

**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:**

Tuesday, April 19, 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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Salone Times. Tuesday April 19<sup>th</sup> 2005.

## 'Journalists Harass Special Court For Money'

*By Mohamed Manary*

*A senior member of the Special Court has revealed that some members of the local media have been harassing court officials to provide them with "stipend" to cover court proceedings.*

"They also asked us to provide them with lunch and transportation and it is very unethical to do that," the source said. The court official who pleaded for anonymity was

speaking to SALONE TIMES yesterday in central Freetown but refused to name names.

"We make it very easy for members of the public and the press in particular to cover the trials but we will not give them money," the source emphasised, adding that some journalists have been very biased and inaccurate in reporting the proceedings of the court.

The source explained that the court was set up for the

people of Sierra Leone to address impunity by bringing to justice those who bear the greatest responsibility for war crimes and crimes against humanity during the conflict in Sierra Leone.

"Journalists will not do accurate reporting or criticise the court objectively if we pay them money," the source continued and commended some members of the press for doing their best to report about the trials.

# Pressure in America for trial of Taylor

Time is running out for Charles Taylor as demands are now being made in the US for his extradition to Sierra Leone for

trial. A U.S. Representative, Ed Royce has introduced a Congressional resolu-

tion calling on Nigeria to turn over the former Liberian President to the Special Court for Si-  
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## Charles Taylor

The Sierra Leone Special Court wants Taylor for his role in committing war crimes, human rights violations and other atrocities during the war in Sierra Leone in the late 1990's. Taylor is in asylum in Nigeria where the government continues to show reluctance to hand him over

"Taylor was responsible for mass carnage in Sierra Leone. There have been numerous reports of his violations of the terms of his asylum; he should be turned over and have to face the Court," says Royce.

The Special Court has indicted Taylor on 17 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity based on his role in di-

rectly supporting the actions of the rebel Revolutionary United Front, which include widespread and systematic attacks upon the civilian population of Sierra Leone. The charges against Taylor include terrorizing civilians, mass murder, rape, abduction, forced labor, and cutting off of limbs.

"The international community cannot allow Taylor to evade responsibility for his unconscionable actions. The Court was established to bring those who bear the greatest responsibility to justice; Charles Taylor undoubtedly bears the greatest responsibility," said Royce. "The U.S. has invested too much in Liberia to

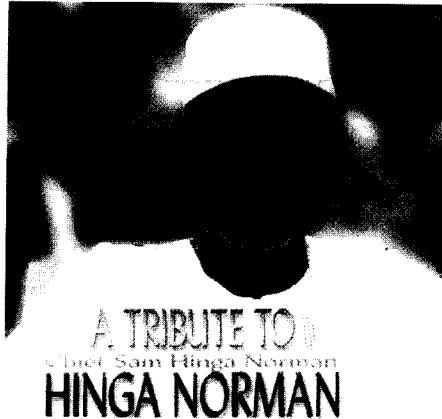
allow Taylor a soft exile. Taylor is a serious and continuing threat to West African peace and security. We know he remains in contact with his cronies. This is counter to U.S. interests as well," says Royce.

Many lawmakers have gone even further in accusing President Bush of not doing enough to bring the former warlord to justice. The European Parliament has gone a step ahead of their American counterparts and has already approved a resolution calling for Taylor to be brought before the court.

According to the Associated Press the U.S. State Department says it is working on getting Taylor turned over to the court, but declines to provide details.

04/19/2005 09:09 AM

To:  
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Subject: TRIBUTE TO HINGA NORMAN



To Whom it May Concern:

The Hinga Norman-CDF Defence Fund and the Working Group for Sierra Leone, are pleased to announce the release of a musical tribute to Chief Sam Hinga Norman and his colleagues of the CDF, Moinina Fofana and Alieu Kondewa. The compact disc release is the work of artists and composer, Jebehtu & Her Cultural Group.

Songs include the satirical "*Nya Hotei, Joe Bandawa*" (My guest, Joe Banadawa), "*Kinei Norman. Mumahei Mia*" (Mr. Norman is Our Chief). The tape is a fund raising project to assist the families of the incarcerated CDF leaders. Besides its humanitarian objective, the music is superb in the best tradition Southern lyrics. Even those who do not speak or understand Mende will enjoy the melody and rhythm.

To order your copy please send your request via email or call toll free (877) 813-0640 or (812) 841-1000.

If you are a member of the Tegloma Organization, please request a copy of the CD from your local Paramount Chief (Chapter President). If none is available locally, please contact us.

Price for the nearly hour-long CD is ten dollars (\$10.00). We will pay the postage if you live in continental United States.

**Credits:**

The tape is produced by Henry Gegbe and Early Works Studio of Dallas, TX. Project coordinators include Prof. A. K. Bangura, Sam Gandi-Gorglei, Mohamed Jawara, Reuben Ndomahina and Alfred SamForay. The Executive Producer and project coordinator is Mohamme Tarawally. (C) All Rights Reserved: The CDF Defence Fund (2005).



## War crimes - have we learned anything?

By John Simpson  
BBC world affairs editor

**You can't seem to turn the television news on at present without seeing black-and-white pictures of past horrors - Buchenwald last week, Belsen this, and Hiroshima and Nagasaki still to come in August.**

There was a time when we thought that killing on an industrial scale might be a thing of the past; but, depressingly, the pictures are no longer just in black and white nowadays.

It may be 32 years since General Augusto Pinochet's men began killing left-wingers in Chile, and 30 since the Khmer Rouge arrived in Phnom Penh to force the entire population out into the killing fields.

But it's only 11 years since Rwanda, and 10 since the Bosnian Serb general, Ratko Mladic, ordered the murder of every male Muslim in Srebrenica.

And in Darfur people are dying right now.

### Learning lessons

Haven't we learned anything? Are we no further forward than we were 60 years ago?

We have learned some things. We even have some valuable case law, from the Nuremberg trials to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa.

But we haven't yet managed to persuade those who think they can slaughter people as a matter of policy that they will inevitably pay a price for doing so.

True, there is justice sometimes. Killers from the Bosnian war are now serving long sentences.

Gen Pinochet may not be in jail, but he has not been able to live untouched by the consequences of what he did.

The Argentine military leaders who ordered the deaths of 15,000 young people in Argentina between 1976 and 1982 have rarely been free of problems.

Some form of tribunal is expected to get under way in Cambodia this year.

Many of those who took part in the Rwandan genocide have been arrested.

### No real consensus

Yet Gen Mladic and his political master, Radovan Karadzic, the president of the Bosnian Serbs in the early 1990s, are still at liberty, in territory where Nato troops operate freely.

No-one has yet convinced President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe that he will be held to account for destroying his country and ruining the lives of his fellow citizens.

He has been a welcome guest in France, and was at the funeral of Pope John Paul II in the Vatican last week, even though tens of thousands of Zimbabwean Catholics are being oppressed.

Part of the problem is that there is still no real consensus about what constitutes a crime against humanity.

Some people think Argentina and Chile are better off without the generation of left-wingers who disappeared in the 1970s.

There are those who think that people like Gen Mladic and President Mugabe and those behind the Janjaweed in Darfur have merely had a bad press.

The United Nations has been pretty feeble at dealing with crimes against humanity, because few subjects have more political resonance.

### **World court**

An organisation which is so subject to national political considerations is scarcely the best place to deal with such crimes.

But we do now have the International Criminal Court (ICC) at The Hague, which can investigate and prosecute people for genocide and war crimes.

It was set up in 2002, and has its own judges and its own chief prosecutor, Luis Moreno Ocampo, who took part in the trials of Argentina's former military junta.

When the Court was established by an international conference in Rome, only seven countries voted against. They included China, Israel, the United States, and Saddam Hussein's Iraq.

American hostility towards the ICC, which is based on fears of politically motivated (in other words, anti-American) prosecutions, has lessened slightly as a result of the Darfur crisis.

It eventually agreed to let those accused of atrocities in Darfur be tried at The Hague, as long as Americans and people from other countries which have not ratified the Court would only be tried in their home countries if they too were accused of war crimes.

But the result is that only three years after the ICC came into being, it is already subject to the same kind of national pressures which have stopped the UN dealing effectively with crimes against humanity.

### **Painful memories**

The other week I went to the première in London of Hotel Rwanda, a film about one man's efforts to save people from the genocide there in 1994.

It was beautifully acted, well written, cleverly filmed, and it brought back so many memories of my time in Rwanda.

Of wandering through an empty nunnery whose inhabitants had been raped and murdered. Of trying to find a place to sleep in rooms where the floor was covered with recent blood. Of the terror in people's faces. And of the heroism of a few, like the manager of the hotel, who saved many lives.

But has Hotel Rwanda been a success at the box-office? Guess.

It takes more than shaking our heads over old television pictures of piles of bodies to make sure that these terrible crimes aren't repeated.

Governments will never take enthusiastic action unless they think we really care about these things.

**Read John Simpson's previous columns:**

*If you would like to comment on John Simpson's article, please send us your views using the form below.*

**Your comments**

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<http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/europe/4456043.stm>

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