

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, November 22, 2004

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11/19/2004 11:28:09

Sierra Leone war court looking for sponsors to bring Taylor to trial

BANJUL, Nov 19 (AFP) - The chief prosecutor for the UN-backed war court in Sierra Leone has begun a west African tour to shore up support for bringing former Liberian president Charles Taylor to trial.

"I am touring the subregion to solicit support from leaders on the possibility of handing over Charles Taylor," prosecutor David Crane was quoted as saying on Gambian television late Thursday after meeting with Vice President Isatou Njie Saidy.

Taylor faces an 18-count indictment at the tribunal for arming and training the rebel Revolutionary United Front in their decade-long battle in the west African state considered among the most brutal wars in modern history until it ended in 2001.

He has so far evaded capture and is living in exile in Nigeria, his reward for stepping down from the Liberian presidency in August last year to end that country's 14 years of civil war.

Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo has refused to budge even in the face of an Interpol warrant and mounting international pressure to hand Taylor over, insisting only an elected government in **Liberia** can dislodge the former president.

Different from the war crimes courts convened for Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia, the Sierra Leone court is a hybrid of international and national justice with a narrowly-tailored mandate. If it is successful, it could serve as a model for a tribunal to try the deposed Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

Just 11 people have been indicted by the court, nine of whom are in custody, with Taylor in exile and former junta leader Johnny Paul Koroma missing and presumed by many to be dead.

Trials of the three RUF defendants are to resume in December, while the process for three defendants from the pro-government Civil Defense Forces militia is ongoing.

The trial of three members of the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council, which led a brief but bloody military junta in 1997, has yet to begin.




[Special Court for Sierra Leone : The Defence]
Norman's list

Sam Hinga Norman, the former national coordinator of the Civil Defence Force (CDF), the principal armed group to back the return of the civilian authorities to Freetown, has apparently prepared a list of around 100 witnesses to defend him before the Sierra Leone special court, according to the local newspaper Concord Times. The paper says that both the court and Norman's co-counsel deny that such a list exists. If it did, the entire leadership of the party in power - with President Kabbah top of the list - would be called to the witness box by the former Minister for the Interior and security at the time of his arrest in March 2003. Concord Times also alleges that the list includes ex-commanders of the West African forces (Ecomog) along with the British and American ambassadors. The former ambassador of Great Britain, Peter Penfold, has already publicly announced that he will be testifying in favour of Chief Norman, while the American John Hirsch has said privately that he would probably not object to doing so.

Thierry Cruvellier
22 November 2004

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AAP NEWSFEED November 21, 2004, Sunday

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AAP NEWSFEED

November 21, 2004, Sunday

SECTION: Domestic News

LENGTH: 481 words

HEADLINE: Fed: Questions raised over fairness of Aust police officer case

BYLINE: By Paul Osborne

DATELINE: CANBERRA, Nov 21

BODY:

Fears are growing about the fairness of the case of an Australian police officer facing trial in an African court over child sex charges.

Peter Halloran, a 56-year-old Victorian police officer seconded to the United Nations **war crimes** court in **Sierra Leone**, has been charged with abusing a 13-year-old girl in June.

The trial, originally set down for two weeks, has been dragging on for almost three months with no end in sight.

Halloran has been locked up since six weeks before the trial began in the country's most notorious prison.

An inquiry by the UN **special court** has exonerated Halloran and the girl has withdrawn her original statement, admitting it was made up, but the trial is continuing.

The president of **Sierra Leone**, Tejan Kabbah, said today he could not say he was satisfied everything had been done justly and fairly in the case.

"I cannot make such a statement, and I tell you why," Mr Kabbah told the Nine Network's Sunday program.

"Number one: I've not got any details of it and I honestly don't know, I do not know.

"And number two: a police matter which is being investigated, I would normally not get involved."

Mr Kabbah said Halloran would be released if found to be innocent.

Tim Carrodus, a former Victorian detective who has been hired by Halloran's family to oversee the case, said he had concerns about the conditions in which his client was being held.

"What were the conditions like?" Mr Carrodus asked.

"I've been asked that question before. Best described as, if you've seen the movies of Papillon and Midnight Express."

The two films documented horrid conditions and civil rights abuses in African and Turkish jails.

Mr Carrodus said the case had been a nightmare for Halloran and he feared it may permanently stain his career.

"The best way I can describe it is it's a nightmare for him - a nightmare of the worst type," he said.

"His career may very well be destroyed forever now ... as somebody once said, some mud does stick."

Anti-corruption commissioner Valentine Collier said there was a breakdown in justice and government in the country.

"There is this huge hemorrhaging of the system - everybody is trying to dip in and take his own out of it," he said.


Mandy Cordwell, a former Tasmanian police officer, who was also seconded to the UN Court in **Sierra Leone** with Halloran, sparked the investigation.

She had observed the girl sitting on Halloran's bed on June 3 but she later declined to speak to the Sunday program.

A senior Canadian **war crimes** investigator earlier this month told the court the UN **special court** inquiry into the matter was a "joke" and that he believed Halloran had committed "some kind of sexual assault" against the girl.

Ralph La Pierre, 55, said the girl had given a detailed statement to a police officer claiming that Halloran had committed various acts of sexual abuse against her.

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Doubts over Aussie cop in Africa

November 21, 2004 - 1:39PM

Fears are growing about the fairness of the case of an Australian police officer facing trial in an African court over child sex charges.

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New push to stop child soldiers ; A report released Wednesday shows commitment by 85 countries to end the practice - but enforcement still lags.

Mike Crawley Correspondent of The Christian Science Monitor

ZWEDRU, LIBERIA

A Liberian militia commander named Alphonso gestures at a half- dozen boys - lined up on what used to be a school field - and declares with a proprietary tone in his voice: "These are my child soldiers."

The blithe way in which Alphonso admits to a war crime without fear of consequences illustrates the chief paradox described in a new report by the Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, an umbrella grouping of nongovernmental agencies.

On paper, global opposition to the use of children in war is growing rapidly, says the report. Eighty-five nations have ratified a treaty not to recruit children for combat, up from four in 2001. Yet in many of these same countries, government armies, their proxy militia, and armed opposition groups are still using children as soldiers and too little is being done to hold them to account. The coalition aims to change that.

"The problem is not that we lack the power to do this - the problem is our failure to use that power effectively, consistently, and urgently," Graca Machel, a Mozambican child rights campaigner, writes in the report released Wednesday.

"We're seeing a strong international consensus emerging that the use of child soldiers must be stopped, but the practice on the ground hasn't caught up," says Jo Becker, children's rights advocacy director for New York-based Human Rights Watch, a member of the coalition. "Violators need to know there will be consequences if they continue to use child soldiers."

The global report, the first of its kind in three years, catalogs 27 countries where children are involved in active conflicts. It says children sometimes join armed forces because they lack schooling opportunities, want to earn money, or are encouraged by family. In many cases, however, boys and girls are abducted or forcibly recruited, then made to perform atrocities that bind them to their unit.

Governments and armed groups have signed a variety of agreements not to recruit children, but the report says the promises are being broken time and again. The coalition is calling for tougher enforcement of such agreements, and lays responsibility not only on the groups who send children to war, but also on Western governments and the United Nations Security Council.

"It is not enough for the UN Security Council to pass resolution after resolution without ensuring that these are followed up with concrete action," says Henri Nzeyimana, the coalition coordinator in Africa's Great Lakes region.

The report's recommendations for concrete action include naming and shaming the armed forces that use children, imposing such sanctions as travel restrictions and asset freezes on leading perpetrators, and ultimately charging them with war crimes.

The first-ever war-crimes prosecution for using child soldiers was launched in June by the international tribunal in Sierra Leone. Prosecutors for the International Criminal Court in The Hague are also investigating the use of child soldiers in Uganda and Congo, but charges have yet to be laid.

"I'm personally convinced that the first successful prosecution for recruiting or using child soldiers will have a big impact, because people will begin looking over their shoulders and saying, 'I could be tried for doing this,' " says Rachel Brett of the Quaker United Nations Office in Geneva.

Ms. Brett, coauthor of a new book entitled "Young Soldiers: Why They Choose to Fight," criticizes leaders who denounce child soldiering in their speeches yet provide military and bilateral support to governments and armed forces that use children in war. Opponents of the practice say the world's major arms suppliers should copy Belgium, which outlawed arms exports to any government using child soldiers.

"If it was clear they would not receive arms, governments would not be so quick to recruit child soldiers," says Ms. Becker of Human Rights Watch.

Campaigners chalk up some success in reducing the number of child soldiers to demobilization programs in places like Afghanistan and Sierra Leone.

Here in eastern **Liberia**, the British aid agency Save the Children is trying to help several hundred former child soldiers trace their families and reintegrate into their villages. At its demobilization center for former boy soldiers in Zwedru, gangly teenagers sit on wooden benches studying third grade grammar and geography. The boys recite the names of **Liberia's** neighbors - Sierra Leone, Guinea, and Ivory Coast - all of which have sent children to war.

Across town is a similar center for girls. Its manager, Washington Zeah, says that a number of girls arrived pregnant, having been kept as sex slaves by their commanders, and others had fallen prey to drugs. Counselors at both sites work with the kids to overcome their trauma and pave the way for a return home.

But its efforts have been dealt a blow with the fresh resumption of hostilities just across the border in Ivory Coast. Staff are finding evidence of Ivorian government and rebel forces recruiting recently demobilized Liberian children.

"When children go back to communities where they have no economic or educational options, the obvious thing they're going to do is roll up and fight again when there's an opportunity," says Sarah Uppard, the agency's global child protection adviser.

Her comment echoes the report's call for governments to reduce unemployment and improve access to education. "States will only prevent child recruitment by offering alternatives to young people to joining an armed force," say the authors.

Where child soldiers fight

- * Since 2001, some 40,000 children have been demobilized as wars ended in Afghanistan, Angola, and Sierra Leone.
- * Governments that use child soldiers include Burma, Burundi, Congo, Guinea, Ivory Coast, **Liberia**, Rwanda, Sudan, and Uganda.
- * Since 2001, 25,000 children have been drawn into new conflicts in Ivory Coast and Sudan alone.
- * The US has used 17-year-olds in Iraq, but later withdrew them.
- * Colombia and Zimbabwe back militias that use child soldiers, while Israel, Indonesia, and Nepal use children as informants, spies, or messengers.

Source: Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, www.child-soldiers.org



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Child soldiers in front line across world

Wed November 17, 2004 05:04 AM ET

By Jeremy Lovell

LONDON (Reuters) - Boys and girls as young as nine years old are in the front line of wars across the world, and even when the fighting has finished they are largely neglected in the peace process, a report says.

From Afghanistan to Zimbabwe, governments and armed opposition groups have recruited children in their thousands and either trained them to kill and maim or used them as sex slaves, the Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers said on Wednesday.

"Children have continued to play a significant part in some of the world's most bitter and long-running wars," it said in its 2004 global report.

"Governments killed, tortured and arbitrarily detained children suspected of being opposition combatants or supporters," it added.

The Coalition groups a range of human rights bodies including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, World Vision International and Defence for Children International.

It said while some countries had instituted demobilisation, disarmament and reintegration programmes aimed specifically at child soldiers where conflicts had abated, in many cases the young fighters were ignored in the reconstruction process.

"DDR programmes brought hope to thousands of former child soldiers, but girls were often excluded from them despite having frequently been recruited and abducted by armed groups for sexual purposes," the report said.

While Africa remained the worst offender in the use and abuse of child soldiers -- particularly Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda -- the phenomenon was also widespread in Asia, Latin America and the Middle East.

"Some share of the blame lies with the international community. Governments continued to provide military training and assistance to armed forces using child soldiers or encouraging paramilitaries to do so," the report said.

Although some 40,000 child soldiers were demobilised as wars ended in Afghanistan, Sierra Leone and elsewhere, the eruption of hostilities in places like Ivory Coast and Liberia drew 30,000 others into armed conflicts, the report said.

In Uganda the rebel Lord's Resistance Army had abducted an estimated 20,000 children, and militias recruited by the Ugandan government to fight them also used child soldiers, the report, covering 2001-2004, added.

But the Middle East was no stranger to the sight of children on the front lines, it said, noting child soldiers in Iran, Iraq, Israel, the occupied Palestinian territories, Yemen and Sudan -- where it said 20,000 children were in government forces and armed opposition groups.

It said armed Palestinian groups had used children as suicide bombers at least nine times and, in response, Israeli armed forces shot at youths throwing stones and denied child detainees the right to even minimal humans rights.

In the disputed region of Jammu and Kashmir children were forcibly recruited into armed forces from as young as 13, the report said, while in Indonesia children again as young as 13 were being used by the Free Aceh Movement.

The United States did not escape criticism in the report which noted that several 16 and 17 year olds were still being held in the Guantanamo Bay prison in Cuba as "enemy combatants" -- although three aged between 13 and 15 had been released.

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UNMIL Daily Radio Summary
Friday, 19 Nov 2004

Following are excerpts of select Liberian radio stations' news programs. Parts of the transcripts have been paraphrased and edited to conform to UNMIL style.

ECOWAS Calls for Postponement of Former Warring Faction's Elections

- The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) is calling for the postponement of the elections to determine the new leadership of the defunct rebel group Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) as it transforms itself into a political group.
- In a communication to LURD, the ECOWAS Executive Secretary said the transformation into a political group needs intensive administrative, constitutional and logistical preparation which should precede elections. As such, the 20 November date is unfeasible.
- The communication asked former LURD to provide it with the group's political manifesto and constitution that defined their principles and vision for a democratic Liberia.

11/19/2004 12:05:19

Ivory Coast says 63 dead in clashes with French, installs new military chief

by Christophe Koffi

ABIDJAN, Nov 19 (AFP) - Ivory Coast said 63 people were killed in a week of clashes with French troops as it handed over military powers Friday to a hawkish former head of its northern command, whose appointment is considered a provocation by both the rebels and France.

Major Colonel Philippe Mangou sought to offer reassurances that he wanted to restore stability to the former French colony as he was installed, after the violence caused an exodus of foreigners.

"Let us mobilize as one man to move beyond the problems observed or experienced in the unfortunate events of these last several days," Mangou, 52, told a crowd including his predecessor General Mathias Doue and Defense Minister Rene Amani gathered at the Camp Gallieni military base in Abidjan.

But the appointment of Mangou, deemed responsible for three days of air strikes on the rebel-held north this month that ruptured an 18-month-old ceasefire, is considered suspect by both France and the rebels who have held the north of the former star French colony since a civil war erupted in September 2002.

It has also been interpreted as a hardening of the regime of President Laurent Gbagbo and has created tensions within the armed forces due to Mangou's relative inexperience, a military source told AFP.

A government statement released after the cabinet meeting Thursday, the first since the air raids, said 63 people were killed and some 1,300 injured in anti-French mob riots that flared after France wiped out the country's modest air force.

No independent confirmation of the casualty toll was available.

France was retaliating for a November 6 air strike that hit its military barracks in the central town of Bouake, a rebel stronghold, leaving nine French troops and a US aid worker dead.

Rebel leader Guillaume Soro has said at least 85 civilians were killed in the three days of strikes launched, according to Gbagbo, in a bid to "liberate and reunify" the divided country.

Once a beacon of stability for troubled west Africa, Ivory Coast has been mired in turmoil for two years, with the latest phase of unrest stoking regional fears that violence could bleed over its borders and destabilize the hard-won peace in neighbors such as **Liberia**, itself emerging from 14 years of war.

The African Union has dispatched South African President Thabo Mbeki to mediate the crisis, and has lined up behind an arms embargo imposed on Monday by the UN

Security Council that could be followed by a targeted travel ban and the freezing of assets on December 15 should there be no progress towards peace.

Soro was on his own diplomatic offensive Friday, having again been sacked by Gbagbo from his post as communications minister in the unity government for boycotting Thursday's cabinet meeting.

Soro met Thursday with UN special envoy to Ivory Coast Albert Teovedjre before traveling to Lome for talks with Togo President Gnassingbe Eyadema.

He met Friday in Ghana to meet with President John Kufuor, current head of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), before traveling on to Johannesburg for talks with Mbeki.

Government spokesman Hubert Oulaye said Gbagbo decided to suspend Soro and the other eight ministers representing the rebel New Forces -- as well as five ministers from the main opposition Rally for Republicans -- so as not to "handicap" government function.

The ministers opted out of Thursday's meeting for "security reasons," despite an offer of armed escorts from the UN operation in Ivory Coast.

Some 8,300 people, representing more than half of the French passport holders in Ivory Coast have been evacuated since the violence erupted in Abidjan, the French foreign ministry said Friday.

Roughly 1,000 other foreign nationals also fled the rampage of assault, looting and, in some cases, rape that destroyed parts of what was once one of Africa's most sophisticated and modern cities.

Another 13,000 Ivorians have flooded into northeastern **Liberia** to avoid being caught in the crossfire should there be a return to fighting between government and rebel troops.

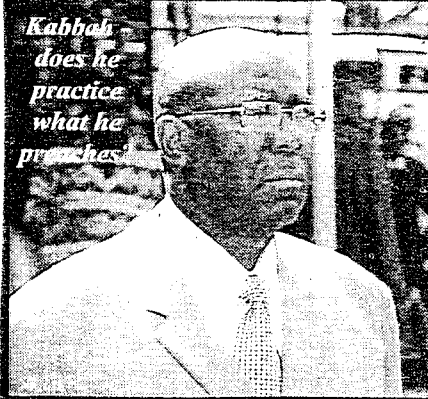
Concord Times
22 November 2004

Kabbah says bad governance causes rebel wars

By Abdul Karim Koroma

President Kabbah has stated that bad governance, non-transparent elections, religious intolerance, ethnic cleansing and greed are largely the causes of rebel wars in the sub-region.

*Kabbah
does he
practice
what he
preaches?*



He made this statement past Friday during a programme organized by the Italian Cooperation for West Africa in collaboration with WFP on the theme: From War to Classroom - From Crisis to Recovery at the Lagoonda Complex, Aberdeen.

"These unfortunate

Continued page 3

Kabbah says bad governance

From page 1

developments have not only impacted negatively on the economy of countries in the sub-region but also on our children and their future," he stated and continued, "civil wars have set ablaze a number of countries in West Africa including Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger and recently in Cote d'Ivoire." He described children as victims and perpetrators in the country's war.

"Some were abducted and forced to take up arms, others were amputated, tortured, separated from their parents, sexually abused, deprived of education and access to medical facilities," the President observed.

He said one of the most adverse by-products of the war is the ef-

fect it had on the attitude, mentality, behaviour and language of the offspring's.

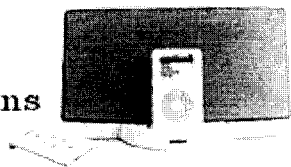
WFP's Senior Deputy Executive Director, Jean- Jacques Graisse said they are in the country to agree on what to do for kids in West Africa.

Graisse noted that hungry people are frequently trapped in a vicious circle, which condemns them to poverty.

"This in turn keeps them and their families in a life of deprivation and weakness," he said.

Children of hungry families, he observed, are particularly vulnerable and frequently suffer from physical and mental stunting which renders them unable to function in modern society.

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Nov. 20, 2004, 6:51PM

As Milosevic sits in jail, allies regaining power

Pro-democracy groups are alarmed by the comeback

By **DUSAN STOJANOVIC**
Associated Press

BELGRADE, SERBIA-MONTENEGRO - Slobodan Milosevic sits in a jail cell at the U.N. war crimes tribunal in the Netherlands, but his political allies are back in power in many Serbian towns, and are consolidating key positions in the army and police.

Their comeback has triggered alarm in the West and among the pro-democracy groups in Serbia that toppled the former president in 2000, after a decade of war in the Balkans. Some critics blame the prime minister, whom they accuse of refusing to make a clean break with Milosevic loyalists.

The resurgence threatens to draw Serbia, the dominant republic in the Serbia-Montenegro union, further away from its proclaimed goal of one day joining the European Union and NATO. And some fear it could spell trouble for the stability of the Balkans.

"Serbia has obviously made a tragic return to the era of Slobodan Milosevic," said Vuk Draskovic, Serbia-Montenegro's foreign minister, who survived two assassination attempts allegedly mounted by Milosevic supporters in the 1990s.

Milosevic, who faces life imprisonment if convicted of genocide or crimes against humanity stemming from the Balkan wars, is unlikely ever to return to his homeland.

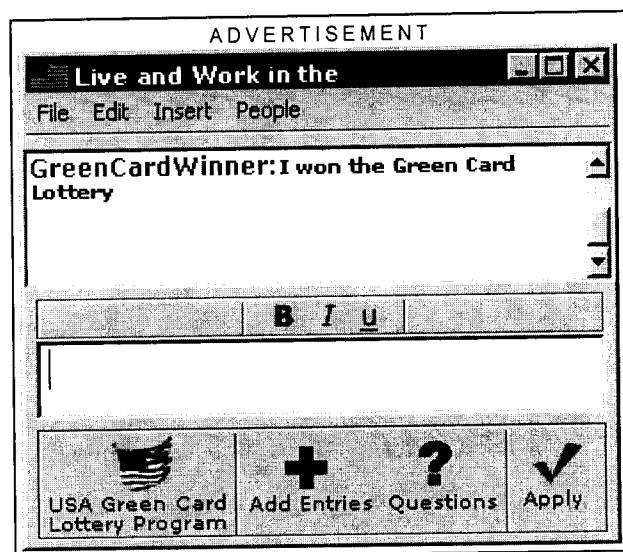
But his loyalists — ultranationalist radicals and members of Milosevic's Socialist Party — have taken power in several key Serbian towns since local elections in September.

Their success serves as a warning to Serbia's squabbling pro-Western parties that Milosevic loyalists could regain national influence when general elections are held, probably next year.

"There is a real danger of that happening," said Dragan Sutanovac, a leader of the pro-Western Democratic Party.

Kostunica blamed

Draskovic accuses Serbian Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica and his conservative-led government of allowing the



"political and spiritual return" of Milosevic's allies.

Kostunica is widely blamed by the pro-democracy movement for preventing a final break with the loyalists when he succeeded Milosevic as Serbia's president in 2000. He became prime minister this year.

He has refused to extradite top Serb war crimes suspects, including Milosevic allies, to the U.N. tribunal — a key Western condition for financial and political support of the economically shattered country.

Kostunica has rebuffed his critics, saying he could not purge Milosevic's commanders from the army and police, and could not order the arrest and extradition of war crimes suspects, without destabilizing the country.

Instead, his conservative Democratic Party of Serbia has forged alliances with Milosevic's groups in local elections, allowing them to take over several towns.

Loyalist inroads

"Milosevic's military personnel are now running the army, secret service and the police," former Prime Minister Zoran Zivkovic said recently.

Foremost among them, he said, is Gen. Aco Tomic, Milosevic's former military intelligence chief and a military security adviser to Kostunica.

"Aco Tomic is actually running the country from the shadows," Zivkovic claimed in a newspaper interview.

Kostunica, who was part of the pro-Western camp in 2000 but soon split to become a fierce critic of the reformist bloc, has ruled thanks to parliamentary backing from Milosevic's Socialist Party, which has conditioned its support on several issues, including a ban on extraditing war crimes suspects to The Hague.

The worst blow for the previous pro-Western government came in March 2003, when Serbia's first democratic prime minister, Zoran Djindjic, was assassinated.

Authorities indicted 13 members of a paramilitary group and criminal figures for the killing, without making any conclusions about whether they intended to pave the way for the return to power of Milosevic's loyalists. Kostunica's critics say the suspected assassins have all but succeeded.

"New elections are inevitable," said Draskovic, the foreign minister, who believes the vote will be "a referendum on who wants isolation and who wants to join Europe."



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