

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:

Monday, August 23, 2004

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.
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SIERRA LEONE Special Court in bribery scandal

The Special Court for Sierra Leone has been controversial since its inception. The latest is a bribery scandal involving witnesses.

Mike Butscher reports from Freetown.

The Special Court for Sierra Leone was set up two years ago by the United Nations and the government of Sierra Leone with the mandate to try those who "bear the greatest responsibility" of war crimes committed in the country since 30 November 1996.

As of February this year, 11 people associated with all three of the country's former warring factions had been indicted by the court, but only six had gone on trial. These include Sam Hinga Norman, the former deputy defence minister and head of the civil defence forces (popularly known as *Kamajors*); and Issa Sesay, the deputy leader of the defunct Revolutionary United Front (RUF).

Nearly all the indictees have challenged the constitutional powers of the court to try them. The most popular local indictee, Foday Saybana Sankoh (the former RUF leader) and his battlefield commander, Sam Mosquito Bockarie, have died, while the whereabouts of Major Johnny Paul Koroma, the former AFRC coup leader, are still unknown.

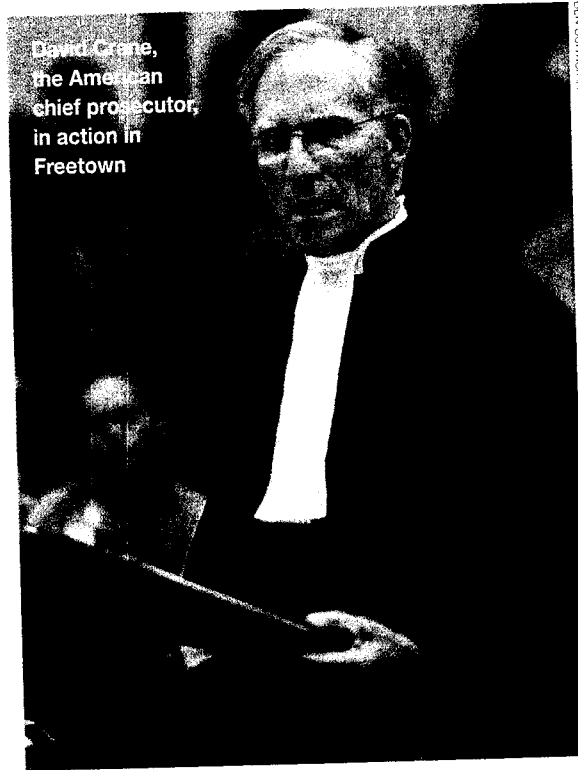
So far, the most high-profile "international" indictee, has been the former president of Liberia, Charles Taylor, who is now in exile in Nigeria as guest of the Nigerian government, which says it will only hand him over to an elected government in Liberia.

The two trials so far held by the court in its lavish and sprawling court house in Freetown, have been dramatic and revealing. The UN is reported to have spent nearly US\$100m on the court so far.

Critics maintain that this huge money could have been used to provide for thou-

sands of amputees who are still struggling to have a daily meal.

Alternatively, half of the amount could have been used to support the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission which made tremendous impact within its short existence. But this is the UN – and the real world. So the court continues to provide jobs for mainly Americans and Europeans



David Crane, the American chief prosecutor, in action in Freetown

BEN CHUMSIFAR

room how the prosecution paid a total of US\$10,500 to two witnesses to testify against RUF indictees.

"We can't feel confident in cross-examining witnesses until we know what the prosecution is up to," Clayson said. Many people are asking why a prosecution witness should be paid US\$6,000 to testify in court.

The defence also objected to prosecutor David Crane's use of words like "hounds from hell and dogs of war" in referring to their clients. Crane is a former US Army lawyer. His outbursts are making people doubt the neutrality of the court. He is on record to have publicly threatened that "people like Hinga Norman may never see the light of day". Legal analysts say the presumption of innocence of the indictees may be compromised by such utterances.

It was Crane who orchestrated the failed plan to arrest Charles Taylor while he was attending the Liberian peace conference in Accra, Ghana, in June last year.

The court's request to extradite Taylor was embarrassingly snubbed by the Ghanaian government which felt that Crane's order was grossly undiplomatic and highly disrespectful of the African leaders from Mozambique, South Africa, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Ghana who had met in Accra with Taylor to find ways of kick-starting the Liberian peace process.

In March this year, President John Kufuor of Ghana told *New African* in an interview: "It was when the presidents were leaving my office for the Conference Centre, where Mr Taylor was expected to make a statement [about his standing down as president], that word came in that a warrant had been issued for his arrest. I really felt betrayed by the international community, because one would expect that due consultation, reparation and all that would be made before a decision of such magnitude was announced. You don't invite a president of another country to your country only to arrest him. The consequences would have been vast and untold."

When that failed, Crane went into overdrive and announced that the Libyan leader, Muammar Gaddafi, was listed among new indictees. He has since kept quiet about this. It appears that Crane is in a hurry to get a

with a token number for Sierra Leoneans. Now the court is caught up in a bribery scandal involving witnesses. This threatens the credibility of the prosecution.

In mid-July, Timothy Clayson, counsel for Issa Sesay, told the spellbound court-

conviction at any cost – perhaps to justify the millions of dollars that the UN has spent on the court.

Many staunch supporters of the ruling SLPP have been asking questions about Crane's moral right to lead evidence of war crimes against Hinga Norman who is regarded by many Sierra Leoneans as a national hero for his valiant fight against the rebels who wanted to take over the country.

"America does not want its soldiers to face the international court of justice for war crimes. Look at what they did to civilians in Iraq? Yet, we have here a pompous American lawyer who thinks he has more powers than the president," said one Norman supporter.

Other Norman supporters argue that his former boss, President Tejan Kabbah, has betrayed him. "Norman took instructions from Kabbah who was the head of the government that provided Norman with logistics, arms and ammunitions for the Kamajor militia. I think Kabbah should stand trial too, because he was and still is minister of defence under whom Norman served," says a former Kamajor commander.

Speaking at a court hearing, an impassioned David Crane described the alleged "war crimes" committed by Norman as "beyond imagination". He told the court: "These so-called defenders of the nation were really offenders of the nation."

The court has so far failed to provide evidence of Norman's direct involvement in any of the alleged atrocities except that he allegedly ordered or acknowledged the committal of such crimes.

The country is sharply divided over the relevance of the court and the moral authority of its American chief prosecutor. Those for the court argue that it is the "beginning of the triumph of law over anarchy and the demolition of the culture of impunity".

The antagonists maintain that the court is a betrayal of those who defended the nation in its darkest hours, and that the court will not serve the purpose of peace and national stability.

Writing in one of the local newspapers recently, Vandi S. Nabbie, a Sierra Leonean lawyer, put it even better: "Some of the chief prosecutor's public outbursts are unbecoming of a prosecuting counsel. For good or evil, we watch this imported experience with anxiety and concern." ■ NA

SUDAN

So near, yet so far

Prospects for an immediate end to conflict in the south are rapidly fading as the crisis in Darfur in the west holds the peace process hostage. **Peter Moszynski** reports.

The African Union's ambitions of a speedy political resolution to the Darfur crisis were dashed following the 18 July collapse of talks in Ethiopia, while negotiations for a comprehensive ceasefire for south Sudan also hit the rocks in Naivasha, Kenya.

Khartoum's policy of courting current anti-American sentiment in Arab and African countries in an attempt to ward off UN sanctions could well lead to an escalation in international concern as delays in humanitarian access lead to claims of genocide.

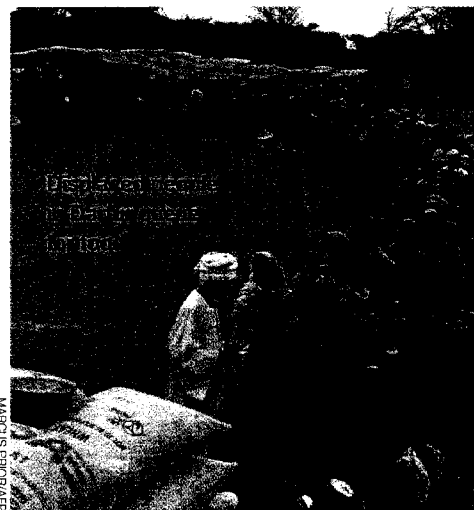
The rebels insist on six conditions before recommencing face-to-face talks. As well as disarming the Janjaweed militia, the rebels say Khartoum must: assist an international inquiry into genocide allegations, bring those responsible to justice, allow unimpeded humanitarian access, free prisoners of war and agree a neutral venue for future talks.

Meanwhile, as border tensions continue to escalate between Ethiopia and Eritrea, John Garang, the SPLA leader, has met with the northern Sudanese opposition National Democratic Alliance in the Eritrean capital, Asmara. The Darfur rebels refused to negotiate in Addis Ababa on the grounds that Sudan has a military alliance with Ethiopia.

Garang needs to convince his northern allies how they benefit from a settlement that divides power between him and President Bashir. Garang said the agreement "does not belong to the SPLM alone, or to the south, it must include the NDA and all other Sudanese political forces".

He, however, warned that there would be no deal that ignored Darfur. He is now also raising the issue of the Red Sea Hills, where the Beja Congress and other armed groups refuse to put down their arms without being included in the peace talks.

International pressure is increasing daily. The US secretary of state, Colin Powell, and the UN secretary-general, Kofi Annan, were both shaken by transparently-deceptive stage-managed visits to refugee "show-camps" in



Darfur in early July, and both are losing patience with Khartoum.

Powell said: "We're going to keep the pressure up. We're not going to let the Sudanese government get away with just promises. We're expecting action and we'll be measuring them against the action they take, not the promises they make." Sudan's foreign minister, Mustafa Othman Ismail, says the crisis has been exaggerated and Western statements on Darfur are "affronts to Sudan and its people."

Khartoum has been courting support from Arab, Islamic and African countries. Mustafa Ismail warned: "Any negative intervention by the Security Council will impair and complicate the relationship between the Council and the Sudanese government and will not be conducive to solving the issue."

But the WHO insists that international action cannot wait: "Hundreds of thousands of people's lives are now hanging in the balance, and they need help now."

According to Human Rights Watch (HRW), Sudanese government documents show clear support for the Janjaweed. HRW director Kenneth Roth said: "We can no longer trust Khartoum to police itself when Khartoum is part of a large problem." ■ NA

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Top cop charged over young girl

By John Silvester, Andrea Petrie

August 20, 2004



Peter Halloran.

Picture: Mark Wilson

A senior Victorian policeman working for the United Nations in West Africa has been charged with sex offences involving an under-age girl.

Superintendent Peter Halloran, who is on unpaid leave from the Victoria Police, was charged with "unlawful carnal knowledge, indecent assault and procuring a girl under 14 years" during court proceedings in Sierra Leone on Wednesday.

Halloran, 56, was charged after he was released from hospital where he was being treated for pneumonia. He was remanded by Judge Bankole Shyllon to appear in court next Tuesday.

Halloran's Melbourne-based lawyer, Paul Duggan, said his client denied the charges.

He said the claim, made by a teenage girl in the West African nation's capital, Freetown, had been investigated by a United Nations board of inquiry and found to be unsubstantiated.

He said the alleged victim had made three separate and conflicting statements of complaint to authorities.

Mr Duggan said Halloran was co-operating with the investigation.

Halloran, a former head of the homicide squad and a former senior investigator with the National Crime Authority, is on a one-year contract with the UN as part of an international taskforce investigating war crimes.

He received the prestigious Australia Police Medal in the 2003 new year's honours list.

Mr Duggan said Halloran had previously surrendered his passport and undertaken to remain in Sierra Leone until the case was heard.

In a statement, war crimes court registrar Robin Vincent said the Sierra Leone police inspector-general was notified as soon as the allegations were made in June but was content with a special court inquiry into the matter.

The war crimes court immediately suspended Halloran from his duties.

Mr Vincent said the internal investigation found "insufficient evidence to support the allegation".

But Halloran was arrested and interviewed by local police on July 26 before being charged.

Mr Vincent said officials of the UN-backed tribunal and Halloran were co-operating with police.

"The special court does not condone any form of misconduct," he said.

"Mr Halloran has maintained his innocence throughout and is entitled to a presumption of innocence whilst the charge against him is subjected to the judicial process."

The UN tribunal is trying both rebels and Government-allied fighters for large-scale abuses committed after late 1996 in Sierra Leone's 1991- 2002 insurgency.

Thousands of civilians were killed, raped, kidnapped and hacked to pieces in the fight over Sierra Leone's rich diamond fields.

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Australian police officer refused bail on sex charges

August 20, 2004

A senior Australian policeman working with the UN-backed war crimes court in Sierra Leone, who has been charged with child sex offences, was denied bail by a Freetown court.

Peter Halloran, a superintendent from the Victoria State police, might "interfere with the prosecution witnesses" if he were granted bail, Sierra Leone state prosecutor Allieu Bah argued.

Defence Lawyer Blyden Jenkins-Johnston said he would appeal to the High Court in Freetown to overturn the magistrate's decision to deny bail.

Court sources said Halloran broke down and wept after bail was denied.

Charges filed yesterday accused Halloran of raping a 13-year-old Freetown schoolgirl. He was taken into custody at Freetown's maximum security prison and his passport confiscated.

"Victoria Police has been advised one of its members, a superintendent, who is currently on 12 months' leave without pay, has been charged by the Sierra Leone Police," a spokeswoman for the force said in Melbourne.

"Victoria Police has also been advised that the member has been remanded in custody."

Halloran has been in Sierra Leone on a 12 month UN contract investigating alleged war crimes.

Halloran was questioned by Sierra Leone police in late July but was not detained as there was little evidence to support allegations of inappropriate sexual contact.

His Australia-based lawyer Paul Duggan said earlier this month that Halloran has denied any wrongdoing.

The war crimes court had conducted its own internal investigation months earlier but found no evidence to support the charges, court spokesman Peter Andersen said.

"When the report was first made to the court, an inquiry was conducted but it found that there was insufficient evidence to support the allegations," he said.

"The Special Court has cooperated in all stages with the police during the investigation," Andersen added.

The war crimes court, in recess until September, aims to try those who bear the "greatest responsibility" for atrocities committed during the decade of civil war that ravaged the west African state until 2001.

AFP

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Child sex charges for UN cop

By Padraic Murphy

20aug04

A SENIOR Victorian police officer working for the United Nations in Africa has been charged with child sex offences after a fellow investigator allegedly discovered a 13-year-old girl in his bedroom.

Superintendent Peter "Prong" Halloran, who took leave from Victoria Police earlier this year to work as a war crimes investigator in Sierra Leone, has been charged with carnal knowledge involving the 13-year-old girl he employed as a housekeeper.

The Australian has confirmed that Mr Halloran was suspended from his position with the UN's Special Court in June after a female officer, believed to be Australian, discovered the girl drinking tea in his bedroom early one morning.

The female officer is believed to have encouraged the girl to give a statement to local police, and then complained to her superiors.

According to a report in Sierra Leone's *Concord Times* newspaper, Mr Halloran, 56, met the alleged victim earlier this year after approaching a gardener at the UN's Special Court in Freetown, telling him he needed a house girl.

The man offered his 13-year-old sister after Mr Halloran agreed to pay for her tuition fees until she graduated from university, as well as paying her family about \$150 a month.

The paper claims police had difficulty pursuing the assault allegations because the girl's family refused to co-operate, and even wrote a letter of apology to Mr Halloran.

The paper also claims the alleged victim told police she was sexually assaulted by Mr Halloran. "He plays with my breasts and makes love to me at night," the girl is reported to have told police.

The allegations were initially investigated by Special Court officials but they could not substantiate the allegations.

Mr Halloran was only charged on Wednesday after the investigation was formally taken over by Sierra Leone police last month.

Mr Halloran, who is now in custody awaiting trial, faces up to 15 years in prison if convicted.

The former head of Vicpol's homicide squad and protective services unit denies the allegations. Two of the alleged victim's brothers have also been charged with obstructing the course of justice and procurement-related offences.

Mr Halloran was able to travel to Africa even though Vicpol's Ethical Standards Department had received detailed allegations he had maintained relationships with Melbourne criminals beyond his police duties.

Sierra Leone is one of the poorest nations in the world and has been decimated over the past decade by a brutal civil war.

There have been numerous cases in the country of families who have sold their daughters

New Citizen
Monday August 23, 2004.

AUSTRALIAN POLICE TO MONITOR HALLORAN'S TRIAL

The Inspector General of Police, Brima Acha Kamara and his top management team, comprising the Chief of CID, F. U. K. Daboh, Commissioner Chris Charley, Christopher John from Makeni and others, have intimated that a top Australian police officer would soon arrive in Freetown to monitor the trial of Special Court Investigator, rape suspect Peter Halloran, who has been charged to court for having sex with a minor. The Investigation Commander of the Special Court,

Peter Halloran, is an Australian citizen who was recruited by the Special Court to investigate those Sierra Leoneans who bear the greatest responsibility in the disastrous ten-year war that led to the maiming, raping and killing of thousands of Sierra Leoneans.

Peter Halloran's investigative methods have been acclaimed by his colleagues at the Special Court but unfortunately, the one time highly respected Investigator found himself caught up in a very embarrassing scandal in

which a thirteen-year-old girl alleged that the Special Court Investigator abused her sexually, leading to the sad development which has caused Peter Halloran to be charged for rape and to be sent to Pademba Road Prisons as he was refused bail during his first appearance in Court.

The Australian government is concerned about the plight of its citizen, Peter Halloran, especially since the laws of Sierra Leone treat rape as a very serious offence for which a culprit can be sent to jail for

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as long as ten years. Up to this time, the Special Court Registrar, Robin Vincent, who claims that the Special Court had carried out a special investigation on the rape allegation, has not dissociated himself from the innocent plea of Peter Halloran. However, the Inspector General of Police, Brima Acha Kamara, has intimated the New Citizen that the po-

lice was satisfied that Peter Halloran could be charged to court because police investigations are clear that the Special Court Investigator should clear his name before a Court of Law.

The Inspector General of Police said emphatically that the law was no respecter of persons and that Peter Halloran would face the Court and anybody who attempts to influence

the Court proceedings or to undermine further investigations, would himself be arrested and charged to court for attempting to tilt the due process of the law.

The arrival of a senior police officer from Australia to monitor the trial of Peter Halloran is a proposal that has been accepted by the Sierra Leone Police force.

For d. People

Monday August 23, 2004

Halloran's Case To Be Tried In Camera

SPECIAL COURT police investigator Peter Halloran, who was indicted last week Thursday for sexual assault on an under-aged girl, will now have part of his case tried in camera, according to judicial sources.

The prosecution witness will not be allowed to make her testimony in public view and the press will not be allowed but after her testimony, the trial will then continue in public view.

A magistrate source said that what has been alleged to happen to PW 1 if it was in Europe, the witness and her family would move into another location and start a new life.

It is not known whether Halloran would be granted bail as he is presently standing trial for unlawful carnal knowledge with girl minor, indecent assault and procuring a girl under 14 years.



HALLORAN:shame!

Concord Times
Monday August 23, 2004

Obasanjo may surrender Taylor

By Chernoh Alpha M. Bah
Pressure is building on Obasanjo to surrender former Liberian President Charles Taylor to the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

Two Nigerian businessmen amputated by RUF rebels in Sierra Leone and the Nigerian Union of Journalists (NUJ) have filed separate suits in the Abuja High Court challenging the asylum granted to Taylor by the Nigerian government a year ago.

"We want Taylor face the music in Sierra Leone and realize the consequences of his actions when he

was Liberian head of state", NUJ president Smart Adeyemi said.

The Court is expected to rule on the NUJ vs Taylor suit by the end of the month.

Obasanjo expressed disapproval to hand Taylor over to the Special Court on the grounds that his continued exile in Calabar is vital to the continuing peace process in Liberia.

But US Ambassador to Nigeria John Campbell says the United States is continuing dialogue with Obasanjo on how to create the context in which Taylor's extradition may happen.

"The US is grateful to Obasanjo for the role he and Nigeria's peacekeeping troops have played in Liberia, and Washington has been careful not to be seen to be bullying its ally," Campbell said.

Taylor is indicted by the Special Court for bearing "the greatest responsibility" for crimes committed during Sierra Leone's civil conflict.



Charles Taylor, time running out