

SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
PRESS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

PRESS CLIPPINGS

Enclosed are clippings of the latest local and international press on the Special Court and related issues obtained by the Press and Public Affairs Office as of:

Friday, January 21, 2005

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.
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REVEALED!

How B.S. Massaquoi was killed in Kenema



Foday Sankoh... the devil of the junta alliance, in November 1997, Mr. B.S. Massaquoi together with one Dr. Momodu Kpaka were arrested in their respective residencies and taken to the AFRC Secretariat on the instruction of the then RUF Field Commander, Sam Bockarie, alias Mosquito.

According to the witness, a cation full of single barrel rounds and a bunch of political documents were reportedly discovered at the premises of Mr. B.S. Massaquoi.

Owing to the discoveries, which the junta viewed as suspicious, Sam Bockarie wasted no time in setting up a board of investigation to look into the matter.

The investigation, which lasted several days, was tense, with both B.S. Massaquoi and Dr. Momodu Kpaka being subjected to torture.

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BY THEOPHILUS GBENDA
Prosecution witness TF1-071, testifying in the ongoing RUF trial at the Special Court for Sierra Leone, has given a vivid account

surrounding the killing of former SLPP Minister and strongman, Mr. B.S. Massaquoi.
According to the witness, who happened to have been a member

Standard Times
Friday January 21,
2002

How B.S. Massaquoi was killed

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and beatings, to say the truth surrounding the arms.

According to the witness, B.S. Massaquoi and Dr. Momodu Kpaka continued to deny the allegations, and the angrier Sam Bockarie became, hence the intensification of the beating and torture.

At one stage of the torturing, which included the tying of hands behind the back, B.S. Massaquoi lost consciousness.

Despite that, the witness

stated that B.S. Massaquoi's hands were still tied behind his back and his entire body oozing profusely when Sam Bockarie ordered his men to lock him up in the cell again.

According to the witness, who said he was closely monitoring the investigations, he returned to the Secretariat the following day, only to discover the remains of B.S. Massaquoi lying in a pool of blood and his hands still tied behind his back.

Although the witness was

not sure about this, he however mentioned that the remains of B.S. Massaquoi were later buried by the bodyguards of Sam Bockarie.

According to the witness, Dr. Momodu Kpaka, who in his defence had said he knew nothing about the single barrel rounds, as he was simply a medical doctor, was later released.

The witness also mentioned in his testimony, how looting, arson, killings and amputations were carried out by junta.



<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/opinion/oped/bal-op.africa21jan21,1,6456115.story?coll=bal-oped-headlines>

The Africa agenda

By Michael Clough and Nicholas Galetti

January 21, 2005

WASHINGTON -- If Condoleezza Rice's testimony this week at her Senate confirmation hearing as secretary of state is an indicator of the Bush administration's plans for Africa, Africans and the human rights community should be worried.

In his first four years, President Bush surprised Africa watchers by reaching out to the continent's leaders, giving priority to several African issues that included development assistance and HIV/AIDS, becoming engaged in negotiations to end the civil war in southern Sudan and declaring attacks on civilians in Sudan's Darfur province to be genocide.

But many observers credit these efforts to Secretary of State Colin L. Powell, and there are fears that with his departure, the Bush administration's interest in Africa will wane.

Given the administration's worry that parts of the continent could offer a haven to Islamic terrorists and its growing interest in African oil production, Mr. Bush's new foreign policy team will not ignore Africa outright.

The more serious risk is that under the leadership of Ms. Rice, a tough-minded pragmatist with little Africa experience, the State Department will give short shrift to concerns about democracy and human rights on the continent.

In her opening statement this week, she lumped Africa together with Latin America as places where the United States will work with "reformers ... committed to increasing opportunity for their people" and "insist that leaders who are elected democratically have an obligation to govern democratically." And she included Zimbabwe on a list of "outposts of tyranny."

But, except for very limited questions on the crisis in Sudan's Darfur region, where the administration's earlier strong human rights stand may soon be tested, Ms. Rice was not asked how she plans to deal with immediate challenges in Zimbabwe and several other countries where human rights are also threatened.

In Zimbabwe, parliamentary elections scheduled for March are likely to unfold in a climate of repression and intimidation. For the human rights situation there to improve, skilled and subtle U.S. diplomacy will be required to encourage leaders of the Southern Africa Development Community to push President Robert G. Mugabe to repeal laws restricting freedoms of association and the press and ensure free and fair elections.

In Ethiopia, the government, a strong Bush anti-terror ally, has taken tentative steps to make the May elections more free than those held in 2000. But marginal improvements in the electoral process will not make up for the government having branded most of the country's leading opposition groups, including some of its former political allies, as "terrorist" organizations and driven them underground. The Bush administration will need to find ways to ensure that the Ethiopian government is as committed to promoting political freedom as it is to helping wage a war on terror.

In Liberia, progress in restoring stability and promoting respect for the rule of law will hinge largely on

elections scheduled for October. If the Bush administration is to fulfill America's "special responsibility" for this country, founded by returned American slaves, it will have to make a major commitment to bringing to justice former President Charles Taylor, who brutalized the Liberian citizenry and fomented a war in neighboring Sierra Leone. It will also have to provide substantial support to efforts to reintegrate about 100,000 recently demobilized ex-combatants.

In Rwanda, where the government of President Paul Kagame is fast eliminating space for political opposition and independent civil society groups, the Bush administration must identify ways to prevent genocide guilt from becoming an excuse for turning a blind eye to the government's new practices of repression.

In Uganda, President Yoweri Museveni, who is seeking ways to repeal constitutional limits that would force him to leave office in 2006, has intimidated and tortured his political opponents. He is also fighting a war against rebels in the north, where more than 1.3 million war-affected civilians have been displaced. The Bush administration must ensure that Mr. Museveni does not interpret continuing U.S. support, including military assistance, as a blank check to violate civil and political rights and avoid his responsibility to protect civilians in the north.

Added to this list are the equally serious human rights challenges the new Bush team could face in the likely event of renewed fighting in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where 3.3 million civilians have died since 1998.

In the coming months, events in Africa will almost certainly force Ms. Rice to confront the questions about U.S. policy toward human rights in Africa that she wasn't asked at her confirmation hearing. When that happens, one can only hope that the Bush administration will once again surprise us, as it did with its strong stand against what it has called genocide in Darfur.

Michael Clough is Human Rights Watch's interim advocacy director for Africa. Nicholas Galletti is a Human Rights Watch Washington associate for Africa.

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Five Experts Named to Monitor Security Council Sanctions Against Liberia

UN News Service (New York)

NEWS

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United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan today appointed five experts to monitor sanctions against Liberia's timber and diamond industries, as well as the arms embargo against the West African country following its 14-year civil war, and to advise on socio-economic and humanitarian issues.

In a letter to the Security Council, he said the five were Arthur Blundell of Canada, Damien Callamand of France, Caspar Fithen of the United Kingdom, Tommy Garnett of Sierra Leone and Rajiva Bhushan Sinha of India.

Four of them previously served on the Council's Liberia sanctions panel. Mr. Blundell is a timber expert, Mr. Callamand has been a police captain, Mr. Fithen is a conflict diamonds trade analyst and anthropologist and Mr. Garnett is an environmentalist.

In its most recent report to the Security Council last month, the Panel of Experts said instead of spending its funds on health care, education, roads and safe water, the National Transitional Government (NTGL) appropriated 52 per cent of the annual budget for personnel and 15 per cent for security, even though the UN's peacekeeping mission in Liberia, UNMIL, currently bears the major responsibility for security.

Meanwhile, the Government had not accounted for the money allocated in the previous two budgets, but has overspent its funds, while "most of the revenue-generating parastatals or units have not been audited" and many teachers had not been paid for up to 24 months.

The Panel said the Government was willing to satisfy the requirements of the Kimberley Process certification that would authenticate local rough diamonds and allow them to be sold internationally, but lacked the finances and trained personnel to stop illegal mining.

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Guinea leader unbowed by coup bid

Guinea's President Lansana Conte said those who tried to kill him on Wednesday are wasting their time and only God would decide when he went.

Unidentified men fired on the presidential convoy taking Mr Conte to work. The president escaped unscathed.

"Those who have put people on the street to fire on me are irresponsible. They must know that my end has not come," he told national radio.

Heavy security surrounds presidential and national media buildings.

Calm but sombre

The capital, Conakry, was very quiet on Thursday morning as people celebrated the Muslim holiday of Eid-el-Kebir.

I am a man who cannot be manipulated
President Lansana Conte

The BBC's Alhassan Sillah in Conakry says President Conte attended prayers with other members of the public at a mosque in the capital, where he looked calm but sombre, wearing a white, flowing gown.

The government says a number of people have been arrested but that investigations are continuing.

Our reporter says a dispatch rider who was leading the presidential motorcade was seriously wounded in the shootout and is now in intensive care.

After opening fire the gunmen threw away their weapons and disappeared into the crowd, eyewitnesses say.

Earlier reports that the shots had come from men in military uniform have not been substantiated.

Checkpoints have been set up in many areas of the capital as police search for the gunmen.

Most residents are confused that such a daring attempt could be made on the president's life in broad daylight, our correspondent says.

Turbulent region

In his late-night address to the nation, the president told Guineans to ignore those who tried to kill them.

"I am a man who cannot be manipulated," he assured them.

The president - who seized power in a coup in 1984 - blamed people who he said wanted to ransack Guinea, and said all Africans were under threat from people who did not want the continent to

develop.

The incident happened a year after President Conte was sworn in for a third term, following his victory in controversial elections in December 2003, after the constitution was changed to allow his to stand.

Celebrations to mark the occasion were dampened by the shooting, our correspondent says.

Mr Conte is a diabetic, and correspondents say doubts about the president's health have led to worries about a possible future power struggle.

Guinea, a mineral-rich country positioned between Sierra Leone and Liberia, has been viewed as generally stable in an otherwise turbulent region.

Story from BBC NEWS:
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/africa/4190725.stm>

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