

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, September 02, 2004

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.
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Court suspends bail for officer

From correspondents in Freetown
September 2, 2004

A FREETOWN court today suspended the bail set for an Australian police officer, employed by the UN-backed war crimes court for Sierra Leone, accused of sexually abusing a 13-year-old schoolgirl.

Magistrate Bankole Shyllon scrapped the 10 million leone (\$5270) bail at the request of the prosecution, which charged that one of their witnesses had been tampered with.

"We have had difficulties in getting the witness and even the police have found it impossible to (see) the witness since we adjourned" August 25, prosecutor Sulaiman Bah told the court, declining to identify the witness.

Peter Halloran, 56, faces a four-count indictment on charges he had an illegal sexual relationship with a Freetown schoolgirl who he had allegedly hired to work in his home.

The girl's two brothers face charges of procurement, according to the indictment.

Mr Halloran, a senior officer with the Victoria Police, is on a year-long UN contract serving as a prosecution investigator for the tribunal charged with trying those who bear the "greatest responsibility" for atrocities committed during the west African state's decade of civil war that ended in 2001.

He has consistently denied any wrongdoing and an internal investigation by the UN tribunal found that there was no evidence to support the complaint, which was initially brought by Mr Halloran's housemate and colleague Manley Cordwell.

In his argument today, defence lawyer Blyden Jenkins-Johnston said "it would appear that persons other than the magistrate have been interfering in this matter since bail was granted" but insisted "there is no iota of evidence before the court to support the wild allegations".

Mr Halloran was returned to Freetown's maximum security prison, where he had been taken into custody on August 18. His passport remains in the hands of Sierra Leone police.

Agence France-Presse

This report appears on NEWS.com.au.

Special Court Investigator's bail withdrawn

By Ophaniel Gooding yesterday saw their bail withdrawn. In an application for bail withdrawal by State Counsel- S.A. Bah, he stated that the ground for his application is that the accused persons had been interfering with one of the Prosecution witnesses. He also said that since the adjourned date, the Prosecution has been trying

Contd. Page 2

Special Court Investigator's bail withdrawn

From Front Page

to seek this witness but to no avail. He added, "if this Honourable Court desires, the Prosecution is ever willing and ready to leading evidence in support of this claim." Reacting to the Prosecution's application, Defense Counsel- Jenkins Johnston stated, "there is not an iota of evidence before this Court... to support a very wild allegation that a witness had had been inferred with." In his submission, he stated, "...the Court having previously exercised its judicial decision to grant bail, there must be evidence whether a form of affidavit for that decision to be

reversed. I submit that there is no such before the Court." Lawyer Jenkins Johnston went on further, "let me also say that persons other than the Magistrate who ought to know better, have been interfering in this matter since bail was granted to the accused person." He stress out, "such interference should stop forthwith and that the law should be allowed to take it proper cause." He further said that the offences charged are bail-able ones and any attempt to keep the accused in prison before they have been tried is an infringement of the liberty

of the accused persons. He added, "this is contrary to the Bill of Rights... I sincerely hope that this Court would be steadfast in its exercise of judicial decision and we hope that this Court would not allow itself to be swayed or moved by extra-judicial consideration or by no legal criteria in arriving at your decision." He stated, "...for the Defense, I vouch that we shall resist with every fibre... about the interference of which I spoke earlier on; a word for the wise is quite sufficient." In Magistrate Shyllon's ruling, he stated that the offences faced by the accused persons are bail-able and that since there is no evidence before the Court, the bail is however suspended till the next adjourned date

AWDKV

Thursday Sept 2nd, 2004



ABC Radio Australia

[This is the print version of story http://www.abc.net.au/ra/newstories/RANewsStories_1190204.htm]

Australian Sierra Leone court official back in jail

An Australian investigator at Sierra Leone's United Nations-backed war crimes tribunal, has been sent back to jail after accusations he was hampering investigations into a sexual abuse case against him.

Peter Halloran, an Australian police officer on secondment to the Freetown court, is accused of unlawful carnal knowledge, indecent assault and procuring a girl under 14 years.

Mr Halloran, who faces up to 15 years in prison if found guilty, was released on bail when the trial opened last week.

However, state prosecutors say they received a statement from a senior police officer that Mr Halloran and two other people charged in connection with the alleged crime, had been interfering with one of the witnesses.

02/09/2004 04:15:31 | ABC Radio Australia News

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FEATURE

By J.B. Roy Kajue

Who Isn't For The Special Court?

This inferior status to the Special Court has not gone down well with the Sierra Leone judiciary who already envy the Special Court its superb working conditions and atmosphere and the high motivational salaries they draw.

Clearly the Special court although it claims concurrent jurisdiction with our courts in Article 9, paragraph 1 says: "No person shall be tried before a national court of Sierra Leone for acts for which he or she has already been tried by the Special Court." And in paragraph 2 it says: "A person who has been tried for the acts referred to in Articles 2 to 4 of the present statute may be subsequently tried by the Special Court if:

a. The act for which he or she is tried was characterised as an ordinary crime, or
b. The national court proceedings were not impartial or independent, were designed to shield the accused from international criminal responsibility or the case were not diligently prosecuted."

Clearly, reading between the lines, it can be seen that the Special Court is superior to our courts and that it casts doubt and suspicion on the impartiality, neutrality and efficiency of our courts. This has caused grudge and resentment towards the Court by its local counterparts, a state of relationship which does not aid the smooth operation of the Court. As far as is apparent, the Sierra Leone judiciary appears have taken an "interfere as little in their business" kind of posture towards the Special Court.

Although the Government of Sierra Leone has the privilege of nominating a judge to each of the Special Court's Chambers, when it comes to the office of the prosecutor, there is no provision for a local counterpart prosecutor although again article 15: paragraph 2 says: "... In carrying out these tasks, (collecting evidence), the prosecutor shall, as appropriate, be assisted by the Sierra Leonean authorities concerned."

Article 4, paragraph 1 clearly states that: the prosecutor shall be assisted by a Sierra Leonean Deputy Prosecutor and by such Sierra Leonean and international staff as may be required to perform the functions assigned to him or her effectively or efficiently.

There are many Sierra Leoneans who argue that the Special Court and the concluded TRC are incompatible.

Whereas the TRC was set up to promote healing between all victims and those who hurt them by giving all persons the opportunity to come out and tell the truth about what happened and then reconcile with each other, the Special Court promotes reconciliation by punishing the most important leaders who bear the greatest responsibility for the crimes committed during the war.

As earlier stated, the setting up of the Special Court was at the request of the Government and the people of Sierra Leone.

Chronology of the Establishment of the Court
June 2000- the Gov't of Sierra Leone writes to United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan requesting assistance

in setting up a war crimes tribunal.

August 2000- the UN Security Council passes Resolution 1315 authorising the SG to begin the process of establishing the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

January 2002- The UN and the GOSL sign the Agreement that establishes the Special Court.

March 2002 - Sierra Leone's Parliament passes the Special Court Agreement, 2002 (Ratification) Act, 2002 that makes the Special Court official under Sierra Leonean law.

April 2002- The UN Secretary General appoints the Registrar, Robin Vincent (UK), and the prosecutor, David Crane (USA).

July 2002- The UN and the GOSL announce the eight Judges appointed to the Trial and Appeals Chamber.

August 2002- The Registrar and Prosecutor arrive in Freetown, construction of court, the establishment of its administrative functions and investigations begin.

December 2002- The eight judges of the Special Court are sworn in.

March 2003- The Judges amend the Rules of Procedure and Evidence for the Special Court, which regulate the conduct of a trial and the operation of the Court.

First set of indictments are issued and the indictees are arrested and taken into detention.

Article 14 of the Special Court statute says: "The Rules of Procedure and Evidence of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda obtaining at the time of establishment of the Special Court shall be applicable" mutatis mutandis "to the conduct of the legal proceedings before the Special Court."

Paragraph 2 says: "The Judges of the Special Court as a whole may amend the Rules of Procedure and Evidence or adopt additional rules where the applicable Rules do not, or do not adequately, provide for a specific situation. In so doing, they may be guided, as appropriate by the Criminal procedure Act, 1965, of Sierra Leone.

The Court, in line with modern humanitarian concerns, won't hand down the death sentence. In imposing the sentences, the Trial Chamber "may order (in addition to imprisonment) the forfeiture of the property, proceeds and any assets acquired unlawfully or by criminal conduct and their return to their rightful owner or to the state of Sierra Leone."

Accused persons are presumed not guilty until proved so beyond all reasonable doubt. "The Judges of the Appeals Chamber of the Special Court shall be guided by the decisions of the Appeals Chamber of the International Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and for Rwanda. In the interpretation and application for the laws of Sierra Leone, they shall be guided by the decisions of the Supreme Court of Sierra Leone." Indeed, the Special Court is for Sierra Leone, let's give it our full support in order for it to succeed in setting the stage for a revolution in the practice of the law in Sierra Leone.

"Laws Make society governable, peaceful and progressive. Let's uphold the rule of law"

Many ordinary Sierra Leoneans question the wisdom of establishing a Special Court at a cost of \$100 million to try a score or so of persons when apparently virtually nothing much has been done for the victims of their crimes..

Looked at critically, whatever its cost, the presence here of the Special Court goes a long way in helping to consolidate the peace.

With the Special Court here, even as UNAMSIL reduces its military presence across the country, we can rest assured that the superpowers, Nigeria, Britain, the USA and the UNO who have invested so much time, men and money in the struggle to bring peace and democracy to this country would not sit by and see anybody, local or foreign, sabotage or derail what they have put in place. Freedom we should be reminded comes at a high price. The Special Court is part of our guarantee of our continued freedom from the forces of terrorism and opportunistic military intentions as our democracy solidifies.

Establishment of the Special Court here is mainly predicated on the premise that the basis of any civilised society is the maintenance of law and order.

We all do remember how during those lawless and anarchic days of the war life had become dangerous, insecure, scary, stressful and unpredictable life.

Winning the peace was one thing; securing and maintaining the peace and ensuring that the forces of anarchy did not have the temerity to rock the foundations of the state again can only be guaranteed by the Special Court bringing to justice those bearing the greatest responsibility for the tragedy we had gone through for ten years.

As many critics of the Court would like to make us believe, the jurisprudence of the Special Court is not extra-territorial, but falls within the ambit of our common law, a common law founded on the principles of trial before the public, right to counsel, right to appeal and total respect for the rule of law.

Apparently, there has been much clash of personality between the personnel of the Special Court and its local counterparts in our Judiciary based on some contradictions in the statute of the Special Court.

Paragraph 1 of Article 8 of the protocol of the Special Court clearly states that: "The Special Court and the national courts of Sierra Leone shall have concurrent jurisdiction."

Yet it goes on to say immediately in paragraph 2 that: "the Special Court shall have primacy over the national courts of Sierra Leone. At any stage of the procedure, the Special Court may formally request a national court to defer to its competence in accordance with the present statute and the rules procedures and evidence."

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THE HAGUE

Milosevic denies Serb war crimes

Stephanie van den Berg

Posted Thu, 02 Sep 2004

Former Yugoslav president Slobodan Milosevic on Wednesday denied Serbs had committed any war crimes, as prosecutors accused him of trying to thwart his UN trial by failing to take his blood-pressure pills correctly.

"You speak of crimes that we did not commit, you explain it by intent that we never had," Milosevic said in a scathing attack on the International Criminal Tribunal (ICTY), casting himself instead as a peacemaker saying the Serbs' "greatest wish was peace".

Even though Milosevic looked well, new medical reports quoted by prosecutors on Wednesday concluded he was not fit enough to conduct his own defence.

Milosevic not fit to conduct trial himself

"The overall and unanimous opinion of the experts is that the accused is not fit to conduct the trial himself, that he is not taking the drugs in the manner prescribed," prosecutor Geoffrey Nice told the court.

Milosevic suffers from a high blood pressure and is said to be at risk for a heart attack. His mammoth trial, which is well into its third year, has already been interrupted over a dozen times due to his poor health.

According to the prosecution Milosevic is obstructing his own trial by failing to adhere to his prescribed drugs regime.

Defence lawyer should be imposed

They argue that a defence lawyer should be imposed to ease Milosevic's heavy workload and ensure that the mammoth trial will not go on endlessly.

Milosevic vehemently denied he was not taking his medication.

"This assumption is groundless, I take my medication in the presence of the guards and they write down when I take it," he said.

The former Yugoslav leader, who is acting as his own lawyer, wrapped up his opening statement early on Wednesday after presenting the outline of his defence during a four-hour hearing on Tuesday.

Milosevic chose a political defence

But instead of directly addressing the charges against him, Milosevic chose a political defence arguing that he was the victim of a vast anti-Serb conspiracy and that Western powers were actually responsible for the bloody break-up of Yugoslavia.

He faces more than 60 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity for his alleged role in the 1991-95 war in Croatia, the 1992-95 war in Bosnia and the Serb crackdown on Kosovo in 1998-99.

He has also been charged with genocide and complicity in genocide, the gravest of war crimes, for the war in Bosnia, which left 200 000 people dead.

He faces a life sentence if convicted.

Milosevic opposes idea of a defence lawyer

Milosevic opposes any idea of imposing a defence lawyer on him and stressed he had a right to conduct his own defence.

The former Yugoslav leader then asked for new medical checks by experts from Greece, Russia or Serbia after arguing that a report by Belgian doctor was tainted because the NATO headquarters is situated in that country.

Milosevic blames the "NATO pact" for the Kosovo conflict.

The judges will decide in another hearing called for on Thursday if they will allow extra medical examinations.

AFP

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Truth, justice on my side - Milosevic

Milosevic begins war crimes defence

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9.30am

Court imposes lawyer on Milosevic

Agencies**Thursday September 2, 2004****The Guardian**

Judges at the UN war crimes tribunal today imposed a defence lawyer on Slobodan Milosevic to prevent further delays in his war crimes trial. Doctors treating the former Yugoslav president say his heart condition could become life threatening if he continues to represent himself at the hearings in The Hague.

The court did not immediately name the lawyer or say when he would be assigned.

Mr Milosevic, 63, who has used the two-and-a-half-year trial as a platform for his political views, has previously refused to accept a lawyer, insisting that he would examine witnesses himself.

He finished a lengthy opening defence statement yesterday against charges of ethnic cleansing in the Balkans, months later than planned because of his heart condition and high blood pressure.

"It is in the interests of justice to assign a counsel and we will do so," presiding judge Patrick Robinson said at the UN tribunal. "It is plain from the medical reports that the accused is not fit enough to defend himself." By allowing Mr Milosevic to continue representing himself "there is a real danger that this trial might last an unreasonably long time," Judge Robinson said.

By a vote of 2-1, the court also rejected Mr Milosevic's request yesterday for a new round of medical tests by independent doctors. Judge Robinson dissented, saying the issue was too important to be left in any doubt.

Judge Robinson said two court-assigned doctors who had examined Mr Milosevic had concluded that he suffered "severe essential hypertension" and that continuing to represent himself could lead to "a potentially life threatening situation".

The judges recognised the right of a defendant to represent himself, but cited his lengthy periods of illness, saying that the right "is not unfettered". Mr Milosevic's bouts of fatigue and high blood pressure have caused the suspension of hearings more than a dozen times and the loss of 66 trial days since the trial opened in February 2002.

The former Serb strongman does not recognise the tribunal and opted to defend himself. He is charged with genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes in Croatia, Bosnia and Kosovo in the 1990s. Not guilty pleas were entered on his behalf after he declined to plead to the charges.

Milosevic argued with prosecutors yesterday who cited medical reports that he was refusing to take prescribed medication. Prosecutor Geoffrey Nice said Mr Milosevic was "manipulating this tribunal" with his health problems, and urged the court to impose a defence lawyer who could continue the case when Mr Milosevic was too ill to attend sessions.

"This is highly improper," Mr Milosevic responded. "You do not take away somebody's right to self defence when he is sick."

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Terms: **ragged rebels fight on in darfur; black sudanese want slice of power** ([Edit Search](#))

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The Atlanta Journal-Constitution September 2, 2004 Thursday

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September 2, 2004 Thursday Home Edition

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HEADLINE: **Ragged rebels fight on in Darfur;**
Black Sudanese want slice of power

BYLINE: RAYMOND THIBODEAUX

SOURCE: For the Journal-Constitution

BODY:

Musbat, Sudan --- Kongo's combat wounds are like a timeline for the **rebel Sudanese** Liberation Army in which he serves.

His left eye was lost at Gurba Jong. A bullet is lodged in his jaw from another battle, at Abu Gambra. A welt on his shin is from a bullet taken in an attack on the **Sudanese** air force base in El Fasher.

Kongo is a nickname his comrades gave him after watching him in battle. It's slang for "walks without stooping."

His real name is Kihir Zakarya. A 30-year-old **rebel** commander, he always wears a pair of Ray-Ban sunglasses and several bandoliers of tiny leather-wrapped verses from the Quran as protection against potential dangers, including scorpion bites, malaria and bullets.

Asked why he is fighting Sudan's Arab-dominated government and the Arab militias it armed to crush the **rebels**, Kongo said, "The only language they understand is the gun."

The **Sudanese** Liberation Army formed in February 2003 after years of simmering resentment against a government that the **rebels** say usurped the meager wealth of Sudan's western **Darfur** region while marginalizing the **black** African tribes who produced most of it.

While **black** Africans make up a clear majority of the region's 6 million people, most of the top administrative posts in **Darfur** are held by Arabs. The **rebels'** demands for more regional autonomy and a stake in the country's \$1 million-a-day oil revenue have been largely ignored by **Sudanese** President Omar al-Bashir.

In April 2003, the **rebel** group carried out a dawn raid on the government air base in El Fasher, destroying five Antonov bombers and two helicopter gunships and seizing about 25 four-wheel-drive vehicles and supplies of guns and ammunition. The government struck back, escalating the conflict.

Now, a **rebel** force estimated at between 8,000 and 12,000 carries on a subsistence-level resistance, often with jury-rigged equipment and underage soldiers.

Many **rebel** troops have had family members and relatives killed in attacks by the Arab militias known as the Janjaweed. Others chose to **fight** for the SLA because it seemed like a better alternative than hiding in the mountains or taking refuge in camps in neighboring Chad or the squalid, disease-ridden government camps in Sudan.

Most **rebel** fighters are unpaid, surviving on a daily meal of asita --- cornmeal paste topped with a greenish batter of okra and onions.

The **rebels'** vehicles look improvised, like castoffs from the set of a "Mad Max" movie: beat-up Toyota Land Cruisers with spray-paint camouflage and rocket launchers tied to the side mirrors, and pickup trucks and Jeeps with machine guns mounted in the bed or over the hood.

"Nearly everything we have is from the **Sudanese** government and its army," said Bahar Ibrahim, who serves on the **rebel** group's advisory council. The vehicles and most of the rifles, heavy artillery and clothing were collected in raids on army convoys or government supply depots.

What concerns several human rights investigators in the region is the number of child soldiers among the **rebel** troops.

"The SLA is not going out recruiting children, but some of their soldiers are clearly under age, which is a violation of international law," Jemera Rone, a senior researcher for Human Rights Watch, said after touring the region recently. "The leaders don't seem to be doing anything about it."

Most parents interviewed in the refugee camps in Chad approved of their early-teen sons joining the **rebel** group, since it is perceived as their only defense against the region's Arab nomads.

"Traditionally, there has been conflict between the Arabs and the **black** tribes, but we used to solve it ourselves," said Suliman Hassid, the 87-year-old chief of Shiga Karo, an ethnic Zaghawan enclave in **rebel**-held northern **Darfur**. "The government has given the Arabs money and arms, and it's given them a sort of license to own the land and drive us away."

"We know there is a well-organized plan to get rid of us," said Ibrahim, the **rebel** adviser. "But we are warriors. That is our culture. The Arabs here don't know how hard we are willing to **fight** for our land."

GRAPHIC: Photo: One of the **Sudanese** Liberation Army's top soldiers, Kongo, born Kahir Zakarya, earned his nickname, which means "walks without stooping," because he never crouches in battle. / RAYMOND THIBODEAUX / Special

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Date/Time: Thursday, September 2, 2004 - 6:13 AM EDT

UNAMSIL Hands Over Freetown Sept. 23

By Kadijatu Sesay

Security primacy in the western area will be turned over to government on Thursday September 23, the visiting Deputy Military Adviser, Department of Peace Keeping Operations (DPKO) New York, Brig General Eihadji Mauhamadou Kandji was told on Tuesday this week

during his visit to the UNAMSIL Northern command at Murray Town.

Commander of the Northern Command, Brig Gen. Nuhu Bamalli updated the visitor on the draw-down of UN troops in Sierra Leone which included the handing over

of security primacy in the North, South and Eastern provinces to the Government of Sierra Leone, with the Western Area to follow on September 23. Giving the brief history of the command, he explained it covered five districts which are Port Loko, Kambia, Makeni, Kabela and the Western Area. And on security



SRSg, Daudi Mwakawago

assessment, the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces and the Sierra Leone Police are to take up the challenge, but stressed that both the Army and Police need logistics. Brig Gen. Kandji was also briefed about the Special Court for Sierra Leone and the ongoing trials. He was informed about the unemployment of youths, especially ex-combatants, and also the high cost of living in the country, especially the rising cost of the staple food, rice.

See page 2



Maj-Gen. Sajjad Akram, FC

Handing over of Freetown

from front page

which is our staple food. On behalf of the Northern command, he expressed their happiness for the visit and say they were highly honoured. He said UN intervention under the auspices of UNAMSIL brought lots of relief to Sierra Leoneans. When replying the visiting Brig Gen. said it is not too early to hand over security to the Government of Sierra Leone, adding that peace building needs peace builders.

Independent Observer

Thursday Sept 2nd, 2004

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Title : Heavy sentence for Bosnian Serb politician over ethnic cleansing in Krajina
By :
Date : 02 September 2004 0309 hrs (SST)
URL : http://www.channelnewsasia.com/stories/afp_world/view/104449/1.html

THE HAGUE : The UN war crimes court handed down a heavy, 32-year prison sentence against former Bosnian Serb leader Radoslav Brdjanin for a brutal campaign of ethnic cleansing in the Krajina region during the 1992-95 Bosnian war.

Brdjanin was convicted of aiding and abetting torture, persecution and willful killing and instigating deportations and forcible transfers, but he was acquitted of charges of genocide, the gravest of war crimes.

"On the basis of the evidence the trial chamber has not found beyond a reasonable doubt that genocide was committed in the relevant municipalities of the Autonomous Region of Krajina (ARK)," presiding judge Carmel Agius said.

The former civil engineer who went into politics just before the bloody war in Bosnia erupted in 1992, stared blankly ahead as the judges pronounced the verdict.

In the early years of the Bosnian war thousands of civilians in the Krajina region were held in the Omarska, Trnopolje and Keraterm camps. Images of emaciated prisoners from those camps shocked the world when they were first broadcast in the summer of 1992.

Many villages and towns throughout the Krajina, in northwestern Bosnia, were attacked. The judges calculated that at least 1,669 Bosnian Muslim and Bosnian Croat civilians were killed by Bosnian Serb forces in these attacks.

In all the 1992-95 war in Bosnia left over 200,000 people dead.

The judges ruled that as head of the wartime crisis staff in the Krajina, Brdjanin was "the driving force" behind the decisions the Bosnian Serb leadership in the region.

"The conditions of life imposed on the non-Serb populations of the Bosnian Krajina and the military operations against towns and villages which were not military targets were undertaken with the sole purpose of driving people away," the court said.

Brdjanin made public statements "creating fear and hatred between Bosnian Serbs on the one hand and Bosnian Muslims and Bosnian Croats on the other".

Bosnian Muslims and Croats voiced outrage at the verdict.

"So far we exhumed in Krajina 3,500 bodies of which 92 percent have been civilians, 13 percent women and two percent children," Jasmin Odobasic, a member of Bosnia's Muslim-Croat commission for missing people, told AFP.

"We have found 110 mass graves there. If that is not proof of genocide what is?" asked Odobasic, speaking from the site of a mass grave near the northwestern town of Prijedor, which has yielded 63 bodies believed to belong to prisoners of the notorious Serb-run Omarska camp.

Muharem Murselovic, a Muslim, who spent six months in Omarska in 1992, said: "I am outraged. This sentence is encouragement for other mass murderers and all those who tortured us and are now living among us and laugh at us."

Tens of thousands of Bosnian Muslims and Bosnian Croats left the Krajina region during the war. During Brdjanin's trial a number of witnesses testified that his public statements were the main reason why they left the area.

"His inactivity as well as his public attitude with respect to the camps and detention facilities" provided

"moral encouragement and support to the members of the Bosnian Serb army and police to continue running these camps."

The prosecution had asked for a life sentence for Brdjanin. Prosecutor Joanna Korner told AFP that they had not yet decided whether to appeal or not.

Brdjanin's lawyers had asked for him to be acquitted on all charges, arguing that he had had no real power over the municipal authorities who committed the atrocities.

The verdict on Wednesday came more than two-and-a-half years after Brdjanin's trial started and five years after his arrest. His co-defendant, Momir Talic, died of cancer in May 2003 before the trial ended.

- AFP

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Associated Press Worldstream September 1, 2004 Wednesday

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September 1, 2004 Wednesday

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HEADLINE: U.N. gives Liberia's **fighters two** months to **disarm or face prosecution**

BYLINE: JONATHAN PAYE-LAYLEH; Associated Press Writer

DATELINE: MONROVIA, Liberia

BODY:

The **United Nations** on Wednesday gave **fighters** from Liberia's 1999-2003 civil war **two** months to **disarm or face** legal action.

The **fighters** have been granted amnesty from the west African country's gun laws in hopes of encouraging them to give up their weapons.

This amnesty will end Oct. 30, the head of the **U.N.** peacekeeping mission in Liberia said.

"Subsequent to the 30th of October, the **Liberian** law will come into effect regarding the illegal possession of weapons," said Jacques Klein, who heads **U.N.** efforts to restore calm to Liberia and arrange 2005 elections.

Klein said the year-old **U.N.** mission had already disarmed 71,000 **fighters**, nearly double the 40,000 combatants **U.N.** officials estimated after President Charles Taylor quit his post and left the country in August 2003 as rebels besieged the capital, Monrovia.

Klein did not say how many more **fighters** were believed to be armed.

Under **Liberian** law, only police, military and paramilitary forces are allowed to carry weapons. Others convicted of carrying illegal weapons can **face** jail terms.

Ex-rebel and government **fighters** - largely undisciplined militia known for looting, raping, drug-taking and wanton violence - are given US\$300 ([euro]246) for laying down their weapons and enrolled in skills-training courses to help them resettle and find civilian jobs.

A 15,000-strong **U.N.** peace force is stationed in Liberia to provide security and help a national-unity caretaker government bringing together former enemy factions in the war. Tens of thousands were killed in the fighting, and nearly one third of Liberia's 3 million population fled their homes to relief

camps.

Taylor, a one-time warlord, launched Liberia into crisis in 1989 with his own insurgency before being elected president in 1997. Rebels took up arms against him **two** years later, waging their three-year war before signing a peace deal days after Taylor's departure for exile in Nigeria.

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