

**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, December 06, 2004

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# STANDARD TIMES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Le500

## "Special Court is a political trap"

### MP Blasts

BY PHILIPUS GEENDE

The Hon. Member of Parliament, Mohamed Makaya, has said that no politician should be happy with the establishment of the Spe-

cial Court, as he believes that in the not too distant future, there is the possibility that the Court premises would be used as a detention site for

*CONTINUED BACK PAGE*



Hon. Mohamed Makaya  
*critical*

## SPECIAL COURT

political detainees.

The MP made this statement on Thursday, December 2, 2004 while addressing members of the civil society on matters relating to the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) and other national issues.

According to him, he was in no reason in the first place why it was necessary to establish the Court after those involved in the war that were earlier granted a blanket amnesty.

The millions of dollars being used to enhance the work of the Court, Hon. Makaya observed, could otherwise have better been used to alleviate the plight of those affected by the war and other so much needed development across the country.

Very soon, the MP noted, the focus of the Court will change from targeting those said to have borne the greatest responsibility for atrocities committed during the war to targeting politicians, a scenario that he noted, will not augur well for the political dispensation in the country.

Hon. Mohamed Makaya is not the only one carrying these views, as other notable citizens including government ministers and parliamentarians view the Special Court as a mere waste of resources that will yield no positive dividend at the end of the day.

Notwithstanding these criticisms however, the Court is busy implementing its mandate, with more persons due for indictment any time the prosecutor deems appropriate.

# THE EXCLUSIVE

Vol. 2 No. 2188 Monday December 6, 2004

# Special Court Is A Trap For Politicians

**By Abu Bakarr Munu**

Member of Parliament for Bonthe District, Hon. Mohamed Makaya, has said that the UN backed Special Court For Sierra Leone charged with the responsibility of trying those who bear the greatest responsibility for crimes against humanity in the decade long civil conflict in Sierra Leone is a political trap for politicians.

Hon. Makaya went further to ask what type of justice the Special Court is talking about, when a victim knows the person who burnt his/her house, killed, raped, and amputated

his father and that person is allowed to walk about a free man.

The member of parliament made this statement past

**... MP**  
Contd. page 2

## Special Court Is A Trap For Politicians

*From front page*

Thursday in the House of Parliament while addressing a coalition of civil society groups under the auspices of Network Movement For Justice and Development (NMJD) and a PRSP Task Force Team led by Ms. Helen Bush Taqi that intends to develop a working relationship with parliament.

The meeting was also to create a forum wherein NMJD Task Force members would have a kind of interface with parliament in order to discuss and share views on developmental programmes, especially on the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP).

Speaking further on the issue of the Special Court, Hon. Mohamed Makaya said the court is a trap that seems to specifically target politicians, adding that it would have been better if the colossal sum of 100 million dollars spent on establishing

and running the Special Court had been given to the people of this country for development purposes. Hon. Makaya also observed that if the many socioeconomic problems affecting the youths of this country are not properly addressed now, Sierra Leone would be heading for doom. The behaviour of our youth nowadays, he pointed out, have become uncontrollable, adding that they want to become rich overnight.

In D. People  
06 Dec 2004

## Allahu-Akbar means death

### Witness tells Special Court

THIRTY-SEVENTH prosecution witness at the UN Special Court TF2-058, last Friday informed the court that before a captive was killed by the kamajors the arabic words "Allahu-Akbar" were chanted, which in the real sense means God is Great.

Led in evidence by counsel for the prosecution, the witness who speaks Temne and Krio explained how her husband met his untimely death in the hands of the kamajors in Bo. She said she was married with five children, the eldest child is 19 years and the youngest is about six.

"My husband was killed by kamajors on the 27 April," although she couldn't remember the exact year. Witness TF2-058 told the court that on that fateful day her husband arrived from a journey and met her at the market place where she was selling. According to her, she eventually packed her wares, and with her child on her back, headed home with her husband.

"On arriving at Duwehu

Section in Bo, we saw kamajors behind us about fifteen in number, armed with knives, cutlasses, guns and other deadly weapons.

"They spoke to my husband pointing accusing fingers at him that he was a junta, an accusation my husband vehemently denied. They were persistently accusing him when eventually one of them slapped him and another used a sharp, pointed instrument and struck him in the eye. A similar instrument was also used by another kamajor who stabbed him on the side and he fell on the ground helplessly," she testified.

On seeing the awful sight the witness continued, she panicked and ran to inform her brother about the brutal killing of

her husband. She said on her way to Shenge market where her husband used to sell, she walked through Njai Town and just by the swamp, she saw another set of kamajors who were chanting "Allahu-Akbar" and within minutes a man was hacked to death.

Continuing her journey and at a place called 'wash car', the witness said she also saw the same act of violence being perpetrated by kamajors on another victim after they had chanted Allahu-Akbar in a blasphemous and provocative manner.

"I finally arrived at the market and explained to my brother about the death of my husband. My brother took me home where I spent a week and later travelled to Rokupr-Kalisa to my father-in-law," the witness concluded.

For the People  
06 Dec 2004

## KAMAJOR ATROCITIES CONTINUE TO UNFOLD

TF2-067, a 45 year-old, married with five children, told the Special Court how he and his brother were captured, locked in a cell for 25 and 15 days respectively.

**by SU THORONKA**  
In the cell, he said there were four people who had been previously detained.

"After spending 15 days in the cell, Moinina Fofanah instructed the kamajors who had captured us to take out one of the last two detainees - that is, either me or my younger brother who was 25 years old.

"Since my brother was very close to the door, he was immediately whisked out when the door was opened," the witness said.

Few minutes later, the witness said he heard his brother shouting and since then he has not seen him. He said two people were later taken out again. "But this time I peeped through a hole and saw the two men sur-

rounded by kamajors with sticks and cutlasses singing.

"They chanted in Arabic Allah-hu-akbarr while the two men were hacked to death," the witness said, adding that one Aruna Massaquoi whom he had known for quite a long time in Bo was captured on the same day and brought to the spot where the two detainees had been killed and he was butchered in like manner and his body dragged and dumped under a mango tree.

He said after spending 25 days in the cell, his brother went to the kamajor headquarters to enquire why he was detained but that he too was arrested and detained and was only released after three days.

The witness told the

court that immediately his brother was released, he wasted no time in informing Ecomog who were deployed in Bo at the time. There and then, he said Ecomog ordered the release of all persons detained by the kamajors.

Three days later, the witness said he was walking along the street when he saw a group of kamajors, a woman and a young boy walking on the opposite side. "The woman was halted and asked by the kamajors to 'off load' and when she refused, they took her away to their headquarters which was situated at Manheim Boima Road.

"I went across to meet the little boy left behind by the woman and asked him whether he knew the way home. The boy took me to his father to whom I explained how his wife was captured by the kamajors and taken to their headquarters, the

witness said. He said he accompanied the husband to the battalion headquarter but were not allowed access.

The witness said as a result they went to Ecomog and reported the matter, adding that they went with three Ecomog soldiers to facilitate the release of the woman.

On arrival at the kamajor headquarter however, he said they found the woman beheaded and the head wrapped with her head tie.

Ecomog, he said, arrested the kamajors who were under the command of one Ngawuja but that they were released a few days later.

"Northerners were the main target and anyone heard speaking either Limba or Temne was killed. Moinina told all kamajors that the war was started by Foday Sankoh, therefore he had no busi-

ness with Temnes that were captured by kamajors and the only good one amongst them was a dead one," the witness revealed.

He further told the court that a Mende woman who was his neighbor informed him that a meeting had been held for the final massacre, and that a bucket filled with water will be placed outside each house for easy identification by the kamajors.

As a result, he said the woman advised him to leave Bo Town with his dependants. "We were latter led by the woman to a village called Ghatiama.



NORMAN: accused

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*Africa News December 3, 2004 Friday*

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Africa News

**December 3, 2004** Friday

**LENGTH:** 1958 words

**HEADLINE:** **Nigeria;**  
**Nigerian Government** Should Try Charles **Taylor** or Hand Him Over - **IBA** Chief

**BYLINE:** **Vanguard**

**BODY:**

Mark Ellis is our guest this week. He is the executive director of International Bar Association (**IBA**), a foremost international organisation of bar associations and individual lawyers in the world. He is a consultant to the World Bank on investment policies in Central and Eastern Europe. By all standards, he is a legal titan who is evidently not given to self advertisement and personal aggrandisement. He was in **Nigeria** last week to speak on rule of law where **Vanguard** Law and Human Rights got him to speak on a wide range of legal issues including rule of law in Africa, reluctance of **Nigerian government** to release Mr Charles **Taylor** for trial, efforts of **IBA** to stem incidence of human rights abuse the world over and challenges of being an **IBA** executive director. He tried to avoid talking about himself but for the insistence of this reporter. Ellis is an accomplished legal practitioner, versatile in different areas of law. It is no exaggeration to also describe him as encyclopedic in his chosen profession.

Excerpts:

Briefly share with **Vanguard** your background . I want your response to specifically address your bio-data, educational qualifications, your contributions to knowledge and the major areas you had applied your wealth of experience.

As Executive Director of the International Bar Association (**IBA**) I lead the foremost international organisation of bar associations and individual lawyers in the world. The **IBA** is comprised of 195 Member Organisations and 17,000 members from 194 countries, and influences the development of international law reform and helps to shape the future of the legal profession globally.

Prior to joining the **IBA**, I spent ten years as the first Executive Director of the Central and East European Law Initiative (CEELI), a project of the American Bar Association (ABA). Providing technical legal assistance to 28 countries in Central Europe and the former Soviet Union, and to the International War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague, CEELI remains the most extensive technical legal assistance project ever undertaken by the ABA. In 1999, I was appointed Legal Advisor to the Independent International Commission on Kosovo, chaired by Justice Richard J Goldstone.

I am a consultant to The World Bank on investment policies in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, and have been an Adjunct Professor at The Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law. I have degrees in Economics and Law and was twice a Fulbright Scholar at the Economic Institute in Zagreb, Croatia. I was a recipient of two research grants to the European Union and the Institut d'etudes europeennes in Brussels, Belgium focusing on the law and institutions of the European Union. I am a frequent speaker and commentator on international legal issues and have published extensively on areas dealing with foreign investment in Central Europe and the former Soviet Union, international humanitarian law, and the development of the rule of law. I was the co-recipient of the American Bar Association's 'World Order Under Law Award', and the recipient of Florida State University's 'Distinguished Graduate Award'.

I am a member of the Council of Foreign Relations and serve on a number of boards, including the International Legal Assistance Consortium (ILAC), the Institute for Historical Justice and Reconciliation at the Salzburg Seminar, the Coalition for International Justice, and the Swedish Institute for Legal Development in Stockholm, Sweden. Recently I was appointed adviser to the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office on international rule of law initiatives.

When did you assume office as Executive Director of the International Bar Association (**IBA**) and what are the major achievements you could finger as exclusively yours since you took your oath of office?

I became Executive Director of the **IBA** in January 2001. As the leading organisation of law societies and lawyers in the world, I felt strongly that the **IBA's** stature should be used to support the rule of law, commercial law reforms, and human rights throughout the world. I hope I have been able to move the **IBA** to a position where it acts as the 'global voice of the legal profession'. In support of this goal, I have tried to implement a number of new major initiatives.

They have included a US\$5 million outreach programme to assist law societies, lawyers and judges in developing countries to advocate more forcefully for the rule of law. I have pushed for the creation of regional **IBA** offices. We will open our first regional office in Latin America in 2005. In partnership with the Open Society Institute for Southern Africa (OSISA), the **IBA** will open its first human rights advocacy centre in Johannesburg, South Africa in 2005. In the areas of legal education, I have been able to fulfil a long-term goal of mine by creating a distance learning programme to help young lawyers, particularly from developing countries, obtain practice diplomas in substantive areas of law in cooperation with the College of Law of England and Wales.

Would you say that you are satisfied with the performance of your association? Put differently, are there certain things you would have loved to achieve as the leader of **IBA** but which are still eluding you now? If your answer is in the affirmative, what reason(s) would you say contribute to your failure in such regard?

Yes, I think the **IBA** over the past four years has been transformed into a dynamic and more relevant legal organisation. This has been accomplished through the hard work of the **IBA's** staff, **IBA** Officers and the multitude of **IBA** members throughout the world. We still have a long way to go, however, and I'm eager to fulfil some goals that I have not yet achieved. We still need to be resolute in our desire to make a difference in the world. The expanding global economy requires greater harmonisation in law and commercial practice. Countries struggling to introduce or maintain the rule of law need support and guidance. Victims of gross violations of humanitarian and human rights law cry out for international advocacy and intervention. It is in these areas of law that the **IBA** is uniquely positioned to assist and influence, and where I hope our efforts will bear results.

How will you assess the rule of law in Africa? Are you impressed or disappointed?

The rule of law in Africa is progressing but not at the rate commensurate with the importance of Africa in the international community. In many ways, this is understandable. Establishing the rule of law is analogous to a pocket watch. There are numerous elements that must be in sync for the system to work. Police, prosecutors, judges, the legislature, education, the media - each plays a unique part and reform must involve them all. And supporting all of these elements is a political will, without which the rule of law as a theoretical aspiration will never be transformed into reality.

History clearly highlights the fact that the rule of law process is less a formalistic system than an attitude. The rule of law is an approach of setting rules for government, creating enough checks and balances to ensure that the government is dependent less on individuals and their personal whims, and more on systems and processes. Where there is no political will to deliver the rule of law, written constitutions and laws, however eloquently they proclaim rule of law principles, will be insufficient to guarantee them. The question today is whether Africa has reached a critical turning point where the rule of law is the foundation for democratic improvement, human rights and sustainable development.

This is the key question because the rule of law is a prerequisite for the security, stability and development of Africa. I think it is fair to say that many countries in Africa are still struggling to incorporate the rule of law within their own legal systems. One of the most disappointing developments

is the failure of all African nations to unanimously condemn the rule of law crisis in Zimbabwe. This has included the unfortunate and misguided policy of the Africa Group at the United Nations, led by South Africa, to block resolutions deploring Zimbabwe's human rights record.

Would you say that the voice of the **IBA** under your leadership has been loud enough in most countries where human rights are trampled upon by their government with impunity? Can you give instances of the **IBA's** intervention by way of condemnation of human rights abuses in the world?

I believe people recognise that the **IBA** has significantly strengthened its ability to speak out against human rights abuses, wherever they may occur. Since arriving at the **IBA**, I have made it a personal priority to enhance the **IBA's** voice in this area.

I believe it is a fundamental responsibility of the legal profession to advocate for the rule of law and adherence to basic human rights among all nations. This is why during the last four years the **IBA** has forcefully spoken out against human rights abuses in a diverse group of countries, including Swaziland, Zimbabwe, Afghanistan, **Venezuela, Equatorial Guinea, Liberia, Iraq, the United States, Nepal, Angola, Serbia, Malawi, Ecuador, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Syria.** But the **IBA** doesn't just condemn; in many instances we have launched long-term assistance programmes and targeted projects to support the reintroduction of the rule of law, particularly in **post-conflict** environments.

**Nigeria** is one country where human rights are not respected by successive governments. Even though you said that your association has been up and doing, we hardly hear about it in **Nigeria. Why?**

**Nigeria** is one of the **IBA's** most important countries. With over 1,200 **IBA** members, **Nigeria's** legal profession is well represented in the **IBA**. We have also been fortunate to have some of **Nigeria's** most prominent attorneys serve in the **IBA's** leadership positions. For instance, Chief Sienna Anthony was Chair of the Section on Energy and Natural Resources Law (SERL) from 2000-2002 and a member of the **IBA's** Management Committee; and Modupe Akintola is also a member of the **IBA's** Management Committee.

The **IBA** has also targeted its Distance Learning Programme to the Nigerian legal profession as well as conducting a major regional programme this past year in Lagos. The conference attracted over 650 delegates. Fortunately, the **IBA** has not had to intervene in **Nigeria** on rule of law or human rights issues. This is not to say that such issues do not exist. However, the Nigerian Bar Association is effective in speaking out against these issues and this has allowed the **IBA** to focus its efforts in countries where the legal profession is weak and voiceless.

What is the position of the **IBA** on the reluctance of the **Nigerian government** to release Charles **Taylor** for trial before a UN court?

The indictment by the Special Court for Sierra **Leone** accuses Charles **Taylor** of being one of the key persons responsible for committing gross violations of international humanitarian law during Sierra **Leone's internal armed conflict.**

As a party to the **Geneva** Conventions, **Nigeria** is under an obligation to bring to justice those who have committed grave breaches of the Convention. The Government of **Nigeria** is further bound by the UN Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Also, by ratifying the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, **Nigeria** has made a commitment to ending impunity for crimes under international law. If the **Nigerian Government** is not willing to try Charles **Taylor** then it is imperative that it facilitates his return to face justice under the Special Court for Sierra **Leone.**

**LOAD-DATE:** December 3, 2004

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The Age

## **Halloran takes on airline over DVT claim**

By Selma Milovanovic

December 4, 2004

More than two years before he was arrested for alleged sexual abuse of a 13-year-old girl in Sierra Leone, Victoria Police superintendent Peter Halloran began a legal fight against an airline for a potentially fatal medical condition he says is its fault.

Halloran, 56, has filed a personal injury claim against Thai Airways International in the County Court over deep vein thrombosis (DVT) and a blood clot in his left lung, which he says he developed as a result of a flight from Bangkok to Melbourne in 2000.

Halloran's hopes of compensation - and those of hundreds of Australian travellers affected by DVT - hinge on the outcome of a test case heard this week in the High Court in Canberra.

The potentially fatal "economy-class syndrome" is caused by blood clots forming when people sit in cramped conditions for a long time, as is experienced on long-haul flights. Halloran is believed to have been diagnosed with DVT after a return flight to Melbourne. He had been on a study tour of Europe and Asia before returning to Australia in December 2000.

Halloran, former head of the homicide squad and former senior National Crime Authority investigator, is on trial in Sierra Leone charged with three sex offences against a 13-year-old girl, including unlawful carnal knowledge.

Halloran, who was suspended from his job as investigations commander with the United Nations special court in Sierra Leone, denies the allegations.

In a separate case, the appeal of Sydney businessman Brian Povey, 62, who suffered permanent disabilities after a stroke stemming from DVT, was heard in the High Court this week.

Mr Povey is suing Qantas and British Airways over DVT he claims he developed on a flight between Kuala Lumpur and Sydney. The full bench of the High Court, which is to decide whether Mr Povey's DVT amounted to an accident for which the airlines would be liable under the 1975 Montreal Convention, has reserved its decision to a date to be fixed.

'Halloran claims his medical condition was the result of an accident on the flight.'  
Halloran claims his medical condition was the result of an accident on the flight from Bangkok to Melbourne on December 11, 2000.

Halloran's statement of claim, filed in 2002, states he is at risk of further thrombosis and/or lung and heart failure. He is required to take Warfarin, a drug that prevents blood clots, indefinitely.

In its statement of defence, Thai Airways denied it was liable as alleged by Halloran "or at all". The airline states that if Halloran has suffered any of the alleged injuries, they were not caused by any accident on board the flight, while embarking or disembarking, but were "caused or alternatively contributed to" by Halloran's own lack of exercise and insufficient intake of non-alcoholic drinks.

Thai Airways states that under its conditions of carriage, it was agreed the airline would not be liable for "any illness, injury or disability, or any aggravation of a condition, attributable to any hazard or risk inherent in the plaintiff's age or mental or physical condition".

The case is listed for a directions hearing next May.

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We face neither East

## **Liberia: Money Runs Out to Train, Rehabilitate Disarmed Fighters**

### **UN Integrated Regional Information Networks**

NEWS

December 2, 2004

Posted to the web December 2, 2004

Monrovia

The Liberian authorities have run out of money to provide education and training for over 100,000 people who have registered as former combatants in the country's 14-year civil war, a spokesman for the country's disarmament commission said on Thursday.

"Presently, the Trust Funds for the reintegration and rehabilitation of fighters have run out. There is need for additional funding...because the disarmed fighters have exceeded the target mark of 100,000", Molley Passaway, the official spokesman of the National Commission on Disarmament, Demobilization, Rehabilitation and Reintegration, told IRIN.

"Out of those disarmed, only 26,000 are now benefiting from skills training and formal education, but the rest are of serious concern to the commission", he added.

Gyude Bryant, the Chairman of Liberia's transitional government, said in September that US\$44 million was still needed to pay for the rehabilitation of former combatants.

Passaway declined to quantify the present funding gap.

He said that by the the end of a nationwide disarmament exercise that lasted nearly eight months, 102,193 people who fought for former President Charles Taylor and the two rebel movements that opposed him had registered for disarmament.

All had qualified for a US\$300 resettlement grant.

Passaway said the transitional government and the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) had agreed with the country's former armed factions that a further 5,000 people, who would not be required to hand in weapons or ammunition, would be incorporated into the programme soon.

"We had meetings with the various factions and those were fighters that actively participated in the war...this was policy decision made by the commission", he said.

Passaway revealed that 27,000 weapons had been handed in by the time the last cantonment site closed on 24 November - roughly one gun for every four registered combatants.

Back in February, Jacques Klein, the head of UNMIL, said he reckoned there were three weapons washing round in Liberia for every fighter.

However, the United Nations subsequently came to the view that many fighting units did not have enough guns to

go round and that many combatants were forced to share their weapons with their comrades.

Critics of the disarmament programme have another explanation for the large numbers of fighters per gun. They suspect that thousands of civilians squeezed their way into the disarmament programme in order to claim the \$300 resettlement grant on offer.

This is thought to be one reason why the number of officially registered former combatants is much higher than initially anticipated.

Last year, before the disarmament programme got under way, UNMIL estimated that 38,000 ex-fighters would report for demobilisation. This figure had crept up to 53,000 by the time the exercise got fully under way in April.

But more than twice that number have actually registered as ex-combatants to claim their money.

Passaway said that in addition to 27,000 guns, UN peacekeepers had collected nearly 6.2 million rounds of small arms ammunition and nearly 30,000 pieces of heavier ordnance, including mortar bombs.

He said 68,952 of those who registered for disarmament were adult men and 22,020 were adult women.

But 11,221 - over 10 percent of the total - were child soldiers and camp followers under the age of 18.

Passaway said 8,704 boy soldiers had been registered and 2,517 girls.

Klein said earlier this week that 98 percent of these had already gone back to live with their parents or other family members.

"At first I was very worried that we would have to rely on orphanages and foster homes," he told the UN News Service. "But through persistent efforts to return children to their homes the results have been amazing."

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UNMIL

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UNMIL/PIO/PR/154

Press Release, 3 December 2004

**Top UN officials in West Africa decry attempts to derail elections in Liberia, call for freeing of the Ivorian media**

*(Monrovia, Liberia)* - A joint communiqué issued in the Liberian capital Monrovia today at the end of a high-level meeting of the Heads of the five United Nations peacekeeping and political missions in West Africa has decried the existence of a “coalition of the unwilling” consisting of Liberians seeking to derail the proposed elections next year as well as the entire peace process.

The meeting, held against the background of recent clashes in Côte d’Ivoire and violent unrest in Monrovia, called on Liberia to enact on an “urgent basis” an electoral law that is in accordance with the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and international standards. The meeting also expressed deep concern about “continued impunity in the region” and called for effective and robust action to bring to justice the perpetrators of crimes against humanity.

The Heads of the UN missions in West Africa, while welcoming the progress made in Liberia, expressed their concern over the lack of adequate funding for the reintegration of demobilized former combatants. They also stressed the need for resources to facilitate the return and reintegration of internally displaced persons and refugees.

The UN officials called for the freeing of the Ivorian media to ensure that state-owned media are managed in a way that gives “equal access to all parties and all views.” Appealing for good faith, they called on all Ivorian parties to ensure that they live up to commitments undertaken before the international community and break the “perennial impasse” in the peace process.

On Sierra Leone, the communiqué stressed the necessity for a smooth and realistic exit strategy for the United Nations in the country, where the responsibility for security primacy has already been handed over to the government. However, the top UN officials expressed their concern over the “potential impact” of ongoing mass poverty and endemic youth unemployment on the sustainability of the peace achieved in Sierra Leone.

The meeting, hosted by Jacques Paul Klein, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the UN Mission in Liberia, was chaired by Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head UNOWA and attended by Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Cote d’Ivoire, Albert Tévoédjré, his counterpart in Sierra Leone, Daudi Ngelautwa Mwakawago, and the Representative of the Secretary-General in Guinea Bissau, Joao Honwana.

**TANZANIA: Uphold international justice, official says**

ARUSHA, 26 Nov 2004 (IRIN) - International justice systems must be retained for effective prosecution of perpetrators of serious crimes, an official of the UN International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) said on Thursday.

ICTR Prosecutor Hassan Jallow said international courts such as the ICTR, the International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and the Special Court for Sierra Leone have proven viable in ensuring the prosecution of people bearing the greatest responsibility for crimes.

He was speaking at the beginning of a three-day colloquium of prosecutors in Arusha, Tanzania, which is also the headquarters of the Rwanda tribunal.

"We should now accept that large-scale brutal violations of human rights such as occurred on the level the world witnessed in Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia cannot be effectively dealt with through national systems or other quasi-criminal international procedures. The International penal sanction and option must be retained," he said.

The prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, Luis Moreno Ocampo and the prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, David Crane, are among 80 international judiciary experts attending the colloquium, whose theme is "Challenges of International Criminal Justice".

Jallow called for increased support for international justice systems to facilitate investigations, apprehension and transfer of suspects.

"It [international justice] must be applied to hold those bearing the greatest responsibility as the ICTR, ICTY and Special Court for Sierra Leone have done in the case of former heads of state, heads of government, cabinet ministers, heads of local government and leaders of the military," he said.

"International criminal justice is, despite all its constraints, challenges and shortcomings, is viable and feasible," he added. "It is necessary if peace and justice is to be maintained."

The prosecutors' colloquium coincides with the 10th anniversary of the ICTR.

The UN Security Council established the tribunal in 1994 to bring to trial the perpetrators of the April-July 1994 genocide in Rwanda. The Rwandan government estimates that 937,000 Tutsis and politically moderate Hutus died in the genocide.

Currently, the tribunal has 70 suspects in its custody, and trials of 25 of them are ongoing while 18 others are awaiting trial. It has handed down 23 judgments since its inception, including three acquittals.

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