

**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, October 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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# Hinga Norman rejects SLPP leadership

Story: Sahr Musa Yamba

Rev. Alfred M. Sam Foray, speaking for & on behalf of Chief Sam Hinga Norman Monday emailed Concord Times to say that , "Chief Norman will not be a party to any organization that blatantly violates all the principles for which he (Norman) has fought all of his life."

He was responding to a mail by Concord Times asking what was the way forward for Chief Norman and if the latter was willing to work

with the Sierra Leone Peoples party (SLPP) leadership of Vice President Berewa.

Foray wrote, "with respect to Vice President Berewa, Chief Norman has clearly stated his opinion, albeit through legal action, on the process that led to the election of Mr. Berewa as Party Leader. Mr. Norman is of the opinion that the process that culminated in the recent SLPP Delegates' Convention in Makeni was in contraven-

tion to the Sierra Leone Constitution, the All Political Parties' Act and the SLPP Constitution. As such, Mr. Norman chose not to participate in what he considered an illegal convention. As the elected leader of the SLPP, Mr. Berewa is part of the leadership of the party that appears to put personal interests ahead of the party's and the nation's interest."

He argued "Vice President Berewa's leadership has been demonstrated on many occasions to be contrary to the process of reconciliation and the inherent values of our people."

Sam Foray however concedes that, it is left to the people of our country whether they want to be led by inclusion or exclusion.

He said Chief Norman is still assessing his political options

*Continued page 3*

## Hinga Norman rejects SLPP leadership

*From page 1*

and the public will be informed in due course. "In general, Mr. Norman is of the opinion that the country is not necessarily in need of a new leader, but a new leadership. One that is broad-based to include all of the diverse ethnic and religious groups of our country. This is the principle for which Mr. Norman has devoted all of his life and for which he remains steadfast and unmovable." Sam Foray wrote.

On the issue of Charles Margai, Sam Foray said, "we welcome Mr. Margai's establishment of a new political party. It is a positive development in the freedom and democracy for which Mr. Norman and the CDF fought. The people have a right to a diversity of options and if Mr. Margai and his supporters feel that a new party is the answer, well and good. It will be up to the electorate to determine

whether Mr. Margai's party or any other political party or movement will solve the myriad of problems faced by our people. Mr. Margai and Chief Norman are friends and colleagues in every sense of the word. They both want the same thing for Sierra Leone: A free and prosperous nation that we can all be proud of regardless of whether we live at home or abroad."

Salome Times. Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October, 2005.

## Coalition To Elect Hinga Norman Is Expanding

*A press release signed by the US-based head of the Committee to Elect Hinga Norman Alfred Sam Foray, reads:*

The coalition of political parties and civic organizations coming together to partner with former Regent chief, Samuel Hinga Norman, is rapidly expanding throughout the country. Although the steering committee to elect Hinga Norman had hoped to wrap its deliberations up by now, it appears the influx of new and potential working partners will now forestall any rush to declare the new political movement.

Some of Mr. Norman's supporters are clearly anxious to go public, but Mr. Norman himself appears to be taking an ultra-cautious approach, according to his Legal Adviser, Dr Bubuakei Jabbi. Since the public first became aware that Chief Norman is on the verge of severing relationships with the SLPP and possibly forming a new political party in partnership with

others, the number of interested partners has grown from a mere handful to several groups, organizations and individual from all four Regions of the country. In the past several weeks, there have been intra- and inter-Regional consultative meetings aimed at forming perhaps the largest political movement in the country's history. And even as we speak, more partners keep making their way to Mr. Norman's political and administrative headquarters at the special court Detention Facilities at New England. Some of these individuals and organizations include some of the country's who-is-who in politics. However, in order to give all interested partners and potential partners proper consideration and an equal chance to present their agenda, we will abstain from discussing the expanded list at this point. It does appear, however, that nearly every one in Sierra Leone's fourteen ad-

ministrative District, including the Western Region Districts are involved in this movement. Although some of Mr. Norman's coalition partners have clearly indicated that they will only stay in the coalition if Mr. Norman himself is the leader of the coalition, Chief Norman has left that door open for alternative leadership, if need be. Thus the probability of a Norman coalition without Chief Norman himself as the leader of such a coalition cannot be ruled out at this point. Another reason the coalition may be holding back any public declaration is that there have already been too many conventions or conventions as some are called along with the recent formation of a new political party by Lawyer Charles F. Margai. Some Mr. Norman's advisers note that the public may need a break to digest the stream of political activities in the country. It should also be noted that the political parties commission (PPC) which registers and regulates political parties in the country has yet to be organized and established. Thus any new political entity in the country

will simply be unofficial until the PPC is commissioned.

Additionally, Mr. Norman's own political party which will be an integral part of the new coalition is still in formation as a result of the ever expanding coalition. The public is, however, advised that they not interpret the cautious forays of Mr. Norman and his coalition partners as a sign of disinterest or lack of activities. Indeed, in addition to the numerous intra- and inter-Regional meetings, the foot soldiers of the new coalition are all over the country, some abroad in various capacities to spread the word. Possibly as result of this political evangelism, many of Sierra Leone's political activists have elected to remain uncommitted to the SLPP and the PMDC. We are still hopeful that these activities will be, signed, sealed and delivered to the within the next thirty days without prejudicing our potential partners some of whom are still assessing the coalition and asking to be partners.

Not every Sierra Leonean back home and even in the Diaspora is aware that there is big politics going on in the Washington District of Columbia. There is politics in donor fund, politics in projects for Africa, and politics even with the killer disease called HIV/AIDS.

There is politics everywhere as long it pertains to funding. When an idea is initiated geared towards the implementation of projects in Africa or any part in the world, the initiators have their contact person(s) that they in turn inform that so and so program is to kick-off in so and so part in Africa. That piece of information is not treated lightly.

Consequently there are lots of white job hustlers in America and other parts of Europe, who are desperately seeking out for well paid jobs. It is not that there are no jobs out there, but the salary some of them bag out here including out-of-station allowance, sometimes triple what they can get back home. Apart from that there is serious competition for jobs with very good and attractive benefit, so when news filters to those job seekers about vacancies in Africa the rush by them to clinch those jobs is unimaginable.

Of course, the white folks, without prejudice don't like Africa; since most of them have had what is known as mental fixity that Africa is the Whiteman's grave, quite a good number of them prefer to stay back home and live on what their office could provide for them.

Some even depend on Social Security handouts, which they receive at the end of month; that is for those who are old and cannot work any longer. It also applies to those who go without job for a brief spell of time. After such a spell of time if the individual cannot get a job the unemployment benefit is cut-off; so one is forced to find a job whether mental or lucrative; there should be somewhere and something to do just to earn a living. That is why in places like America it is not the nature of job that somebody does that is of any significance but what the person does for a living no wonder those who cannot work end up being homeless, as there is nowhere revenue can be generated to pay bills such as electricity, air conditioning, heat, water, credit card, telephone, you name it and that does not include rent or mortgage for those who go with the illusion that they have bought and owned a house.

In this part of the globe nobody owns anything, even a house one has to pay mortgage for it for a period of twenty five to thirty years. For a good car you pay for it for five years; so in essence you don't own anything and the day one fails to pay these bills you are evicted within a substantial time frame.

When the idea of the Special Court for Sierra Leone was born it was like the proverbial manna from heaven. Some of those white folks which we heard about the brutal war that consumed a very good percentage of the population, the news was

# It Rings A Bell BY PHILIP NEVILLE

## Special Court and the money choppers

received with joy and happiness. Firstly it provided job opportunities for some of the job hustlers out there, and secondly it provided the opportunity of coming to spend time and relax in the beaches and enjoy African girls. This increases the demand curve and people began lobbying for employment in Sierra Leone. One thing that has to be made explicitly clear is the fact that some of these people are not more qualified than the indigenes.

ally good in their fields, while some on the other hand is like "fill in the spaces." But sadly these are the people who become thorns and tormentors to the indigenes that they work with. This is because of the awareness that their governments play very significant role in funding the projects.

The Special Court is one major source of employment for foreign nationals. Basically the average Sierra Leonean knows that the court is for them and with its establishment there

achieved. All that is achieved is the coming and going of these white folks and foreign nationals as if it were an exchange programme meant solely for them, while it was the Sierra Leonean citizens who suffered the brunt of the war.

The question therefore is what has so far been achieved?

David Crane was the first prosecutor who made boastful statement while he was here that he were going to bring Charles Taylor to the court. His pro-

there are many of such nature concealed under the carpet committed by these foreign-donor-fund choppers who are here just to make money and return home with unimaginable quantum of dollars in their foreign accounts.

But the unfortunate aspect about all these donor contributions to Africa is that the repayment of these funds has to be done by the host country, despite the fact that donor countries are providing jobs for their citizens and nationals from these funds. Not a single cent would be repaid by them, and when giving reports about assistance to Sierra Leone or any other county (ies) such reports would not mention what percentage of money was used to pay their people. It would be the interpretation that money to the tune of such amount of dollars or pound sterling was made available to Sierra Leone either on a short term loan repayment plan or an extended one.

This is injustice to a very large extent, but in the eyes of international diplomacy it is blurred. The only thing visible is the funding provided for the host country and whether or not such funds are misappropriated and misused by these so-called expatriates is not the responsibility of the donor countries.

The only thing they would do is to make big and loud noise about the funds provided that was not well and properly utilized for the purpose it was meant for, forgetting that their own people were placed for the disbursement of the funds.

Shamefully the Special Court is making another loud noise that it had run out of funds and by December 05 the court needs twenty five million dollars for it to continue its work. But who cares whether or not it continues. Nothing so far after a marathon exercise has been achieved; money provided has been chopped by a very significant percentage of foreign nationals with a handful of Sierra Leoneans who sometimes are treated like 'slaves' in their own land, forgetting that the late Lord Mansfield has put and end to such inhuman enterprise.

The Court needs \$25 million for foreign nationals to chop, for more exchange programs to take place, for more beach relaxation to continue.

The only tangible benefit this country would achieve after the Special Court is the building and if it were possible these foreign nationals would go with it, saying that it was their government that provided the money, but since nature has made it impossible there is no alternative but to leave it as a monumental consolation for the people of this nation, who actually bore the brunt of the bloody war.

*The only thing visible is the funding provided for the host country and whether or not such funds are misappropriated and misused by these so-called expatriates is not the responsibility of the donor countries"*

In most cases it is the reverse because they are coming from the Whiteman's land where the lion share of funds do come from they always assume a superior posture over the indigenes back home who because of the uneven distribution of resources behave like slaves or feel inferior to these people.

Once funding has been identified including the facilities to be provided to these so-called expatriates there is no fear that they would not make substantial employment dividend in Africa.

For the Americans most of them pay taxes despite the distance, but those who are not American citizens but reside in that part of the world, who are fortunate to be employed outside the states, there is sometimes a tax break or exemption for them. Other nationals this writer cannot tell, but the situation may not be too different.

There is always the case of major funding coming from America and Britain because the government is obliged to provide employment for its citizens and this is always achieved. That is why whenever funds are provided for a project (s) in Africa there are always Americans or British coming to take part in the implementation of the projects. Some of them are re-

is job opportunity for our brothers and sisters.

The argument that most of these foreigners sometimes put forward to confuse the people is that most of our intellectuals are not grounded in international law or jurisprudence which makes adequate room for them to clinch the topmost positions. Take for example a special court announcer who is a foreign national, paid between \$7,000-\$10,000 for just saying "court rise and be seated". It may sound ridiculous to hear because even the man in the village who has never darkened a tertiary college is capable of performing that role but alas! He/she is not employed by the special court because his government did not make substantial financial contributions towards the establishment of the court; "he who pays the piper calls the tune".

While the foreign national is here only to play that role he/she is provided with medical facility, transport, housing and a reasonable proportion of his/her salary is paid into her/his foreign account while the indigene if provided with the same job would not benefit from these extravagant facilities.

Since the establishment of the special court to date, nothing significant in terms of everything has so far been

announcement and stance was appreciated considering the role Taylor played in the eleven-year-old war. The expectations of the people were high, as many thought that being an American probably with a back up from his government Taylor would be brought to Sierra Leone. But all was a sham; at the end after amassing wealth he surprisingly announced that he was going home to meet his family and fulfill the covenant he made with his wife. To some people it was a shocker but for those of us who have lived and studied in the Whiteman's land it was nothing new as this is all a '419' strategy used by David Crane.

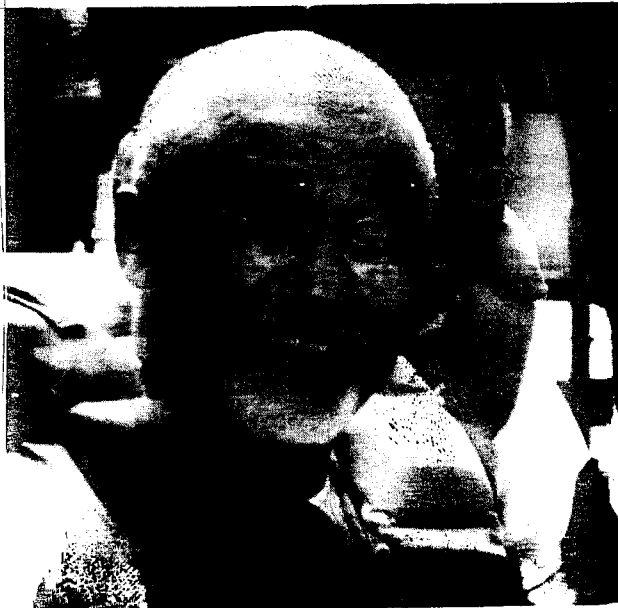
What is known in the American parlance "survival skills" -Crane came and went then the floodgates opened for more exchange program. Peter Halloran the Australian enjoyed the sweetness of African ladies to a point that he almost forgot that he was here on an assignment. He had a fight with the law who turned him upside down and subsequently changed his residential address. One of the local legal practitioners by the name of Nicholas Brown-Mark restored Peter Halloran's freedom, but as he departed this soil he would ever live to recall the sweetness and bitterness of African ladies.

The case of Peter Halloran is just one,

*"Peter Halloran the Australian enjoyed the sweetness of African ladies to a point that he almost forgot that he was here on an assignment"*

Peep. Wednesday 19th October, 2005.

## WHAT DOES SPECIAL COURT NEED 25 MILLION BUCKS FOR?



### *Great Special Court Mysteries Of Our Times*

1. Can someone tell me why the SPECIAL COURT needs another TWENTY FIVE MILLION DOLLARS to finish its work?
2. Do you know that this is EQUIVALENT to the entire Education and Health budgets of Sierra-Leone?
3. All-in-all, how much has the SPECIAL COURT spent in its three years of existence - \$100 million, \$140 million? Who are these guys ACCOUNTABLE to?
4. Are we, the taxpayers, going to PAY BACK what's being spent on the Special Court? If we *are*, doesn't anyone think we OUGHT to have a say on how the money's spent?
5. Isn't it time that some ECONOMIES were introduced in the operations of the Special Court? Can we suggest

just a few? (i) cutting down on HUGE EXPENSE ACCOUNTS of Special Court prosecutor (ii) Limiting their joy-rides in U.N vehicles to Paddies to weekends only (iii) stop serving ICE-CREAM as dessert to all AFRC/RUF suspects (*poor Hinga Norman can still have his*) (iv) Prosecution should stop calling in expensive foreign lawyers when competent local ones abound here (v) forcing Special Court employees to shack up together instead of each inhabiting a mansion large enough to house an entire African village (vi) making sure they write on BOTH sides of the paper (vii) stop sending out press releases which explain absolutely nothing (*Green Peace please take note! Whole forest are vanishing! ha! ha!*) (viii) Why do they need a huge panel of judges? To try five-five even *I* could do that.. and I'm not a lawyer.. (vx) Alternatively, take 'Justice' Rashid and 'Justice' Umu Tejan Jalloh.. they'll settle all trials of 'anti-government' element in a JIFFY (*for a relatively smaller fee! ha! ha!*) (x) the tenth and easiest way to save money at the Special Court is.. don't pay that PAEDOPHILE Peter Halloran a shilling of his 'benefits', (*benefits squeezing 13 year old BOBBIES? Leh e doom nar Australia!*).

The Spectator. Wednesday 19th October, 2005.

## 250 UNAMSIL soldiers to protect Special Court

**A**s UNAMSIL is slated to finally leave in December, a total of two hundred and fifty military officers are expected to assume responsibility for securing the Special Court for Sierra Leone shortly. Confirming this to *The Spectator*, Peter C. Anderson- the Deputy Chief of Press and Public Affairs of the Special Court explained that the deployment of the troop is expected to commence early November

of this year and would be drawn from the 1st Battalion of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL).

Anderson went on to say that the deployment of the soldiers is due to the fact that UNAMSIL will be pulling out of Sierra Leone and that there would be no military Mission in Sierra Leone. Peter Andersen noted that this is just a preparation for the future. He disclosed that "it is likely possible that this troop would provide security during the transition process

come 2007." Mr. Andersen revealed that the UN Department for Peace-Keeping Operations is currently putting modalities in place to identify a particular contingent that will provide tangible security for the Court. When asked whether the Court needs additional troops to beef up this number, the Spokesman stated that securing the Courts does not need more than that number for now; except otherwise.

from the October 19, 2005 edition - <http://www.csmonitor.com/2005/1019/p01s02-woiq.html>

## Can Saddam Hussein get a fair trial?

**The first case against the deposed ruler is to begin Wednesday in Baghdad.**

By **Peter Ford** | Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

**PARIS** - When the curtain goes up on Saddam Hussein's first trial Wednesday, the audience will stretch far beyond the Baghdad courtroom where the former Iraqi president is on trial for his life.

Advocates of international justice, anxious to spread the law's reach to dictators everywhere, will be watching to see how the Iraqi Special Tribunal copes as judges try the gravest crimes in the world's statute books.

"This is one of the most important trials of our lifetimes," says Michael Scharf, a law professor at Case Western University in Cleveland, because of "the number of victims ... the status of the defendant ... and the fact that the whole world went to war against this man in 1991."

The way the trial has been organized, however, has divided international justice experts. Some of them say Mr. Hussein should have been brought before an international tribunal, such as the panels that judged Nazi leaders at Nuremburg, or the Rwandan Hutu officials charged with genocide, rather than a domestic Iraqi court.

"Since some of the crimes he is accused of are crimes under international law," such as crimes against humanity and genocide, says Geoffrey Robertson, a British lawyer, "it would be better for a proper international court to be set up."

Since Nuremburg, several such courts have furthered the idea that crimes against humanity require judgment in courts with broader authority than national tribunals.

Hussein's trial "is a departure from the main current of trials of senior officials in post-conflict situations" such as Rwanda, Sierra Leone, or the former Yugoslavia, adds Richard Dicker, head of the International Justice department of Human Rights Watch in New York. "That's a bad thing," he argues. "These are extremely difficult trials to do in the best of circumstances. They put an enormous strain on just developed or newly restored judicial systems" after wars.

Other observers are more sanguine. "International courts are not a preferred option, but limited to cases where national justice is not available," says Adam Roberts, professor of law at Oxford University. "In this case there seems sufficient reason to think that a national court can handle the matter."

"One wants to engage the local judiciary and the local population," adds Cherif Bassiouni, a professor of law at DePaul University, who drafted the special tribunal's statute. "It is important that any kind of post-conflict justice be owned by the people affected."

### Overwhelming evidence

The first case brought against Hussein concerns Dujail, a village north of Baghdad where security forces are alleged to have killed at least 140 people after a failed attempt there on the president's life in 1982. It is a relatively simple case, and "the evidence is so overwhelming

that people will say it is a fair verdict" even if the trial itself is not a model of judicial efficacy and fairness, says Professor Scharf, who helped train some of the judges and prosecutors involved in the case.

But later, Hussein and other former Iraqi leaders are expected to face charges relating to the use of poison gas against Kurdish towns and villages - considerably more complex cases that may amount to genocide.

"That is the crime that the international community requires should be tried, and the allegations are of such wickedness that they should be tried by a proper international court" to guarantee the trial's fairness and credibility, argues Mr. Robertson, who sits with Sierra Leonean and foreign judges on a United Nations war crimes tribunal. "This is a missed opportunity."

Some critics of the Iraqi tribunal (including Hussein's lawyers) argue that it is not legitimate because it derives from an invasion of Iraq that was illegal in the first place. But even opponents of the former Iraqi regime, who have been trying to put Hussein on trial for many years, are disappointed by the way he is being brought to justice now.

Though the Iraqi tribunal's statutes and rules closely follow those of the fledgling International Criminal Court, and precedent at Rwandan and Yugoslav war crimes tribunals will guide the Iraqi court, "it will inevitably be a victors' trial" worries Chibli Mallat, a founder of Indict, an organization that unsuccessfully badgered the international community for years to indict Hussein for his crimes even while he was in office.

"Victors' trials are never of the standard they would have been if a special court had been set up before," Professor Mallat adds. "This is not at all the ambition we had hoped for."

Mallat would have preferred to see a mixed court, like the Sierra Leone tribunal, outside Iraq for security reasons. All the judges hearing cases against former regime leaders have moved to temporary housing in the US-secured Green Zone in central Baghdad, and their families may have to follow them. It is unclear whether all the judges will allow themselves to be identified.

In the current atmosphere of lawlessness, everybody involved in the Hussein trial - judges and prosecutors, defense counsel and witnesses - is liable to attract death threats from one quarter or another of Iraq's political scene. "Judges have been assassinated in much less sensitive cases than this," Mallat points out. "It is a bizarre and cruel trial, taking place in the midst of a civil war when one of the main protagonists in the war is the accused."

The Iraqi authorities hope that the trial itself, by publicizing the extent of the former regime's cruelty and bringing perpetrators to justice, might also bring an element of political stability.

Holding it in Baghdad, rather than abroad, "makes the process that much more accessible to both the victims and to those in whose name the crimes were committed," says Mr. Dicker. "There is a value to the trial taking place close to where the crimes occurred," he says, despite security risks.

### **International standards**

Nonetheless, Dicker worries that the trial may not measure up to international standards. Hussein and other defendants have been able to see their defense counsel only when they have been interrogated by an investigating magistrate, for example, which human rights activists say is too late. And the tribunal's statute requires only that judges be "satisfied" of a defendant's guilt to convict, not "satisfied beyond reasonable doubt."

"This is a disturbingly low threshold," says Dicker. "It's a real anomaly that reflects Iraqi law but not developing international law."

Hussein's judges will certainly be familiar with the provisions of international war crimes law: they have been trained by independent foreign experts hired by the US Justice Department, which also arranged for the translation into Arabic of portions of the Nuremberg, Rwanda, and



Yugoslavia hearings.

The Iraqi government has not, however, made use of one of the Iraqi tribunal statute's provisions, which allows for foreign judges. Its insistence on keeping the death penalty has also prevented European nations - which have outlawed such punishment - and the United Nations, from playing any significant role in the investigation or prosecution of regime crimes.

That disappoints Scharf. "The Iraqis are saying that this is our court, the atrocities were committed against our people, and we have always had the death penalty," he explains.

"This is the trial that is going to happen," he adds. "Do we want to help make it the best trial possible or do we ignore or oppose it?"

Whatever the outcomes of the forthcoming trials, says Bassiouni, they will add a few bricks to the rising edifice of international justice just by happening. "International justice is made not only by international tribunals but domestic ones too," he says. "What's important is that the crimes be prosecuted. It is accountability that counts."

[Full HTML version of this story which may include photos, graphics, and related links](#)

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## Iraq set for Saddam Hussein trial

### **Saddam Hussein is going on trial in Baghdad for crimes against humanity.**

The former Iraqi leader will be led into court with seven associates, charged with ordering the killing of 143 Shia men in 1982.

His lawyer Khalil Dulaimi said the trial was illegitimate and he would ask for an adjournment, but said Saddam Hussein was still "very optimistic".

The case - filmed by TV cameras - will be heard in a specially built courtroom in the heavily fortified Green Zone.

The ex-leader's followers have called for attacks to mark the trial's start.

An internet statement attributed to the Baath party urged supporters to "salute the leader... by firing bullets and mortars of death at the occupier".

Mr Dulaimi told the Associated Press on Tuesday evening: "I have just left him [Saddam] five minutes ago. His morale is very, very, very high and he is very optimistic and confident of his innocence, although the court is... unjust."

### **Hundreds of people were arrested, some were executed**

Charge sheet against Saddam,  
Iraqi Special Tribunal

The lawyer said that when the trial opened he would ask the court for an adjournment of at least three months, to allow him more time to prepare the defence case.

Court officials say that after legal argument an adjournment is likely to be granted, though it is not clear for how long.

### **Secrecy**

The trial is presided over by five judges, whose identities and backgrounds have been kept secret.

A small number of observers and journalists will be in the televised courtroom, but the public will be excluded.

The case is the first of many expected to be brought against the former Iraqi leader.

It concerns the rounding up and execution of 143 men in Dujail, a Shia village north of Baghdad,

following an attempt there on Saddam Hussein's life.

Court officials say the case was chosen because it was the easiest and quickest case to compile.

The charge carries the death penalty, though Saddam Hussein and his associates have the right to appeal if they are found guilty.

Prosecution lawyers are also expected to bring charges concerning the gassing of 5,000 people in the Kurdish village of Halabja in March 1988, and the suppression of a Shia revolt following the first Gulf War.

#### **SADDAM IN CUSTODY**

**13 December 2003** Saddam captured by US forces

**20 April 2004** Tribunal set up to try Saddam

**1 July 2004** Saddam appears before judge for first time

**20 May 2005** Photos of Saddam in his underpants appear in a British newspaper

**30 July 2005** Saddam's lawyers allege he has been assaulted by a man after leaving a legal hearing

Iran said on Tuesday it had asked the court to charge the former Iraqi leader over the use of chemical weapons in the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war.

Saddam Hussein's lawyers are expected to challenge the court's right to conduct the trial.

"We will dispute the legitimacy of the court as we've been doing every day. We will claim it is unconstitutional and not competent to try the legitimate president of Iraq," Mr Dulaimi said.

Human rights groups, too, have expressed concerns.

A Human Rights Watch report says the Iraqi Special Tribunal "runs the risk of violating international standards for fair trials".

#### **HAVE YOUR SAY**

**As a rule of justice and fairness, Saddam Hussein should be granted a fair trial**

Arthur Yap, Singapore

Amnesty International said it was sending three delegates to Baghdad to ensure Saddam Hussein received a fair trial, and to oppose the death penalty if he is found guilty.

But the United States said it expected the trial - the first time an Arab leader has been tried for crimes against his own people - to meet "basic international standards".

Story from BBC NEWS:

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/middle\\_east/4354622.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/middle_east/4354622.stm)

**UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 18 Oct 2005**

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

**International Clips on Liberia**

18/10/2005 06:43:04

**Liberian presidential run-off to be held in November**

Monrovia (dpa) - The head of Liberia's National Election Commission (NEC) had confirmed that a run-off election is to be held between presidential candidates Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf and former international soccer great George Weah, press reports said Tuesday. "The commission has begun preparations for a run-off to be held on the second Tuesday in November," Frances Johnson-Morris told a press conference late Monday.

Just five per cent of the votes in the presidential polls, held October 11, are yet to be tallied, Johnson-Morris said. Support for Weah, the head of the Congress for Democratic Change and a former World Soccer Player of the Year, has dropped from 30 per cent to 28.8 per cent, according to latest reports. First runner-up Johnson-Sirleaf of the Unity party made a slight gain to reach 20 per cent of total votes cast.

**Populism versus establishment in Liberia second round vote: analysts**

by Lauren Gelfand and Zoom Dosso

MONROVIA, Oct 18 (AFP) - Liberia's run-off presidential vote November 8 sets up a showdown between the young acolytes of footballer George Weah who have known only war and those counting on oldtimer Ellen Johnson Sirleaf to restore a lustre lost decades ago.

But the ethnic and regional lines upon which 50 percent of the electorate was divided will also play a role in determining who becomes the west African nation's first post-war elected president, expected to lead Liberia out of poverty and misery, corruption and conflict.

**International Clips on West Africa**

18/10/2005 05:39:03

**Head of U.N. sanctions committee on Ivory Coast expected in Abidjan**

By PARFAIT KOUASSI, Associated Press Writer

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP) \_ The head of the United Nations' sanctions committee on Ivory Coast was due in the country Tuesday to assess Ivory Coast's troubled peace process, a U.N. official said.