

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:

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.
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Awoko. Wednesday June 14th, 2005.

At Special Court

Expert witness reveal structures of CDF

An expert witness Richard Mortimer Harris (TF2-EW1) has examined the structure of the CDF. This structure, included the Military arm, discipline and morality. On the Military structure of the CDF before the coup in 1997, the witness said it was an organisation on territorial ground, wherein the men were distributed across the Country to the various chiefdoms and operated in their local areas. During the coup, the members of the organisation were expelled from many of their areas. They therefore saw the need of forming a new structure for which they established their Headquarters at Talia. This also he said saw the creation a large centralised body of the CDF." He explained that there were two types of military structure, with the territorial

force that was still controlled by the CDF, being one and the offensive or counterattack force created at Talia. It was this force he said that constantly attacked Koribondo and Bo. The witness maintained that there was the strategic level, where the command was highly effective and the tactical level which was less effective as most of them were inexperienced and lacked training. The 48 year-old Colonel in the British army also told the Court that "the leadership recognised that they must preserve their organisation and build up the strength to counter attack the junta forces with their safe base erected at Talia. They involved in massive recruitment into the organisation." The witness continued "communication among them proved to be good as it was reliable, secure and timely. It was

reliable as messages were not lost on the way; it was secure as the juntas never got there information, and it was timely because the messages sent would either reach in one day or a week." The moral component of the CDF the witness explained was high as compared to most other organisation as they generally believed in what they are doing "the process of initiation aided in creating cohesion because a sense of belonging is important. The sense that make you risk your life for your brother." Richard Mortimer Harris further stated that discipline was a complex issue among the CDF and at some level discipline was harshly enforced in one area and in the other it was not. Punishment was also meted on those that flout the law. The impact of this he said was that culture was transferred into the battlefield.

Awoko. Wednesday June 14th, 2005.

'14 ECOMOG soldiers were killed at State House'-witness

Continuing his evidence at the Special Court witness TF1-334 disclosed that Gullit and other junta soldiers killed 14 ECOMOG Nigerian soldiers

at state House. In his evidence, the witness said after they had captured state House, some ECOMOG soldiers were caught and were brought

before Gullit who asked them who was their commander, what was their military strength and where they were having their supply of arms.

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14 ECOMOG soldiers were killed at State House

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The soldiers the witness said refused to give correct answers so this annoyed Gullit, who took out his pistol and shot two of them and ordered Tito and his men to execute the remaining twelve. The witness further stated the wife of one member of the junta was also shot by Gullit at State House, adding that the environment of State House was all littered with corpses. TF1-334 also told the Court that when they were at State House, a civilian boy came by and informed them that the ECOMOG troops have captured family members of SLA's at Wilberforce Barracks and if they attempted to attack the Barracks they will kill all of the family members that they have captured. So Gullit advised them not to attack Wilberforce. "We later returned to State House where an announcement was made by '55' speaking

as the Chief of Staff on the radio saying that they have ousted the government of Tejan Kabbah and that the army is presently in control of the Country." The witness also said "later on we heard another announcement on Radio France International by mosquito that the troops commanded by Gullit have captured Freetown and that even State House is under their control." The witness maintained that on the 6th January 1999 there was massive looting everywhere even the office of the president at State House was vandalised. The junta forces also looted other offices. There was abduction of women. On January 6th also, the commanders were in various vehicles while the civilians were singing that they want peace, and the soldiers are their brothers. The witness also told the court that the strength of the forces that attacked State House was about eighty men. The witness said after

they attacked CID and set the building on fire they then moved to Pademba Road Prison "we met little resistance from the loyal troops stationed there so we were able to open the prison. There were soldiers, Politicians and even prominent lawyers there. We told them to report to State House where they would receive orders from us later, which they did." The force then moved towards New England to capture the Radio Station there. The junta troop later headed for Brookfields where they met little resistance. The junta also captured Hill Cut. "We then moved to Tengbeh Town together with Supervisor A. Tito, and Pikin. After we had captured Tengbeh Town we moved to the National Stadium, we discovered that there were some soldiers there and so we forced our way and entered and called on the soldiers to join us which they did and were later asked to report to State House." He

**UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 14 June 2005**

[The media summaries and press clips do not necessarily represent the views of UNMIL.]

International Clips on Liberia

06/14/2005 11:30:45

Liberia Has Completed Disarmament But Instability Still Threatens, Annan Says

Jun 13, 2005 (UN News Service/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) --Now that disarmament in Liberia has ended and armed factions have been demobilized, United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan has expressed the hope that the peace process will succeed and has called on the Security Council to strengthen its peacekeeping mission and prevent illicit exports of diamonds and timber.

The Economist June 4th 2005

Liberia's election

Still in the Shadow of the warlords

Monrovia

Even in exile, ex-President Charles Taylor remains a menace

IN OCTOBER, a country that has become a byword for failed states in Africa is holding its first presidential poll since 1997. The good news is that Liberia's voter registration, coordinated and paid for by the UN and other international bodies, has gone fairly well. At the end of a month-long process, UN officials say, some 1.2 million people had registered, roughly half of Liberia's adult population. The bad news, however, is that the man responsible for much of the past mayhem, Charles Taylor, is back behind the scenes, seeking to manipulate the election from exile.

Corruption undermines peace drive in Liberia -UN

By Irwin Arief

UNITED NATIONS, June 13 (Reuters) - International agencies are pressing Liberia's interim government to crack down on corruption because it is undermining the peace process in the troubled West African nation, the United Nations said on Monday.

International Clips on West Africa

06/14/2005 11:15:35

Cote d'Ivoire: Rebels Deny They Pledged to Disarm Later This Month

Abidjan, Jun 13, 2005 (UN Integrated Regional Information Networks/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) --Plans to start disarming Cote d'Ivoire's warring parties in two weeks time looked shaky on Monday as the rebels denied signing any commitment to begin the process on 27 June and accused President Laurent Gbagbo of planning to rekindle the country's civil war.

Local Media – Newspapers

UN Secretary-General on Liberia's Stability

(The Analyst)

- In his report to the Security Council yesterday, Secretary-General Kofi Annan said that delays in the restructuring of the Liberian army and reintegration of former combatants into the society form potential sources of instability and threaten to undermine the success of the transitional process and to make it difficult to devise an exit strategy for UNMIL.

Complete versions of the UNMIL International Press Clips, UNMIL Daily Liberian Radio Summary and UNMIL Liberian Newspapers Summary are posted each day on the UNMIL Bulletin Board. If you are unable to access the UNMIL Bulletin Board and would like further information on the content of the summaries, please contact Ms. Kadiatu Konteh at kontehk@un.org.



Sudan sets up war crimes tribunal

Sudan has set up a special court to try those accused of war crimes in the Darfur region.

Justice Minister Ali Mohammed Yassin said the court would be an alternative to the world court which has started to investigate alleged atrocities.

Lobby group Amnesty International said the court "lacks credibility" unless the judges are free from interference.

More than two million people have been forced from their homes in the conflict in which at least 180,000 have died.

Mr Yassin said that more than 160 suspects had already been identified but he did not give any more details, beyond saying they were from Darfur and that they included rebels.

'Small-fry'

Judge Mahmoud Saeed Abkem, head of the Special Criminal Court, on Tuesday flew to South Darfur's capital, Nyala, to meet local officials, although the court will be based in North Darfur's capital, al-Fashir.

The International Criminal Court last week officially began its investigations of 51 war crimes suspects, whose names were handed over in a sealed document by a United Nations panel of investigators. Sudan rejects the ICC.

The BBC's Alfred Taban in Sudan says that he does not expect the Sudanese court to charge the 51 but instead to concentrate on the "small-fry".

"Sudan is a sovereign country and this means that all those violating the law inside its national territories be tried therein," Mr Yassin said.

The United Nations envoy to Sudan, Jan Pronk, welcomed the special court but said it could not be a substitute for the ICC.

Darfur's rebel groups rejected the new court outright.

"The Sudan Liberation Movement does not accept this special court. The so-called 160 suspects the court is planning to try are petty criminals," SLM spokesman Mahjoub Hussein told the AFP news agency.

Kolawole Olaniyan, the director of Amnesty International's Africa programme said: "We fear that the establishment of the special court may just be a tactic by the Sudanese government to avoid prosecution" by the ICC.

"On the one hand, the Sudanese government is claiming that it is able to punish the crimes it is accused of condoning for the last two years," he said in a statement.

"On the other hand, it continues to crack down on those who expose or criticise such human rights

violations."

Camps blockaded

The refugees have accused pro-government Arab militias of carrying out the worst atrocities, such as mass rape, killings and looting.

The Janjaweed militia has been accused of trying to drive black Africans from their land. Sudan's government says the scale of the humanitarian emergency has been exaggerated and denies backing the Janjaweed.

The UK's International Development Secretary Hilary Benn told the BBC that the Sudanese government should do more to ease the emergency in Darfur.

He said that fighting between the army and rebels had eased but that Kalma refugee camp near Nyala was being blockaded and that aid workers were still being attacked by bandits.

Peace talks between the government and rebels are continuing in Nigeria but little progress has been made so far.

Story from BBC NEWS:
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/africa/4091146.stm>

Published: 2005/06/14 16:32:00 GMT

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Argentine amnesty laws scrapped

Argentina's Supreme Court has ruled that amnesty laws protecting former military officers are unconstitutional.

The judgement clears the way for prosecutions of officials suspected of human rights abuses during military rule between 1976 and 1983.

President Nestor Kirchner, who called the amnesties "shameful", said the ruling restored faith in the judiciary.

Civil liberties groups say about 30,000 people were killed or went missing under the former dictatorship.

'Dirty War'

The Supreme Court upheld a decision by the Argentine Congress in August 2003 to scrap the amnesty laws.

The court voted by seven to one, with one abstention, to strike down two amnesty laws which had been in effect since 1986.

This is a blast of fresh air that signifies the end of impunity
Nestor Kirchner Argentine President

The legislation forbade the prosecution of military officers suspected of atrocities in the so-called Dirty War - a campaign waged by Argentina's military rulers against left-wing opponents.

The campaign ended with the country's return to civilian rule in October 1983.

President Kirchner said: "The court's decision has restored our faith in justice. This is a blast of fresh air that signifies the end of impunity."

About 3,000 military officers - about 300 of whom still serve in the armed forces - could be accused, the Associated Press news agency reported.

Ahead of the ruling, Argentine Defence Minister Jose Pampuro said some officers were anxious pending the outcome.

"In a personal capacity, some men who might be involved in some situation are expressing worry," he was quoted by AP as saying.

The Supreme Court ruling came in the case of former police officer Julio Simon, accused in the disappearance of a couple and of having taken their daughter as his own.

Under Argentine law, the decision will act as a precedent in other cases involving the Dirty War.

Story from: BBC NEWS:
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/americas/4093018.stm>

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