

**SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE**  
PRESS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

**PRESS CLIPPINGS**

**Enclosed are clippings of local and international press on the Special Court and related issues obtained by the Press and Public Affairs Office as of:**

Wednesday, 14 September 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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Ext 7217

**For Immediate Release:**

## **Nigeria: Demonstrate Commitment to Justice**

### ***Surrender Taylor to the Special Court for Sierra Leone***

(New York, September 14, 2005) - Nigeria should help bring justice to the countless victims of crimes committed during Sierra Leone's civil war, Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International said today in an open letter urging Nigeria's president to surrender former Liberian President Charles Taylor to the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo is currently in New York for the opening of the U.N. General Assembly and is scheduled to hold a press conference at the United Nations on Friday. Charles Taylor, who has been in exile in Nigeria since August 2003, has been indicted by the Special Court for Sierra Leone on 17 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity committed during Sierra Leone's civil war.

"The Special Court for Sierra Leone is best placed to bring justice to the countless African victims of the crimes for which Charles Taylor is accused," said Kolawole Olaniyan, director of the Africa Programme at Amnesty International. "However, the Special Court will only operate for a limited time. This valuable window of opportunity is rapidly closing."

The court has a mandate to prosecute those bearing the greatest responsibility for the crimes committed during the civil war in Sierra Leone, which was characterized by murders, sexual violence, mutilation and the widespread use of child soldiers.

"Given its aspiration to become a permanent Security Council member, Nigeria is well placed to show leadership in supporting justice for serious crimes committed around the world," said Richard Dicker, director of the International Justice Program at Human Rights Watch. "Nigeria should demonstrate its commitment to ending impunity by promptly surrendering Charles Taylor to the Special Court."

A copy of the letter sent to Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo can be found at:  
<http://hrw.org/english/docs/2005/09/09/nigeri11734.htm>

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Published in the Independent Observer, 14 September 2005

## Press Statement On Liberian Elections and Charles Taylor

As Campaigns for Liberia's Presidential and Parliamentary elections kick off, African and International Organisations Call on the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and African Union Chairperson President Obasanjo of Nigeria to Ensure Charles Taylor Does Not Interfere in Liberia's Democratic Process from Nigeria where he is currently exiled.

In a statement issued today, Mr. Shina Loremikan of the Coalition Against Impunity campaigning for the trial of the former Liberian leader before the UN – supported Special Court for Sierra Leone stated “ECOWAS and President Obasanjo must ensure that Charles Taylor does not, cannot and is unable to distort Liberia's electoral process and results.

He continued, “It is bad enough that Taylor who is wanted by Interpol for crimes against Sierra Leonean, Liberian and other West African citizens is being sheltered from justice by the government of President Obasanjo. All indications are that he has the freedom to influence affairs in Liberia from Nigeria. President Obasanjo must guarantee that Taylor does not have any opportunity to affect the outcome of the Liberia elections”.

“Liberia is the epicentre of instability in West Africa and Taylor is the Chief Architect of this instability,” added Chama Ubani of the Civil Liberties Organisation. “The elections in Liberia are a crucial opportunity for Liberians to stabilise their country and by extension neighbouring West African countries”.

“ECOWAS cannot afford further conflict. Charles Taylor is responsible for launching 15 years of conflict which has affected four countries: Sierra Leone, Guinea, Cote D'Ivoire and Liberia, claimed hundreds of thousands of lives and displaced millions” emphasised Zainab Bangura founder of Campaign for Good Governance and currently Director of National Accountability Group in Sierra Leone. She noted further that “the Presidents of Guinea and Sierra Leone and the interim President of Liberia have also publicly expressed concern over the capacity of Charles Taylor to destabilise the sub-region from Nigeria and issued a communique in July asking President Obasanjo to review the terms of Taylor's asylum.”

“Justice is a necessary condition for peace,” stressed Tajudeen Abdulraheem, Director of Justice Africa. “President Obasanjo cannot shelter Taylor indefinitely. A newly elected government in Liberia needs to be free of the influence of Charles Taylor. The best

foundation for reconstruction of Liberia is for Taylor to be transferred to the Special Court for trial. This will ensure that whatever government emerges in Liberia will not live under his violent shadow”.

“The people of Nigeria, having lived under military dictatorship, are committed to justice and democracy in Liberia,” Added Auwal Musa Rafsanjani, Executive Director of Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre in Nigeria. “This is why we are shocked that President Obasanjo’s government is now persecuting members of the Coalition Against Impunity campaigning for the transfer of Charles Taylor to the Special Court. In early August Nigeria’s State Security Service arrested several persons in connection with distribution of Interpol red notices issued for Charles Taylor. Members of the Coalition have been declared wanted by Nigerian security services, campaign posters of the Coalition have been confiscated and offices of the Coalitions printers have been shut down.”

“The fact that President Obasanjo is turning on his own citizens rather than turning over a war crime indictee to have his day in court raises questions about his commitment to upholding standards of the African Union of which he is the current Chairperson” underlined David Mafabi, Director of Political Affairs of the Global Pan African Movement. “African leaders and institutions must ensure justice is done for countless victims of rape, child soldiers, journalists, amputees, refugees and others whose lives have been wasted in the Liberia, Sierra Leonean and other conflicts.”

“We the undersigned Liberian, Nigerian, Sierra Leonean, other African, and international organisations are therefore calling on President Obasanjo to immediately end his government’s persecution of human rights campaigners, reassure Nigerians and all Africans that Charles Taylor will not, shall not and cannot be allowed to subvert the collective will of the ECOWAS, African Union and the World Community, and hand him over to the Special Court for trial.”

## Outside Monitors Say Liberia Unprepared for Elections

Sep 12, 2005 Abidjan

Monitors and outside observers say Liberia is going into the October 11 presidential and parliamentary elections unprepared. The observers have expressed serious misgivings about security and openness ahead of the polls.

About two years after former-rebel-turned president Charles Taylor was forced into exile in Nigeria, Liberians are experiencing a vibrant electoral season, with more than 20 presidential candidates to choose from and over 1,000 candidates seeking a seat in parliament.

U.S. election monitors say they have concerns over plans to guarantee security at the polling places, specifically coordination between Liberian police and the 15,000 U.N. peacekeepers on the ground.

The National Democratic Institute and the Carter Center are also worried that Liberia's National Election Commission has not clearly outlined how it will deal with complaints and the announcement of results.

A U.S.-based Liberian activist, Bodioh Siapoe, who runs an Internet radio service called "Radio Free Liberia," says preparations have been insufficient.

"Our citizens have yet to focus on reestablishing security, holding constitutional conventions, organizing real political parties, restructuring administrative bodies and bringing the military under civilian control. None of these have really been done yet and we're rushing into elections," said Siapoe.

George Fahnbulleh, another U.S.-based Liberian activist, expresses his views in Internet chat rooms and says there has been a lack of transparency in applying election rules. He says the current front-runner and former soccer star, George Weah, may have adopted French citizenship during his playing career and may not even qualify.

French diplomats in West Africa have confirmed Mr. Weah approached them to revoke his French citizenship so he could be a candidate.

But Mr. Fahnbulleh says when the issue arose in Liberia, Mr. Weah's candidacy was accepted without questions.

"The law says everybody who takes a second nationality automatically loses their Liberian citizenship," Fahnbulleh said. "You are no longer a Liberian when that happens. Whether or not I agree with the law is immaterial at this point. It is the law," he said. "The problem in Africa, constantly with regards to governance, has always been that the

laws are not followed through. How do you make a distinction that you're going to apply some laws and you're not going to apply others? The very definition of rule of law says that the laws that you have on the books you agree to follow. So making these compromises will eventually lead us down the road where we're going to have a crisis again," Fahnbulleh said.

Mr. Fahnbulleh says when the problem of Mr. Weah's citizenship was raised, his supporters threw gasoline bombs at the cars of election commission members. He says there is an atmosphere of intimidation surrounding the upcoming elections.

"We're coming out of a devastating civil war and democracy has not yet taken hold," said Fahnbulleh. "People don't understand the whole concept of having an opposite view and not being enemies," he said.

Other concerns are that Mr. Taylor, who was accused of running Liberia like a personal fiefdom, has been interfering in the elections by giving money to most candidates to buy his immunity.

**It is expected the next Liberian president will decide whether Mr. Taylor, who says he is innocent of any wrongdoing, should face charges in Liberia or should be handed over to the special war crimes court in Sierra Leone, to face charges there of backing rebels.**

In addition, one of the leading presidential candidates, Varney Sherman, is facing accusations of corruptions in his dealings with transitional leader Gyude Bryant. Both have denied any wrongdoing.

Despite what he calls all "these dark clouds, dangers and imperfections," Radio Free Liberia founder, Bodioh Siapoe, says it is a time of hope for Liberia.

"This time around we are hoping there will actually be free, fair and transparent elections in the country because Liberians are sick and tired of war," said Bodioh Siapoe. "If the right person is not elected there's bound to be confusion, there's bound to be more wars in our country and no one wants that. If we want peace, we have to learn how to fight for justice," he said.

Observers agree the stakes for Liberia and West Africa are high. A Brussels independent research institution has warned Liberia could drag the unstable Mano River Basin region, including Sierra Leone and Guinea, back into war, if this election does not succeed to create a legitimate government.

This article uses material from VOA.

**UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 13 Sept 2005**

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

**International Clips on Liberia**

The Washington Post 13 September 2005

**After Shattering Civil War, Liberians See Hope at Polls**

Sudarsan Raghavan  
Washington Post Staff Writer

Her dead husband's Bible, his driver's license and their faded wedding photos are in a dusty box in the closet of her College Park home -- not to forget, but to remember. Like so many Liberians, Caroline Barnard is handcuffed to a history of heartache, bloodshed and guilt.

Now, as the West African country prepares for a historic post-civil war election next month, a new hope is prevailing. After years of building wealth and sharing it with impoverished relatives back home, Barnard and other Liberians across the United States want to influence the outcome of the campaign. Many of the Washington region's estimated 10,000 native Liberians view it as nothing less than their homeland's last chance for peace and stability.

**International Clips on West Africa**

13/09/2005 04:44:21

**U.N. not sufficiently involved in Ivory Coast, French foreign minister says**

PARIS (AP) \_ France's foreign minister said Tuesday that the United Nations is not doing enough in Ivory Coast and urged the war-divided West African country to hold elections as soon as possible.

"The United Nations is still not sufficiently involved in Ivory Coast," Philippe Douste-Blazy said on LCI television. "There must be involvement in Ivory Coast. That's what the U.N. is for."

**Cote D Ivoire: Former President Calls for Gbagbo to Hand Over to a Transitional Government**

Abidjan, 13 Sept. 2005 (UN Integrated Regional Information Networks/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) --Opposition leader and former president Henri Konan Bedie, fresh back in wartorn Cote d'Ivoire after a year in self-imposed exile in Paris, has called on President

Laurent Gbagbo to hand over power to a transitional government if, as expected, planned elections do not take place on 30 October.

Speaking on Sunday night, and flanked by bodyguards as well as UN peacekeeping troops, the 71-year old presidential candidate for the Democratic Party of Cote d'Ivoire (PDCI), one of the country's two main opposition parties, told reporters that Gbagbo should not remain in power after his mandate expires at the end of October.

## **Local Media – Newspapers**

### **More Than 100 Applicants for Truth and Reconciliation Commission**

*(Daily Observer)*

- Economic Community of West African States Representative to Liberia Ansumana Ceesay told a news conference in Monrovia yesterday that the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Selection Panel was screening over 140 applicants including the acting TRC commissioners to produce the nine-member TRC.

### **ELBS RADIO** *(News monitored yesterday at 19:00 and today at 07:00)*

### **More Than 100 Applicants for Truth and Reconciliation Commission**

*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 or would like further information on the content of the summaries, please contact Mr. Jeddi Armah at [armahj@un.org](mailto:armahj@un.org).*





# UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS

## PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS

Peacekeeping operation since 1948 .....60  
 Current peacekeeping operations .....16

## PERSONNEL

Military personnel and civilian police ..... 66,921  
 Countries contributing military personnel  
 and civilian police .....106  
 International civilian personnel ..... 4,475  
 Local civilian personnel ..... 7,996  
 UN Volunteers ..... 1,762

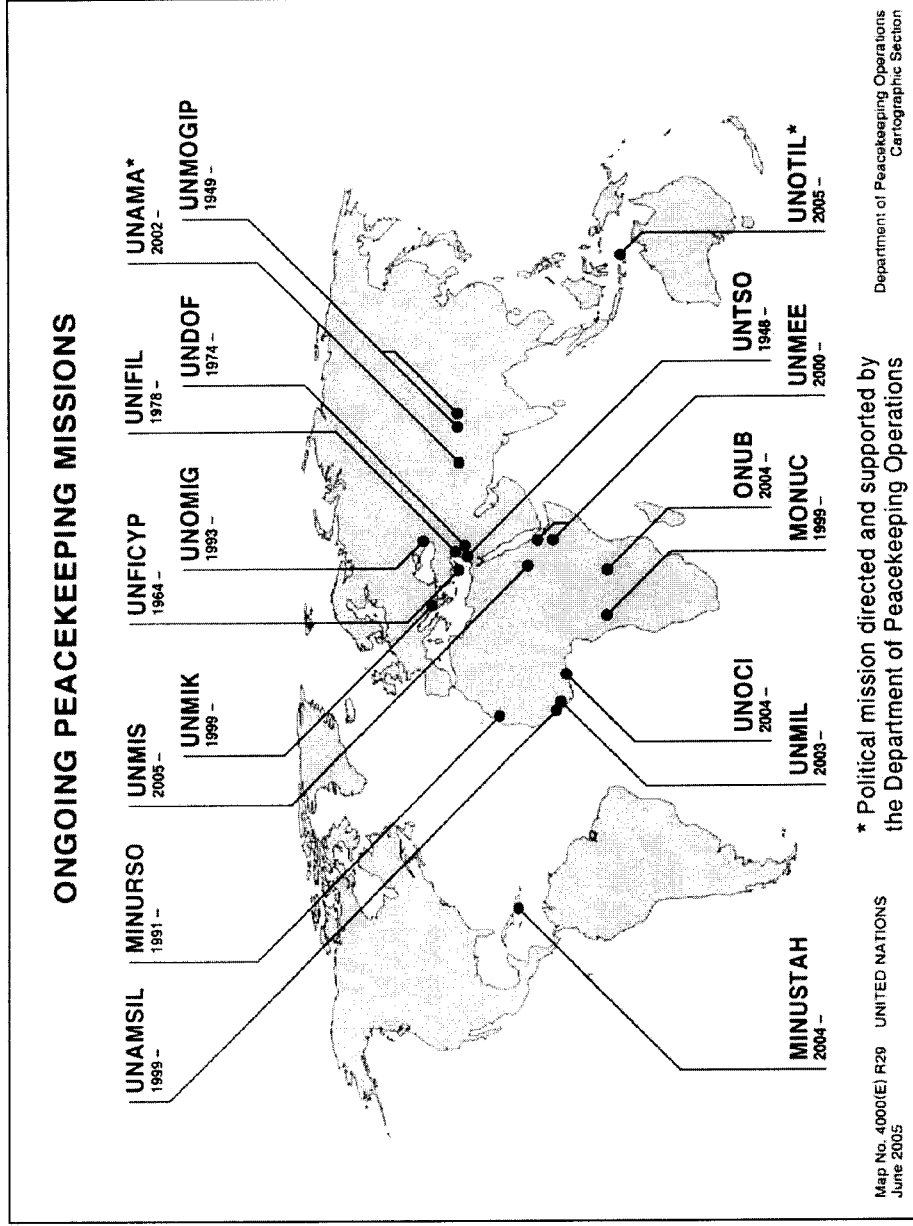
Total number of personnel serving in  
 peacekeeping operations ..... 81,154  
 Total number of fatalities in peacekeeping  
 operations since 1948 .....2,004

## FINANCIAL ASPECTS

Approved budgets for the period  
 from 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005..... About \$4.47 billion  
 Approved resources for the period  
 from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006..... About \$3.55 billion\*  
 Estimated total cost of operations  
 from 1948 to 30 June 2005..... About \$36.01 billion  
 Outstanding contributions to  
 peacekeeping (31 July 2005)..... About \$2.64 billion

NOTE: The term "military personnel" refers to military observers and troops, as applicable. Fatality figures include military, civilian police and international and local civilian personnel in United Nations peacekeeping operations only.

\*Excludes the full resources of MONUC and UNMIS (see reverse side for figures)



# CURRENT PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS

Mission	Established	Troops	Military Observers	Civilian Police	International Civilians	Local Civilians	UN Volunteers	Total Personnel	Fatalities	Budget (US\$ mil.) (Approved gross resources for 07/05 - 06/06 unless otherwise stated)
UNTSO	May 1948	-	148	-	100	119	-	367	41	29.04 (Appropriation 2005)
UNMOGIP	January 1949	-	42	-	24	47	-	113	9	8.37 (Appropriation 2005)
UNEFICYP	March 1964	863	-	51	36	110	-	1,060	174	46.51*
UNDOF	June 1974	1,036	-	-	38	100	-	1,174	41	43.71
UNIFIL	March 1978	1,998	-	-	103	293	-	1,594	250	99.23
MINURSO	April 1991	25	198	6	128	97	-	454	11	47.95
UNOMIG	August 1993	-	120	12	99	181	-	412	8	36.38
UNMIK	June 1999	-	36	2,612	656	2,494	202	6,000	34	252.55
UNAMSIL	October 1999	3,223	118	70	219	419	89	4,138	165	113.22 403.41
MONUC	November 1999	15,191	532	324	808	1,332	443	18,630	60	(Commitment authority: 1 July - 31 October 2005)
UNMEE	July 2000	3,083	210	-	194	244	72	3,803	9	185.99
UNMIL	September 2003	14,692	202	1,084	523	753	438	17,692	47	760.57
UNOCI	April 2004	6,246	184	210	323	292	161	7,416	7	386.89
MINUSTAH	June 2004	6,263	-	1,401	423	443	147	8,677	8	494.89
ONUB	June 2004	5,334	178	103	330	378	157	6,480	12	307.69
UNMIS	March 2005	1,708 (10,000**)	148	70 (715**)	471 (1,018***)	694 (2,632***)	53 (214***)	3,144 (14,579)	-	315.99 (Commitment authority: 1 July - 31 October 2005)
Total: <b>58,862</b> <b>2,116</b> <b>5,943</b> <b>4,475</b> <b>7,996</b> <b>1,762</b> <b>81,154</b> <b>876</b> <b>about 3,553</b>										

UNTSO - United Nations Truce Supervision Organization  
 UNMOGIP - United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan  
 UNFICYP - United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus  
 UNDOF - United Nations Disengagement Observer Force  
 UNIFIL - United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon  
 MINURSO - United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara  
 UNOMIG - United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia  
 UNMIK - United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo

UNAMSIL - United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone  
 MONUC - United Nations Organization Mission in the Dem. Rep. of the Congo  
 UNMEE - United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea  
 UNMIL - United Nations Mission in Liberia  
 UNOCI - United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire  
 MINUSTAH - United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti  
 ONUB - United Nations Operation in Burundi  
 UNMIS - United Nations Mission in the Sudan

NOTE: UNTSO and UNMOGIP are funded from the United Nations regular biennial budget. Costs to the United Nations of the other current operations are financed from their own separate accounts on the basis of legally binding assessments on all Member States. For these missions, budget figures are for one year unless otherwise specified. All budgets include requirements for the support account for peacekeeping operations and the UN Logistics Base in Brindisi (Italy). For information on United Nations political missions, see DPI/2166/Rev.26 also available on the web at <http://www.un.org/peace/ppbm.pdf>

The Politic - International  
Issue: 5/8/04

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## **Prosecuting Saddam:by Tom Parker**

Last December, the Iraqi Governing Council announced the establishment of an Iraq Special Tribunal (IST) to try Saddam Hussein and his cronies for their crimes. This groundbreaking initiative has received surprisingly little attention, but it marks an important new development in the application of international criminal law.

Unlike its United Nations-sponsored cousins in The Hague, Arusha and Sierra Leone, this is the first such court to invest local officials with the primary responsibility for managing cases and bringing them to trial. International funding will go where it is needed most, on rebuilding local judicial capacity and on victim support. Most important of all, it is the reckoning process that most Iraqis want to see.

A poll conducted by Physicians for Human Rights in summer 2003 found that 98 percent of Iraqis questioned would like to see those responsible for major human rights abuses during the Saddam-era punished. Indeed, 77 percent favored some form of legal process. The widespread abuse of human rights under Saddam Hussein's regime is one of the few common unifying experiences shared across the entire country.

The International Center for Transitional Justice reported in June 2003 that the support for locally-based trials with Iraqi personnel was significant. The report also noted the pride felt by Iraqi legal professionals and their strong desire to restore the dignity of the Iraqi legal system. Iraqis are confident that a sufficient number of judges, investigating magistrates and prosecutors untainted by the crimes of the former regime could be found to staff and superintend the trial process.

The Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) spent almost six months discussing transitional justice options with a wide range of Iraqis. It organized working groups and conferences on subjects as diverse as truth and reconciliation models and forensic anthropology. Once it became clear that the Governing Council favored the creation of an Iraqi-led tribunal applying international law, the focus shifted to how best to support this process. CPA advisers worked closely with the Council to prepare a Statute for the tribunal which reflected the current state of international criminal law. Similar effort has gone into the preparation of Rules and Procedures for the tribunal, although these are still in draft form.

Equal weight was given to advising Iraqis on how best to tackle an overwhelming catalogue of abuse - perhaps as many as 300,000 deaths and many more incidences of rape, torture and wrongful imprisonment. The CPA recognized from a very early stage that the Iraqis would require some assistance in this area. In June 2003, Ambassador Paul J. Bremer III established the CPA's Crimes against Humanity Investigations Unit to provide investigative support and assistance where required.

The priority for this unit was to develop an investigative strategy. Iraq is an evidence-rich environment and the challenge for investigators is to avoid getting overwhelmed by the scale of Iraq's tragic history. It is vital that investigations are both focused and coordinated. To this end, the CPA urged that the Governing Council limit the range of the tribunal by restricting its scope to violations of international law like genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, and this advice was heeded.

The CPA also suggested that the tribunal strictly limit the number of cases brought before it. International crimes are complex and time-consuming both to investigate and to try. It is important to set attainable goals. At the end of the Second World War, only 24 senior Nazis were brought before the International Military Tribunal in Nuremburg. The most recent U.N. Tribunal in Sierra Leone similarly intends to try no more than 25 cases.

Without some form of constraint on numbers, trials could drag on for decades at great public cost, and with each passing year, the meaning of such trials would become increasingly diluted. The International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavian which initially opened its doors to all manner of cases large and small has taken almost 18 years to try approximately 100 cases at a cost of over

\$1.5 billion. Although the Yugoslavia Tribunal has achieved a great deal, until recently there was little coherence to its approach and many people in the Balkans have found its deliberations strangely unsatisfying.

CPA advisers have recommended that in Iraq, the initial investigative effort should be focused on no more than 20 or so targets currently in Coalition custody and a handful of senior Ba'athists still at large. A number of NGOs, such as Indict and Human Rights Watch, have already collected sufficient material to suggest a prima facie case exists against a significant number of these individuals. CPA advisers have recommended targets carefully chosen to reflect the hierarchy of culpability already identified by these NGOs as well as by local Iraqi human rights activists. These targets are all individuals who are immediately recognizable to the Iraqi public rather than anonymous prison guards or mid-ranking army officers.

It is also important that the cases heard by the tribunal broadly involve incidents that reflect the temporal and geographic spread of the regime's crimes and include events such as the persecution of the Fayli and Barzani Kurds, the attack on Halabja (1988), the Anfal campaign (1988), the occupation of Kuwait (1990), the suppression of the post-Gulf War uprising known locally as the Intifada (1991), the persecution of the Marsh Arabs and the systemic torture of political opponents of the regime. The tribunal's defendants will be selected with the need to provide for a thorough accounting of the regime's crimes very much in mind.

International law places great emphasis on the principle that cases should be resolved as locally as possible. This principle is enshrined in Article 17 of the Statute of the International Criminal Court. Restoring respect for the rule of law will be a vital step in the successful reconstruction of Iraq. It is difficult to conceive of a more high-profile or symbolic manner in which this could be achieved.

Great steps have already been taken toward this goal. An investigative strategy is forming. Much of the infrastructure necessary for investigations to commence will soon be in place. A budget of \$75 million has been made available to support crimes against humanity investigations. Training in international criminal law has started for Iraqi legal professionals. A team of 50 legal and investigative experts assembled by the U.S. Department of Justice to assist the tribunal are expected to leave for Iraq in the near future.

These things do take time, but the prize is worth waiting for. A televised judicial reckoning which observes accepted international standards of due process could become a civics lesson for the whole country. The tarnished reputation of the Iraqi legal system could be restored. And most important of all, Saddam's many victims will finally receive a portion of the redress they so richly deserve.

Tom Parker served in Baghdad for six months as the U.K. special adviser for Regime Crimes Investigations. In Iraq he also served as the head of the Crimes Against Humanity Investigations Unit for the Coalition Provisional Authority. He is currently a consultant to the International Security Studies Program at Yale University.

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