

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 28, 2005

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.
If you are aware of omissions or have any comments or suggestions please contact
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"Gbao, Morris Kallon abducted Peacekeepers" - *Witness*

By Tamba Borbor

At the ongoing trials of indicted members of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), witness TF1-071 whose cross-examination ended yesterday, has disclosed about the abduction of

United Nations Peacekeepers during the civil conflict. He informed the Court that Augustine Gbao and Morris Kallon who are second and third accused respectively of the RUF, were solely

responsible for the abduction of the Peacekeepers whom he said totalled about 300. TF1-071 disclosed further that the said UN Peacekeepers were taken hostage in Makeni; much to the displeasure of most

of the combatants of the RUF. Asked during cross-examination by John Cammegh- Defence Counsel for Augustine Gbao whether the Peacekeepers were been mistreated, Prosecution witness TF1-071 said that he

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Gbao, Morris Kallon abducted Peacekeepers

From Front Page

never saw or witnessed the mistreatment of the abducted UN Peacekeepers although he confirmed that some of them were looking

pale and tired when he saw them. Counsel Cammegh put it to the witness that most of what he said about his client- Gbao are mere hearsay; to which the witness stated that to

some extent while expanding that some of the other information he has disclosed were obtained through personal contact with Mr. Augustine Gbao himself during 2000-2001

Awoko

Newspaper

Friday January 28, 2005

“Acquit Halloran”

- Defence Counsel

Mohamed T. Fofanah, Defense Counsel, Nicholas Browne-Marke yesterday argued that his client Peter Halloran should not be convicted on the testimony of only one witness. He said that the Prosecution had failed to prove the guilt of the accused beyond all reasonable doubt. Counsel Browne-Marke also pointed that the Prosecution had failed to bring any evidence about an indecent assault against the alleged victim. He also argued that the Prosecution has also failed to prove that the girl is under the age of 14 years. *Contd. Page 2*

Acquit Halloran

From Front Page
14 years, while reasoning that the Prosecution has called nine witnesses and tendered exhibit A-K. It is his submission he said, that none of the witness nor any of the exhibits did constitute sufficient proof that the accused committed indecent assault. Browne-Marke appealed to the Judge that even if the Judge disbelieved the testimony of the witness and the first accused, the accused is still entitled to an acquittal. The Defense Counsel raised the issue of reasonable doubt, which noted is enshrined in the justice system. He sighted cases in the African Law Reports Sierra Leone series like: Sesay 1967-1968, page 329; Bob Jones 1967-1968 and a host of other cases in which acquittal was the ruling because the Prosecution could not prove their case beyond all reasonable doubt. The Defense Counsel argued that age was a material part of the Prosecution's case. He said that Mandy had disclosed to the Court that Musa, the child's father had said his child is fifteen years. "Their witness-Pa Fofanah had testified that his grand child is fifteen years as he got that calculation by counting the farming seasons," Counsel Browne-Marke stated; pointing that the Prosecution had never questioned that the girl was indecently assaulted. The Prosecution requested an adjournment at this stage to give their closing summation tomorrow.

Awoko

Friday January 28, 2005

Herald Sun

[Print this page](#)

Girl 'pressured to lie'

Keith Moor
28jan05

VICTORIA Police Supt Peter Halloran's defence case in West Africa has closed with claims of political interference.

He is on trial in Sierra Leone for the alleged indecent assault of teenage girl Kadia Kabia.

Supt Halloran's defence case finished on Tuesday, after members of Kadia's family gave evidence they had come under pressure to get Kadia to say Supt Halloran assaulted her.

They claimed Sierra Leone Attorney-General Frederick Carew pressured them to get Kadia to testify against Supt Halloran, and that several family members were jailed when they refused.

Kadia gave evidence during the trial -- which has run for more than four months -- Supt Halloran did not sexually assault or touch her in any way.

The woman who accused Supt Halloran of sexually assaulting Kadia, former Tasmanian police officer Mandy Cordwell, resigned from her job in Sierra Leone days after Supt Halloran was cleared of two of the three sex charges laid against him.

High Court judge Samuel Ademusu recently withdrew the charges of unlawful carnal knowledge and procuring a girl under the age of 14, after ruling there was no case to answer.

But he ordered the trial of Supt Halloran to continue on the remaining indecent assault charge.

Ms Cordwell, 37, and Supt Halloran, 56, shared a house and worked together at the UN-backed special court in Sierra Leone. Supt Halloran took 12 months' leave from Victoria Police in March last year to take the job of commander of the court's war crimes investigations.

Ms Cordwell got a police officer to take a statement from Kadia, in which the girl claimed she had sex with Supt Halloran.

But Kadia later told the court the claims in her various statements were false, and that she made them only because Ms Cordwell offered her rewards if she did.

"She promised to build me a house, buy a motor car and take me to her country if I did what she would ask me to do," Kadia told the court.

Ms Cordwell was suspended in November by the special court, pending results of an inquiry into whether she was the source of corruption allegations made to the Herald Sun about her boss, special court registrar Robin Vincent. The Herald Sun was interviewed by a special court investigator but refused to identify the source of the allegations.

Ms Cordwell was given until January 21 to respond to her suspension, but instead resigned on that day.

Mr Vincent denied the allegations made against him. Ms Cordwell refused to comment to the Herald Sun, saying the special court ordered her not to.

A special court source said a new inquiry would examine the handling of the Halloran matter by Ms Cordwell and two of her superiors, chief investigator Al White and Canadian officer Ralf La Pierre.

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ABC Online

Sierra Leone sexual assault case hears closing arguments. 28/01/2005. ABC News Online

[This is the print version of story <http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200501/s1290676.htm>]

Last Update: Friday, January 28, 2005. 8:33am (AEDT)

Sierra Leone sexual assault case hears closing arguments

The alleged victim in the sexual assault trial of an Australian policeman in the West African state of Sierra Leone has said she was pressured into saying he had assaulted her.

The last minute evidence came as legal teams presented closing arguments on charges against the former head of the Victorian homicide squad, Peter Halloran.

Lawyers for Halloran closed their case today, telling the court in Freetown that their client is not guilty.

Superintendent Halloran was arrested last year while on secondment to Sierra Leone's war crimes tribunal.

He has already been cleared of charges of carnal knowledge and procurement of a child.

He is awaiting a verdict on two other charges of conspiracy and indecent assault.

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Concord Times

Friday January 28, 2005

LAWCLA condemns death penalty

By Tanu Jalloh

Lawyers Centre for Legal Assistance (LAWCLA) has condemned President Kabbah's reluctance in implementing the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) relating to the abolition of the death penalty in Sierra Leone.

A LAWCLA press release issued recently state that whilst other countries are moving away from the horrendous practice of state justified killings certain individuals within the corridors of power are relentlessly in ensuring the existence of the practice.

LAWCLA says the application of the death penalty is a direct contravention of Section 20 of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone providing that no one shall be subject to any treatment that is inhuman or degrading.

"The application of the death penalty has never shown to deter crime more than other forms of punishment," the release states, adding that government should initiate measures geared towards the abolition of the death penalty.

Another Special Court to try Sierra Leoneans

By George Wilson to establish a Special Sanitary Court for culprits of refuse disposal. This was disclosed yesterday at the Bank of Sierra Leone Complex, Kingtom in Freetown. The Minister explained that they have already identified retired sanitary supervisors that are going to be trained and subsequently appointed as Justices of the Peace by the President to preside over these Sanitary Courts. The Court, the Minister

Another Special Court to try Sierra Leoneans

the city, Mr. Sesay assured that his Ministry has located sanitary inspectors all over the country, adding that Government has bought a bulldozer worth over Le 560,000,000.00 that may arrive in May this year.

While admitting that the issue of waste disposal has become topical and political in the city, Mr. Sesay reiterated that the formulation of a National Policy on sanitation is in progress.

The Minister concluded that his Ministry and other line Ministries including Youths and Sports; Finance; Lands, Housing and the Environment and the Freetown City Council are effectively collaborating to combat the menace.

New Vision

Friday January 28, 2005



We Are The World

Gendarmes Killed an Estimated 10,000 Tutsis At Murambi, Says Witness

Hirondelle News Agency (Lausanne)

NEWS

January 26, 2005

Posted to the web January 27, 2005

Arusha

A prosecution witness in the trial involving four Military officers of the former Rwandan army (Ex-FAR) on charges of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes before the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), on Wednesday claimed that members of the gendarmerie killed an estimated 10,000 Tutsis in Murambi (South Rwanda).

The witness code-named ANI/KEI is the 6th prosecution witness to testify in this so-called Military II trial involving, among others, the former chief-of-staff of the Paramilitary Police (gendarmerie), General Augustin Ndindiliyimana.

The witness vividly recalled how "meetings were convened from April 13th convincing Tutsis to go to Murambi and Cyanika (Gikongoro, South Rwanda) where they will be protected". He testified, "at Murambi, Tutsis were surrounded by gendarmes".

On the 20th of April 1994, the witness claimed that he saw 300 machetes, gardening implements as well as arms being delivered and sharpened at the gendarmerie barracks in Gikongoro, four kilometres away from Murambi. The prosecution witness said, "I participated in uploading the machetes and at 11 PM that day, I went to Murambi to unload the machetes and arms which were used to cut up Tutsis at Murambi".

ANI/KEI then narrated that while at Murambi, he heard one Captain Sebhura "ordering gendarmes not to allow refugees to escape, then a whistle was blown and gendarmes started firing". The prosecution witness testified he made three trips to Murambi on the night of April 20th from Gikongoro Barracks "taking grenades and firearms to those gendarmes in Murambi". On the last trip, he claimed to have seen, "around 10,000 corpses strewn on the ground".

Afterwards, the witness testified that, "the officials were very happy and rewarded the gendarmes with cattle belonging to the Tutsis".

The witness also earlier said, "From March 1994, a number of roadblocks manned by gendarmes were set up in Gikongoro and by the 7th of April, 1994 when the situation became serious, gendarmes checked identity cards and killed Tutsis".

The witness was cross-examined by defence counsel for General Ndindiliyimana, Christopher Black of Canada who pointed out contradictions in the witness's testimony. At one point, the witness said that the commander of the gendarmerie camp in Gikongoro was Captain Sebhura, whereas counsel Black maintained it was Christopher Bizimungu.

General Ndindiliyimana is co-accused with the former chief-of-staff of the Rwandan army, General

Augustin Bizimungu, the former commander of the reconnaissance battalion Major François-Xavier Nzuwonemeye, his deputy, Captain Innocent Sagahutu. All have pleaded not guilty.

The prosecution says that the accused exercised authority over members of the former Rwandan army EX-FAR, Paramilitary Police, Interahamwe militia and armed civilians who killed, committed rapes and sexual assaults. The accused failed to take disciplinary action against the perpetrators.

The defence line of argument is that the militia and gendarmes were in a state of mutiny and that they were also being attacked by the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) currently in power in Kigali.

This trial started on September 20, 2004. The cross-examination continues of this witness on Thursday.

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Seromba's Counsel Accuses Trial Chamber of 'Protecting' Witness

Hirondelle News Agency (Lausanne)

NEWS

January 26, 2004

Posted to the web January 27, 2005

Arusha

Alfred Pogon, lead counsel for the former Roman Catholic Priest of Nyange Parish, Western Rwanda, Athanase Seromba, who is on trial for genocide, Tuesday accused Trial Chamber Three of protecting the last prosecution witness during cross examination.

Judge Vaz of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda had a tough job to control counsel Pogon who appeared angry and irritated when the prosecuting attorney Gregory Townsend raised an objection to the manner the counsel was cross questioning a self-confessed killer and prosecution witness code-named CNJ.

"I do not know whether to continue with my cross examination or not, if the Tribunal continues to protect the witness," complained counsel Pogon.

This reaction prompted Judge Vaz to say, "If there is an objection we have to listen. Don't get worked up, Mr. Pogon". She ordered him to calm down before he continued cross examining the witness.

Counsel Pogon then read portions of three supplementary letters of confession and request for forgiveness written by the witness and addressed to the Rwandan Prosecutor.

In the letters, the witness stated, among other things, that Nyange parish was attacked on Thursday and Friday of the week following the death of the former Rwandan President, the late Juvenal Habyarimana. He also indicated that Father Seromba was consulted about allowing the attackers to spend a night at the church.

Asked why he did not narrate this information to the chamber during his examination in-chief he said what he told the chamber was supplementary information which according to him was legally allowed.

Counsel Pogon requested the chamber sanction the witness for giving contradictory information but prosecuting attorney, Gregory Townsend immediately objected saying the question was asked and answered.

"I read the letters. Some information is lacking," said the defence lawyer, but Judge Vaz warned him, "if you proceed in this manner you will be the one to be sanctioned."

Pogon also asked the chamber to police the proceedings by ordering the witnesses to stop mentioning his client as he narrated the events. In response, Judge Vaz told him, "it is not up to you to ask the chamber to police the proceedings."

Witness CNJ concluded his testimony. The trial was later adjourned to March 1, 2005 when the defence would begin its case.

The 41-year old Father Seromba gave himself up to the ICTR in February 2002. He is accused of genocide and crimes against humanity and has pleaded not guilty. The Prosecution began its case on September 20, 2004.

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Swiss Get High Marks for African Sanctions

By Nico Colombant

Abidjan

27 January 2005

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Switzerland is tightening up United Nations sanctions relating to West Africa, including freezing bank accounts of former Liberian leader Charles Taylor. African leaders have had a history of having fortunes in Swiss banks, but money found to be of criminal origin is now being stopped.

The head of Switzerland's sanctions division at the state secretariat for economic affairs, Roland Vock, says Swiss action against war-torn Liberia and divided Ivory Coast - also known by its French name, Cote d'Ivoire - was announced late last week.

"The Swiss Federal Council, the Swiss government decided on two federal regulations concerning sanctions," said Mr. Vock. "The first one is implementing the U.N. Security Council resolution on Cote d'Ivoire and the second one concerns the U.N. sanctions against Liberia."

The Ivory Coast sanctions include an arms embargo and freezing bank accounts of yet-to-be named individuals blocking the stalled peace process.

International Crisis Group West Africa analyst Mike McGovern says it is encouraging to see Switzerland being pro-active, even if some sanctions remain hypothetical. "It's got the significance of showing the goodwill of Switzerland which is a country that's often been used for hiding the ill-gotten goods in its very private bank accounts," he said.

Concerning Liberia, the U.N. Security Council asked in March, 2004, for all members to search for and freeze assets related to Charles Taylor.

Switzerland had already frozen about \$5 million linked to the former warlord president in 2003, but later unblocked the funds because of what authorities called insufficient evidence of wrongdoing.

Mr. Vock says Switzerland's government took advantage of the Security Council reconducting separate arms, timber, diamond and travel sanctions in December to go ahead and freeze the assets of Mr. Taylor, now living in exile in Nigeria.

"Switzerland took this as an opportunity to also introduce the last sanctions," he said. "However, Switzerland had already in the year 2003 actually been freezing a number of accounts of Charles Taylor and people very close to him based on a request by the Special Court for Sierra Leone."

Officials at the court in Freetown say they have been getting excellent cooperation from the Swiss. They are trying to bring Mr. Taylor to trial, but Liberian authorities say it would be better to wait for the peace process to take hold.

Mr. Taylor is accused of stashing millions of dollars in Swiss bank accounts and elsewhere, from selling diamonds in exchange for weapons. Mr. Vock did not say how much money is currently linked to Mr. Taylor within the Swiss banking system.

But the International Crisis Group analyst, Mr. McGovern, says Switzerland's progress is important, as West African leaders have a history of keeping money of questionable origin in its banks.

"Switzerland is increasingly playing by the same rules as most of the countries in the European Union for instance," said Mr. McGovern. "So it's encouraging to see that they are willing to actually participate in the same way that they did, for instance, with the family of Sani Abacha."

In that matter, Switzerland announced late last year it would return to Nigeria almost \$500 million allegedly stolen by the late military leader, after agreeing with Abuja authorities the money was of criminal origin.

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