

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, June 28, 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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Awiko. Tues June 28th 2005.

3 years as Prosecutor... "I brought down the most powerful warlord in Africa," - Crane

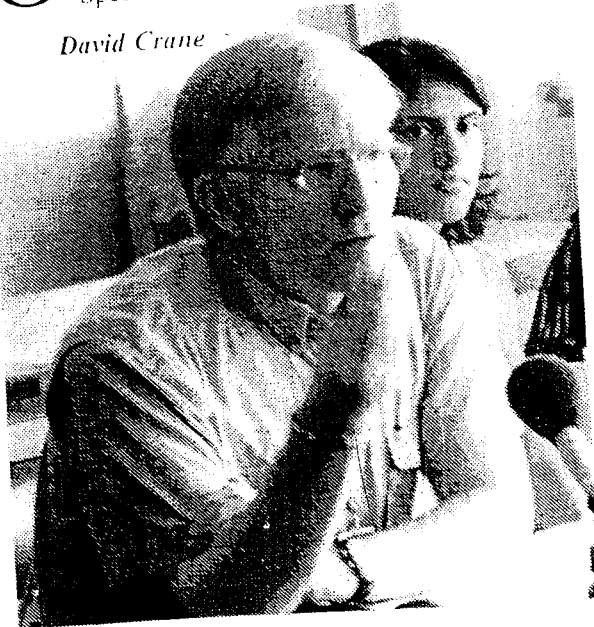
By Tamba Borbor
Outgoing Chief
Prosecutor of the
Special Court for

David Crane

Sierra Leone. David
Crane has said Monday
27th June that bringing
down the former Liberian

President Charles Taylor
from power is one of his
legacies. Speaking at his
last Press briefing Crane
said, "when I signed the
indictment of Charles
Taylor with the stroke of a
pen. I brought down the
most powerful warlord in
Africa." This he said clearly
shows that the rule of law
is more powerful than the

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I brought down the most powerful warlord in Africa

From Front Page
rule of the gun. Among
other legacies he is leaving
behind. David Crane
stated that he has started
"to show the people of
West Africa that the law is
fair... and the rule of law
is more powerful than the
rule of the gun." On the
issue of Charles Taylor's
extradition, Mr. David
Crane stated that the
international community
has stressed its
commitment to the Special
Court for Sierra Leone

and the desire to see the war
crimes indictee turned over
for a fair and transparent
trial. "The international
community through our
work in the UN... has
clearly stated that Charles
Taylor is a meddler, is a
terrorist and a war criminal,"
he said, adding, "the ball is
clearly in the court of the
international community who
has accepted responsibility
and are now working out
ways by which Charles
Taylor can come to the
Special Court for Sierra

Leone." David Crane who
is leaving the Special Court
as Prosecutor after serving
for three years, maintained
that Taylor's extradition to
the Court may not happen
in the time frame he would
like to see it but that "I can
assure you that it is moving
to an appropriate
conclusion." He noted that
it is with great pride and
some sadness that he is
leaving, while disclosing
that he hopes to return
back to Sierra Leone
someday.

The Exclusive. Tues June 28th, 2005.

“The Rule Of law, More Powerful Than The Rule Of The Gun”

By Joseph Turay

The outgoing prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, David M. Crane, has described the rule of law as “a very powerful instrument than the rule of the Gun.”

Mr. Crane was responding to questions raised by journalists yesterday at a press conference held at the Sierra Leone News Agency (SLENA) Freetown. He told the news gathering that his

-David Crane
legacy for the people of this country would be the indictment of the most powerful war lords in Africa Charles
Contd. page 2

“The Rule Of law, More Powerful Than The Rule Of The Gun”

From front page

Taylor, who he said will soon be turned over to the court in Sierra Leone to answer to a 17 count charge of war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in the course of the decade long war in Sierra Leone. He said Sierra

Leoneans wanted justice that was why they invited the court.

When asked what would happen if the court folds up without people like Johnny Paul and Charles Taylor apprehended, Crane said that a war crime indictee will always continue to remain so and that

individual would always be arrested and tried even when the court's life span would have expired.

Mr. Crane warned politicians, war Lords and other people in Africa especially to desist from causing mayhem on the lives of innocent civilians as the world will

continue to prosecute who ever falls short of the rule of law. He bade fare well and thanked the people of Sierra Leone for as he puts it, “helping and giving him the support during his investigation as he would always remember the custom, tradition and culture of Sierra Leoneans.”

TAYLOR IS A TERRORIST



Charles Taylor, Special Court Indictee

The departing Prosecutor of the UN backed Special Court for Sierra Leone, David Crane, yesterday informed media practitioners at the SLENA Headquarters on Wallace Johnson Street, that

Charles Taylor is still a war crimes indictee of the Special Court and that he would face justice very soon in Sierra Leone. He disclosed that he would bid farewell to Sierra Leoneans on Thursday and

will on the same day depart for the United States to rejoin with his family after he had completed his official assignment as Prosecutor at the Special Court for Sierra Leone. He further cited that Sierra Leone is the only country that

seeks to harbour international bodies that is promoting justice and accountability for the well-being of the people of Sierra Leone. Responding to questions from media practitioners, David Crane

disclosed that very soon, the Special Court would bring to justice former Liberian warlord, Charles Taylor, who has been indicted by the Special Court for crimes committed against humanity in Sierra Leone's eleven year war.

Cont back page

From Page 1 **TERRORIST**

He said that Charles Taylor is facing 17 counts charge of war crimes against humanity, adding, "Charles Taylor is a murderer, terrorist and a war criminal that will soon face justice for heinous crimes".

David Crane also stated that the Special Court would not provide immunity for any war crime indictee and that the Special Court

which is efficiently run on legal principles would render the needed justice required by the ordinary Sierra Leoneans.

Even though some of the key players in the war are either dead or have fled the jurisdiction of Sierra Leone, nine out of the eleven indictees, are still facing trial at the Special Court.

David Crane also stated, "at first, I do not know who to prosecute even though I was going to prosecute people. But after series of consultations, key indictees were identified and prosecuted." He concluded that the rule of law must exist in order to bring to book war criminals in the eleven year war in Sierra Leone.

WAR CRIMES PROSECUTORS MEET IN FREETOWN

The Second Prosecutor's Colloquium, hosted by the Special Court for Sierra Leone, provided a venue for all the prosecutors to meet and discuss the challenges facing the international criminal tribunals, as well as share success stories and best practices.

The Special Court Prosecutor, David Crane was joined by Luis Moreno Ocampo, Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court; Hassan Abubakar Jallow, Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda; and David Tolbert, Deputy Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

The prosecutors represented the world's four major criminal tribunals working to end impunity for the most serious crimes that plague humankind, and to contribute to peace and prevention of future crimes.

The tribunals have been entrusted with the responsibility of bringing to justice individuals accused of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.

The colloquium discussions determined that International justice is at a crossroad. To succeed in fulfilling the mandates and deliver justice effectively and efficiently, the tribunals are greatly reliant upon the cooperation of national states.

The commitment of national states and the International Community will be measured by their willingness to deliver indictees for trial, even if politically difficult.

International criminal justice must apply to indicted fugitives such as Charles Taylor, Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic.

To permit individuals accused of the gravest of crimes to evade justice will reinforce the culture of impunity that fuels conflict and atrocities.

Furthermore, the investigations of the tribunals cannot be completed without open access to all areas and documents under investigation. Investigating teams cannot complete their missions unless granted permission to move freely and securely within the state area of investigation and with the co-operation and support of the nation states.

Fundamentally, the tribunals cannot succeed without the firm commitment of sovereign states to discharge their legal and treaty obligations. Treaties such as the Geneva Conventions and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and other International agreements and conventions need to be complied with.

State co-operation with the international criminal tribunals is one of the pillars upon which the future development of international law depends.

The prosecutor stated: "These tribunals have made great progress and set new precedent in international law. Violators of international criminal law, including Heads of State or governments have been indicted and brought to justice. Others are awaiting trials. All this underlining the fundamental principles that in the rule of law, no one is above the law."

Nevertheless, many continue to suffer from these crimes throughout the world, we affirm that only a sustained commitment to accountability will deter these atrocities. We call upon all national and international authorities to strengthen their dedication to justice.

"We believe that the people of the world are entitled to a system that will deter grave international crimes and hold to account those who bear the greatest responsibility. Only when a culture of accountability has replaced the culture of impunity can the diverse people of the world live and prosper together in peace."

Special Court to try Johnny Paul Koroma separately

Story: Michael Bockarie

Chief Prosecutor of the United Nations backed Special Court for Sierra Leone, David Crane while addressing his farewell press briefing Monday told journalists at the Sierra Leone News Agency (SLNA) building that the mandate of the Court would continue until all indictees are arraigned.

Crane says Johnny Paul Koroma would be tried separately any time he reappears.

"Johnny Paul Koroma would be tried separately whenever he reappears," Crane said in



*Johnny Paul Koroma -
where are you?*

response to questions that Johnny Paul currently at large is likely not

Continued page 3

Special Court to try Johnny Paul

From page 1

to face justice when the court should have closed down and adds that the issue of Charles Taylor is just a 'matter of time.'

He stated that Taylor is charged with 17 counts of war crimes.

"All indictees for the Special

Court remain indictees until they face the court," he states adding that financial contributions to the court would soon be made available by the donor community and the United Nations to foster its work.

Crane maintained that the aim of the court is to address

the rule of law, not to attack individuals. He said that recently he had an audience with other prosecutors from Rwanda, Yugoslavia and other two other countries with war crimes tribunals.

Crane commended Sierra Leone for taking the initiative to ask for the Special court.

Special Court for Sierra Leone : Prosecution] **«No debt relief for Nigeria unless Taylor is turned over»**

After serving three years as chief prosecutor at the Special Court for Sierra Leone, David Crane will be leaving his post on 30 June. On 25 and 26 June, he chaired a work session in Freetown with the prosecutors of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) and the deputy prosecutor of the Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. In an interview given to International Justice Tribune on the eve of the meeting, Crane reflected on the lessons learnt from the Sierra Leone experience. He said that the investigations into businessmen involved in the conflict are still ongoing and assured that it is only a matter of time before Nigeria arrests Charles Taylor and hands him over to the Special Cou



Taylor, Koroma Frustrate U.N. Court

The Analyst (Monrovia)

ANALYSIS

June 27, 2005

Posted to the web June 27, 2005

Trial Will Not Complete Unless They Appear-But Will They Even Appear?

The cruelty that characterized the Sierra Leonean civil war and the intransigence of the RUF leadership personified by Foday Sankoh and chief mentor Charles Taylor, forced the United Security Council to bless plans by the Ahmed Tijan Kabbah administration to fight ruthlessness through the rule of law. By this, the Kabbah administration had hoped that it will be able to contain impunity while hammering home to would-be warmongers that "even wars have limits." The hybrid court that evolved from this understanding, the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone, was therefore established to prosecute those who bear the greatest responsibility for crimes against humanity.

But the process seems not to be working and frustration is stepping in.

There are clear indications that administrators at the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone are becoming frustrated over the continued uncertainty surrounding the arraignment of indictees Charles Taylor and Johnny Paul Koroma for trial.

"The fact that two of the accused, Charles Taylor and Johnny Paul Koroma, remain at large and therefore cannot be tried until they appear before the Special Court may still affect the completion of all trials," the special court administrators said last month in a report to the UN Security Council.

But while the completion of the trials are essential to the overall mandate of the court which was to offset impunity in the ECOWAS subregion in the wake of the flagrant violation of human rights by so-called liberators over the last 15 years, the financial position of the special court is becoming a major challenge.

According to reports, the court will receive UN direct support until December this year after which it will have to find alternative sources of income to carry out its activities.

What this means, according to court administrators, is that as of January 2006, the court will have to rely on voluntary donation from countries wishing to support the rule of law in West Africa as a way of maintaining peace and stability.

Observers say the most workable alternative to seeking funding from independent sources is the hasten trials.

This may involve the trial in absentia of Messrs Taylor and Koroma, but the court's own rules will not allow for

trial in absentia.

"Under the Rules of Procedure and Evidence of the Special Court, an accused may not be tried in his absence unless he has made his initial appearance and has been afforded the right to appear at trial and but has refused to do so, or alternatively, has made his initial appearance but is at large and refuses to appear in court," says the court's rule.

It is clear from this rule that neither Mr. Taylor nor Mr. Koroma may be tried unless they appear in court in Freetown, something many say is near impossible.

None of the two men had appeared in the special court, except for Taylor's whose lawyers appeared before the court to argue about jurisdiction which they lost.

There is currently growing tension between the governments of Nigeria and the U.S. over the extradition of Charles Taylor to Sierra Leone to face the special court on 17-points of indictment.

Nigeria is refusing to release Taylor unless the term of his asylum is exhausted or until an elected government in Monrovia says he should be turned over to it.

And because Nigeria's position on the issue is fluid, many say it is unlikely that Taylor will appear voluntarily before the court as its own rules appear to suggest.

In fact addressing herself to the issue of Taylor's indictment and trial in Sierra in a magazine interview, the wife of Mr. Taylor, Jewel Howard-Taylor contended that her husband had already been convicted and that if he lives to go through the trial, he would not get fair hearing.

She then suggested that the case be transferred to a more neutral ground in Geneva.

No one has given this suggestion any serious thought as some Taylor former aids believe Taylor's going to Sierra Leone will not only be a heroic thing to do to prove his innocence, but that it will also exonerate the name of his former associates, family members and the name of his country Liberia which has been blamed for all the atrocities that occurred during Sierra Leone's decade-long civil war.

No one knows for certain where the argument will lead eventually, but many are hoping that Nigeria, fearing economic isolation from Washington may eventually yield, letting go the Taylor-factor for the good of the Nigerian nation.

This leaves the question of Johnny Paul Koroma who has been at large since his indictment was approved by the Special Court on May 7, 2003.

It was rumored that Koroma and Sam Bockarie were royal guests of President Charles Taylor, but opinions began to change after news of Bockarie's death at the Ivorian border with Liberia indicated that rather than a royal guest in Monrovia, Sam Mosquita Bockarie had been a hireling leading a crack mercenary contingent in Cote d'Ivoire.

This revelation though, did not address the question about the whereabouts of Johnny Paul Koroma, the man who led the military junta, the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) to unseat the then infant civilian administration of President Tijan Kabbah.

It is not known to the Special Court or to anyone else where Koroma is or whether he has any intention of

walking voluntary into the trap set for him.

From the onset of trial back in July 2001, prosecutors at the special court were optimistic once the men indicted for bearing the greatest responsibility for crime against humanity in Sierra Leone were successfully prosecuted, the culture of impunity in Sierra Leone and other countries of the Mano River Union would be wiped out.

Those targeted at the time were the then president of neighboring Liberia, Charles Taylor, RUF leader Foday Sankoh, RUF commander Sam Bockerie, and AFRC Junta leader, Johnny Paul Koromah.

Event of the last few years, especially those surrounding the release of Taylor to the Special Court indicate that the initial euphoria regarding the wiping out of impunity is slowly dampening.

And if it does, then it is no longer an exaggeration that the issue of Taylor and Koroma may go on and on to its miserable closure.

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Halloran case appeal delayed one week

By Selma Milovanovic

June 28, 2005

The appeal of a Victoria Police superintendent fighting a child-sex conviction in Sierra Leone has been delayed for a week.

Lawyers for Peter Halloran yesterday said the appeal to the Sierra Leone High Court, originally scheduled for tomorrow, would be heard on July 6.

Halloran, 56, the former head of Victoria's homicide squad, was in February sentenced to 18 months' jail after being found guilty of sexually assaulting a local girl.

The girl, Kadie Kabia, told police Halloran had repeatedly indecently assaulted her but later retracted her claims, saying that Halloran's flatmate and fellow war crimes investigator Mandy Cordwell had coerced her into making the allegations.

Halloran, who is on bail pending the appeal, took 12 months' leave without pay from Victoria Police last year and went to Sierra Leone to work as a war crimes investigator at the United Nations-backed Special Court.

Before his trial, Halloran was cleared of the sexual assault claims by two independent investigations - the war crimes taskforce and a human rights group.

Halloran's solicitor, Darren Bracken, said the appeal was expected to take only one or two days.

Victoria's Police Association recently agreed to contribute \$100,000 towards Halloran's legal costs, which include the services of Melbourne QC Lex Lasry.

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UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 27 June 2005

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International Clips on Liberia

There were no stories exclusively on Liberia in the major international media today

International Clips on West Africa

06/27/2005 09:15:10

Disarmament date for Ivory Coast again pushed back, ahead of Pretoria talks

ABIDJAN, June 27 (AFP) - Ivory Coast on Monday missed the latest start date for an overdue campaign to disarm some 40,000 rebel fighters, ahead of a new African Union mediation effort to unblock the stalled peace process in the west African state.

"Nothing is happening, nothing has happened and we have nothing planned," armed forces chief General Philippe Mangou told AFP.

06/27/2005 14:10:04

UPDATE 1-Ivory Coast rebels grease guns, don't disarm

By Abdoul Kader

BOUAKE, Ivory Coast, June 27 (Reuters) - Ivory Coast's rebels greased their assault rifles, lounged in ripped out car seats or played cards on Monday, reacting angrily to any suggestion that disarmament was supposed to be starting.

Army and rebel chiefs in the West African country, divided by civil war since September 2002, had agreed in May to start disarmament on Monday -- but rebels later rowed back from that saying they had never accepted a fixed timetable.

"Who told you there would be disarmament today? Get out of here with your stories of disarmament," Amadou Coulibaly, the chief at a military camp in the rebel-held city of Bouake, told reporters who had come to check.