

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:

Thursday, May 27, 2004

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The Exclusive

Thursday May 27, 2009

Kabbah Mad Over Norman's Detention

By Joshua Kawa

President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah and his aides have become furious over the indictment and subsequent detention of the former

Minister of Internal Affairs and National Coordination of the Civil Defence Force (CDF), Chief Sam Hinga

Norman, sources close to the President State Lodge at Hill Station, Freetown, have disclosed.

The sources further disclosed that the president recently held talks with some of his government functionaries

to find a solution to the former government Minister's predicament that will likely create some political contro-

versy should the Special Court for Sierra Leone find the indicted guilty of bearing the greatest responsibility during the ten-year civil war in this country.



VOICE of AMERICA

Sierra Leone Special Court Readies For War Crimes Trials

Cindy Shiner

Washington

26 May 2004, 13:50 UTC



Shiner interview with Doug Farah[Download] (MP3)

Shiner interview with Doug Farah[Stream] (MP3)

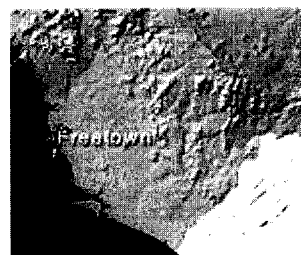


The Special Court for Sierra Leone is to begin trials of war crimes suspects next week.

The first three to stand trial are members of the Civil Defense Forces, also known as Kamajors. They face charges of unlawful killings, abductions, sexual violence and the use of child soldiers. Sierra Leonean soldiers and rebels of the Revolutionary United Front, or RUF, are also to stand trial.

But, so far, one of the main suspects remains at large: Charles Taylor, the former president of Liberia. He is accused of backing the RUF in exchange for diamonds. He is also suspected of helping the al-Qaeda terrorist network gain access to diamonds, which they allegedly used to finance their activities.

Former Washington Post reporter Doug Farah investigated Mr. Taylor's alleged connection to al-Qaeda and documents the terrorist organization's presence in West Africa in his new book, "Blood from Stones - The Secret Financial Network of Terror."



Mr. Farah said he was surprised that the United States has not sought Mr. Taylor's arrest more actively, given the former president's involvement in Sierra Leone and alleged links with al-Qaeda. The State Department says it is up to Nigeria to turn Mr. Taylor over to the Special Court. Nigeria gave Mr. Taylor asylum when he fled Liberia in August last year.

Mr. Farah spoke to VOA's Cindy Shiner. Click above links to download or listen to interview.



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The Comment

Thursday May 27, 2004

As TRC Report...

Amputees Vow To Go On the Rampage

The Chairman Sierra Leone Amputee and War Wounded Association (SLAWA), Alhaji Lamin Jusu Jarka, has in a very sarcastic manner told The Comment that if the life pension scheme is not entrenched in the TRC Report, they would go on nation wide rampage for the attention of the international community.

The Life Pension Scheme, which is transferable to their children, he said, was promised them by government. "Failure to include it in the TRC report would may trigger a nation wide protest against government. Mr. Jarka said emphatically.

He said most amputees now take to the streets begging for their living because of government's negligence in providing them relief food supplies for nearly two years now for reasons unknown. He explained that in a recent meeting with Regional Executive members of the Association in Bo, Kenema and Makeni, it was resolved to exercise some amount of restraints until the TRC report is released.

He blamed the rebel war on injustice, greed and lavishness by government officials who have little or no respect for human dignity.



Catholic Church Calls for War Crimes Tribunal, Says It Would Set Deterrence

The NEWS (Monrovia)

NEWS

May 24, 2004

Posted to the web May 25, 2004

Monrovia

The Catholic Archdiocese of Monrovia says the establishment of a war crime tribunal in Liberia would be a necessary step in helping to curtail future human rights violation in the country.

In a statement Wednesday on the prevailing situation in Liberia, the Catholic Archdiocese said while it does not oppose any setting up of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission or any other transitional justice systems, it believes that the war crimes tribunal is an additional mechanism to correct the wrongs.

The Catholic Church emphasized that the establishment of a war crimes tribunal would set a deterrent for any future recurrence of inhumanity that has visited Liberians for more than 14 years.

Touching on the disarmament process, the Catholic Archdiocese warned that the process must not be disrupted or manipulated by warlords of former combatants, adding that the warlords and combatants should remember that their cooperation is essential to the success of the process.

The Catholic Church reminded the power-sharing government of its obligations to face social, economic, political and other issues of the people with transparency and honesty.

"The Government must be at the service of all the people or our ancestral land rather than promote selfish or kinship interests," the Catholic Church stressed.



VOICE of AMERICA

Former Sierra Leone Rebels Face Problems Becoming Politicians

Nico Colombant

Freetown

26 May 2004, 14:52 UTC



Sierra Leone rebels' future looks bleak

(VOA photo - N. Colombant)

Power-sharing peace deals in Africa often bring former rebels into an interim government. But last week in Sierra Leone, the former rebels of the Revolutionary United Front were unable to field candidates for local elections because of a lack of money. U-N officials and some human-rights activists in Sierra Leone think that is a good thing, but former rebels and other activists warn it could be dangerous and that the grievances that led to the civil war remain.

The former rebels, now known by their acronym R-U-F-P, with P for party, were hoping to field 35 candidates in last week's local elections. But failed fund-raising efforts prevented Secretary-General Jonathan Kposowa from supporting their campaigns.

"What I told them was that I do not have money. So to avoid all other things that might lead to maybe the downfall was for me to take my hands off the elections. I can not move. I do not even have a mobile. Mobile in the sense I do not have transport. I do not have the communication set. So we need to get all these things," he says.

Mr. Kposowa's office is the lobby of a run-down building in central Freetown. Former combatants from the war, which ended in early 2002, mill around or sit, swatting at flies. Some of them did not join the U-N-sponsored disarmament process, so they got no money and no training, and now they feel they have no future.

Many, who did join the process, quickly spent their compensation money, and despite U-N training, also failed to find work.

The resources of the rebels completely disappeared after their leader, Foday Sankoh, died last year while in custody, awaiting the trial for war crimes by the Special U-N Court for Sierra Leone. Mr. Sankoh had been ill.

Since his death, rebel leaders have been unable to locate his personal wealth, which had been funding their activities. During the war, the rebels also earned money from illegally trading diamonds from areas under their control.

Mr. Kposowa says the government should help to make sure the former fighters do not become completely disillusioned with the peace process.

"Presently, I am asking the government of Sierra Leone to make sure to let them know that we are not just from the sky. We are bound citizens of this country so they should try to do something about that. Presently, we are suffering. People are not working. They are not jobbing. You see all these guys that are sitting out here. Every day, they have to eat, they have women, they have children, and I do not know how they are expecting us to live," he says.

The rebels' failed presidential candidate in 2002, Pallo Bangura, who has now left the party, says this could be dangerous.

"If a body, a group of people that fought for so long, especially many young people and they are not given an opportunity to improve themselves, to be in the mainstream there is always the possibility of relapse and really we should try to forbid that. That is why I believe they should be helped along. Of course, you cannot force people. It is also incumbent on the R-U-F-P to render itself attractive to do everything necessary to survive," he says.

Mr. Bangura finished fourth in the presidential election, after being Energy Minister in the brief power-sharing national unity government.

Human-rights activist Zainab Bangura, who is not related to the former presidential candidate, says evidence that rebels raped, maimed, and killed thousands of people during the war, while looting villages and coercing children to join their ranks, should make them ineligible in any election.

"With the death of Foday Sankoh, there was no way the R-U-F could survive. Secondly with the record of brutality and atrocities that they committed against people, they created so much bitterness within the community that it would take years for Sierra Leone to be able to forgive them. So there is no way the R-U-F can survive as an institution," she says.

Other human-rights activists, such as Frances Fortune, say even with the rebels' record it is unfortunate they have completely disappeared from the political scene. Ms. Fortune works for a group called Talking Drum Studio, which works for reconciliation among the people in Sierra Leone, trying to ease the lingering tensions and disagreements left over from the civil war.

"We are disappointed. After all this time, after all this effort, that they could not even put up one candidate. We thought that the R-U-F should at least have one to legitimize their status as a political party," she says.

One man overjoyed by the former rebels' political demise is the head of the U-N peacekeeping mission in Sierra Leone, Daudi Mwakawago.

"I am happy. Sometimes you bolster them by giving them life when they should not have any life at all. If they can disappear forever, it would be good for Africa, good for Sierra Leone, good for everybody. Do you want a rebel? I am asking, do you want a rebel? I want citizens who have civic duty, not rebels," he says.

But the head of the R-U-F-P, Mr. Kposowa, vows there will be a future for his organization, and that its goals remain the same. During the war, the rebels talked about establishing universal health care and free education, stopping corruption, and distributing the wealth from the country's diamond trade.

"We are going to fight, fight in the sense, to develop the state and to come up with our aims and objectives stated in the revolution," he says.

Mr. Kposowa finished the interview by asking for money to pay for his transport back to his home on the outskirts of Monrovia. The former rebel presidential candidate, Mr. Bangura, says he is still looking for a job, any job, after missing out on the top job in the country.



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Amnesty paints bleak picture

27/05/2004 10:24 - (SA)

Abidjan - Rights watchdog Amnesty International painted a bleak picture on Wednesday in a report detailing the litany of human rights abuses committed against west Africans last year.

From violence against women to harassment of journalists, the restive sub-region, which includes a handful of the world's poorest countries, was pummelled by conflict, disease and economic insecurity, according to the annual report.

No country faced greater human rights violations in 2003 than Liberia, which in August emerged from 14 years of war that engaged the entire sub-region, Amnesty said.

"Those responsible for human rights abuses enjoyed almost total impunity," the report said, citing acute shortages of food, water and sanitation, forced recruitment of children into fighting forces, rape and the intentional displacement of thousands of people as fighting raged.

Sierra Leone a "bright spot"

Neighbouring Ivory Coast, which has tumbled deeper into crisis since January of this year, is facing similar problems with impunity on both sides of the conflict spawned by a failed rebellion to oust President Laurent Gbagbo in September 2002 that boiled over into civil war.

"Human rights abuses continued to be perpetrated by all parties to the conflict, resulting in tens of thousands of civilians fleeing" Amnesty said.

"Despite commitments by all parties to the conflict to accept an international inquiry into human rights abuses since the September 2002 uprising, impunity remained the rule and fuelled further human rights abuses."

One bright spot in the region was "improvements in the human rights situation" registered in Sierra Leone, which in 2002 finally declared an official end to a decade of rebel war considered among the most brutal in modern history.

In consolidating the peace process, watched over by what at its peak was the largest UN peacekeeping mission ever, Sierra Leone made strides toward increasing state control over its lucrative diamond industry and in addressing the wrongs committed during the war.

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A truth and reconciliation commission has been established but has not yet released its report due to lack of funds, while a UN-backed war crimes court to try those who bear the greatest responsibility for the war is to begin trials on June 3.

Even Ghana and Senegal, lauded by the international community for their stable governments, economic growth and attention to human rights, came in for criticism in the report.

Ghana was rapped for continuing to impose the death penalty while Senegal elicited concern for the tension and insecurities that prevail in the southern Casamance region and for the harassment and intimidation suffered by journalists.

Edited by Anthea Jonathan

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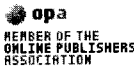
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AWOKO

Thursday May 27, 2004

Canada urged to extradite killer

Mozambique's Foreign Minister Leonardo Simao has said it is trying to have convicted murderer Anibal Antonio dos Santos extradited from Canada. Dos Santos was serving a 28-year jail term for killing one of Mozambique's top investigative journalists, Carlos Cardoso, when he escaped on 9 May.



Anibalzinho was serving time for the murder of journalist Carlos Cardoso

He was recaptured by Interpol at Toronto airport. Mr Simao told the BBC he was optimistic that Dos Santos would be returned to Mozambique. There is no extradition treaty between the two countries. Dos Santos - better known as Anibalzinho - previously

escaped while awaiting trial in September 2002, and was only caught a year later in South Africa. Mozambique's attorney-general's office said last week that the fugitive made his latest escape with police help and an inquiry was under way. Reuters news agency reported Anibalzinho was convicted in absentia of leading the

death squad that assassinated Cardoso in November 2000 - described as Mozambique's worst-ever murder. He was serving his 28-year sentence in a prison in the capital, Maputo. Five co-defendants were also convicted and are serving lengthy sentences. Cardoso was investigating the 1996 disappearance of \$14m from a commercial

bank which was killed. The Interior Ministry said circumstances of Anibalzinho's latest disappearance were not known. However, a daily independent newsheet in Maputo, Mediafax, cited an anonymous prison source as saying that Anibalzinho was taken out of the jail by accomplices.

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Panafrican News Agency (PANA) Daily Newswire May 25, 2004

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May 25, 2004

LENGTH: 266 words

HEADLINE: NIGERIA, TROIKA MEET IN ABIDJAN

BODY:

Brussels, Belgium (PANA) - Nigerian Foreign minister Olu Adeniji and a European **troika** met in **Abidjan** in continuing political dialogue between **Nigeria** and the European Union, a joint statement by both parties indicated here Monday.

The statement said the two sides exchanged views on the situation in West Africa, especially in Sierra Leone, Liberia and Cote d'Ivoire.

The European delegation recognised **Nigeria's** key role in stability in the sub-region and expressed the EU's readiness to support Abuja's efforts towards the prevention of conflicts in West Africa.

The delegation from Brussels presented a strategy mooted by the EU to preserve peace and security in West Africa.

The European delegation expressed total support for peacekeeping operations initiated by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

The Nigerian side acknowledged EU political, moral and financial support, citing in particular the 250-million euro Financial Support Facility for Peacekeeping Operations in Africa.

Both parties urged all sides in the Ivorian crisis to comply with the Linas-Marcoussis agreements and cooperate with the government of national reconciliation.

The European delegation emphasised that the disbursement of credits approved for Cote d'Ivoire under the 9th European Development Fund (EDF) would be contingent upon progress in the implementation of the Linas-Marcoussis agreements.

In their joint statement, the Nigerian government and the European delegation expressed their determination to fight terrorism at national and international levels.

JOURNAL-CODE: WPNA

LOAD-DATE: May 26, 2004

"You are all aware of the dangers of a lack of things to do for young people, and of a sense on their part, not only that their personal futures are uncertain, but most dangerously that others in society continue to profit from corrupt behaviour" - UK Development Minister

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VOLUME 6 NUMBER 3

Editor: Victor Sylver

MAY 15, 2004

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PRESS RELEASE

Bush: "America will not be a Safe haven for Corrupt Officials"

May 25, 2004 -- The White House announced a new policy that bars visas for corrupt officials. Several Sierra Leone officials have so far been placed on the list of individuals barred from receiving visas due to their corrupt practices. The visa ban also covers their family members. In accordance with current U.S. confidentiality policy, the U.S. Embassy cannot publicize the names of the affected individuals. Additional corruption cases in Sierra Leone are under review by the Embassy. More visa bans are expected.

President Bush's Proclamation 7750, suspends entry into the United States of corrupt public officials, those who corrupt them, their families and dependents. Past and present officials are covered by the new rule. Conviction for corruption is not required for an official to be added to the ban, so long as a reasonable belief exists that corruption occurred. Once a person is put on the corruption list, this fact is immediately known at every US Embassy, consulate and border crossing post worldwide.

Since the signing of the first international anticorruption convention in 1996, the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption, there has been increasing awareness of the impact corruption has on democracy and development. Although the United States was one of the first nations to address this issue internationally, with the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act in 1977, corrupt individuals from abroad continue to use the United States as a safe haven for themselves, their families, and their ill-gotten gains.

Over the last year, the U.S. has helped lead international efforts to establish a "No Safe Haven" policy, a commitment from countries to deny safe haven to corrupt officials, those who corrupt them, their families and assets. The United States endorsed the G-8 Anticorruption Action Plan at the Evian Summit in 2003. The United States helped lead efforts to advance anticorruption elements of the Special Summit of the Americas, endorsed in the Declaration of Nuevo Leon on January 13, 2004. President Bush has sent cabinet-level delegations to the Global Fora on Combating Corruption and Safeguarding Integrity. The World Bank has declared corruption to be the single greatest barrier to development in the developing world, a concern that the US Government has



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Smashing the Expo Times web of deceit, lies and outright dishonesty

echoed on a number of occasions. Corruption fundamentally threatens public trust and the integrity of basic institutions, therefore undermining both democracy and security.

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for justice and
the truth for
the people of
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U.N. WIRE

UNITED NATIONS FOUNDATION National Journal

Amnesty Says U.S.-Led War On Terror Undermines Human Rights

Close Window

Human rights and humanitarian laws are under greater threat worldwide than at any time since the United Nations was founded more than half a century ago, [Amnesty International](#) said today.

In its annual report, the London-based human rights group cites attacks on civilians by extremist groups such as al-Qaeda that should be considered crimes under international law, with some amounting to crimes against humanity. But the report also blames the erosion of human rights on the U.S.-led war on terror, saying that governments that have pledged to fight terrorism are ignoring international laws and human rights principles.

"The global security agenda promulgated by the U.S. administration is bankrupt of vision and bereft of principle," said Amnesty Secretary General Irene Khan. "Sacrificing human rights in the name of security at home, turning a blind eye to abuses abroad and using pre-emptive military force where and when it chooses have neither increased security nor ensured liberty."

Amnesty's annual summary of human rights conditions begins with a tribute to Sergio Vieira de Mello, the U.N. high commissioner for human rights who was killed last August in the bombing of U.N. headquarters in Baghdad.

Khan said his death at the hands of terrorists highlights the threat posed by "those who are ready to use any means to further their political objectives," but she cautioned that even terrorists should be brought to trial in accordance with international law (Jimmy Burns, *Financial Times*, May 26).

The 339-page report cites the hundreds of foreign nationals held without charge or trial in the U.S.-run detention center in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and also mentions allegations of extrajudicial killings of Iraqi civilians and prisoner abuse ([Associated Press/News24.com](#), May 26).

The report covers the period January to December 2003 and was completed before the latest evidence of U.S. mistreatment of detainees at Baghdad's Abu Ghraib prison.

Khan also said that Iraq and the war on terror have exacerbated what she called "the greatest human rights challenge of our times" — the tendency of governments to spend heavily on the military while ignoring "economic and social justice" (Burns, *Financial Times*). That trend has imperiled the U.N. Millennium Development Goals that include reducing child mortality, improving maternal health and halving the number of people without access to clean drinking water ([AP/News24.com](#)).

The Amnesty survey includes reports of torture and ill treatment by state authorities in 132 countries, detention without trial in 58, extrajudicial executions or unlawful killings in 47 and human rights violations by armed opposition groups in 35.

It notes just a handful of positive developments, including progress at the International Criminal Court and greater scrutiny of U.S. and British policies by the judicial systems in those countries (Burns, *Financial Times*).

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U.N. WIRE

UNITED NATIONS FOUNDATION National Journal

Reports Indicate New Threat From Al-Qaeda

Close Window

By Jim Wurst, *U.N. Wire*

UNITED NATIONS — As a new threat emerged that al-Qaeda may try to strike this summer and the International Institute for Strategic Studies announced that al-Qaeda has 18,000 "potential operatives" worldwide, the chairman of the U.N. Security Council Sanctions Committee said yesterday that governments' compliance with council-mandated sanctions against al-Qaeda and remnants of the Taliban is "uneven."

The sanctions — which include a travel ban, a freeze on financial assets and an arms embargo — were imposed on the Taliban, the former rulers of Afghanistan, and al-Qaeda in 1999. The council requires governments to report on implementation of the sanctions.

"The quality of these reports is uneven," Ambassador Heraldo Munoz of Chile, the committee chairman, told the council. "Most do not provide precise details of actions taken by member states to implement the sanctions regime."

Many states "did not appear to have incorporated the al-Qaeda-Taliban sanctions measures in their domestic legislation or administrative rules and consider their existing laws sufficient to deal with all forms of terrorism," he said. "However, this does not always appear to be supported by the facts, especially with regard to the freezing of financial assets and economic resources."

U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge said today new information indicates the threat of an al-Qaeda attack this summer, possibly connected to high-profile events such as the G-8 summit in Sea Island, Georgia, next month, or the two U.S. presidential nominating conventions in July and August in Boston and New York.

"I can confirm that we have seen for the past several weeks a continuous stream of reporting that talks about the possibility of attacks on the United States," he said, "but not unlike what we've seen for the past several years," Associated Press reported.

Al-Qaeda Has 1,000 Operatives In Iraq, Institute Says

In its annual *Strategic Survey* released yesterday, the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies said al-Qaeda has 18,000 "potential operatives" around the world and remains a "viable and effective" organization.

"Al-Qaeda must be expected to keep trying to develop more promising plans for terrorist operations in North America and Europe, potentially involving weapons of mass destruction," John Chipman, the institute's director, said at a London news conference. The report says the invasion of Iraq may have helped al-Qaeda's cause and that there are now some 1,000 operatives in that country.

When asked at the news conference about the IISS study, Munoz said, "We don't have a sense of growth but we have a clear perception that there has been a decentralization of al-Qaeda. It is no longer a hierarchical movement, but rather it is a diverse network of many smaller groups and organizations," usually 30-40 members. However, "there is recruiting going on, so that we are far from seeing a diminution of al-Qaeda," he added.

He would not be drawn into any speculation about al-Qaeda's presence in Iraq. The committee has not been to Iraq, "so I cannot say anything with any degree of certainty," Munoz said. Referring to reports from authorities in Iraq, he said, the fighters are "composed of a variety of groups" including Baathists and foreign fighters "who take advantage of the theater for their own cause."

"We don't have concrete information," but "the foreign fighters are a minimal proportion," while most of those taking up arms are Iraqis, he added.

Security Council sanctions were originally imposed on al-Qaeda and the Taliban under Resolution [1267](#) in 1999. The sanctions committee's mandate was expanded in Resolutions [1455](#) of January 2003 and [1526](#) of January 2004. The main tool against the two groups is a list maintained by the committee that contains the names of more than 300 individuals and 100 "entities" linked to the two groups.

Munoz said the list is not widely used by governments in monitoring banking and the arms embargo. States do, however, seem to be using the list more for enforcing the travel ban, he said.

Many states are not giving full reports on arms embargo, he said, but states do "appear to have adequate regulations to deal with the illegal" transfers of arms in general, Munoz said.

While the sanctions regime is getting stronger, al-Qaeda is finding new ways to circumvent the restrictions, Munoz said. Over recent months, Munoz said, one "new trend" al-Qaeda is using for raising and transferring money is using legitimate businesses, such as import-export firms, to transfer money across national borders. "Tracing the money trail in these cases has proved to be a difficult task," he said.

He said the committee was also receiving reports that the terrorist group is expanding into other criminal activities, such as smuggling and kidnapping. In addition, Munoz said governments have to give more attention to "cash couriers" as a new method of moving money around the world.

At a news conference after the council meeting, Munoz said 126 of the 191 U.N. member nations have submitted the reports, and predicted that there will be "very few countries in the end that will not report." He said that would not be from lack of will but rather a "lack of resources."

Some states "took the view that the al-Qaeda issue was not of direct concern to their country and they saw no need to give high priority to the reporting requirement," Munoz told the council. "It was made clear to us that developing countries have many priorities besides counterterrorism" and some of the provisions of the sanctions are "tremendously expensive," he said.

Therefore "there should be a continued awareness of avoiding a North-South divide in the fight against terrorism," added Munoz, and a "need for a dialogue between cultures which will further tolerance and mutual understanding."

Much of his report dealt with the results of his mission earlier this month to Algeria, Tunisia, Spain and Senegal, as well as reports submitted since his last report to the council in January. He said he will be visiting countries in Asia and the Middle East "in the following months."

He said he was encouraged by increased cooperation between European and North African countries, with the Africans collecting more information and the Europeans using their greater resources to act on that information. Especially since the March bombings in Madrid, he said, there has been a "great deal of dialogue and cooperation," including a regional counterterrorism center to be set up in Algeria.

For more on the debate, click [here](#).

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