

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:

Friday, September 17, 2004

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.
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Hopes of fair trial for Halloran

From correspondents in Freetown, Sierra Leone
September 17, 2004

A TOP UN war crimes court official expressed hope today for a fair trial in Sierra Leone for an Australian war crimes investigator accused of having sex with a 13-year-old girl.

War crimes court registrar Robin Vincent's comments were the first from a leading official of the UN-backed war crimes court since Australian investigator Peter Halloran was arraigned on sex crime charges.

Mr Halloran, a senior Australian police official working as an investigator for the UN war crimes court, is on trial in this West African nation's High Court on four counts of sex crimes. He says he is innocent.

"I hope that for all concerned in this unfortunate matter it would be dealt with quickly, transparently and fairly, and that justice is the winner," Mr Vincent said.

Mr Vincent indicated the trial would be a test of the justice system in Sierra Leone, where courts and the government are trying to restore normalcy after a vicious 1991-2002 rebel insurgency.

Mr Vincent said the UN-backed war crimes court "is here to demonstrate the restoration of the rule of law and as such I have to have faith in the process which Peter Halloran must go through".

Mr Halloran's next court appearance on the charges is set for Wednesday.

The UN-Sierra Leone tribunal is trying both rebels and government-allied fighters for abuses committed in the latter years of the conflict.

The Associated Press

This report appears on NEWS.com.au.

The OSWALD HANCILES Column

Kamajors Are Greatest Heroes!!! (!?)

".....A prosecution witness in the on-going trial of CDF indictees of the Special Court TF2-032 has told the court that Kamajors are bad people and that they did nothing good for the people of Jaama Bongor Chiefdom. Asked whether Kamajors were instrumental in bringing the war to an end in Sierra Leone, the witness replied no. When Mr. Bockarie (a defence counsel) further put it to the witness whether he was aware that Kamajors were initiated and sent to their respective chiefdoms to defend their areas against rebels, the witness said he was not aware. The 73 year old witness who spoke in Mende through an interpreter in English was also crossed examined by (President of the Bar Association, Lawyer Charles Margai). Asked who liberated Bo from rebels, the witness said he did not know. 'I heard that ECOMOG liberated Bo. If Kamajors had done anything good, I will say it', he told the court. 'You don't want to give any credit to the Kamajors and this is your difficulty', Charles Margai JOKINGLY cautioned the witness during his cross-examination. The witness was born in Jaama Bongor Chiefdom....."

— **"Kamajors Are Bad People",** By Mohamed Mansaray, Salone Times, September 16, 2004

".....In April 1819, the British Colony on the Cape, Grahamstown, was menaced by a large Xhosa army. The Xhosa prophet, Nxele, had promised the Xhosa king, the Ndlambe, the ability to turn white men's bullets to water.....Believing in the powerful magic of Nxele, they advanced in massed columns against their enemy. The British, lined-up in formation, opened a withering fire with their muskets and artillery and decimated the Xhosa ranks, led personally by Nxele. One hundred warriors died, and nearly a thousand were wounded.....Liberty can't flourish in lands where the irrational is deeply rooted. I understand now President Kenyatta's speech, in 1968, when he asked a crowd of forty thousand Kenyans to stop the practice of witchcraft. The speech was made after the mass execution of fifteen people at Fort Victoria, because they had feasted on human body parts, believed to give them a sorcerer's power. It appears that the use of magic water and oils aren't the only excesses of magical thinking..."

— **"Bullets into Water: The Sorcerers of Africa",** by Rich-

ard Petraitis

"The Kamajors are one of the greatest heroes ever on the African continent, comparable to the ANC fighters of Nelson Mandela who fought against the racist Afrikaan regime in South Africa!": those were almost my exact words on SLTV's Press Review programme about two years ago. I echo those words again as I read with contempt the flurry of propaganda prosecution witness statements emanating from the Special Court in Freetown, and being emblazoned in some of our local newspapers - "Kamajors Eat Human Flesh....", etc.. For the forgetful, let me re-state why the Kamajors must be put on the highest pedestal of liberation fighters at any-time in human history.

This geographical borders of this "country" we now labelled "Sierra Leone" was carved out by British colonialist. The British didn't not colonize us because they wanted to spread Christian love. After 400 years of one of the most heinous periods in human history - the Atlantic Slave Trade - the British aimed to continue their crude exploitation of Africans under the guise of "trade": hence colonialism of Africa. "Mendes...Temnes...Lokos...Fullahs, etc..." became "Sierra Leoneans" through British coercion, and, some of our forefathers capitulated to British rule through British political chicanery, termed by historians as "divide and rule" strategy. "Independence" was granted this land because as experience in far away India showed, the costs of direct colonialism far out weighed the benefits for the British Crown.

As 'Historians of Truth' would agree, the African elites who took over the reins of government after 'independence' in 1961 worsened whatever systems of injustice and inequity that had sustained British rule here, and bequeathed to them by departing British colonialists. Twenty four years of APCistic crude, brutal, and flagrant abuse of all forms of justice went with hardly a protest by the 'saintly' Europeans/Americans who now power the Special Court. The APCistic system imploded - then exploded in the RUF 'rebel war'. The British-originated-Sierra Leonean army (with many British-trained Sierra Leonean military officers) could not perform the principal duty of a military in a state: to defend the people against external aggression. It was the military government of the NRPC that gave a lease of

life to the traditional "Kamajor" movement to defend the people against schizophrenic drug-and-diamond-crazed modern rebels at about 1994. From 1991 to 2000, one of the most nauseous wars ever in human history was waged in Sierra Leone - for DIAMONDS. Yes, diamonds in which the principals were Europeans/Americans. The 'civilized world' turned a blind eye as ordinary farmers, hunters, fishermen, school boys, teachers morphed into being "Kamajors" and valiantly defended their traditional lands and kept the rebel scum at bay. Now, the European/American-powered Special Court comes, and get ('pay'!?) witnesses to do propaganda against these GREATEST OF NEGRIOD HEROES.... Kamajors!!!

It is very likely that the Kamajors did commit some of the horrific acts they are being accused of in the Special Court - but that does not bely the sublime nature of their defence of their motherland. What country ever fought a war of defence and its soldiers and commanders never committed atrocities? Weren't Nelson Mandela's ANC fighters labeled "terrorists" as they planted bombs in Afrikaaner supermarkets, and the now world-famous revered Nelson Mandela stubbornly refused to renounce such violence for 27 years!? I pray that somewhere in the world, some big money man would 'hear' this dissemination of my thoughts, and be stirred by a keen sense of justice, and jump into this 'justice fray' with adequate money... so that we would, in print and video text and messages, put this "Special Court" in a "Very Special Special Court". In ways which some of our superficial intellectuals are failing to see as they think they are denigrating "Kamajors", the essence of the Special Court (where are the almost entirely WHITE-MAN diamond merchants from Antwerp to Tel Aviv and New York who traded in Sierra Leone's "blood diamonds!?!") encapsulate racist human beings in Europe and America tarring every thing black; this time, floodlighting the aberration of Kamajor atrocities, and blackening out the glorious fight for FREEDOM of Kamajor battles. Our rational minds would question some of the claims that steered Kamajor resistance - claims of bullet-proof invincibility; and ability of Kamajors to make themselves invisible at will smacks of legacies of the African's unscientific and suicidal past - but, thanks for the mind-strength of negroes like us: we will forever sing and chant the heroism of the "Kamajors"!!!!

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Terms: **ousted liberian leader will remain a cloud over justice for war crimes** (Edit Search)

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Associated Press Worldstream September 16, 2004 Thursday

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September 16, 2004 Thursday

SECTION: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

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LENGTH: 639 words

HEADLINE: U.N. envoy: **Ousted Liberian leader will** remain "a **cloud**" over **justice** for **war crimes**

BYLINE: EDITH M. LEDERER; Associated Press Writer

DATELINE: UNITED NATIONS

BODY:

Ousted Liberian leader Charles Taylor **will** remain "a **cloud**" over international efforts to turn the war-battered west African nation into an economically vibrant democracy until he is brought to **justice** for alleged **war crimes**, the U.N. envoy to Liberia said.

Taylor was indicted by a U.N.-backed **war-crimes** tribunal in June 2003 for his alleged support to rebels responsible for brutal atrocities during a decade-long civil war in neighboring Sierra Leone. He was toppled from power two months later and has been living in exile in Nigeria.

Jacques Klein, the U.N. special representative to Liberia, told reporters after briefing the Security Council on Wednesday that bringing Taylor to **justice** "is key" to ending the impunity that has marked the last quarter-century of conflict and turmoil in the country.

Taylor, a former warlord and Libyan-trained guerrilla, launched Liberia into conflict in 1989, when he led an insurgency to overthrow the government that killed an estimated 250,000 people over the next 14 years. He was elected president in 1997, and rebels took up arms against him two years later, but even though he is in exile he remains a player in **Liberian** politics.

"We know that there are people who commute basically between Monrovia and where he is," Klein said. "Now, he's no longer giving the guidance he did by telephone, for obvious reasons, but the messengers still go back and forth. And so he still is a **cloud** that hangs over much of what we do."

The U.N. envoy said he also stressed to the council that "a hard core" of Taylor supporters "are totally opposed to everything we are doing" because their future prospects are linked to the warlord and his return to the country.

He said there is a second group of people who are willing to work with the international community in restoring Liberia, but are unwilling to stick their necks out and make a commitment unless they are assured that Taylor **will** go before the U.N. **war crimes** tribunal in Sierra Leone.

Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo has refused to extradite Taylor, but has not ruled out compelling the former president to surrender to a future elected government in Liberia, if requested.

People who have talked to the Nigerians "say as soon as there's a new government in Liberia, a newly freely democratic elected government next year, then they would entertain the notion of his return," Klein said.

The U.N. envoy said 3,000 **Liberian** university students are being hired to register voters next spring, and elections are scheduled for fall 2005. But he said there is a serious question of whether a new democratic government **will** have "the gravitas or ... be united enough themselves to request his return."

"Ultimately you have to have **justice**," Klein said, noting that presidents and ministers in Liberia have been killed with impunity.


"Under Taylor nobody paid. So I think bringing him to **justice** is key to all of this. It's ultimately the credibility of the international community as well that you cannot kill people and commit crimes allegedly, and have impunity from any punishment," he said.

Klein said he also told the council of progress made in the last year, especially in disarming 71,000 combatants since December, including nearly 12,600 women, 4,900 boys and more than 1,350 girls. But these ex-combatants now need jobs.

While Liberia has rich natural resources including rubber, timber, gold and diamonds, the capital Monrovia still lacks electricity and running water, and the country desperately needs good government institutions, international investment, and sustained financial support from the international community, Klein said.

"You have to convince people that if you don't want to revisit a country time and again, you need to put in the resources to rebuild a stable society," he said.

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Terms: **ousted liberian leader will remain a cloud over justice for war crimes** ([Edit Search](#))

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Legal Moves to Extradite Taylor by Nigerians Invalid

Vanguard (Lagos)

NEWS

September 16, 2004

Posted to the web September 16, 2004

By Iseoluwa Ige

Abuja

Only UN special court can so request, says FG

THE Federal Government yesterday dismissed as laughable and academic, legal moves by two Nigerians to extradite former Liberian President, Charles Taylor to a United Nations Special Court sitting in Sierra Leone to face war crimes charges. The two Nigerians seeking Taylor's extradition are David Anyaele and Emmanuel Egbunam.

According to the Federal Government, if anybody or institution was to make such a request, it should be the UN Special Court sitting in Sierra-Leone and not the two Nigerians. Besides, it said Taylor had not breached the fundamental human rights of the two Nigerians as being claimed as to warrant his extradition.

According to the Federal Government, he (Taylor) "played no role whatsoever in the civil war in the neighbouring country of Sierra Leone, after all."

Instead, he "was rather busy at the material time containing the insurgents in his own country while at the same time coping with the influx of refugees from Sierra Leone into Liberia.

Counsel to the Federal Government, Mr Oluwole Aina who spoke in court yesterday at the resumption of hearing in the consolidated suit by the two Nigerians further explained that the demand for extradition did not lie in the mouths of David and Emmanuel because they were neither Taylor's prosecutors at the court nor the agents of the Sierra-Leonean Special Court.

Praying a Federal high court sitting in Abuja not to consequently entertain their civil suits seeking to quash the political asylum granted the former Liberian warlord, the Federal Government cited locus as one of its reasons for the prayer. Mr Aina argued that both

plaintiffs in the matter lacked locus standi to bring the action because they could not show how their personal interests would be affected if Taylor was not handed over to the Sierra-Leonean Special Court for prosecution.

He also argued that the two separate actions (now consolidated) brought by the plaintiffs were statute barred by the provisions of the Public Officers Protection Act and the rules of the court. Aina told the court that Section 2 of the Act provided that where an action is to be commenced against a public officer in respect of a wrong done, it cannot be commenced three months after the said action had been done.

According to him, Taylor came to Nigeria in August 2003 and the action to quash his asylum status was initiated on May 11, 2004, about nine months after the complained wrong had been done.

Citing *Fred Egbe Vs Justice J A Adefarasin, 1987, 1SC*, he said since the three months granted by law had elapsed, the cause of action was statute barred. Besides, the Federal Government said that the consolidated suits disclosed no cause of action known to law.

According to Aina who argued the Federal Government's objection, he said it was impossible to ask for an injunction to stop an action that had already been carried out. Counsel to the two litigating Nigerians is yet to respond to the arguments by the Federal Government.

It would be recalled that the duo of David and Emmanuel filed two separate suits before Justice Jonah Adah of the Federal high court, Abuja early this year.

In the suits, they were seeking for a declaration that the offer of political asylum granted by President Olusegun Obasanjo to Charles Taylor amounted to an unlawful usurpation and or delegation of the powers and functions of the Federal Commissioner for Refugees and the Eligibility Committee for Refugees.

They also asked the court for an order of certiorari, quashing the recommendation and offer of political asylum to Taylor in Nigeria. The high court judge had already assumed jurisdiction on an aspect of the consolidated suit and had given the applicants green-light to seek the review of the asylum status of Charles Taylor. But it declined jurisdiction on an aspect of the suit.

However, since the duo of David and Emmanuel were granted leave by the court to review the asylum status granted Charles Taylor, hearing could not commence in the matter because they found it difficult to serve Charles Taylor relevant court processes in the matter.

For instance, the court granted an order, upon request, directing Governor of Cross River to serve all necessary court processes in the case on Charles Taylor. But the state governor refused to serve as a link to the former Liberian warlord.

The governor was represented in court by the state's solicitor-general, Mr E. T. Ebuta who informed the court that Section 308 of the 1999 constitution precluded him from being served court processes and as such would not collect such processes for onward transfer to Charles Taylor who resided in his state.

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'How Taylor Can Appear in Court'

This Day (Lagos)

NEWS

September 16, 2004

Posted to the web September 16, 2004

By Lilian Okenwa

Abuja

The Federal Government yesterday stated that only the special court in Sierra Leone can compel the former Liberian President, Charles Ghanky Taylor, to appear in court.

It also declared that the Federal High Court, Abuja lacks jurisdiction to entertain a suit filed by two Nigerians - Emmanuel Egbuna and David Anyaele, challenging Taylor's stay in Nigeria on political asylum.

Taylor has been in asylum in Nigeria since he was persuaded by African leaders to quit office in order to pave way for peace in Liberia. He is indicted by a United Nations backed war crimes tribunal in Sierra Leone.

At the resumed hearing yesterday in Abuja, Saka Azimazi, counsel to National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), told newsmen that the decision of the commission to appear is informed by the issues raised, adding that its appearance and action in court "will be that of an impartial observer."

Taylor was for the second time not represented in court when the Federal Government advanced argument on its preliminary objection to the suit.

Oluwole Aino, counsel to the Federal Government, said that the plaintiffs' actions are not only incompetent, they are status barred and unknown to law.

According to him, while plaintiffs do not have the locus standi to institute the action, the Federal high court lacks the jurisdiction to entertain it, adding that the court strike out the suit.

"My lord," he said, "I urge you to uphold the objection, throw out the suit, so that they can come properly. I urge the court to hold that the action is status barred, incompetent and unknown to law."

The government further averred that since the two plaintiffs are not parties to the special court of Sierra Leone, they have no locus standi.

According to him, only the special court in Sierra Leone has the right to compel Taylor before the court and not the plaintiffs.

"I urge the court to hold that the plaintiffs lack the locus standi to institute the action," he added.

However, the presiding Judge, Justice Jonah Adah, adjourned till October 13 when Babatunde Fagbohunlu will reply for the plaintiffs.

In actions cited as FHC/ABJ/M216/2004 and FHC/ABJ/217/2004 Egbuna and Anyaele had respectively dragged Taylor, President Olusegun Obasanjo, Attorney General of the Federation, the federal commissioner of refugees and the eligibility committee for refugees before the court. However these were later consolidated by the court.

In the amended originating notice of motion pursuant to order 47 Rule 1 (1) and 5 (1) of the Federal High Court civil procedures rules 2000 Anyele is specifically praying for "an order of Mandamus directing the Federal commissioner for refugees, the eligibility committee and the National Commission for Refugees to "reopen and/or reconsider the refugee status/political asylum granted to "Taylor.

Earlier, Justice Adah struck out the suit filed by the Niger Delta Development Union (NDDU) over the non appointment of petroleum minister by President Obasanjo.

The court observed that NDDU failed to show it has suffered any loss on account of the action of the president and accordingly struck out the suit for lack of merit.



Case Against Taylor Adjourned

Daily Champion (Lagos)

NEWS

September 16, 2004

Posted to the web September 16, 2004

By David Agba
Abuja

A FEDERAL High Court, Abuja, yesterday adjourned hearing in the suit filed by two Nigerians against the asylum granted former Liberian President, Charles Taylor, till October 13.

David Anyaele and Emmanuel Egbuna whose limbs were chopped off on the alleged orders of Taylor during the country's civil war, want the Federal Government to drop the asylum status for him.

However, the Federal Government had filed a preliminary objection against the suit.

Mr. Wole Aina, counsel to the government in the matter in his objection had argued that the plaintiffs did not declare any interest in their affidavit.

He averred that government's granting political asylum to Charles Taylor was not a justifiable matter at the instance of the applicants.

He also said the claims of the plaintiffs do not indicate why they believe that the decision of the government to grant asylum to Taylor was illegal, adding that there was no document to also show that the asylum was illegal.

"The issue of illegality when raised must be proven beyond reasonable doubt. It is sufficient to say that particulars of illegality is not given not to talk of being proved beyond reasonable doubt.

"There is nothing to show that the right of the applicants have been violated by the recommendation of the government agencies.

"For the plaintiffs in this matter to succeed, they must show that their personal rights has been violated apart from the right he has with every other person in the community," Aina argued.

He said that it is only the Sierra-Leone special court that can come before the court for an order to compel Taylor to attend trial. "The plaintiffs here have no such right," he added.

"The Sierra-Leone special court is not a party in this suit and there is nothing to show that it has appointed the plaintiffs here to act on their behalf," he further said, adding that the plaintiff has no legal right to ask the court for an order of mandamus.

He also said that the action of the plaintiffs was statute barred. According to him, the applicants should have approached the court three months after.

He said an applicant cannot ask for an injunction after an action has been carried out. "Even though they have the opportunity to ask for an extension of time, they never did," he also submitted.

Counsel to the plaintiffs will, however, at the next adjourned date reply to the objection raised by the Federal Government.



AFRICA-AMERICA INSTITUTE

RUFP Says Their Target is to Rule Sierra Leone

Concord Times (Freetown)

NEWS

September 16, 2004

Posted to the web September 16, 2004

By Abdul Karim Koroma

Freetown


Revolutionary United Front Party (RUF) Wednesday challenged that they fear neither Sierra Leone Peoples Party (SLPP) nor All Peoples Congress (APC) for the forth-coming 2007 Presidential and General elections, but their target is to rule Sierra Leone.

RUF Western Area Chairman Samuel Gbassay Kanu disclosed that his party is observing the good and bad sides of the SLPP in order to form an opinion about the latter and help lure voters in the RUF favour.

"We strongly believe in our manifesto that is why we hope to win the forth-coming elections," Kanu said and continued, "if the elections are held today we will surely defeat the SLPP." He charged that if the SLPP uses Le 100 million and 70 vehicles to campaign, the RUF is capable of doing same.

According to him, they are going to give the APC, SLPP and Peace and Liberation Party (PLP) a run for their money during the 2007 elections, but declined disclosing their campaign strategies.

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Terms: un: women key to resolving armed conflict (Edit Search)

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M2 Presswire September 16, 2004

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M2 Presswire

September 16, 2004

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HEADLINE: UN: Women key to resolving armed conflicts, Deputy Secretary-General says at opening of gender justice conference

BODY:

M2 PRESSWIRE-SEPTEMBER 16, 2004-UN: Women key to resolving armed conflicts, Deputy Secretary-General says at opening of gender justice conference ©1994-2004 M2 COMMUNICATIONS LTD

Following are the opening remarks by Deputy Secretary-General Louise Frechette at "Peace Needs **Women, and Women** Need Justice", a conference on gender justice in post-conflict situations, delivered today in New York:

I am delighted to welcome all of you to the **United Nations**, and to open this important conference which we hope will move the agenda forward on **women**, peace and security. I thank the **United Nations** Development Fund for **Women** and the International Legal Assistance Consortium for making it possible.

Over the next three days, you will hear from **women** in **key** legal and judicial positions from around the world, including more than a dozen conflict zones, about why ensuring justice for **women** is so critical to establishing the rule of law and consolidating peace.

You will also hear from men and **women** in the international community at large.

In this way, this conference will seek to make a real connection between strategic policies and local realities. It will strive to make negotiations and deliberations about post-conflict situations answerable to the needs of **women** in post-conflict societies.

We know from our experience of modern conflict that **women** and girls suffer its impact increasingly and disproportionately.

They are usually neither the initiators of conflict nor the wagers of war, and yet they are specifically targeted, often as a way to humiliate the adversary and break the morale and resistance of whole societies.

Steps have been taken to end the culture of impunity surrounding this lamentable practice -- at the International Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, the Sierra Leone Special Court,

and in the adoption of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. These have started off on the right track, but we must build further on that work.

And we must do more. As the Security Council made clear in its resolution 1325, adopted almost four years ago, we must address the issue of **women**, peace and security on several fronts.

While **women** are often the first victims of **armed conflict**, they must also and always be recognized as a **key** to the solution. We must strive to integrate their concerns more effectively in peace processes worldwide, and achieve **women's** full, equal and effective participation in those processes.

Resolution 1325 remains a landmark on many fronts. It highlighted the mutually reinforcing imperatives of peace and justice in post-conflict settings -- and the need for **women** and men alike to be both agents and beneficiaries in advancing those objectives.

It stressed the importance of **women's** equal participation in all efforts for peace and security -- in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peace-building.

It reaffirmed the need to implement fully international humanitarian and human rights law that protects the rights of **women** and girls during and after conflicts.

It called for "special measures to protect **women** and girls from gender-based violence, particularly rape and other forms of sexual abuse".

And it emphasized "the responsibility of all States to put an end to impunity and to prosecute those responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes, including those relating to sexual and other violence against **women** and girls".

We are making a good deal of progress in translating those principles into action.

Awareness and recognition of the issues have grown considerably in recent years -- both in conflict-affected societies and in the international community.

In the **UN**, we are developing a more systematic approach to consulting with **women** in conflict and post-conflict societies from the earliest stages of a peace process, including in discussions on constitutional development, judicial reform and reconciliation.

Those consultations must involve legal and judicial professionals with direct experience, as well as **women** who have been excluded, victimized and marginalized by systems and institutions.

Based on that, we can address better the imperative for promoting and achieving equality and non-discrimination when making recommendations to the Security Council, planning mission mandates and structures, and formulating assistance programmes.

On the ground, the human rights sections of our peacekeeping missions worldwide investigate the use of gender-based violence as a tool of war against **women** and girls.

A number of peacekeeping missions, including in Kosovo and Sierra Leone, are providing support for local police on ways to address domestic violence and trafficking of **women**.

The UN family has also supported governments in post-conflict societies, including Afghanistan and Timor-Leste, in the work to ratify and implement human rights instruments. Crucial among those instruments is the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against **Women -- the key** standard for non-discrimination and gender equality and strategic tool for action at the national level.

We have assisted governments in the creation of national institutions charged with promoting and protecting the rights of **women**.

And we are working with electoral bodies in several countries to ensure **women's** full participation in the election process.

Clearly, much has been achieved. But we all have a long way to go. I believe this conference can play an important part in charting the way forward.

Those among you who are national stakeholders can articulate the concrete needs of **women** on the ground -- whether it be legal training, forensic expertise, building up capacity for more **women** investigators, providing legal counsel specializing in sexual violence, strengthening witness protection and victim support programmes or any other kind of support you may need from the international community.

All of you can discuss and propose ways to coordinate more effectively the actors within and outside the **UN** system.

In this way, you can find ways to strengthen the partnership among governments and civil society in conflict-affected countries, bilateral and multilateral donors, aid agencies, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions and foundations.

Let us be honest: mere information-sharing is often not enough. Let us strive for all partners to work through a common national assessment of needs, capacities, aspirations and common national programmes of transitional justice, justice reform and rule of law development. And let us ensure that **women** are engaged at all levels of that process.


Within the **UN** system, we also need to work for better coordination. And -- as the Secretary-General stated in his recent report on the rule of law and transitional justice in conflict and post-conflict societies -- we need to review best practices and develop proposals for more tools and mechanisms to promote gender justice, involving justice sector institutions, civil society, donors and the **UN**.

In other words, ladies and gentlemen, we all need to find additional practical ways to implement Security Council resolution 1325, and to place the international community firmly behind the statement that "peace needs **women, and women** need justice".

I thank every one of you for your commitment to that mission, and I hope this conference will prove to be another building block in the work towards our common goal.

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**Daily
Champion**

Towards A
Better
Society

Factions Yet to Surrender Heavy Weapons - UN Report On Liberia

The Inquirer (Monrovia)

NEWS

September 16, 2004

Posted to the web September 16, 2004

Monrovia

The fourth progress report of the UN Secretary General on the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) says the three warring parties in the country are still reluctant to surrender some of their heavy weapons.

The report said combatants have also been selling weapons to non-combatants and confirmed reports that there have been some cross-border movement of arms and ammunition.

The report said despite these factors, UNMIL has continued to advocate against the smuggling of arms into the country and has urged factional leaders to prevail on ex-combatants to desist from violent demonstrations.

The report revealed by August 30th, 2004, UNMIL had registered 530 foreign combatants with five coming from Burkina Faso, 10 from Ghana, 259 from Guinea, 111 from Cote d'Ivoire and 145 from Sierra Leone.

The report said it is believed that the actual number of foreign combatants who have disarmed is higher than those registered.

The report said many of these foreigners did not provide their true citizenship at the time of disarmament, possibly because of security concerns.

Also, according to the report, as of August 30, a total of 71,000 combatants had been disarmed since December 2003. These figures include 12,598 women, 4,884 boys and 1,356 girls.

As of the same date, some 21,000 weapons had been surrendered, together with 5,265,792 rounds of small arms ammunition and 22,276 pieces of unexploded ordnance (including rocket-propelled grenades, mortar shells and hand grenades). Some 82 percent of the weapons surrendered are rifles and semi-automatic machine guns.

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Liberia Has 'Come a Long Way' in One Year, U.N. Envoy Says

United States Department of State (Washington, DC)

NEWS

September 15, 2004

Posted to the web September 16, 2004

By Judy Aita
Washington, DC

Klein says international aid essential for continued progress

The U.N. Mission in Liberia has continued to make progress in stabilizing the country, but many challenges, especially economic and political, lie ahead for the West African nation in the coming years, U.N. special envoy Jacques Klein said September 15.

After a private meeting with the Security Council, Klein said that "we have come a long way in the past year. That's very obvious to everyone." He cited progress in demobilization and demilitarization of former combatants, in health, and in other areas vital to the Liberian people, but added "we have a great deal of work to do yet. We shouldn't delude ourselves."

"The Liberian people have resolved to build a better future for themselves," said Klein, who heads the U.N. Mission in Liberia (UNMIL). "What we will need, candidly, is the international assistance to build that future for them. Liberia is enormously rich in natural resources, but what we will need is good governance, international investment, and the support of the international community to ensure that whatever we put in place has sustainability over time."

UNMIL, which was established by the Security Council a year ago to support the ceasefire and peace process that ended a 15-year civil war, has more than 15,000 military and police personnel deployed throughout the country. In a written report to the council, Secretary General Kofi Annan said that UNMIL has demobilized some 70,000 ex-combatants and called for further generous pledges to help prepare the country for elections next year, support good governance, and rebuild the country's economy.

Klein said that "we have universal support. Everyone understands how difficult this mission is when you have a country that has had 24 years of chaos and disturbance and

internal war." But he said that the country is competing for aid and investment with other nations in turmoil around the world and, unfortunately, "when you have no major problems, there is no interest in what you're doing."

Nevertheless, he said, "Liberia is the key to West Africa. We must have a Liberia that has long-term stability, that is reintegrated into the family of nations, and that gets the economic support from around the world to rebuild civil society."

The U.N. official estimated that Liberia will need \$100 million in investments over the next few years to rebuild the basic infrastructures so that the country can function.

Klein also said that the failure of former President Charles Taylor, who is in exile in Nigeria, to appear before the Special Court for Sierra Leone to face a 17-count indictment for war crimes and crimes against humanity in that country has had "a very real impact" on the situation in Liberia.

While Taylor is no longer in daily phone contact with allies inside Liberia, messages still go back and forth, Klein said. "He still is a cloud that hangs over much of what we do.

"At some point you have to come to closure on this issue for the sake of the people of Liberia who have gone through so much," he said.

"There is a hard core in Liberia who are totally opposed to everything we are doing" because they have no future there unless Taylor returns, Klein said. On the other hand a large group are saying that they would be willing to make that commitment to Liberia and to assist the international community if they knew Taylor was actually before the court, Klein added, but until that happens they are not going to "stick [their] neck(s) out."

The UNMIL chief said he hopes that many of the 450,000 Liberians now living in the United States and Canada will return to their native country now that stability, good governance, and rule of law are returning to the country.

"The key things are foreign investment, the return of the educated elite that has left over the last years, and [the] need [for] the people of Liberia to take a hand in their own future," Klein said.

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)



Judiciary Lacks Judges

New Vision (Kampala)

NEWS

September 14, 2004

Posted to the web September 14, 2004

By Anne Mugisa

Kampala

THE Judiciary is facing a serious shortage of judges following a delay by the Government to swear in the newly-approved judges.

Two more senior High Court judges are going on new assignments, one of them on a Commonwealth appointment outside the country, sources in the Judiciary have said.

The Chief Registrar, Lawrence Gidudu, said yesterday, "We are so thin; we are so few and the work is a lot. We are waiting for State House to sign the instrument and then tell us that they are ready to swear in the judges."

Justice Akiiki Kiiza, who has been heading the Nakawa Circuit Court, is going to Sierra Leone this month as an expatriate judge on appointment by the Commonwealth.

Justice David Wangutusi is moving to head the judicial training college, though he says he will still be hearing cases albeit at a reduced scale.

Kiiza said he would be in Sierra Leone to provide technical assistance for two years starting September 1.

Sources said the delay in swearing in the new judges was caused by lack of funds to pay them.

But Gidudu dismissed the claim, saying by the time the Judicial Service Commission proposes names of judges, the finance ministry must have issued a certificate saying there is money.