

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 03, 2005

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.
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Unamsil Fenced 'Death River' In Kono

... Special Court Witness Tells Court

By Joseph Turay

Special Court witness code named TF1 102 yesterday told the judges that Unamsil peacekeepers deployed in

Kono fenced a river in Kono known as Savage River, where civilians were dumped after being murdered.

The witness explained that

between 1992-99 during the junta period, many civilians who were shot dead most often for no just cause, were dumped in that river in Tombodu

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Unamsil Fenced 'Death River' In Kono

From front page

through the instructions and command of a rebel commander called Col. Savage. The witness said a number of civilians who were captured were captured or arrested by the junta outfit were either shot dead and thrown into that river or drowned.

The witness disclosed that he was an errand boy for the rebels. He noted that, UN peacekeepers are presently trying to make a rough estimate of the number of people killed and thrown in that river which he said is very famous in Kono especially Tombodu Town. TF1-102

further told the court that it was Col. Savage who named the river as "death river. He said the Col. had a house where he used to lock up civilians and set the house ablaze. Dozens of civilians he said were killed in that house. The house he went on, was barricaded by UN Peacekeepers with the aim of transforming it to a monument. TF 1-102 said he once visited the house and saw a huge quantity of human skulls and that the walls of the house was all stained with blood. Col. Savage, the witness further told the court, ended up becoming

insane and was taken to a native doctor called Demba Marrah at Masoyila. While in Kono, he said he frequently saw Issa Sesay and other commanders visiting mines field and collecting diamonds from captured civilians. He said civilian captured miners who complain of being tired were often shot and killed.

He also disclosed that he was among a number of captured civilians in a convoy of vehicles bound for Guinea and that he saw the fugitive Johnny Paul Koroma in one of those vehicles dressed like a woman after he fell out with the junta in 1997.

The Exclusive

Thursday February 3, 2005

Witness exposes rebel atrocities

By Abdul Karim Koroma

Special Court witness TF1 -102, Wednesday exposed some of the atrocities perpetrated on civilians by the rebels in Kono.

The witness who was a farmer said rebels maimed, killed, enslaved civilians and burnt down several houses in that township.

He says he was an errand boy and an observer overseeing the mining fields for the rebels.

"In 1998, Johnny Paul Koroma, Issa Sesay and Superman were calling civilians from the bush for

a meeting," the witness said and added that six persons were executed during the meeting because voter ID cards were found in their possession.

He said Colonel Savage placed an unspecified number of civilians in a house and burnt them.

"Some of his colleagues were opposed to that," he said and noted that the places where he executed people have been fenced by UNAMSIL.

Concord Times

~~Concord Times~~

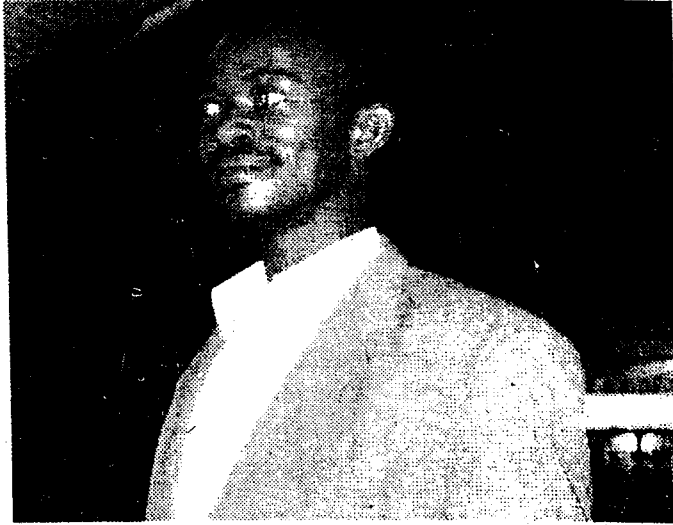
Thursday, February 3, 2005

We handed over diamonds to Issa – witness tells court

By Odilia French

At the Special Court a witness testified yesterday how they handed over the diamonds, which they mined in Tombodu to Issa Sesay. Led in evidence by Prosecutor Christopher Santora, the witness said that after the Lome Peace Accord, Foday Sankoh came to Koidu and

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We handed over diamonds to Issa – witness tells court

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gave orders to Issa Sesay, Akim and other commanders to start mining everywhere in Kono. According to him, Issa went to Tombodu, and told them that the war is now over and that they should start mining for the government. He said that mining then started and people were captured from Makeni, Kabala and other places and brought to Tombodu to work in the mining pits. The witness revealed that conditions in the mining fields were not favourable. "We had no food and could not even rest because if we dare the rebels would

kill us," he added. He went on to narrate that at times Issa would come for the diamonds and "sometimes one Officer Med and I would take the diamonds to him." The witness also in his testimony told the court that before the Lome Peace accord, an order came from Kailahun from Mosquito to Col. Savage who was in charge of Tombodu to kill everyone found in the bushes and to burn their houses. Savage started carrying out these orders he said, when a large number of people were brought from the bushes and placed in a four-bedroom house and set

ablaze. "The people were so many and nobody knew the count and for two months oil from the dead bodies was coming out of the house." He went on "the rebels also started burning down houses while others were killed and sent into the water called 'Savage water', with stones tied on their backs." The witness further said that after AFRC was overthrown, Johnny Paul came to Tombodu dressed as a woman together with Mosquito, Superman, Rambo, Staff Alhaji, Issa and a host of other commanders. He said that in his presence six people were shot because they had voter ID cards on their pockets.

Awaka

Thursday February 3, 2005



Genocide Has Been Occurring in Darfur, U.S. Government Reaffirms

United States Department of State (Washington, DC)

NEWS

February 1, 2005

Posted to the web February 2, 2005

By Charles W. Corey
Washington, DC

United States welcomes U.N. commission on Darfur but differs on conclusion

Even though the U.S. government welcomes the work that has been completed by a United Nations commission of inquiry on Darfur, the United States still stands by its own conclusion reached September 2004 that genocide has been occurring in Darfur, State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said February 1.

Speaking to reporters at the department's regular noon briefing, Boucher stressed: "We stand by the conclusion that we reached that genocide had been occurring in Darfur. And we think that the continued accumulation of facts on the ground, the facts that are reported here in the commission's report, supports that view, that conclusion that we reached and continue to hold."

"Nothing has happened to change those conclusions," Boucher said. "We stand by those conclusions."

Boucher's comments came in response to the January 31 release of a report by the U.N. International Commission of Inquiry on Darfur, which concluded that the government of Sudan did not pursue a policy of genocide in Darfur but that crimes against humanity and war crimes have been committed that "may be no less serious and heinous than genocide."

Boucher told reporters the U.S. government will continue to work with the international community to stop the violence and the atrocities in Sudan. "We're calling on the Government of Sudan to take steps," he said. "We're calling on the rebels to take steps, immediate action to stop the violence."

He said the United States is continuing to work with the African Union to expand its peacekeeping presence in Sudan. Additionally, he said, "we are continuing to support the efforts being made for a political solution, support the efforts being made by Africans in countries like Nigeria to try to reach a political solution."

Boucher said now that the U.N. commission has completed its report, "we need to move to the stage of accountability." As part of that process, he said, "we are discussing elements of our proposals for accountability with other [U.N.] Security Council members and with interested African countries."

"We believe that the best way to address these crimes, as detailed in the report, is to establish a U.N. and African Union tribunal that would be based in Arusha, Tanzania. It would involve African countries integrally in the process, in keeping with the African Union's leading role in Darfur," he said.

"We understand that the commission itself talks about the International Criminal Court (ICC)," Boucher noted, but he cautioned, "We think it's important for the Security Council to consider the various options, and we believe that having accountability for these crimes in a tribunal that's based in Arusha, Tanzania, is the best way to ensure accountability."

When asked about the case being referred to the ICC, as suggested by the commission, Boucher said there should be no "automatic referral to the ICC" and that "when you look in more detail at the facts and the legal aspects of this, we do think that the tribunal in Africa is a preferable way, is the better way to ensure that there is accountability to these crimes."

Boucher said there are a number of advantages in referring the case to a tribunal in Africa. Such an option, he said, "would involve the Africans and the African Union in playing a continuing role for accountability, as they have played one in trying to stop the crisis in Darfur to begin with."

Such an option, he said, "also has the practical advantage of building on the existing infrastructure of the U.N. International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda.

"That would allow the Sudan tribunal to commence more rapidly, to take advantage of the expertise in lessons learned in dealing with the crimes in Rwanda."

Boucher also pointed out that the U.N. Commission of Inquiry, in its reporting, details crimes that took place in 2001 and 2002. "Those crimes pre-date the establishment of the International Criminal Court, and therefore the court wouldn't have jurisdiction over those crimes," he said.

"So you have all the crimes of 2001 and 2002 that couldn't be handled by the International Criminal Court because of the way its statute reads, whereas a tribunal in Africa could deal with all the crimes that have been committed in Darfur from the beginning."

For these reasons and others, Boucher told reporters, the U.S. government is proposing to other governments the establishment of a tribunal in Arusha. "We think it's important that the council look at the various options seriously," he said.

Boucher said the United States is also proposing the establishment of a U.N. peacekeeping mission for Sudan that could "support the African Union and the eventual deployment to Darfur, as conditions permit." He said the United States is also making proposals on how to increase pressure on the parties to abide by their commitments under current standing U.N. resolutions that are already in place.

"We have, in our consultations already with a number of council members on this question, made clear we believe it's time to move toward sanctions. We have raised a number of measures, including oil sanctions and targeted sanctions, with other council members, and we'll continue discussion of those," he told reporters.

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Help stop the crisis in

Following US\$25,000 Bond: Taylor's Arms Supplier Languishes in Jail

The NEWS (Monrovia)

NEWS

February 2, 2005

Posted to the web February 2, 2005

By George Bardue
Monrovia

Despite the issuance of a US\$25,000 bail bond and the presentation of sureties at the Monrovia Magisterial Court to secure the release of Dalibar Kapp, a Czech National facing extradition hearings, the defendant is yet to see daylight.

The defendant Kapp is accused of "arm trafficking" for which he is allegedly been sought by the Czech Republic.

The Liberian Government by and through the Czech Republic accused Kapp of supplying arms to exiled former President Charles Taylor, Iraq and other rebel leaders around the world.

A week ago, Magistrate Joseph Fayiah ordered the detention of Kapp until he files a bail bond with the court in the tune of US\$25,000 and makes available two Liberians with good characters as sureties before he would be set free.

In keeping with the court's mandate, defense Counsel, Cllr Jonathan Williams complied by filing the bond and presented the names of Mac C. Williams and Solomon Gargar as sureties in case the defendant flees justice. Magistrate Fayiah signed the document since January 25, 2005 but the defendant remains detained to date.

As a result of the delay to release Kapp on bail, Cllr Williams took the matter to the Criminal Court "B" for summary proceeding.

Following the summary proceeding Tuesday, Judge Timothy Swope mandated Magistrate Fayiah to resume jurisdiction over the extradition hearing in keeping with law and may grant bail to the defendant if it is proper to do so.

Judge Swope observed that the summary proceeding grew out the rearrest of the defendant adding that the rearrest of the defendant can in no way be blamed on Magistrate Fayiah.

The City Court Magistrate is expected to read the mandate of the Criminal Court "B" ordering him to resume jurisdiction over the extradition hearing this morning. It is expected that the defendant would be released Thursday because he has filed a bond with the court as mandated.

However, when the Consulate of the Czech Republic was contacted as to whether his government is pursuing Dalibar Kapp for prosecution, Consul General Karel Sochor said the defendant has committed no

crime in Liberia.

Although he did not state what charge Kapp has committed in the Czech Republic, but maintained that Kapp is wanted for prosecution and should be set free.

He noted that it was an error on the part of his government to have issued a request for Kapp through UNMIL.

Mr. Sochor disclosed that a new request would be sent directly to him and forwarded to the Foreign Ministry for the defendant's return.

He pointed out that Kapp was not afraid to go back to his home but the court should release him on bail then the Czech government could sent for him.

He claimed that Kapp has never supplied arm to former President Charles Taylor and Iraq. The consulate response comes in the wake of claims by the Liberian Government that the defendant was a supplier of arms to Taylor and other rebels around the world.

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Lawyer Accuses Witness of Being 'An Accomplished Liar'

Hirondelle News Agency (Lausanne)

NEWS

February 2, 2005

Posted to the web February 2, 2005

Arusha

A prosecution witness in the trial of General Augustin Bizimungu, former Chief-of-Staff of the Rwandan army, was Tuesday accused of being "an accomplished liar" by the defence.

The witness code-named "GFU" to conceal his identity, has since last week been testifying at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR). He implicated the General in the massacres of Tutsis in the northern town of Ruhengeri during the 1994 genocide.

The witness, who is also detained in Rwanda for crimes of genocide in Ruhengeri, admitted lying to Rwandan judicial authorities before deciding to come clean and "tell the whole truth".

Ronnie McDonald, Bizimungu's Canadian co-counsel, who has been cross examining the witness since Monday, challenged GFU on many occasions to justify his "lies" and "contradictions" for having changed his plea.

GFU replied that he would have been "executed" if he had not understood the "benefits of pleading guilty". He is currently serving a 14-year jail sentence.

"You have been telling lies from the very beginning because you stand to gain from testifying", said the lawyer accusingly. "You have been systematically lying to Rwandan authorities, ICTR investigators and before this chamber".

McDonald was particularly surprised that GFU had only named his client in the fourth statement he made in 2003, "nine years after the events". "I did not give the complete version of events because I did not want to incriminate myself", replied the witness.

GFU is not the first witness to admit lying to Rwandan authorities before coming to testify "under oath" at the ICTR.

Another defence lawyer in the same trial, Fabien Segatwa from Burundi, told Hirondelle News Agency that it was "regrettable". "A person who has told lies in court, be it in Rwanda or elsewhere, should not be allowed to appear before this tribunal", he said.

The ICTR Rules of procedure and evidence stipulates that "If a Chamber has strong grounds for believing that a witness may have knowingly and wilfully given false testimony, the Chamber may direct the Prosecutor to investigate the matter with a view to the preparation and submission of an indictment for false testimony".

The maximum penalty for false testimony is a fine of US \$ 10, 0000 or twelve months in prison or both.

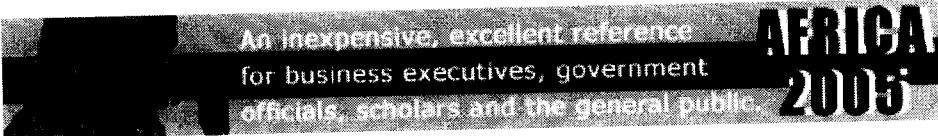
General Bizimungu is jointly accused with General Augustin Ndindiliyimana, former chief of the Gendarmerie (Paramilitary Police), the former commander of the elite reconnaissance battalion, Major Francois-Xavier Nzuwonemeye, and his deputy, Captain Innocent Sagahutu.

All have pleaded not guilty to genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.

The so-called "Military II" trial is one of the major trials going on at the ICTR. It opened September 20, 2004 and the Prosecutor has already called seven witnesses.

Cross-examination of GFU will continue Thursday.

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Agreement On Enforcement of ICTR Sentences in Rwanda Imminent

Hirondelle News Agency (Lausanne)

NEWS

February 2, 2005

Posted to the web February 2, 2005

Arusha

The preparation of an agreement between the Rwandan Government and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda to have ICTR convicts serve sentences in Rwanda is in its final stages, the tribunal's spokesperson Roland Amoussouga said on Wednesday.

Amoussouga, who was among a delegation of ICTR officials who visited Rwanda last week, told Hirondelle that the issue was on the agenda during the Kigali meeting.

"We have reached a final stage whereby we are just working on a language for a specific provision dealing with the cost," Amoussouga stated.

He added that the Rwandan government is expected to forward its reaction to the tribunal this week on the issue of cost sharing, after which the draft will be finalised and submitted to the UN Department of Legal Affairs in New York for clearance.

Rwandan Deputy Attorney General Martin Ngoga also told Hirondelle that preparations of the agreement are in the final stage and it could be concluded by end of this month.

"We are working on a standard agreement to take care of specific context in regard to Rwanda," Ngoga said

Immediately after the signing of the agreement, Amoussouga said ICTR would assist Rwanda in upgrading Mpanga prison to the required standards. It has been identified as the possible location for the enforcement of sentences of ICTR convicts.

"We want to put Rwanda on its equal footing with all other countries that have signed agreements, particularly African countries, because the rationale behind this is that African countries do not have the means to provide us with same facilities that we may get from the western governments", Amoussouga explained.

Once the agreement is concluded, Rwanda will be the seventh country to agree to enforce ICTR sentences. Three other African countries, Mali, Swaziland and Benin and three European countries France, Italy and Sweden have already signed agreements to enforce such sentences.

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