

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



The Freetown ferry on its way to Lungi

**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 at:**

Friday, 6 July 2007

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.  
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact  
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### Local News

Hon. Justice Benjamin Itoe Elected Presiding Judge of Trial Chamber I / <i>SCSL Press Release</i>	Page 3
An Amputee in Makeni / <i>Cotton Tree News</i>	Page 4
Speech by American Ambassador to Sierra Leone (Excerpt) / <i>The New Citizen</i>	Page 5

### International News

How The Mighty are Falling / <i>The Economist</i>	Pages 6-7
Torture Case Against Taylor's Son Upheld / <i>Associated Press</i>	Page 8
Libya's Gaddafi Calling for a United States of Africa (Excerpt) / <i>World Press Review</i>	Page 9
UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary / <i>UNMIL</i>	Pages 10-11
The Taylor Trial and Confidence Level of Sierra Leoneans / <i>The Patriotic Vanguard</i>	Pages 12-14
Long Sentence for Rwanda Murders / <i>BBC Online</i>	Pages 15-16



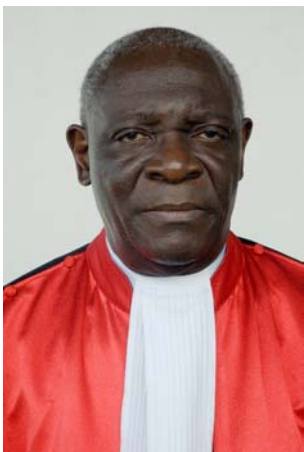
**Special Court for Sierra Leone**  
Press and Public Affairs Office

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**Freetown, Sierra Leone, 5 July 2007**

### **Hon. Justice Benjamin Itoe Elected Presiding Judge of Trial Chamber I**

Hon. Justice Benjamin Mutanga Itoe of Cameroon has been elected to a one-year term as Presiding Judge of Trial Chamber I. He succeeds Hon. Justice Bankole Thompson of Sierra Leone, who ends his term today, July 5.



Justice Itoe was called to the Bar on 25 July 1968.

After a career in the Bar, he was appointed Prosecutor General of the Bamenda Judicial Province in 1972, a post he held for nine years. During that time he was a Member of Cameroon's National Law Reform Commission. He participated in drafting the Cameroon Criminal Procedure Code which harmonised the country's Civil and Common Law Procedures. In 1982 he became Deputy Director of Control of Judicial Services of Cameroon in the Ministry of Justice.

From 1984, Hon. Justice Benjamin Itoe held a series of Ministerial posts in the Government of Cameroon, including Minister of Transport in 1984; Minister of Justice in 1985; and Minister of Tourism in 1989.

In 1998 he was appointed Judge of the Supreme Court.

He was conferred with the State Honour of Cameroonian Knight of the National Order of Valour in 1985, and Officer of the National Order of Valour in 1997.

Before his appointment by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to serve as a Judge of the Special Court, Hon. Justice Itoe was Deputy Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Cameroon. At the same time, he served as the Chief Judge of the Administrative Bench of that Court.

Hon. Justice Itoe is serving for the second time as Presiding Judge of Trial Chamber I. He first served as Presiding Judge of this Chamber from May 2004 to May 2005. During that tenure of office, he presided over the opening of both the CDF and RUF trials, respectively, on 3 June and 5 July 2004.

#END

## Cotton Tree News

Tuesday, 3 July 2007

### **An Amputee in Makeni**

Written by Abubakarr Turay



Abubakarr Turay  
interview Adikalie  
Bangura an Amputee in  
Makeni. The prosecution  
outreach of the Special  
Court for Sierra Leone  
held a day interactive  
session with the people of  
Makeni

## New Citizen

Friday, 6 July 2007

### **Speech by American Ambassador to Sierra Leone, Thomas N. Hull, on American Independence Day (Excerpt)**

The United States is pleased to have contributed to the electoral process through USAID funding to the National Democratic Institute (NDI) and IFES, for example to help the PPRC become established throughout the country. The United States has contributed to Sierra Leone's development during my tenure in too many ways to enumerate, but most notably to the peace and security that Sierra Leone enjoys today and to the food security that the country is striving to achieve. I am also pleased that the United States is the largest contributor to the Special Court for Sierra Leone, and we will continue to support the Court as it brings those most responsible for Sierra Leone's suffering to justice.

Sierra Leone is making progress, but like the proverbial glass half-full, much more remains to be accomplished. The outgoing Government and Parliament are to be commended for the many laws that have been enacted that now provide a structure to enable the next Government to address the challenges ahead. Those challenges, such as the war on corruption, are daunting, but they also offer opportunities for improving the condition of the country. Particular concerns to me as a former press spokesman that I stipulated three years ago are

[The quote was also carried by the Spectator and Awoko newspapers]

## The Economist

Thursday, 5 July 2007

### How the mighty are falling

#### The beginning of the end of impunity for the world's once all-powerful thugs

AS THE world's first permanent war-crimes court celebrates its fifth birthday this week, the mood is upbeat: formal investigations are under way in four countries; it has issued eight arrest warrants; it is about to gain its 105th member, Japan; its first trial begins in the autumn, and America, once hostile, now sounds decidedly more friendly. Indeed, the administration recently said it would, if asked, consider assisting the court's work on Darfur.

So far, the International Criminal Court (ICC), which is allowed to investigate atrocities perpetrated since its founding in July 2002, has no big scalps to display. Its eight accused comprise five leaders of the rebel Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in northern Uganda, a *janjaweed* leader in Darfur, a Sudanese government minister and a Congolese warlord. But it has at least one ex-president, Ange-Félix Patassé of the Central African Republic, in its sights, and more may be targeted soon.



So these are uncomfortable times for tyrants, past or present. They used to be able to escape justice through brutality at home, or if that failed, fleeing abroad. Now justice's arms are looking longer and more muscular. This week Charles Taylor, a notorious Liberian ex-president and warlord, appeared at Sierra Leone's Special Court, transferred to The Hague, on 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Justice may also be catching up with Hissène Habré, Chad's former president. After living in exile in Senegal for the past 17 years, he is now facing trial before a special war-crimes court set up by the Senegalese government earlier this year on the orders of the African Union. It was only after Belgium had threatened to try Mr Habré under its "universal jurisdiction" law that African leaders decided to abandon their tradition of mutual protection and vote for his prosecution by one of their own.

In Iraq, Saddam Hussein's cousin, Ali Hassan al-Majid, better-known as "Chemical Ali" for killing tens of thousands of Iraqi Kurds with poison gas, was last month sentenced to death by an American-sponsored court along with two other henchmen. Mr Hussein himself and two close allies have been executed. More expect the same fate as the trials continue.

Like Chile's Augusto Pinochet and Serbia's Slobodan Milosevic, the leader of Cambodia's Khmers Rouges, Pol Pot, managed to escape justice by dying. But his surviving underlings may not be so lucky. Last month the final obstacle to the long-promised genocide trials of an expected dozen or so Khmer Rouge leaders was removed when agreement was reached on the rules of procedure for the special "hybrid" international tribunal, set up by the UN and the Cambodian government.

In Lebanon, where attempts to create a special court to try the assassins of Rafik Hariri, the country's former prime minister, have been going on for more than a year, the Security Council

has at last decided to take the bull by the horns, voting to set up a tribunal “of international character” without the approval of Lebanon's deadlocked parliament. Lebanon is already holding eight suspects, including four Syrian generals. Syria, and its Lebanese protégés, Hizbullah, have denounced the decision.

Extradition adds another dimension, giving national justice systems a global reach. Two Argentine judges want Spain to send Isabel Perón, the country's former president, home to face a war-crimes trial. Peru is pressing Chile to agree the extradition of its former president, Alberto Fujimori, on human-rights and corruption charges.

It is easy to pooh-pooh international courts. After the creation of the world's first international war-crimes tribunals in Nuremberg and Tokyo at the end of the second world war, it took nearly half a century before another one was established—the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), set up by the UN in The Hague in 1993. But since then, progress has been impressive. Of the 161 people the ICTY has indicted, only four are still on the run; 59 have been convicted.

The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, set up the following year, has done rather less well. Of the 70 or so indicted, 18 are still at large, including Félicien Kabuga, a multi-millionaire and alleged bankroller of the 1994 genocide. But among the 28 so far convicted are Rwanda's former prime minister, Jean Kambanda, and seven of his ministers.

The ICTY's fugitives include, of course, two of its most wanted suspects—Radovan Karadzic, the former Bosnian Serb leader, and his top general, Ratko Mladic. But since last month's arrest of Zdravko Tolimir, Mr Mladic's top aide, hopes have again been raised of the general's possible imminent arrest. Indeed, Carla Del Ponte, the court's chief prosecutor, came back from a visit to Serbia last month saying that Belgrade had told her that “they will give me Mladic”.

Few of these once-powerful gentlemen (and one lady) ever dreamed that they would—or could—be held to account for their past crimes. But times have changed. As Libya's president, Colonel Muammar Qaddafi, said anxiously when his former protégé, Liberia's Mr Taylor, was handed over to Sierra Leone's Special Court last year after three years on the run: “This means that every head of state could meet a similar fate. It sets a serious precedent.” Fingers crossed.

## Associated Press

Friday, 6 July 2007

### **Torture case against Taylor's son upheld**

By KELLI KENNEDY, Associated Press Writer

MIAMI - A federal judge Thursday upheld torture charges against the son of former Liberian president Charles Taylor, allowing the first criminal prosecution of a 1994 anti-torture law to proceed.

Emmanuel, a Boston-born U.S. citizen also known as Chuckie Taylor, is accused of torturing a man in Liberia in 2002 while head of the paramilitary Anti-Terrorist Unit in his father's government. He is the first person charged under the U.S. law making it a crime for a citizen to commit torture overseas.

A telephone message left at the office of Emmanuel's attorney, Miguel Caridad, was not immediately returned Thursday. He also did not immediately respond to an e-mail seeking comment.

Emmanuel is being held without bail on the torture charges, which carry a potential life sentence. He is also serving an 11-month sentence for falsifying his father's name on a passport application before arriving in March at Miami International Airport from Trinidad.

Emmanuel was born to an ex-girlfriend of Taylor's during his time as a college student in Boston.



## World Press Review

Thursday, 5 July 2007

Opinion

### Libya's Gaddafi Calling for a United States of Africa (Excerpt)

Karamoh Kabba

-SNIP-

The fact remains that Gaddafi supported Charles Taylor and Foday Sankoh's rebel wars in Sierra Leone and Liberia that left over 500,000 dead and thousands more limbless in both countries. Taylor is now on trial in The Hague for alleged crimes against humanity in the civil wars and Foday Sankoh died in the custody of the Special Court of Sierra Leone while awaiting trial on the same charges.

Intriguingly, Gaddafi is traveling with huge entourages complete with a heavy bodyguard presence across the wide African plains and Savannah grasslands, peddling his all-African Agenda. His sponsored rebellion in the region went through the very poorest nations along the west coast of Africa — Sierra Leone and Liberia. But he is now wooing their post-war leaders, who have managed to carry on in fledgling democracies, for support of his newfound diplomatic cause for a United States of Africa.

Poor countries like Liberia and Sierra Leone have proven, over and over again, that they are readily prepared to succumb to the rules imposed by powerful and affluent nations rather than following their own principles or convictions. They also remain vulnerable to subversion by these powerful nations through leaders such as Taylor and Sankoh, who accept material and financial assistance to take power by force and carry out their masters' bidding.

-SNIP-

The Special Court of Sierra Leone is a hybrid court set up by the government of Sierra Leone and the United Nations to bring to justice those who bore the greatest responsibility for crimes against humanity in Sierra Leone during its civil war. It seems Gaddafi is making an unintended mockery of the institution, according to the sentiments that are being expressed by some Sierra Leoneans both within the country and abroad.

One social commentator, in a reply to a question from a concerned citizen who asked why people were coming out in throngs to welcome Gaddafi, answered, "What do these people know about his connection to the civil war?"

But for the center to hold for a true united Africa, it must come from leaders who have manifested strong willingness to support and govern their people by good democratic and human rights principles. Ghana, the birth place of Nkrumah's united Africa vision has been making great democratic strides since Jerry John Rawlings reversed what had seemed like a failed state before his two military coups and transfer of power to a civilian government through the voice of the citizens.

With the knowledge of the atrocities committed by Charles Taylor and the late Foday Sankoh's misguided rebels who were notorious for the hacking off of limbs of their victims akin to King Leopold's Congo Free State, a concerned citizen called Gaddafi's visit to that nation, "an affront to the people," comparing it to the erection of King Leopold's statue on horseback in the Congo.

If Libya is dead serious about a democratically united Africa, it should be working behind the curtain with countries like South Africa, Botswana, and Ghana, and maybe Nigeria, that can boast of some progress with democratic governance, and stand behind them in public. This is because according to what many are saying, Africa may be in need of strong unity, but certainly not being led by a colonel with blood on his hands.

United Nations  Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

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## UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 5 July 2007

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

### **International Clips on Liberia**

*There were no relevant stories on Liberia in the international media today.*

### **International Clips on West Africa**

#### **Nnamani Leads Election Monitoring Team to Freetown**

Cosmas Ekpunobi

Abuja, Jul 04, 2007 (Daily Champion/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- Immediate past Senate president, Chief Ken Nnamani has been appointed by the National Democratic Institute (NDI) to co-lead the international delegation billed to monitor the Presidential and Legislative elections in war torn Sierra Leone in August. Making this known to the former Senate president in a letter dated June 26, 2007 and signed by Chris Fomunyoh and Patrick Merloe, both NDI's Senior Associate for Africa and Senior Associate for Election Processes, respectively, the NDI disclosed that the delegation will comprise of 35-members drawn from prominent political and civic leaders from Africa, Asia, Europe, and North America.

#### **Government to Turn Back Refugees at Border**

Jerusalem, Jul 05, 2007 (UN Integrated Regional Information Networks/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- A new decision by the Israeli government may place hundreds of refugees and asylum seekers from Africa at risk, legal experts and aid workers warned this week. According to the new plan, announced on 1 July, Israel will return to Egypt "infiltrators" crossing the countries' joint border. A government communique said they would be "quickly" deported and indicated they would not be able to make an asylum claim in Israel.

#### **Local Media – Newspaper**

##### **Government Warns Anti-Peace Elements**

*(The News, Heritage, The Inquirer, Daily Observer and The Monitor)*

- The Justice Ministry said UNMIL and national security forces are in firm control of security throughout the country and warned anti-peace elements to refrain from acts which could instill a sense of insecurity in the population or face the weight of the law. The Ministry made reference to two armed criminal gangs – "Eleven Brothers" and "Federation of Neck Brothers" - that are reportedly circulating leaflets and issuing threats of violence in rural parts of Liberia.

##### **Taylor Pleads Not Guilty on Sexual Slavery and Rape**

*(National Chronicle and Liberian Express)*

- National Chronicle and Liberian Express said the international community is concerned about persistent reports of corruption in the current administration and that such reports appeared to be creating credibility crisis and breeding donor fatigue for the Government.

- President Johnson Sirleaf has already submitted to the National Legislature a proposed legislation seeking to freeze or confiscate the assets of corrupt public officials, even though some critics said the Government was paying lip service to its commitment to fight corruption.

### **UNMIL Dedicates School in Montserrado County**

*(The Informer)*

- The UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) on Wednesday dedicated a community school in Perry Town in Montserrado County. The structure was rehabilitated by UNMIL's Quick Impart Projects. The Duchess of York, Sarah Ferguson was attended the dedicatory ceremony and said she came to Liberia because of the urgent attention the country needs after years of civil war.

Local Media – Radio Veritas *(News monitored today at 9:45 am)*

### **Government Assures Citizenry of Security**

### **UNMIL Reconditions Community School near Monrovia**

### **Duchess Margaret Visits President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf**

### **Lack of Price Control Results to Hardship**

- *Daily Observer* newspaper Reporter Edwin Fayiah told Radio Veritas yesterday that residents of Lofa County were experiencing sharp increase in the prices of basic goods and services, making life unbearable.
- Meanwhile, the Liberian Government has attributed the current hardship in the Country to the lack of strong price control at the Ministry of Commerce. Information Minister Dr. Laurence Bropleh stated that the Government was exerting efforts to institute a price control system to stabilize the prices of basic food.

### **Agriculture Researchers Test Variety of Cassava**

- An Agriculture Ministry release stated that the Ministry was testing over 200 elite varieties of cassava at its Central Agriculture Research Institute (CARI) in Bong County and added that an Expert from the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture, Dr. Paul Luman arrived in Liberia to evaluate existing trial of hundreds of cassava varieties and would participate in harvesting the cassava in collaboration with farmers and scientists at CARI.
- The cassava varieties were provided by the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture with funding from USAID and support from the Ministry of Agriculture and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization.

*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. Weah Karpeh at [karpeh@un.org](mailto:karpeh@un.org).*

# The Patriotic Vanguard

Thursday 5 July 2007

Opinion

## The Taylor Trial and Confidence Level of Sierra Leoneans

"These comments and many others point to the fact that besides Charles Taylor (the most notorious indictee of the SCSL to date), most key players have eluded indictment. In fact some will never appear before the SCSL due to the fact that they have either died or are fugitives, whose whereabouts are unknown."

By Teddy Foday-Musa, Vanguard Netherlands Correspondent and Political Analyst.

Will the Taylor trial in The Hague restore the lost confidence in the Special Court for Sierra Leone? That's the question I am going to try to answer in this piece.

The death of late Chief Sam Hinga Norman brought not only shock to Sierra Leoneans, but also a feeling of lost confidence in the Special Court of Sierra Leone (SCSL). The Special Court of Sierra Leone was established by an agreement between the United Nations and the government of Sierra Leone as an independent criminal tribunal. It is mandated to bring to justice those who bear the greatest responsibility for atrocities committed in Sierra Leone during the 10-year civil war. Late Chief Hinga Norman, the former SLPP deputy Minister of Defence and Co-ordinator of the Civil Defence Forces, which included the "Kamajors", was indicted and arrested by the SCSL. Norman, while standing trial, died in Senegal before the final verdict of his trial. His death came with a wave of shock and discontent among Sierra Leoneans both at home and abroad. Their comments and views divided them into various schools of thought, but all geared towards addressing the relationship between the indictment of Norman, and the expected role of the SCSL.



There were those who expressed their support and loyalty to Norman as a National Hero. According to them, the SCSL has not done its assignment very well by indicting a hero in the person of Norman. They belong to the school of thought with the view that citizens, who dedicate themselves to the general protection and welfare of their country, should be honoured as heroes and not treated as criminals. To them, Late Chief Hinga Norman is no exception. He was and is still their hero regardless his indictment by the SCSL.

Another school of thought has expressed their disappointment with the selective indictment and arrest that has been carried out so far by the SCSL. The corner stone of their argument is that, the SCSL has failed in its responsibility to indict and arrest the principal players in the war. Some believe that the indictment and arrest procedures of the SCSL are based on a foundation of "International Hypocrisy". Below I present the following comments made by two prominent Sierra Leoneans on Leonenet, a Sierra Leonean e-mail discussion forum.

"Charles Taylor's arrest for the war in Sierra Leone is a travesty of justice and the worst bullying by the International Community. Do you know whom they should have arrested if they aren't hypocrites? Muamarr Qadaffi of Libya who bankrolled these guys. He even gave Sankoh \$800,000 in March 1996. Is that why he supplied us a ferry and a few buses etc? To buy our silence? How cheap Qadaffi takes Sierra Leoneans" (1).....(Leonenet-June 2007)

Another commentator on Leonenet maintains that:

"If Charles Taylor can be held accountable for what Foday Sankoh and Misqita(sic) did in Salone, why should the defence Minister (Tejan Kabba) not be held accountable for what his deputy minister (Hinga

Norman) did? I presume that his day in special court as an ordinary citizen would come beyond the arrogance and defiance attitude he put up in his last invitation. They may probably be buying time to ensure peaceful democratic transition (in light of the Concluded civil war) before Kabbah learn his fate” (2).....(Leonenet-June 2007).

These comments and many others point to the fact that besides Charles Taylor (the most notorious indictee of the SCSL to date), most key players have eluded indictment. In fact some will never appear before the SCSL due to the fact that they have either died or are fugitives, whose whereabouts are unknown. A Sierra Leonean lady, who called me for an update on the first Taylor trial in The Hague, had this to say: “The Special Court has lost its essence. What more will they tell me as a Sierra Leonean, when Johnny Paul Koroma is on the run, while Foday Sankoh and Maskita are dead? Taylor is also not taking them seriously. This, I am sure could be the reason for his not showing up at his first trial hearing in The Hague (3)...(Tel. Conversation.-June 5th 2007)

Recently, the United Nations launched an appeal through its Deputy Secretary-General: Asha-Rose Migiro for \$60 million in order to enable the SCSL to complete its work by the end of 2009. This is another contentious issue that Sierra Leoneans are struggling with. Migiro who was speaking at the Security Council at a session on the Special Court activities said:

“It is imperative that the international community continues to generously support the Special Court, ensuring that it has both the human and financial resources to conclude its mandate.” (4)...(Migiro-June-2007)

Sierra Leoneans who think a \$60 million should be directed to the welfare of the victims of the war, and the reconstruction of their country, reacted with dismay at Migiro’s financial appeal. This is what another Netter (participant) on Leonenet discussion forum said:

“I am sure that if you ask the man in the street, they will say to these folks, close down the court and give us the money. Why spend all that money on the useless court when the whole nation is without electricity and water?... (5).....(Leonenet-June 2007)

However, the Taylor trial in the Hague has rekindled once again the spirit of Sierra Leoneans in the SCSL. There are all indications that the Taylor trial in the Hague, would restore the battered image of the SCSL to most Sierra Leoneans.

“On 29 March 2006, former Liberian President Charles Taylor was transferred into the custody of the SCSL. On 3 April 2006, Taylor made his initial appearance where he was formally arraigned on an 11-count indictment and pleaded “not guilty” to all counts. On 20 June 2006, Charles Taylor was transferred from Sierra Leone to The Netherlands, following the adoption of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1688 (2006), which noted “that at present the trial of former President Taylor cannot be conducted within the sub-region due to the security implications if he is held in Freetown at the Special Court”.

The trial of Charles Taylor will be held at the premises of the International Criminal Court but remains under the exclusive jurisdiction of the SCSL. All operations in The Hague are supported from Freetown and all costs associated with the Taylor trial will be borne exclusively by the SCSL. The start date of the trial is 4 June 2007. The trial is expected to last until December 2008, with a judgement by mid 2009 and an appeal judgement by the end of 2009.” (6).....(SCSL-Fact sheet-April 2007)

The Taylor trial in The Hague has given birth to another school of thought. Subscribers to this school of thought have chosen to ignore all the odds of the SCSL, and hold on to the fact that “Justice is taking its toll on one of the biggest players: Charles Taylor. They are very pleased that Taylor is standing trial for crimes committed against their native country and fellow compatriots.

They have also registered their support for relocating the trial in The Hague. It is their belief that Taylor could still be very powerful even in captivity. Therefore, they count on his relocation to The Hague by the SCSL as a blessing in the name of peace not only for Sierra Leone, but also for the sub-region as a whole. However, most have expressed concern that Sierra Leoneans back home be given the opportunity to have a clear insight of this Taylor trial in The Hague.

Against this backdrop, they are very much impressed with the SCSL information officials. The Chief of Press and Public Affairs; Mr. Peter Andersen, together with the Press and Outreach Officer; Mr. Solomon Moriba, and the Outreach Co-ordinator; Mrs. Binta Mansaray are all on the complimentary list of Sierra Leoneans. They have created sub-regional outreach centres in the Mano-river union countries of Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea. These centres are utilised for the purpose of updating the public in all three countries about the Taylor trial in The Hague. They also distribute audio and visual materials about the Taylor trial to various television and radio stations in these countries.

The SCSL currently employs over 300 staff, of which over 50% are Sierra Leonean nationals. The Press and Outreach Officer; Mr Solomon Moriba, a Sierra Leonean himself, recently led a team of over 30 SCSL employees including, Translators and Court Management Officers- all Sierra Leoneans to The Hague in respect of the Taylor trial.

In 2006, an independent survey group in Sierra Leone conducted a nation wide survey on public perception about the SCSL. Below I bring you the results of the survey:

- 91% of Sierra Leoneans were in favour of the SCSL. They see the court as a contributing factor to peace building.
  - 88% of Sierra Leoneans regarded the SCSL as relevant to Sierra Leone.
  - 68% indicated that the verdict would not raise tension in Sierra Leone.
  - 85% of Sierra Leoneans supported the fact that perpetrator of war crimes should be punished.
  - 99% indicated that Sierra Leoneans were aware of the SCSL.
- 
- 40% of Sierra Leoneans were in favour of the death penalty as an instrument of addressing impunity.
- To crown it all, it is my humble submission that majority of Sierra Leoneans are in favour and support of the SCSL. However, they are asking that the activities of the court be well connected to their expectations in line with the official mandate of the court.

tfodaymusa@yahoo.ca

Photo: Stephen Rapp, the Special Court's Chief Prosecutor.

## BBC Online

Thursday, 5 July 2007

### Long sentence for Rwanda murders

A former Rwandan army major has been sentenced to 20 years in prison for murdering 10 Belgian peacekeepers in the early days of the 1994 genocide.

However, the Belgian court acquitted Bernard Ntuyahaga, 55, of murdering then Rwandan PM Agathe Uwilingiyimana.

The murders, committed in front of Rwandan army officers, triggered the withdrawal of UN peacekeepers.

Belgium's prime minister told the court that had peacekeepers stayed, thousands of lives could have been saved.

Some 800,000 moderate Hutus and Tutsis were massacred by extremist Hutus in three months in 1994.

BBC World Affairs correspondent Mark Doyle, who was in Rwanda at the time, says Belgian Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt's statement may be designed to bring some closure to what has been a deeply controversial episode in Belgium and Rwanda.

### International fallout

Prosecutors said Ntuyahaga took the peacekeepers from the residence of Mrs Uwilingiyimana, who they were trying to protect.

He then handed them over to fellow soldiers in a military camp in the capital, Kigali, where they were beaten to death, shot or slain with machetes.

Ntuyahaga can appeal against the verdict on procedural grounds but not on substance.

"Sooner or later the truth will triumph, I believe that. I remain patient and I keep faith, thank you," Ntuyahaga told the court moments before the jury retired to consider its guilty verdict.

Christine Dupont, the widow of Belgian peacekeeper Christophe Dupont, said before the verdict: "It's a very important day, a day we have been waiting for the last 13 years."

It is not the first time Rwandans have stood trial in Belgium over the genocide.

Two Catholic nuns, a university professor and a businessman were sentenced in 2001 to between 12 and 20 years' jail for aiding the mass murders.

Our correspondent says international political fall-out from the genocide continues.



The verdict is the culmination of a 13-year wait for justice

#### THIRTEEN-YEAR WAIT

**April 1994:** Ntuyahaga hands over Belgians to be slaughtered at a Kigali military camp

**March 1999:** International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda drops charges against him

**March 2004:** After a lengthy extradition battle, he flies to Belgium voluntarily

**April 2007:** He goes on trial at Brussels assize court

Although no-one doubts that the extremist Hutu regime bears the overwhelming responsibility for the events in 1994, UN commanders and Western military analysts believe that the number of people killed could have been relatively minimal if the UN had maintained sufficient troops on the ground.

This week saw more reports that France was aware of the planned genocide but chose to continue co-operation with the Rwandan army that was going to perpetrate it.

France and Rwanda recently broke off diplomatic relations.