

**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, February 11, 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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# Former 'Death Squad' Commander testifies in court

Former Commander of the Kamajor's 'Death Squad'- Borbor Tucker yesterday testified at the Special Court. Led in evidence by Prosecutor, Joseph Kamara, the 37-

year-old witness said that the role of the 'Death Squad' was to provide security for in Talia Yobeko later called Base Zero and its surrounding. He said that it was at that

base, after an attack at Tiama, that he was introduced to Hinga Norman and other Kamajor dignitaries, by Allieu Kondewa as one of the fighters to be trusted.

He revealed that they were attacking junta positions on the orders of Hinga Norman. In 1997 he went on, Hinga Norman ordered them to

*Contd. Page 2*

## Former 'Death Squad' Commander

*From Front Page*  
go to Moyamba to reinforce the Kamajors there. "We were supplied with fuel, AK 47s, Rocket Propelled Grenades, and Lightweight Machine Guns by Mr. Lomeh the Logistics Officer on the instructions of Hinga Norman," he said. Borbor Tucker that at Moyamba soldiers launched an attack at their base and they engaged in a fierce battle, which resulted in a lot of soldiers being

killed. The witness went on further to say that Base Zero was used as training ground for up to 5,000 people at the Talia school field and certificates issued out to them at the end of the training. According to him in 1998, a meeting was held at the training field in which Hinga Norman told them that they should launch an all out war on the junta positions. He said that Moinina Fofanah told them that it was time to

put into practice the training they have received so far, while Allieu Kondewa told them not to be afraid, as he had transferred all his powers to them. He said his group was ordered by Hinga Norman secure the Bo-Koribundo Highway to prevent the reinforcement of soldiers from Bo as they were planning to take over Koribundo. Borbor Tucker narrated further that when Koribundo was captured, he saw Kamajors looting and setting the houses on fire, adding "I also gathered 56 bundles of zinc and placed them in a store."

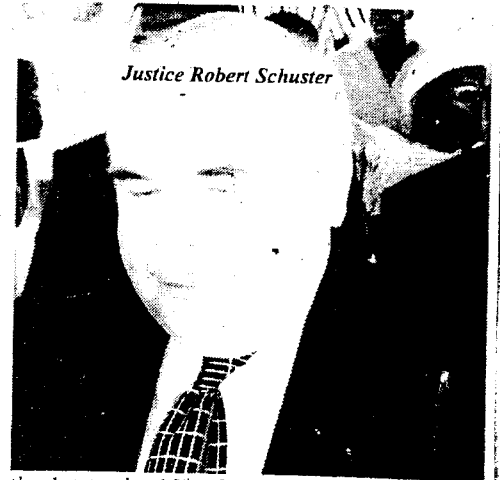
# Salone justice system condemned

Justice Robert Schuster has described Sierra Leone's justice system as a "sad indictment." The British Jurist made this pronouncement to

prosecuting counsel-Timothy Patrick Momoh Sowa. He pointed out that the two-count charge of robbery with aggravation and conspiracy, he is

prosecuting has been in court since 19<sup>th</sup> February last year with no record of proceedings and no plea taking. The Prosecuting Counsel read the allegation

on the indictment, which stated that the four accused persons- Seyon Jeffery, Foday Kallon, Vandy Kallon and Lamin Mansaray around



the 1st to the 15<sup>th</sup> of October conspired with other persons unknown to rob with aggravation, with pistol, axe and a screwdriver

Contd. on Page 2

## Salone justice system

*From Front Page*  
at 39 Wellington street, Prosecuting counsel TPM Sowa also informed the bench that two of the accused turned

themselves in to the police. The first and fourth accused persons pleaded not guilty to count one, on count two the second and third also pleaded not

guilty. Prosecutor-Sowa asked for a date, as one of his witnesses was unavoidably absent, the matter was then adjourned to Tuesday.

Awoko  
Friday, February 11, 2005

Concord Times

Friday February 11, 2005

# Special Court Registrar goes to Arusha

Special Court Registrar, Robin Vincent Wednesday met three other registrars of international tribunals in Arusha, Tanzania to discuss key issues relating to the availability of funding and delivery of coherent completion strategies for the International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia, Rwanda Tribunal, International Criminal Court and Sierra Leone's Special Court.

Report say the four registrars, Vincent, Hans Holthuis, Adama Dieng and Bruno Cathala signed a joint communiqué on the "identification of best practices in the administra-

tion of international criminal justice.

"The four debated issues of detention, functioning of defence, protection of witnesses, plight of victims, the enforcement of sentence and acquisition of indicted persons," a Senior UN Official says, adding that the objective of the meeting is to strengthen the international criminal justice system and define common strategies for the operation of international tribunals.

A first round of discussions were held in Freetown in March last year aimed at consolidating cooperation amongst tribunals.



## Tribunal registrars outline future challenges

11 Feb 2005  
By Guardian Reporter

Registrars of four international tribunals said in Arusha on Wednesday that the key challenges for the coming years would be the availability of funding and the delivery of coherent completion strategies for the ad hoc courts.

Hans Holthuis of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), Robin Vincent of the Special court for Sierra Leone (SCSL), Adama Dieng of the Rwanda Tribunal (ICTR) and Bruno Cathala of the International Criminal Court (ICC) signed a joint communiqué on the identification of best practices in the administration of international criminal justice.

The Hironelle Press Agency reported that the four have been debating issues of detention, functioning of the defence, the protection of witnesses, the plight of victims, communication and sensitisation initiatives, the enforcement of sentences, and the position of acquitted persons for the last two days.

Their objective is to strengthen the international criminal justice system and define common strategies.

The talks, which follow the first round in Freetown, Sierra Leone in March 2004, are aimed at consolidating cooperation among the tribunals.

They hope to complete the talks by early March this year and make a report to the European Commission, which funds the inter-tribunal cooperation.

The four men charged with running the international tribunals concluded their communiqué by acknowledging with deep appreciation the significant and continuing support of the international community and called on member states to implement those court orders in respect of the surrender and detention of indictees who are still at large.

\* SOURCE: *GUARDIAN*

## U.N. child soldier report lists violators

By Mike Stone

UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL

United Nations, United States, Feb. 9 (UPI) -- The U.N. advocate for children caught in conflict Wednesday, blaming both government armies and rebel groups in the abuse of children's rights, proposed stiff penalties.

The Special Representative of U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan for Children and Armed Conflict -- Olara Otunnu, who authored the report on behalf of Annan -- for the first time put forward a menu of penalties for nations or groups violating the human rights of minors.

The penalties suggested included the imposition of travel restrictions for leaders, the revocation of traditional amnesty for leaders and "a ban on the export or supply of small arms, a ban on military assistance, (and) restrictions on the flow of financial resources to offending parties."

The report to the U.N. Security Council was released at a news conference where Otunnu outlined a monitoring, reporting and compliance structure that begins at the country level and ends at United Nations World Headquarters in New York.

The foundation of the monitoring and reporting program included networks on the country level comprised of non-governmental organizations, U.N. entities, local civil society organizations and the local government, as explained in the report.

Otunnu said the monitoring reports were "only useful as a trigger for action."

The organizations were to work with a country-level "Child Protection Network" to implement items prescribed at the country level and at U.N. headquarters level. Composition of the structure was to reflect the importance of feedback and not just a hierarchical, top-down structure.

As a part of a name and shame strategy, the report "lists all offending parties."

The list of alleged offenders is comprised primarily of non-government militias that are actively engaged in conflict and either use child soldiers or are suspected of violating the human rights of children. The special representative was careful to explain the list was limited to the "identifiable and identified" transgressors guilty of grave abuses.

Since the inception of the annual report in 2002, the list grew from 23 to 52 parties in 2003 and, with the inclusion of Janjaweed group in Sudan, to now the present 53 parties. The Janjaweed group allegedly was responsible for attacks against schools and sexual violence, said the U.N. representative.

Despite a reduction in the number of child soldiers in the past 18 months from 380,000 to 300,000, the situation for the children on the ground in conflict areas and other "situations of concern," Otunnu said, "remains grave and unacceptable."

Although the situation has improved in Angola, Sierra Leone, Sudan and Sri Lanka, the report listed all locations and groups where instances of violence involving children have been reported, including killing or maiming, recruiting as soldiers, attacks against schools or hospitals, sexual violence and abduction.

Requested by the Security Council, the report was to be the subject of discussion and debate Feb. 23.

The report said the council "may wish to consider targeted and concrete measures" to end the impunity that has allowed commanders and leaders who use child soldiers in persistent violation of past resolutions.

If such actions were taken by the council, the measures would affect governments as well as non-state actors such as rebel groups, Otunnu said.

Included in the report were actionable items for the council, the International Criminal Court and national governments where the abuses occurred.

Initiatives that speed along the prosecution of persons responsible for war crimes against children were already under way.

U.N. peacekeeping personnel were also mentioned by the report under the subject title "Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by U.N. Peacekeeping Personnel."

In 2004 the number of allegations of sexual misconduct filed against U.N. peacekeepers, who are soldiers on loan from member states' armies, "increased significantly," according to the report. These occurrences resulted in disciplinary action against 20 military personnel and five civilian peacekeeping personnel. An investigation into the violations was ongoing.

The report also said, "Numerous children were killed or injured during bombings and other military operations carried out by coalition/multi-national forces."

The United States did not make the list of named countries.

Afghanistan was listed as one success, the report explained. Through a UNICEF-sponsored child-specific disarmament, demobilization and integration program, 3,820 children were demobilized by September 2004. The former soldiers came mainly from the Northeastern, eastern, and central highland regions of Afghanistan, areas where militia were active during the Taliban regime.

There since have been no reports of children recruited into the Afghan National Army.

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United Nations



Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia  
(UNMIL)

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**UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary  
10 Feb 2005**

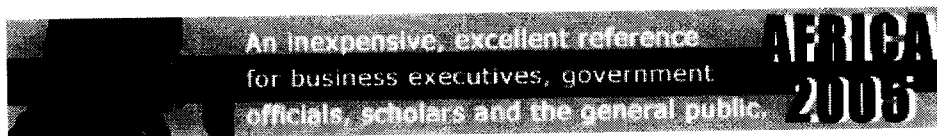
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**United Nations report calls for sanctions against groups which  
use child soldiers**

By LEYLA LINTON

UNITED NATIONS (AP) \_ Hundreds of thousands of children around the world are being used as soldiers, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said in a report Wednesday, describing the situation as "grave and unacceptable." In his annual report to the U.N. Security Council on child soldiers, Annan recommended sanctions against groups who use them. These could include travel bans on leaders, arms embargoes and a "restriction on the flow of financial resources to the parties concerned," he said.

In Liberia, where more than 10,000 children in arms have been demobilized, around 75 percent of girls reported some form of sexual abuse or exploitation.



## Togo: West African Leaders Condemn Coup, Demand Return to Old Constitution

### UN Integrated Regional Information Networks

NEWS

February 10, 2005

Posted to the web February 10, 2005

Niamey

West African leaders have branded the father-to-son transition of power in Togo as a military coup and have demanded that the old constitution be restored so that presidential elections can be held in two months.

Meeting in Niger on Wednesday, nine presidents of the 15-nation Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), condemned the military-backed seizure of power by Faure Gnassingbe following the death in office of his father, Gnassingbe Eyadema.

"The heads of state strongly condemn the military intervention which led to Faure Gnassingbe being installed as the successor to the deceased president," ECOWAS said in a statement following five hours of talks in the Niger capital, Niamey.

"They agree that this constitutes a coup d'etat and they condemn the subsequent manipulation of the constitution by parliament," it added.

A high-powered ECOWAS delegation, including the presidents of Ghana, Mali, Niger and Nigeria, is set to visit Lome on Friday to demand that Togo returns to the constitution, as it was before it was hastily rewritten at Gnassingbe's bidding on Sunday, or face the consequences.

"The delegation is fervently urged to express to the Togolese authorities, the necessity to return to the status quo ante," the ECOWAS statement said. "In case of refusal... sanctions would be rigorously applied."

Following the sudden death of Eyadema on Saturday after 38 years in power, the Togolese armed forces installed his 39-year-old son, Faure Gnassingbe, as president of the small West African nation.

In doing so, they violated the constitution. This stipulated that power should pass to Fambare Ouattara Natchaba, the head of Togo's national assembly, who would be charged with organising presidential elections within 60 days.

Following a chorus of international condemnation, Togo's parliament, which is dominated by Eyadema's Rally of the Togolese People (RPT) party, was hastily convened on Sunday to retroactively legitimise Gnassingbe's seizure of power.

Natchaba was voted out as head of the national assembly and was replaced by Gnassingbe. In addition,

parliament amended the constitution to allow Gnassingbe to rule for the next three years by serving out the remainder of his father's term.

But these moves failed to impress other African leaders, who are bent on putting a stop to coups on the continent.

"We think that what has happened in Togo is a big setback for democracy in Africa," said Senegal's President Abdoulaye Wade, whose country has enjoyed uninterrupted civilian rule since independence in 1960.

"The authorities in Lome have nothing to gain from continuing along this path," he told reporters after the ECOWAS summit in Niamey. "It will not be accepted by ECOWAS, by the African Union or by the international community," he said. "I am asking them to come to their senses."

The Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie, which groups France and its former colonies in Africa, on Wednesday suspended Togo's membership after Gnassingbe's seizure of power.

The African Union has threatened sanctions and European Union officials have hinted that negotiations on a resumption of EU aid to Togo, following a break of 12 years, would be put on ice.

Gnassingbe, who was Minister of Public Works, Mines and Telecommunications until his dramatic elevation at the weekend, promised fresh elections and a dialogue with the opposition in his first broadcast to the nation on Wednesday.

But the new leader did not commit himself to a date for elections. Neither did he say whether the promised elections would provide an opportunity for Togo's five million people to choose a new president as well as a new parliament.

Eyadema, who ruled Togo with an iron fist for almost four decades, had already pledged to hold a legislative poll in 2005 as part of his attempts to improve relations with the EU.

The European Commission suspended aid to Togo in 1993 over concerns about its democratic credentials, good governance and human rights record, but diplomats have said that until Eyadema's death, the country was one good legislative election away from aid being resumed.

The Togolese authorities offered no immediate reaction to Wednesday's stinging rebuke from ECOWAS, but opposition parties expressed their satisfaction.

"We, like ECOWAS, are demanding a return to the constitution," Martin Aduayom, head of the Democratic Convention for African People (CDPA), told IRIN on Thursday. "We are talking about a military coup d'etat, that has been cosmetically disguised by a constitutional modification."

He said the opposition was planning a peaceful march through Lome on Saturday to protest against the Gnassingbe's military-backed takeover, in a spite of a two-month ban on public demonstrations that the new government imposed earlier this week.

Meanwhile, Togo's independent media have come under pressure to avoid criticism of Gnassingbe's assumption of power.

The army, whose senior ranks are dominated by members of Gnassingbe's Kabiye ethnic group from northern Togo, issued a statement on Thursday warning journalists about their coverage.

"The media are playing a dangerous game which could have unpredictable consequences. We have all the necessary means to put an end to that," it warned.

On Wednesday, the authorities silenced FM broadcasts by Radio France Internationale in Lome and warned three local radio stations to stop broadcasting phone-in programmes which had been used by members of the public to criticise the new regime.

*[ This report does not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations ]*

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