

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



Aerial view of the West African Methodist Collegiate School, Wilkinson Road

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:

Wednesday, 19 September 2007

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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Independent Observer
Wednesday, 19 September 2007

CDF sentence hearing today

Sentence hearing in the trial of Moinama Fofana and Alieu Kondewa takes place today at the trial Chamber of the Special Court in Freetown.

The Judges will first hear from the defence who would ask them to temper justice with mercy and not to impose custodian sentence.

They shall even go further to draw the attention of the Judges to the fact that the accused were part of a militia

group that fought alongside government soldiers and peacekeepers against rebels for the restoration of the legitimate government.

The Prosecution on its part will ask the court for the imposition of longer jail term for the two men as was in the case of the three AFRC accused and also insist that the offences committed were against humanitarian law. A date will then be set for sentencing.

United Nations  Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 18 September 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

AP 09/18/2007 04:07:38

Opposition Wins in Sierra Leone

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone _Opposition candidate Ernest Bai Koroma has won Sierra Leone's presidential election, officials said Monday. Koroma received 55 percent, compared with 45 percent for the ruling party candidate, Vice President Solomon Berewa, election commission chief Christiana Thorpe said.

Two killed in Sierra Leone post-poll looting spree

FREETOWN, Sept 18, 2007 (AFP) - A mob stormed the headquarters of Sierra Leone's former ruling party and two people were electrocuted to death in a looting spree, witnesses said Tuesday.

Police said they foiled a bid to steal dozens of government cars but that fridges, TV sets, electricity generators and office equipment were carted away from the Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) offices in central Freetown.

UN chief congratulates winner of Sierra Leone presidential polls

UNITED NATIONS, Sept 17, 2007 (AFP) - UN chief Ban Ki-moon on Monday congratulated Sierra Leone's opposition leader Ernest Koroma on his win in the recent presidential runoff election. "The Secretary-General extends his warm congratulations to Mr Koroma and commends all Sierra Leonean parties and their supporters for exercising patience and restraint during the tallying of the votes," his press office said.

Sierra Leone's vote strengthens hope for democratic change in Africa

TODD PITMAN

DAKAR, Senegal _War-ravaged Sierra Leone's peaceful transfer of power through the ballot box bodes well for a continent that has struggled against repression and conflict for half a century. But violence often simmers behind the democratic facade in Africa, where corruption is rife and a dying breed of tyrants' remains.

UN peacekeepers dismantle Ivory Coast buffer zone

ABIDJAN, Sept 17, 2007 (AFP) - UN peacekeepers in Ivory Coast have dismantled a buffer zone which divided the West African nation after a September 2002 rebellion, a UN spokesman said Monday. "Since September 15, the zone of confidence has ceased to exist. The continuity and territorial integrity of Ivory Coast has been re-established," said Sebastien Caron, a spokesman for the UN mission in Ivory Coast (ONUCI).

Local Media – Newspaper

Ex-Servicemen Protest in Demand of Benefits

(The Inquirer, Heritage, New Vision, New Democrat, The Analyst, The Telegraph)

- Dozens of deactivated officers of the former Armed Forces of Liberia, the Liberian National Police and the Special Security Services (SSS) yesterday staged a protest to demand "benefits" allegedly owed them by the Government.
- The security personnel had earlier assembled at the Walker Sports pitch on Broad and Lynch Streets in Monrovia to organize what they said was a peaceful protest. The Inquirer however reports that the ex-servicemen later went on the rampage, set up road blocks, lit fire in the middle of most parts of the streets bringing traffic to a standstill.
- A spokesman for the group, Alexander Zeenah said they will not abandon their campaign until government addresses their plight.
- He alleged that government has downplayed their concerns since they were deactivated. Information Minister, Dr. Laurence Bropleh however said efforts were being made to handle their situation.
- Meanwhile, a joint team of Liberia National Police and UNMIL security personnel last evening moved in and dispersed the former security men and brought the situation under control.

New Sierra Leonean President Inaugurated Amidst Protest

(The News, New Democrat, National Chronicle)

- Sierra Leone's opposition leader, Ernest Bai Koroma, has been sworn in as that country's new President, shortly after being declared the winner of a tension packed run-off election.
- Mr. Koroma won 54.6% of the final vote against Vice President Solomon Berewa's 45.4 %. Thousands of jubilant opposition supporters danced in the streets of the capital as news of the victory spread.
- The National Election Commission said the flaws in the vote were not enough to invalidate the result. Mr. Koroma was inaugurated at an afternoon ceremony in Freetown which was attended by military officials and dignitaries including outgoing President Ahmed Tejan Kabba and Mr. Berewa.
- The Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) had sought an injunction against the electoral commission to stop it from publishing further presidential election results. The party had earlier expressed concern about the commission investigating reports of unusually high voter turn-out in government's stronghold. Mr. Koroma, 54, is an insurance broker who says he wants to run the country "like a business concern". President Ellen Johnson has congratulated Mr. Koroma for the success in the presidential election.

Lawyers Claims He was flogged by UNMIL Nigerian Soldiers

(New Democrat)

- The *New Democrat* reported on an incident in which a lawyer [*Counsellor Augustine Fayiah of David A.B. Law Firm*] alleged that he was flogged by UNMIL Nigerian

soldiers on Sunday. According to Counsellor Fayiah, the incident occurred following verbal exchanges with a senior officer at a house where he had gone to visit a friend. Apparently, the house is being currently occupied by Nigerian peacekeepers.

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

President Sirleaf Congratulates Sierra Leonean President-Elect

- According to an Executive Mansion statement, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf congratulated Sierra Leoneans for the just-ended Presidential run-off election and President-elect Ernest Bai Koroma for his victory in the run-off.
- The statement said that President Sirleaf commended Sierra Leoneans for the way they conducted their democratic process and looks forward to the continuation of the warm friendship and partnership between Liberia and Sierra Leone in strengthening the Manor River Basin and entire West African sub-region.

(Also reported on Truth FM, Star and ELBC Radio)

Police Disperse Violent Protestors of Demobilized Security Men

- Police sources said that officers of the Liberia National Police and the United Nations Mission in Liberia Monday evening dispersed 100s of deactivated security men who gathered in front of the headquarters of the ruling Unity Party on the Broad Street.
- The sources said that the police armed with batons ran after the men late Monday night after reportedly receiving information that the protestors were planning to carry out an arson attack on the headquarters of the ruling Unity Party on Broad Street as they expressed dissatisfaction with the treatment the Government gives them in relations to their benefits.
- The security men, including some former soldiers of the Armed Forces of Liberia reportedly burnt tyres and threw stones to press government to pay their benefits.

(Also reported on Truth FM, Star and ELBC Radio)

Presidency Calls on Squatters to Give Way to Hotel Renovation

- Addressing a news conference yesterday, Presidential Press Secretary Cyrus Badio said that the Presidency entreated squatters around the Ducor Palace Hotel to vacate the vicinity for the Libyans who are to takeover the facility to commence renovation work which is expected to provide jobs for many Liberians.

(Also reported on Truth FM, Star and ELBC Radio)

Employees of Defunct National Insurer Protest for Salary Arrears

- Correspondents said that more than 50 employees of the National Insurance Company of Liberia yesterday protested, calling on the Government to settle their 10 month's salary arrears. The group's spokesman Henry Youngton said that the arrears were overdue to the point that it is impossible for them to register their children in school.

(Also reported on Truth FM, Star and ELBC Radio)

Workshop to Formulate Environmental Plan for West Africa Opens

- A two-day workshop to develop a strategic policy to address national disasters and human intervention in West Africa is expected to open in Monrovia today, an Environmental Protection Agency release said, adding that there is the need to have a common environmental policy to face the many challenges nature causes.
- The release said that representatives of the Government of Liberia, civil society, UN agencies, nongovernmental organizations, academic institutions and youth groups are expected to attend the workshop.

(Also reported on Truth FM, Star and ELBC Radio)

Former Minister Threatens Senate with Mass Action for Interference

- Addressing a news conference, the former Transport Minister Vambah Kanneh said that he would mobilize democrats from civil society groups and university students to

protest against the House of Senate's interference with the Powers of the Executive Branch of Government.

- Dr. Kanneh said that people will rise up and protect the coordinated separation of power by legal means if the Senate refuse to stop interfering with the Executive Branch.
- Vambah stated that the downsizing exercise currently going on at the General Auditing Commission is a civil service matter and can only be resolved by Civil Service Agency Director Dr. C. William Allen and President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf who approved it or the Court, and not the Senate. He urged Auditing-General John Morlu to go ahead with his job without fear or favour.

(Also reported on Truth FM, Star and ELBC Radio)

Petrol Dealers to Sue Government for Floating "Liberianization Policy"

- Speaking to reporters in Monrovia Monday, the President of the Petroleum Retailers Association of Liberia Mohammed Musahson said that the Association will take the Liberian Government to Court for failing to implement the Liberianization Policy allotting 26 businesses including filling stations, to Liberians. The Association said that it was currently writing the National Legislature to express its frustration over while the Government granted a permit to a foreign business like TOTAL to operate and run gas stations.
- Mr. Musahson argued that granting a permit to TOTAL to build and run more than 20 filling stations in the Country will put them out of business. The group wondered why TOTAL with such a huge international capital engage in a business that is set aside for Liberians.

(Also reported on Truth FM, Star and ELBC Radio)

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.

The Analyst (Monrovia)

Tuesday, 18 September 2007

Gov't Produces Video Tape in Court

By George J. Borteh

To support its treason charge against suspects Charles Julu, George Koukou and Andrew Dorbor in the ongoing trial at the Temple of Justice in Monrovia, the Government of Liberia through the National Security Agency (NSA) has produced a video tape in court linking the suspects to a plan to unseat the current administration.

The tape, (DVDR), was handed over to Magistrate Milton Taylor of the Monrovia City Court at the Temple of Justice during a testimony by the first state witness, Nelson S. Jallah, who is also chief investigator at the NSA.

Testifying in the preliminary hearings in the Dorbor treason case ongoing at the Monrovia City Court, Witness Jallah told the court that the video tape is the revelation made by suspect Dorbor at the head office of the NSA about alleged plans to overthrow the Liberian government.

He also testified that former AFL General Charles Julu and former House Speaker George Koukou are in the tape but did not say what they were actually doing.

The NSA Chief Investigator further testified that during suspect Dorbor's confessions made at the NSA where he was held for nearly eight months before he was charged for treason by the state, some Liberian journalists were invited at the institution where they watched the tape depicting Dorbor confessing about an alleged coup plot.

Speaking in a relaxed mood before lawyers representing suspect Dorbor and state lawyers, Mr. Jallah confirmed that Dorbor, who is also a ex-army officer was invited to Ivory Coast allegedly suspect Gen. Julu to purchase arms and ammunition including military uniforms for an operation to topple the Government.

He said before Mr. Dorbor had left for the Ivory Coast, he met a Lebanese businessman, Jacob Karin, and a Liberian, Alfred Gaye, both in Ganta, Nimba County.

Witness Jallah explained that the Lebanese businessman allegedly gave Col. Dorbor and Mr. Gaye L\$3,000.00 as transportation fare to travel to Grand Gedeh County.

However, he added that Mr. Gaye decided not to make the trip so Dorbor alone traveled to Toe Town border where he met one Junior Gaye who took him (Dorbor) to Wright Dula Force, a point man to purchase the needed weapons for the operation.

"Col. Dorbor met Wright Dula for said weapons, but US\$5,000 was requested for the arms and ammunitions and because of the transaction, security officers arrested Col. Dorbor", said witness Jallah.

Continuing his testimony, Jallah disclosed that the state is in possession of another video tape linking Col. Dorbor and Wright Dula in the negotiation process, claiming the tape contains

recordings of Dorbor's confrontation with Gen. Julu, and Jacob Karin admitting to giving money to Col. Dorbor and Alfred Gaye.

He said investigation conducted at the NSA was opened to the media. The preliminary hearing into the case continues this week at the Monrovia City Court with the second state witness expected to take the stand.

The hearings was prompted after suspect Dorbor, who was earlier reserved as state witness, testified against the state in open court few weeks ago.

BBC Online

Wednesday, 19 September 2007

Top Khmer Rouge leader arrested

Police in Cambodia have arrested the most senior surviving member of the notorious Khmer Rouge regime, as part of a UN-backed genocide investigation.

Nuon Chea was flown from his jungle home to the capital, Phnom Penh, to appear before Cambodian and foreign jurists in a special genocide tribunal.

The 82-year-old was second-in-command to Khmer Rouge leader Pol Pot.

More than a million people are thought to have died during the four years of Khmer Rouge rule between 1975-79.

Nuon Chea, who was also known as "Brother Number Two", has spent the past few decades living freely in Pailin, the movement's former jungle headquarters.

Police and court officials went to his home near the Thai border early on Wednesday to question him, and issue him with an arrest warrant on charges of crimes against humanity.

"He was shaking. His legs looked like they would collapse," neighbour Sok Sothera told the French news agency AFP.

Nuon Chea was then taken under police escort to a helicopter for the flight to Phnom Penh.

"An initial appearance will be held today, during which he will be informed of the charges which have been brought against him," the UN-backed tribunal said in a statement.

Five suspects

Because he was second only to Pol Pot - the regime's "Brother Number One", who died in 1998 - Nuon Chea will be the most senior defendant to be tried by the tribunal.

A Thai-trained lawyer, Nuon Chea rose quickly through the ranks of the Khmer Rouge, as it grew from a small Maoist rebel group to a force capable of taking over the country.

Analysts say he had an important decision-making role in the regime, which instituted radical policies aimed at creating an agrarian utopia, but in reality caused the deaths of more than a million people through hunger, illness, overwork and execution.

Nuon Chea himself has consistently denied any responsibility for the deaths, but earlier this year he indicated he was ready to face the tribunal.

After many long delays, the UN-backed trials are finally expected to begin next year.



Nuon Chea was "Brother Number Two" under the Khmer Rouge

WHO WERE THE KHMER ROUGE?

Maoist regime that ruled Cambodia from 1975-1979
 Founded and led by Pol Pot, who died in 1998
 Abolished religion, schools and currency in a bid to create agrarian utopia
 Brutal regime that did not tolerate dissent
 More than a million people thought to have died from starvation, overwork or execution

Only one other suspect, Kang Kek Ieu - also known as Duch - has so far been detained.

Duch, who was arrested in July, was in charge of the notorious S21 jail in Phnom Penh, where more than 17,000 men, women and children are thought to have been imprisoned and brutally tortured.

Four other people are said to be under investigation.

Their names have not been revealed, but are thought to include former president Khieu Samphan - who has been living next door to Nong Chea in Pailin - and Khmer Rouge foreign minister Ieng Sary.

Survivors have welcomed the charges against Nong Chea and Duch, but they have also expressed doubts about whether these elderly leaders will ever be brought to account for their deeds during the Khmer Rouge years.

It is already too late to try Pol Pot, and the regime's military commander and one of Pol Pot's most ruthless henchmen, Ta Mok, died last year.

KHMER ROUGE TRIBUNAL



Will try cases of genocide and crimes against humanity
 Five judges (three Cambodian) sit in trial court
 Cases decided by majority
 Maximum penalty is life imprisonment
 Budget of \$56.3m

Key figures facing trial

Black Agenda Report

Wednesday, 19 September 2007

<http://www.blackagendareport.com/index.php>

Ending Uganda's "Brilliant" Genocide



by Milton Allimadi

The United States' biggest ally in sub-Saharan Africa is Uganda, ruled by Yoweri Museveni, the butcher of the Congo, where at least three million people died because of the ravages of Museveni's and other pillaging armies. Museveni's regime was rewarded with aid and great praise by Washington. Internally, the regime has caused a whole people, the Acholi of northern Uganda, to become prisoners in their own homeland. For more than ten years, the Acholi have been interned in concentration camps - a human rights crime that the United States ignores, as does the British Commonwealth. Hundreds of thousands have

died, but Museveni is George Bush's boy, so it does not matter.

"The 'displacement' was actually perpetrated by the Uganda government in 1996."

How to return the more than one million Ugandan civilians confined by the East African country's government in concentration camps for more than 10 years, and where hundreds of thousands have died, to their abandoned and destroyed homes?

That's the question posed to Ugandan officials by activists from a San Diego-based organization, Campaign to End Genocide in Uganda-Now!, at the recent conference of Ugandans living in America, organized by the Ugandan North America Association (UNAA), held in San Francisco's Hyatt Regency- Embacardero hotel from August 30 to September 3. Ugandans, including government ministers, traveled from all over for the annual gathering; Vice President Gilbert Bukenya was the keynote speaker. While the conference was focused on investment opportunities in Uganda and other issues, CEGUN's "Other Voices" panel dealt with the abominable destruction, deaths and suffering in Uganda's Acholi region.



In existence for less than a year and a half, CEGUN's already effectively allied with other individuals, organizations and media sources to inform Americans about Uganda's "silent genocide"; a genocide that has been ignored by much of the world. In fact, one observer spoke of fighting for the past 15 years to get the crisis placed on UNAA's agenda.

CEGUN's panel included its co-chairs Tim A. Hardy and Lucy Larom, Hellen Oti, a member of Friends for Peace in Africa, I was invited as a guest speaker. As opposed to other activist organizations on behalf of the people suffering in Uganda, CEGUN is supported and informed by Acholis who comprise a significant number of its membership. Chairperson Larom is a 72-year old American grandmother - she lived in East Africa in the 1960s - whose passion and conviction were clear during the panel discussion: She could barely contain her emotions when she asked why none of the government officials even

mentioned the word "restitution" for the victims of Uganda's death camps.

"Villages were bombed and wealth, in the form of cattle, food stocks and other assets confiscated."

From whence came these camps? They are referred to euphemistically as "Displaced People's Camps," or I.D.P.s - sinisterly masking the horrors in the camps that have yet to be adequately exposed.

The "displacement" was actually perpetrated by the Uganda government when in 1996, villagers were ordered to leave their homes within 48 hours. Those opposing the measure were accused of being rebel sympathizers and killed; villages were bombed and wealth, in the form of cattle, food stocks and other assets confiscated.

The Uganda government claimed the nearly 200 camps were intended to protect civilians in Acholi region from the brutal insurgency of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). This thesis has been exposed as fiction.

Victims of the 20 year war have been almost exclusively civilians. These have been killed, abducted, mutilated and sexually violated by the LRA; Uganda's national army, the Uganda People's Defense Force (UPDF) has similarly committed massive human rights abuses, including murders and rapes against the civilians. Atrocities by both sides are well documented, including in the recent June 2007 report, "Making Peace our Own," by the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). Yet, the majority of deaths have occurred in the government-created and operated camps; from hunger, thirst, curable and treatable diseases, and human rights abuse at the hands of government soldiers guarding the camps.

The World Health Organization, a United Nations body conducted a survey, ironically, in conjunction with Uganda's own health ministry. The findings were startling; as many as 1,000 deaths per week occurred in the government-created and government-operated camps. That translates into 52,000 deaths per year; 520,000 over the 10-year period in which most of the camps have operated. Even taking only 50% of that WHO figure still means that as many as 260,000 deaths occurred over a 10-year period.

"The majority of deaths have occurred in the government-created and operated camps; from hunger, thirst, curable and treatable diseases."

Death has blanketed Uganda's Acholi people. Speaking at a separate panel, Toronto-based Ugandan doctor, George Otto cited World Health Organization (WHO) figures showing that the crude mortality rate in Gulu municipality in Acholi was 1.29 per 10,000 people and 1.91 per 10,000 in Kitgum; by comparison, WHO designates 0.44 per 10,000 as "emergency" or "crisis" he said. If the camps were intended to protect civilians, they have failed spectacularly; if they were created to indiscriminately exterminate Acholis, the Nazis, known for precision, would have been awed. Even the LRA might marvel at the kill-rates; their own pales miserably in comparison.

No wonder critics, including the former United Nations Under-Secretary General for Children in Armed Conflict, Olara A. Otunnu, have charged the Uganda government with administering "slow motion genocide" of the Acholi.

At the San Francisco conference, Richard Todwong, a Presidential Advisor in matters related to the affected areas to Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni was asked whether the camps had saved lives. Perhaps before thinking out his response, he said nobody thought the war would go on for more than six months. So the government was aware that confining an entire population in squalid camps, with unsanitary conditions, lack of adequate food, water, medicine and housing, was untenable - at least not for more than six months. Yet, the camps have operated for more than 10 years; the strategy amounts to mass extrajudicial murders.

Now, going into its second year, the Uganda government and the LRA have been negotiating in Juba,

Southern Sudan, an end to their war. The two sides have signed a "cessation of hostilities" agreement. The LRA combatants are confined in known locations outside Uganda. Presumably, a final agreement will pave the way for Acholis to return home. Yet when asked about resettlement plans, some Ugandan officials claimed that everyone was now "free" to return to their homes and that government was not preventing anyone. One official even said some of the survivors were too "lazy" to relocate.

This is mind boggling. Representatives of Uganda government have yet to grasp the scope and magnitude of the crimes against Ugandans confined to the death centers: the scale and scope of destruction of lives and property certainly qualifies as crimes against humanity.

"Representatives of Uganda government have yet to grasp the scope and magnitude of the crimes against Ugandans confined to the death centers."

Resettlement programs must include the full participation of the United Nations and shouldn't be done haphazardly. Some areas are currently infested with landmines. Moreover, even though the victims and survivors of the death camps can never be fully restored, at a bare minimum, they must be provided adequate resources to start productive economic activity and social services, including schools and hospitals. There must also be restitution in the form of direct payments and long-term subsidies for the lives and property destroyed. Any reasonable court of law would recognize the enormity of loss and compensate accordingly.

Government officials spoke of a Reconstruction fund of billions of dollars to be raised from donors for the recovery program next year. Given the rampant corruption levels widely reported in Uganda, including embezzlement of monies for fighting HIV/Aids, independent monitors must be included in managing such vast sums of money.

But the big question remains: why has the massive suffering in Uganda's Acholi region not met with universal condemnation such as has been marshaled against the atrocities in Darfur?

To begin with, the U.S. government have unapologetically supported Uganda's dictator Yoweri Museveni, even though the Bush Administration is aware the International Criminal Court (ICC) is investigating Uganda's role in the Congo genocide when it occupied the Ituri region and that senior Ugandan officials, including President Yoweri K. Museveni, could be indicted for war crimes much in the same manner that Liberia's ex-dictator Charles Taylor was indicted. The US continues to aid and abet the Uganda regime's genocide in Acholi simply because Washington has selected Museveni as the region's policeman - witness Uganda's role as the only African country to contribute troops for "peace keeping" when the security situation there deteriorated following Ethiopia's U.S.-sponsored invasion.

So while Washington and London lead the charge against the Sudanese government for the atrocities in Darfur, they conveniently ignore the blood letting that's occurred in Uganda's concentration camps. The hypocrisy will reach its highest level in November when Uganda even gets to host the Commonwealth Heads of Government Conference. The Commonwealth, made up of former British colonies and whose titular head is Queen Elizabeth II preach "democracy" and the "rule of law" only when it suits Western interests. Remember in 2002 Zimbabwe was suspended from the Commonwealth because Robert Mugabe's government was accused of having evolved into a dictatorship?

"The Commonwealth preach 'democracy' and the 'rule of law' only when it suits Western interests."

Well in Uganda, we have a genocidal dictatorship to boot; a president who could conceivably get indicted by the ICC. By hosting the conference, Museveni hopes to gain international legitimacy and put pressure on the ICC; how can you dare indict me for the Congo crimes when I am capable of hosting such world political luminaries? The world leaders and the Queen will have to shut their ears to the cries of people in Uganda's death camps when Museveni wines and dines them in two months time.

Second: if anyone still harbors doubts that corporate media enable and facilitate genocide when it suits the purposes of Western governments, then the Ugandan case should open eyes.

Major Western media such as The New York Times, CNN and the BBC, all of which are the ringleaders in terms of establishing what's deemed "newsworthy" for global corporate consumption, have all ignored the genocide in Acholi; and Museveni's role in the Congo's for that matter.

Finally, unlike past genocides, including Hitler's extermination of Jews, and more recent ones in Rwanda and Congo, where mountains of skulls provided clear evidence, Uganda's is very peculiar. The deaths occur in camps scattered over a wide geographical distance.

Most people are conditioned to understand genocide from the perspective of violent bloody upheavals. Yet, Article II of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide states it as: "Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part." Uganda's on-going nightmare fits the definition tightly.

Victims are not hacked to death with machetes, but allowed to die from want of sustenance and nourishment. It is, in fact, the brilliant genocide.

"They don't want their countries, through tax-payer dollars in foreign assistance to Uganda, subsidizing atrocities."

The perfect crime....or almost.

Almost - because in the past the Uganda government had been able through propaganda campaigns to demonize Ugandan critics of its pogrom. But now, increasingly, grassroots organizations around the world, including CEGUN, are demanding that their elected officials, at local and national levels break the conspiracy of silence. They don't want their countries, through tax-payer dollars in foreign assistance to Uganda, subsidizing such atrocities. So, the San Francisco gathering, wherein a small but dedicated group of activists confronted Ugandan officials may signal the moment when ordinary Americans actively joined the quest to demand an end to Genocide in Uganda Now.