

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, April 07, 2005

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.
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New People, Thursday 7 April, 2005.

Margai invites witnesses For Hinga Norman

By Amadi Abadi

Legal luminary Charles Margai has reportedly advised the people of Gerihun, Baoma Chiefdom in the Bo District to get defence witnesses for CDF indictees Hinga Norman, Kondewai and Moinina Fofanah.

Addressing a mammoth crowd at the village court barry recently, Mr. Margai sympathised with the indictees against whom terrible evidences are being led at the Special Court.

"If you hear what some witnesses are saying against those people you would wonder

whether they had friends or relatives at all, or that this country ever benefited from what Hinga Norman and others fought for", a source quoted Mr. Margai.

He appealed to the village who knew about the activities of the CDF to volunteer and come to Freetown to become defence witnesses for the indictees.

The villagers responded by expressing their disappointment at the Kabbah administration for the blatant betrayal of Hinga Norman and the CDF.

One of them speaking in Mende said, "Charles, what you

are doing now is what this government should have done long since if they did not mean to eliminate Chief Norman from the political scene. But surprisingly, it was the very government that handed over Norman to the court and identified witnesses against him with even President Kabbah making public statements justifying the disgraceful arrest of our brother."

The village elders promised to summon CDF members from various towns to come and see how they could get witnesses for the Kamajor Chief and his fellow indictees.



Among the witnesses against Norman is a one eyed Pujehun District Councillor, Eddie Massallay who had been plotting to oust Chief Norman as Coordinator of CDF but was stiffly resisted by Arthur Coker from Kenema.

Margai invites witnesses For Hinga Norman

Mr. Margai was one of the lawyers approached by the SLPP Young Generation Western Area to defend Chief Norman and others.

"We are grateful to him because we all know how he is vigorously defending the CDF and has even said that the setting up of the Special Court is

unconstitutional as it was not established as a result of a referendum," said Mr. Mohamed Malaam Jannah, outgoing Young Generation Leader

Western Area.

Gerihun, the hometown of former Vice President Albert Joe Demby, is now the main base of former CDF fighters.

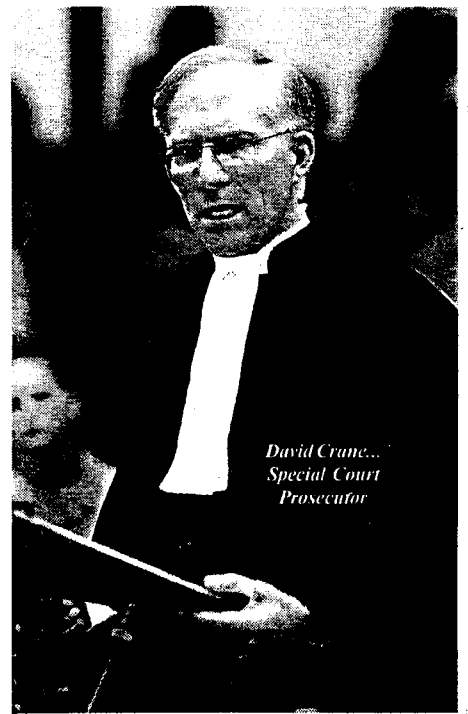
Meanwhile, it has been learnt by this press that Assistant Inspector General of Police Tamba Gbokie could not stay long in Kenema as Regional Commander East because

of persistent threats and harassments he received from the people of that region.

It would be recalled that it was Tamba Gbokie who effected the disgraceful arrest of Hinga Norman, his former Minister.

For lack of funds...

Special Court may collapse in December 2005



David Crane...
Special Court
Prosecutor

When the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) boss, Mr. George J. Tenet resigned his post last year, one of the primary reasons he gave was that he is resigning to

be with his family. Similarly, when another American born, Mr. David Crane, was about to resign, the only feasible reason he thought of at the time was

the promise he made to his wife that he would return home after spending a period of three years, whether the job is complete or not. It appears that most Amer-

cans have fallen in love with this reason and can use it to suit their convenience. The actual reason for David Crane's premature de-
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Special Court may collapse

FROM PAGE 1

parture, according to investigation launched by this press, was not told, and would never be told by him until when the Special Court in Sierra Leone will begin to break into parts and pieces due to lack of funds for it to continue.

According to an inside source, David Crane, seeing this disaster afar, thought it wise to pull out before it would be a disgrace to him and to give a reason of "family commitment".

A very senior member of the Special Court that held a dialogue with this press disclosed that funding would soon become a major problem for the continuity of the court.

"What is available will only take us to December 2005," he disclosed, adding, "If no effort is made by the United Nations to solicit funds that would be the closure of the court and indict-

ees transferred to The Hague, where funds are currently under-utilized."

The senior court personnel went on to explain that funds currently available in the Hague is to the tune of two billion dollars and more, while funding for Sierra Leone is relatively low.

The bugging question is, that if the indictees are transferred to The Hague, what provision the court will make for their families to witness the trial?

This question, when put to the senior Special Court personnel, was not answered.

However, pressure is being mounted on the British and other donor countries to raise the necessary amount in order to speed up the trial before the speculated financial disaster hits the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

The Americans, the Spe-

cial Court sources maintain, wants to see the life of the court continue and those who bear the greatest responsibility for the war, convicted, but is taking a back seat in making substantial financial input, and instead relying on Britain and other countries to provide funding.

"America has money, and to finance the court unto its completion has nothing to do with its budget, why not do it?" he questioned.

Meanwhile it is the opinion of most Sierra Leoneans that foreign nationals are the main beneficiaries of funds provided for the court.

The only long-term benefit for Sierra Leone is the structure, which will be part of the country's history. It is not known where the major part of the funds will come from.

If not the collapse of the court is in sight.

Africa News April 5, 2005 Tuesday

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Africa News

April 5, 2005 Tuesday

Liberia; Bong County Endorses Garlawolu's Presidential Bid

The NEWS

Citizens of Bong County through the Superintendent Daniel Weetol have pledged their support and commitment to Cllr. Garlawolu during the October presidential and general elections.

"If Bong County was the only county to make you president, then you are already president of the country", Mr. Weetol told Garlawolu with great enthusiasm.

In response, Cllr. Garlawolu accepted the petition and declared that with the support of the citizens, he could contest the ensuing elections and win as president of the Republic.

He spoke of the need to improve what he called "unbearable hardship" that Liberians are going through, following 14 years of civil conflict.

The EX- GOL NTLA Member who is a prominent son of Bong County, then underscored the need to decentralize the government as a way of carrying development to the leeward counties.

The petitioning program was held at the Paynesville Town Hall over the weekend. A cross section of Bong citizens endorsed him (Garlawolu) as their candidate for the ensuing presidential elections.

He further disclosed that the Health sector of the country has deteriorated greatly, which needs to be revamped to adequately meet the health needs of the entire citizenry.

He stressed that there is no neutral Liberian, adding "every Liberian one way or the other, contributed to the down ward trend of the country as such, they must unite to rebuild and move the nation forward."

Cllr. Garlawolu is one of the several presidential aspirants eyeing the presidency of the nation from the former ruling National Patriotic Party (NPP). During the rule of the NPP, bad governance, human rights violations and disrespect for the rule of law were the order of the day under Taylor. Garlawolu is one of Taylor's lawyers pressing for the indicted war criminal not to appear at the UN backed Special Court for Sierra Leone.

Taylor is accused and indicted with over 17 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity.



Alerting Humanitarians to Emergencies

SUDAN: Protestors denounce referral of Darfur crimes to ICC

06 Apr 2005 15:46:12 GMT

Source: IRIN

NAIROBI, 6 April (IRIN) - Tens of thousands of demonstrators took to the streets in the Sudanese capital of Khartoum on Tuesday, to protest against a UN resolution calling for those accused of crimes in Darfur to be tried by the International Criminal Court (ICC), an eyewitness said.

The demonstration, organised by the ruling National Congress Party, came two days after the Sudanese government rejected UN Security Council resolution 1593, adopted on 31 March.

On Sunday, the Sudanese Council of Ministers declared its "total rejection" of the resolution, which it said lacked "justice and objectivity".

President Umar al-Bashir declared that his government would refuse to hand over any Sudanese citizen to be tried outside the country.

Chanting angry slogans, Tuesday's crowd stopped at the UN building, the French and British embassies, and finally the US embassy, where demonstrators shouted: "Down, down, USA," according to an eyewitness.

Protestors also made critical remarks about UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, US President George Bush, British Prime Minister Tony Blair and French President Jacques Chirac.

Some attacked the perimeter fence of the UN Development Programme compound, the UN News Service reported. When that failed, the crowd threw stones into the compound until a group of elders and community leaders handed over a letter, to be sent to Annan.

The state-owned mobile phone company, MobiTel, had publicised the protest march via a text message sent out to many subscribers on Monday evening, according to Reuters. Government-controlled radio and newspapers also advertised the demonstration.

Over the weekend, Muhammad Uthman al-Mirghani, leader of the National Democratic Alliance - a coalition of opposition parties - also denounced the prosecution of Sudanese nationals outside Sudan, while Al-Sadqq al-Mahdi, leader of the northern opposition Ummah Party, supported the resolution.

Although there was little violence - a group of students reportedly threw stones at a rental car with UN markings - Tuesday's march was mostly peaceful, and no casualties were reported.

A similar demonstration is planned for Port Sudan, a town in northeastern Sudan, on Wednesday. The first protest against Council resolutions took place on Sunday, in El-Fasher in the western state of North Darfur.

Meanwhile on Tuesday in New York, Annan met with Luis Moreno Ocampo, the prosecutor of the ICC, and gave him a sealed list of 51 suspected perpetrators of atrocities in Darfur.

Annan had previously received the list from the International Commission of Inquiry, which - on 31 January - published a report on its investigation into the scale and extent of human-rights violations.

Fred Eckhard, Annan's spokesman, said in a statement on Tuesday that nine boxes and 11 CD-ROMS of material, collected over a period of three months by the commission, had been handed over to the prosecutor's office in The Hague, in the Netherlands.

He added that it was up to the prosecutor to decide whether the names on the commission's list would be made public.

"Now, we have a common task - to end the culture of impunity," Moreno Ocampo said on receiving the sealed list.

"I will closely monitor ongoing crimes in Darfur - as well as efforts to prevent and stop them," he added.

The war in Darfur pits Sudanese government troops and militias - allegedly allied to the government - against rebels fighting to end what they have called marginalisation and discrimination of the region's inhabitants by the state. Over 2.4 million people continue to be affected by the conflict, 1.85 million of whom are internally displaced or have been forced to flee to neighbouring Chad.

IRIN news

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Sudan Darfur Trials Can Evade Hague Court: Egypt

Wed Apr 6, 2005 03:40 PM ET

CAIRO (Reuters) - Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Aboul Gheit said on Wednesday Sudanese war crimes suspects need not go to the International Criminal Court (ICC) because Sudan's judiciary could try the accused at home.

The U.N. Security Council for the first time last week referred suspects accused of carrying out war crimes in Darfur to the ICC in The Hague. Egypt has spoken against the "internationalisation" of the Darfur conflict.

"The International Criminal Court ... issues accusations but if the internal judiciary in the country concerned plays its role then it negates the need for the criminal court," Aboul Gheit said after meeting his Sudanese counterpart in Cairo.

"If there appears to be any reluctance (to prosecute), maneuvering or attempt to dodge these accusations then in this case the International Court will make a move against the accused," Aboul Gheit added.

U.N. Security Council diplomats in New York said the ICC had stepped because Sudan had failed to prosecute those responsible for mass crimes against civilians.

The Hague-based court, set up to prosecute only the top perpetrators of heinous crimes, will carry out its own investigation into the 51 suspects listed by a U.N. commission. It is not expected to pursue more than a dozen suspects.

"The ICC is mandated to prosecute those most responsible," said Richard Dicker, counsel for Human Rights Watch. "The arrest of local level accused in no way replaces the ICC. To date we have not seen any serious indication by the Sudanese to look for those most responsible."

Khartoum has said it would refuse to hand over its citizens to face justice abroad. It says it has already arrested 15 members of the military and security forces for crimes including rape, killing civilians and burning villages in Darfur.

Rebels who launched a revolt in Sudan's vast western region in early 2003 say they welcome the decision to refer the suspects to the ICC.

Egypt has called a five-way summit of African leaders in Sharm el-Sheikh between April 18-19 to give the African Union a chance to deal with the crisis.

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