

SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
PRESS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

PRESS CLIPPINGS

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

Thursday, February 10, 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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...as CDF trial resumes

Witness testifies how Kamajors chopped off his fingers

As trial for the Civil Defence Forces resumed yesterday a witness- TF2 066 testified how Kamajor chopped off his four fingers leaving only the thumb in Bo. The witness

who was born in Kamabai said that he was in Bo when the Kamajors entered the town after the juntas were thrown out of power. He said that on that day he saw people running from the town

towards the bushes with Kamajors pursuing them. "I also started running and I ran towards the road leading to Koribundo. Some of the Kamajors were pursuing us while others

were coming from Koribundo end," he said. Adding that they were caught in the middle. He revealed that as they were running, he saw Kamajors chop five civilians. H went on to

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Witness testifies how Kamajors chopped off his fingers

From Front Page
explain that three Kamajors overpowered him and they fell on the ground. "My hand was placed on a stick and my four fingers chopped

off," he said. He further revealed that the Kamajors were dressed with 'Ronkos' with cowrie shells all over them. "Among them were men and small boys

all carrying cutlasses and sticks," he declared. Meanwhile the three indictees- Hinga Norman, Allieu Kondewa and Moinina Fofana were still absent from court.

AWK

Thursday February 10, 2005

For the People

Thursday, February 10, 2005

KAMAJORS CHOPPED

FIVE TO DEATH

A PROSECUTION WITNESS at the Special Court yesterday explained how five people were chopped to death while the four fingers of his left hand were cut off.

by *SU*

THORONKA

Led in evidence by the prosecution counsel, Mr Bangura, the witness told the court that he was born in Kamabai in the Bombali district but resided in Bo for eight years before they were attacked by Kamajors.

The witness said he was in Koindu when the war started and as a result, he went to Kenema. "From Kenema, I went to Tongo for a brief while and finally went to Bo where I settled with my family.

"I was in Bo when the government of president Tejan Kabbah was overthrown but before

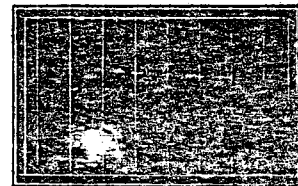
now, I had already sent my wife and four children home to Kamabai," he said.

According to the witness, he was at home one day when he saw people running towards the bush and that he saw Kamajors chopping people with cutlasses.

"I ran towards Koribondo and to an area called Konkofelay. While Kamajors were chasing me from behind, other Kamajors from Koribondo end were also chasing people and in the event, we were trapped in the middle.

"Eventually, five people were chopped

to death, while I was hit with a stick on the right side of my ribs and I suddenly fell to the ground," the witness said. Soon after, he said, three Kamajors fell on him and placed his left hand on a stick which they carried with them and chopped four of his five fingers and said to him "one love". The witness said the Kamajors told him he was lucky for not being killed. He said he later hid himself in the bush for the night. "It took me three months to heal the wounds inflicted on me by the Kamajors," the witness concluded.





We Are The World

Rwanda - JusticeneWS February 9 Th, 2005

Hirondelle News Agency (Lausanne)

NEWS

February 9, 2005

Posted to the web February 10, 2005

Byumba

RWANDA SENDS LAST WARNING TO GENOCIDE SUSPECTS

The Rwandan minister of justice, Edda Mukabagwiza, on Tuesday called on all suspects that may have participated in the 1994 genocide to confess, ask for forgiveness and receive reduced sentences ahead of a March, 2005 deadline.

"This is the last chance we are giving you to confess", Mukabagwiza told a gathering of over 500 prisoners in Miyove prison in Byumba province, north Rwanda.

"You can still take advantage of reduced sentences from Gacaca courts", she said.

Up until March 2005, a deadline that has twice been extended in the past, genocide suspects who plead guilty can benefit from a mandatory sentence reduction. At the postponement of the deadline last year, the government warned that it was doing it for the last time.

Suspects who plead guilty will also be considered first when the semi-traditional Gacaca courts begin trials later this month.

Over 20,000 people accused of genocide have so far been released, mainly after pleading guilty and apologizing to their communities.

"It is high time you told the truth on the crimes you committed. Do not think you are the only people who know what happened", Mukabagwiza warned.

Miyove prison holds 1182 inmates. Of these, 522 are detained in connection with the genocide. About 50% of them have pleaded guilty to genocide related crimes.

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RUFPP Leader Joins SLPP

Concord Times (Freetown)

NEWS

February 9, 2005

Posted to the web February 9, 2005

By Chernoh Alpha M. Bah
Freetown

Revolutionary United Front Party (RUFPP) interim leader, Borbor Peter Vandy has joined the Sierra Leone Peoples Party (SLPP) following his resignation Tuesday as a member of the RUFPP.

"I wish to inform the public that I have formally resigned from being a member of the RUFPP and have decided to become a member of the SLPP which has brought peace and reconciliation, and presently striving to develop the country," Vandy told Concord Times, adding that he earlier received a letter from Special Court indictee, Issa Sesay through the RUFPP Secretary General, Samuel Gbassay Kanu appointing him to act as interim leader of the party on his behalf, which he refused to accept on condition that he has to seek the consent of his family.

"You will recall that I was an active member of the party during its formation and I did that because I wanted to contribute to strengthen the multi-party democracy for which we took up arms," Vandy said in his letter of resignation.

He says his decision to join the SLPP is due to the fact the party has brought peace, reconciliation and multi-party democracy in the country.

"I should have joined the SLPP ever since but I had wanted the ex-combatants to change their ideology from the rule of war to the rule of law," he stated.

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Tariq Aziz may face tribunal first

By UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL

Published February 9, 2005

Former deputy prime minister Tariq Aziz is expected to be the first to appear before an Iraqi special tribunal, in "weeks, not months," a Western legal expert said Wednesday.

No one has said officially who is to appear first, although Tariq Aziz was mentioned by Iraq's Interim Minister of Human Rights Baktiar Amin Tuesday. Aziz is charged with gassing Kurds in northern Halabja in the late 1980s.

"Tariq Aziz was a senior member of the former Iraqi government, and he was a member of the Revolutionary Command Council," Amin said. "He took part of the decisions of the Revolutionary Command Council on wars and genocide in this country."

Other possible choices of those who could be first to trial include Barzan al-Tikriti, Saddam's half-brother and Iraq's former intelligence chief; and Ali Hassan al-Majid, also known as "Chemical Ali," according to people watching the preparations. "Chemical Ali" allegedly was the one who ordered the use of chemical weapons against the Kurds. The incident killed at least 5,000 people and injured another estimated 20,000, Amin said.

A "hypothetical" defendant facing charges related to forcing Kurds out of their homes in 1988 is expected to go first, the legal expert said, which could include any senior official in the former regime.

The civilian gassing appears to be one of the strongest charges against 12 "high-value" targets currently in custody, including former president Saddam Hussein.

Tribunal action appears to be picking up now because of the Jan. 30 election for a 275-member parliament. A final vote tally was put off by election officials, Wednesday, however. They said they would need to re-check 300 ballot boxes.

Defense lawyers are first expected to make challenges to the court's validity, the expert said. Although the tribunal was set up by U.S. advisers, it will be run by five Iraq judges on a "civil law" system similar to one used in Britain, he said.

Saddam's regime is responsible for killing more than 1 million people, Amin said, including more than 500,000 Kurds and thousands of Shiite Muslims killed in an uprising after the 1991 Gulf War. Christians and other minority groups in Iraq lost hundreds of lives to the regime, he said.

"It's essential that justice is done, to avoid vendetta and a continuous cycle of violence," Amin

said. "Justice is primordial in the reconstruction of this country."

Proceedings are expected to run like those at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and similar ones in Rwanda and Sierra Leone, the legal expert said. They will be broadcast on a 45-second delay outside the courtroom, and anyone will be able to come on a "first-come, first-served" basis to watch the proceedings behind a bulletproof glass panel.

Some judges and others in the more than 400-worker tribunal have received threats, but they're still on the job, the expert said.

Saddam and the others have constant access to lawyers, the expert said, in contrast to previous reports by the former president's lawyer that he had not been able to meet his client for several weeks.

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February 10, 2005

Trials of Some of Hussein's Aides to Start Within Weeks; His Is Expected in 2006

By JOHN F. BURNS

BAGHDAD, Iraq, Feb. 9 - Iraqi officials say that the long-awaited legal reckoning for Saddam Hussein and his associates will begin this spring with televised trials for at least two of the top 12 government members in American military custody, and that prosecutors will demand the death penalty for those judged guilty of the worst crimes.

One of the first men to be tried will be a cousin of Mr. Hussein's, Ali Hassan al-Majid, known as Chemical Ali for his role in poison-gas attacks that killed thousands of Iraqi Kurds in the late 1980's, officials say.

Another will be Barzan al-Tikriti, a half brother of Mr. Hussein's, who served early in his rule as deputy head of the secret police. Officials say the most serious charge against him will involve ordering the razing of a Shiite village north of Baghdad, and the killing of scores of men there, after a failed assassination attempt against Mr. Hussein in 1982.

Nearly two years after American troops captured Baghdad, twin courtrooms built for the trials in Baghdad's heavily guarded Green Zone are nearly ready, and investigating judges are close to completing dossiers summarizing the evidence for the first cases, officials say.

Although American legal experts have helped prepare the cases, the trials will be conducted before a special Iraqi tribunal, not before an international court of the kind set up in The Hague for the former Yugoslavia.

The Iraqi officials, speaking on condition they not be identified, say Mr. Hussein will not go on trial until the cases against his principal associates have been completed, perhaps not until well into next year.

Bakhtiar Amin, the human rights minister, said in an interview that court officials would use the cases against Mr. Hussein's associates to establish "command responsibility" for the atrocities committed under his rule, building evidence tying him to decisions that led to the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Iraqis.

Mr. Hussein, who is in solitary confinement at Camp Cropper, the American military detention center near Baghdad's airport, has been meeting recently with lawyers appointed by his family, according to a Western legal expert who discussed the trials on Wednesday. Captured by American troops in December 2003 near his hometown, Tikrit, Mr. Hussein became eligible for legal representation after a brief court appearance last July with the other 11 top leaders. But Iraqi officials said it was months before any Iraqi lawyers made formal bids to represent him.

Now, the legal expert said, Mr. Hussein has 10 Iraqi lawyers and as many as 25 foreign lawyers, any of whom will have the right to join his legal team at trial.

Mr. Hussein's wife, Sajida, fled Iraq before the American invasion with two daughters and took up residence in a lavish mansion in the Jordan.

Her spokesmen have said that she has appointed lawyers from Belgium, Britain, France, Jordan, Lebanon and Tunisia, among other countries, and that they will challenge the legitimacy of the special tribunal to try Mr. Hussein, arguing that his actions as president were covered by his immunity as head of state.

The Western legal expert, who has been closely involved in preparing the cases, said all 12 prisoners had been meeting regularly with lawyers. He said the meetings were not held in the presence of American guards, and that there were no constraints on what was discussed.

Previously, Iraqi officials had said the detainees were not allowed access to radio, television or newspapers, severely limiting their knowledge of developments in Iraq.

Asked if the meetings raised the possibility that the lawyers could act as couriers for messages from Mr. Hussein and the other detainees to the armed groups that have spread a wide insurgency across Iraq, the expert said it could not be ruled out.

"It's possible, but how do you stop that?" he said. "There have to be some sacrosanct aspects to the attorney-client privilege."

The expert, guarding his anonymity partly to ensure a low profile for the role play in the tribunal by Western advisers, set out a schedule for the first trials that suggested that it could be summer before proceedings reach the point where the tribunal begins to hear in detail of the brutalities inflicted under Mr. Hussein.

Before the trials can begin, he said, a team of 400 Iraqis working for the tribunal - backed by 50 mainly American lawyers and investigators in a support group known as the Regime Crimes Liaison Office - must hand in dossiers outlining the evidence against defendants to the five-judge panels that will preside at the trials. Investigators have spent much of the past year sifting through tons of seized documents, interviewing witnesses and reviewing evidence gathered by forensic teams from at least 12 mass graves.

The transfer of the dossiers to the tribunal, called a referral, will come within the next few weeks, the expert said. Then the judges will set a trial date, probably quite promptly, he said.

Some lawyers involved have already said that when the trials begin, they will argue that the court is illegal because it was set up by the American occupation authority last year, before Iraq resumed formal sovereignty. That issue would go to a nine-judge Iraqi appellate court, which would have to rule before the trials could proceed, the expert said.

Arrangements have been made for television relays to carry the trials live to Iraqi and worldwide audiences, according to the expert. He said the courtrooms would include seating for reporters and a public gallery to which ordinary Iraqis will be admitted first come first served.

Security will include screens or curtains to protect witnesses unwilling to be seen in open court. Although courts are in the Green Zone, a maze of checkpoints manned by Iraqis and Americans has already been set up.

One of Mr. Hussein's top associates is not likely to be tried because of his health problems, the Iraqi officials say. He is Muhammad Hamza al-Zubaydi, Mr. Hussein's prime minister after he seized power in 1979 and opened a bloody purge of the governing Baath Party. Mr. Zubaydi, in his late 60's, is the oldest of the 12 Camp Cropper detainees. Officials say he is suffering from severe heart trouble that traces back to two bypass

operations before Mr. Hussein's ouster, and that American doctors treating him do not expect him to recover.

Mr. Zubaydi has been under investigation for his role in the purge, which involved the execution of dozens of people shortly after Mr. Hussein declared himself president.

The Iraqi officials say some detainees have tried to win their freedom or avoid the death penalty by promising cooperation.

Early in the tribunal's existence, officials said two of those willing to give evidence against Mr. Hussein was Tariq Aziz, a former deputy prime minister, and Sultan Hashem Ahmed, defense minister during the American-led invasion in the spring of 2003. Mr. Hashem was the general who met with American commanders on Iraq's border with Kuwait in March 1991 to sign terms ending the Persian Gulf war.

These overtures took on new significance when Ayad Allawi, the former Baathist serving as interim prime minister, moved to control the court by dismissing senior tribunal officials and appointing his own loyalists. One of those dismissed, Salem Chalabi, the tribunal's director, said Dr. Allawi wanted to free some defendants, or lessen the charges against them, to form a lever with other former Baathists active in the insurgency. Dr. Allawi has acknowledged meeting secretly with such men in efforts to break the tide of war.

But Mr. Amin, the human rights minister, said there would be no compromise in the case of Mr. Aziz, who was Iraq's main diplomatic emissary for at least 15 years before Mr. Hussein's overthrow.

Mr. Amin, a Kurd, said Mr. Aziz, a Christian, was deeply implicated in Mr. Hussein's crimes against Iraq's Kurdish minority, and in particular in the killing of thousands of Kurdish Christians. "I am opposed to anyone with blood on his hands, and who has been involved in genocide and other atrocities, being released," Mr. Amin said.

One concern has been that Mr. Hussein could try to use his court appearances to as a political platform, in the way that Slobodan Milosevic, the former Yugoslav president, has done in years of testimony at The Hague. At his brief court appearance last July, Mr. Hussein described the Kuwait invasion in 1990 as a just assertion of Iraq's national interest and condemned the American occupation. He claimed he was still Iraq's lawful president, and told the judge that he should be ashamed of himself for dishonoring his country's leader.

But the Western legal expert said Iraqi court procedures, based on civil law, should prevent attempts to turn the proceedings into political theater. First, he said, the defense will be handled by lawyers, and not, as in Mr. Milosevic's case, by the defendant. Beyond that, the wide powers granted to the judges to select witnesses and direct prosecution and defense lawyers, as well as the absence of the adversary system used in American trials, would make the tribunal's hearings "more expeditious" than the tribunal in The Hague.

"You're not going to see a Johnnie Cochrane cross-examining somebody in the manner of the O. J. case," he said.

KAIKAI BLAST SLPP TOP OFFICIAL

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Posted by Salone man (81.135.246.202) on February 06, 2005 at 06:47:20:

A top official of the ruling party branch in the United Kingdom has said that unless those within the party showed a commitment to the ideals of the party dedicated to addressing the widening gap between rich and poor, the country would crash on the same rocks that saw the country experience a decade-long conflict of murder, rape, mutilation and general mayhem.

Mr Moijueh Kaikai, the man charged with matters dealing with giving the party a positive look in the United Kingdom and Ireland branch said that now more than ever was there a need for "a radical overhaul of the party and those entrusted with carrying out its commitment to the people of this country". He said that what he observed was "an obscene kind of competition between party and government functionaries as to who would win in the on-going race of acquiring material wealth at the peoples' expense at whatever cost".

"Nothing is sacred anymore in this mad race and lessons from the past now lay trampled under the feet of those who had pledged to make life easier for everyone in the country."

Mr Kaikai said that a complete overhaul of the party at national level was badly needed "so that we can have people in place who can work for both party and people and not for selfish interests".

Asked to comment on reports that while in Sierra Leone he expressed a desire to put his name on any party list come voting time for key positions within the national secretariat, he said that he told some party members that given what he had seen and experienced he saw the need for fresh faces filling such posts with people dedicated to the cause of the party and the general welfare of Sierra Leoneans.

Mr Kaikai said that this expression of intention must have caused quite a lot of panic with a number of key officials shuttling from one corridor to the other in what he called a futile bid to make the inner caucus of the party a closed arena. "They know they will never succeed in stopping the likes of us should we decide to contest key posts in the national secretariat because the record of present holders are there for all to see".

He said that while in the capital, he heard reports that the party had put out a statement which in effect barred anyone from abroad contesting national party posts except they had been resident in the country for five years. "When I took the matter up with them, I was told that it was not the case and that the persons targeted were those who joined the party in latter years and they know that I have been with the party for quite a long time".

Mr Kaikai condemned what he saw as "a picture of recklessness and the mindset of a clique who believe that being in government and holding a party card is an open door to corruption and mismanagement". He said that he considered it "a real fool's paradise" for this clique to think that the deprived poor do not know what is going on and pointed to the number of mansions and other displays of wealth by "civil servants, government functionaries and the like who will never be in a position to account for their acquisitions".

Mr Kaikai said that he visited a number of places outside the capital Freetown including Bo, Pujehun, Makeni and Kenema noting that the cries and disappointment of the people "were there for those with eyes to see and ears to hear" and called for a change in attitude in those who have been entrusted with managing the affairs of state.

He said that it was unbelievable to see the various paths leading to some of these mansions that have been springing from the fountains of the clique and showed just how selfish all its members have become. "Even the road leading to their houses are left in a deplorable state lest it be used by ordinary folks and hence the acquisition of 4-wheel drive vehicles" adding that blow for blow, head count per head count and ratio-wise, the number of 4-wheel drive vehicles in Sierra Leone shamed those in the United States and the United Kingdom. "Where is all this wealth coming from in a country that has just come out of a war triggered by this same lack of care and responsibility?", he asked.

Mr Kaikai confirmed the observation of many visitors when he confirmed that indeed reports that Freetown was a dirty city rings true and is there for all to see and smell adding that heaps of foul-smelling garbage compete with pedestrians and vehicles on roads and pavements. He said that a true testimony of the filth is easily discerned as one approaches the party headquarters in Freetown where "your nostrils will be assailed with the smell of urine and piles of rubbish all around".

However despite all these disappointments, Mr Kaikai still has hope. Hope that should they have dedicated, honest and truly dedicated people running the party and government, "things could be turned around to make the people happy" but insisted that such a change in attitude could only come about if there is a radical change within government, parliament and the law-interpreting system - the courts of law and justice.

After visiting the Special Court where he met with some of the officials in person for the first time and was allowed to have a chat/meeting with detained former Kamajor Chieftain, Chief Hinga Norman, Mr Kaikai expressed some doubt about the present role of the institution. "In principle, the idea of the Special Court appears to be welcomed, but there are disappointments about those who are now facing trial. I wonder what justification would there be for those who are known to have perpetuated heinous crimes during the war being left to walk the streets free while their victims are left in dire poverty and neglect?".

Follow Ups:

- [Re: KAIKAI BLAST SLPP TOP OFFICIAL true 16:22:18 02/07/05 \(0\)](#)
- [Re: KAIKAI BLAST SLPP TOP OFFICIAL 1N1P 06:57:33 02/07/05 \(0\)](#)
- [Re: KAIKAI BLAST SLPP TOP OFFICIAL Fan of Kaikai 08:36:28 02/06/05 \(0\)](#)

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Comments:

The Washington Times February 4, 2005 Friday

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The Washington Times

February 4, 2005 Friday

Darfur's last hope

By David B. Rivkin Jr. and Lee A. Casey, SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON TIMES

An ad hoc U.N. court must step up

The ongoing massacres in Sudan's Darfur region present a humanitarian emergency of the highest order. As many as 50,000 people have been killed and 1.4 million displaced. Although the United States has called these atrocities "genocide," the United Nations has refused to accept this characterization, and, largely due to French, Russian and Chinese opposition, it is unlikely that the Security Council will impose meaningful sanctions against the Sudanese government or authorize the use of force.

Absent a "unilateral" humanitarian military intervention by the United States, Darfur's last hope appears to be a referral of the matter to some international judicial body capable of prosecuting and punishing the men responsible. Otherwise, the lessons of Rwanda will have been lost, and the world will have ignored yet another genocide in Africa. The question, however, is which tribunal.

Our European allies, supported by the recent report of a U.N. commission, want the newly established International Criminal Court (ICC) to undertake the responsibility. The other candidates are a "mixed" national/international tribunal along the lines of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, and a reformed version of the U.N.'s ad hoc International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR). There are drawbacks associated with each of these options, but the third probably presents the best opportunity for immediate action in Darfur, and acceptance in the region.

In principle, of course, a mixed tribunal like the Sierra Leone court, which was jointly established in 2002 by the United Nations and that country's government, is preferable. This model preserves the relevant state's sovereignty, but also provides for international participation and assistance. In addition, it ensures that justice will be carried out in the context of the society from which both the victims and perpetrators came. Unfortunately, a mixed court cannot work in Darfur, since the Sudanese government has itself been implicated in the killings there.

The next best option is to have the Security Council vest authority to investigate and prosecute the Darfur offenses in a reformed ICTR. Although this court has had a troubled history, including problems with inefficiency and corruption, it is a well-established regional institution - headquartered in Arusha, Tanzania - and has made improvements. It is experienced in investigating and processing genocide allegations, and could begin work immediately.

Moreover, rather than a simple referral, the Security Council would be able to institute additional reforms, and can also direct the ICTR to work closely with the African Union (AU). The AU is a highly respected regional organization, and it already has personnel deployed in Sudan. Most importantly, even if flawed, an ICTR referral would avoid the air of "colonialism" that would clearly arise if the ICC were tasked to do the job.

The ICC is first and foremost a European experiment. It is headquartered in The Netherlands, and the European Union (EU) controls 25 of 97 votes in its assembly of state parties. The EU has, in fact, set itself the task of achieving "universality" for the court, and is the ICC's chief international proponent. Moreover, both of the ICC's current investigations involve African countries, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda, respectively. Adding Darfur to this list begins to look a very great deal like European justice for African defendants.

Another critical drawback to referring Darfur to the ICC is that the United States has rejected that institution for itself, and there are significant unsettled issues over the court's sweeping jurisdictional claims. In particular, the ICC asserts the right to try American citizens, with or without a Security Council referral, who are accused of "war crimes" and similar offenses in the territory of ICC member states. This represents a delegation of national judicial authority not recognized by international law, the only precedents being the thoroughly discredited "capitulations" imposed on Turkey and China in the 19th century, and which cannot properly be accomplished by treaty. Both President Clinton and President Bush, in turn, correctly rejected the ICC's extravagant jurisdictional claims.

As a result, before the United States should even consider a Security Council ICC referral, both the ICC and EU would have to agree that the action creates no precedent, either at the U.N. level or as a matter of customary international law. Although similar compromise language was actually included in the documents creating the U.N. ad hoc tribunals, acknowledging that these courts could not "make" international law, there appears to be little chance that either the ICC or its European sponsors would accept such terms now. However, the costs to American interests of going forward without such an agreement would be prohibitive. As a result, a reformed ICTR offers the best chance of some immediate action in Darfur.

David B. Rivkin Jr. and Lee A. Casey served in the Justice Department under Presidents Reagan and George H.W. Bush.