activities against a legitimately established government should be considered as **rebels** or mercenaries. Therefore, member countries of the union should take all the legal and security measures to render such individuals harmless.
7. Fully conscious of the threat that trans-border crimes represents to peace and stability, the heads of state call on the security and intelligence services of the three member states to set up effective mechanisms for consultation and control in order to fight against this scourge.
8. While expressing delight over recent developments that has come about in Liberia, the **summit** undertook to support the praiseworthy efforts of the international community for the return of a lasting peace in that country.
9. To this end, the heads of state strongly encouraged the Transitional National Government of Liberia not to spare any effort for the full implementation of the global peace agreement, especially the smooth implementation of the Disarmament, Demobilization, Reintegration and Rehabilitation (DDRR) programme.
10. The **summit** reiterated its appeal to the international community for an additional support in order to reactivate the institutions of the **Mano River** Union and enable the implementation of existing protocols, especially the 15th Protocol relative to security and defence, as well as measures for the restoration of confidence.
11. The **summit** reaffirmed the pivotal role of the culture of peace and undertook to intensify the operations for the sensitization and education of the people of the three countries.
12. The heads of state also agreed to encourage their national institutions in charge of the fight against the proliferation of light weapons to strengthen their contacts and to intensify their cooperation with the joint committee on security in order to eradicate the scourge of light arms and the trafficking of drugs and other narcotics that feed the phenomenon of mercenaries.
13. The head of state also reiterated their determination to further strengthen their brotherly and friendly relations with a view to constantly intensifying the historic ties that unite their countries. They undertook to settle any disputes through peaceful means.
14. The head of state of the **Mano River** Union heartily hailed the participation of their brothers and friends, the presidents of Mali and Cote d'Ivoire. Their presence stems from the firm desire of the leaders of the subregion to find together solutions to the challenges facing their peoples.
15. They renewed their total readiness work closely with their brothers from Mali and Cote d'Ivoire to make our region an area of stability suitable for cooperation of solidarity for a lasting and integrated development.
16. That is why, fully conscious of the regional dimension of the Ivorian conflict, the heads of state expressed their deep concern in the face of the situation prevailing in that country. To this end, they reaffirmed their active solidarity to President Laurent Gbagbo and his government for the efforts they are making for the safeguard of the territorial integrity of Cote d'Ivoire. In this regard, the heads of state of the **Mano River** Union strongly

condemned any form of unconstitutional taking over power, in accordance with existing provisions, notably the Algiers Declaration of 1999.

17. The **summit** expressed its profound gratitude to the UN/AIDS and the African Development Bank for their support to the subregional project to fight against HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria for refugees, displaced persons, and the host population in the countries of the **Mano River** Basin and Cote d'Ivoire.

18. The heads of state of Liberia, Sierra Leone, Cote d'Ivoire and Mali expressed their deep gratitude to President Lansana Conte and the people of **Guinea** for the great sacrifices they made to relieve the sufferings of thousands of refugees in the subregion.

19. They made an urgent appeal to the international community to bring sustained support to **Guinea** in its efforts at rehabilitating the areas affected by the prolonged presence of refugees.

20. President Laurent Gbagbo and Amadou Toumani Toure insisted on addressing their deep gratitude to President Lansana Conte for the high expression of kindness towards them.

21. They reassured President Lansana Conte as well as their brothers from Liberia and Sierra Leone of their resolute desire to participate in this enterprise of renewal in the subregion.

22. The heads of state of Liberia, Sierra Leone, Cote d'Ivoire and Mali expressed their great appreciation to General Lansana Conte for the happy initiative taken to host the **summit of the Mano River** Union.

23. They expressed their full satisfaction about the excellent arrangements set in place to provide a stay measuring to the legendary hospitality of the people of **Guinea**

24. The heads of state decided to hold their next **summit** in Monrovia.

Issued in Conakry on 20 May 2004.

Source: Guineenews web site in French 21 May 04

) BBC Monitoring

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SEATTLE POST-INTELLIGENCER

Monday, May 24, 2004 · Last updated 4:35 p.m. PT

Civilian with U.S. forces dead in Liberia

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON -- An American civilian employee of the U.S. European Command was found dead Monday, apparently a homicide victim, in a Liberian hotel room, the military said.

Lt. Col. Derek B. Kaufman, a European Command spokesman, said the death in Monrovia, Liberia's capital, was being investigated. "Authorities initially suspect the individual was the victim of a homicide," Kaufman said in Stuttgart, Germany.

The individual belonged to a team that was in Monrovia to assess the progress of reconstruction of Liberia's security system. The team was dispatched under the peace accord that followed the resignation last August of warlord President Charles Taylor and ended Liberia's 14-year civil war.