

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



**PRESS CLIPPINGS**

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

**as at:**

Friday, 11 July 2008

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.  
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact  
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SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE  
OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR

## **PRESS RELEASE**

Freetown, 10 July 2008

### **Special Court Prosecutor to Co-Host Film Screening at the UN to Promote Awareness on Child Soldiers**

On Tuesday 15 July the Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, Stephen Rapp, will co-host a special advance screening of the award-winning film on child soldiers, “Johnny Mad Dog”, at the United Nations in New York.

The Prosecutor is joining the UN’s Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) for Children and Armed Conflict and the French Mission to the United Nations in a screening for diplomats, UN officials, and members of the press.

“This last year the Special Court for Sierra Leone rendered the first convictions in world history for the crime of enlistment and use of child soldiers”, said Rapp. “This film shows how this crime victimises both the enlisted children and the innocent persons who are subjected to their acts of brutality. It strengthens our resolve to end impunity for this crime and to do all we can to repair the harm that it does to human beings”.

“Johnny Mad Dog” premiered at the 2008 Cannes Film Festival, where it was awarded the Prize of Hope. It was filmed entirely in Liberia and features a cast that includes former child soldiers.

The screening will be followed by a panel discussion on the enlistment and use of child soldiers. Panelists will include the director of the film, Jean-Stéphane Sauvaire, Prosecutor Rapp and SRSG Radhika Coomaraswamy. They will be joined by the Permanent Representatives of the UN Missions of Sierra Leone, Liberia and France.

The event takes place two days before the UN Security Council is scheduled to hold an open debate on children and armed conflict.

#END

The UN Department of Public Information  
 The Ambassador of France to the United Nations  
 The Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone and  
 The Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict

Invite you to a special advance screening of the award winning film

## "Johnny Mad Dog"

Winner of the Prize of Hope - Festival de Cannes 2008

To be followed by a panel discussion on child soldiers  
**"Confronting the Crime and Healing the Wounds"**

With the director of the film, the Prosecutor,  
 the Special Representative and the Ambassadors of France,  
 Liberia and Sierra Leone

**Tuesday 15 July 2008 at 6:00 pm**

Dag Hammarskjöld Auditorium  
 United Nations HQ  
 First Avenue & 46<sup>th</sup> Street, New York

RSVP: [mulvaneyk@un.org](mailto:mulvaneyk@un.org) by 10 July 2008

With the support of the Open Society Justice Initiative

This motion picture depicts situations of a violent nature which may not be suitable for some viewers.



Awoko

Friday, 11 July 2008

# Lawyers delay justice in court - Justice Ademusu

By Abibatu Kamara

Justice Samuel Ademusu has in his keynote address at the annual conference of the Sierra Leone Bar Association under the theme "Modernization of our Robust Laws" at the Miatta conference hall in Freetown said that Lawyers delay justice in court.

He long standing High Court Judge added that Magistrates hold on to cases too much as a result of ready-made adjournments made by Lawyers. He added that sometimes when accused come to court Lawyers are not there which leads to delay in justice.

Justice Ademusu said that litigants are clients to the court and always complain to the court for the delay of their cases, stating that litigants must have a fair trial in court.

The Judge admonished Magistrates to fast track cases in court and that backlog cases that are delayed in court should not be done so.

He urged that cases should be fast tracked in court and cases should be committed early to the High Court.

Justice Ademusu revealed that the Law Reform Commission has been in existence since the 70s. He opined that if the Laws are robust, every Judge, Magistrates and Lawyers must be independent in their judgment.

The Associations President Crispin Edwards in his statement said that, it is regrettable to note that whilst a great deal of reform has swept across other jurisdictions with

reasonable promptitude and responsiveness, "ours is snail-paced, which is attributable to certain factors, which is presumed may be obvious both to us as legal practitioners and respective stakeholders."

He added that, "it is borne out of the need to synchronize our values and instruments with acceptable international legal standards, without unwarrantedly compromising or jeopardizing our national interest."

Mr. Edwards disclosed that under his presidency, four important committees of the Bar were set up

namely: the Rule of Law and Human Rights Committee, the Public Interest Committee, Law Reporting Committee and Dinner and Social Committee.

The President opined that, these committees provided the machinery of operations of the Bar.

He revealed that owing to the dire need for provision of Legal Services to indigent persons and other vulnerable groups, a proposal for the provision of a legal aid scheme was forwarded by the Rule of Law and Human Rights

Committee to the UNDP country office.

The Bar Association President stated that "I am proud to say that funding by UNDP of a nationwide free legal aid service is being finalized", hoping that this legal aid project will be sustained upon its commencement, and will certainly constitute an integral facet of their corporate responsibility.

Mr. Edwards said he assumed the mantle of leadership at a time when very senior practitioners were concerned about the breakdown of certain key

*Continued on Page 7*

# Lawyers delay justice in court

*From Page 2*

services. One he said is the Robing Room which used to be very useful for dressing and interaction purposes, adding that when he took over that facility was non-functional.

Smiling the Bar Association President said that he is pleased to report that the Robing Room is almost a state-of-the-art facility having a satellite television, where members can now relax after very hectic proceedings in court. The Bar he said has been very cautious in its community relations, further stating that, there is the need to cultivate closer community relations and in that regard, "we hope to organize frequent public programmes involving relevant partners and stakeholders." In an interview with a Lawyer who preferred anonymity, he said that it is true that Lawyers delay cases in court. He explained that Lawyers have plenty of cases to deal with in a day and when they are in another court sitting on another case the other case is called in the other courts which leads to adjournment and it hinders Justice.

## UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries 10 July 2008

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

### **Newspaper Summary**

#### **President Sirleaf Perceives Liberia's Security Situation as 'Bad'**

The News, Daily Observer, New Democrat, Heritage, Liberian Express, The Informer and The Inquirer)

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf says the general security situation in the country, especially within the Monrovia area is "bad". The President said the police have not been effective and that four officers of the Liberia National Police (LNP) have been arrested for their participation in criminal activities.
- "In fact certain Police officers have just been arrested; four of them as a result of their own participation in some of these crimes. Many of them are good officers, but there are some bad apples among them," she said.
- Addressing a news conference Wednesday following her return from the Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) Forum in Berlin, Germany, President Sirleaf said she believes that the vetting process that led to the restructuring of the LNP was not as rigorous as the new Liberian army. As a result, she added that government has sought the assistance of the U.S. and British governments on ways of restructuring the police.
- The Liberian leader then called on the public to work with government in fighting crimes since it is a national issue.

#### **Criminal Hideout Deserted - Following Police Raid**

(The News)

- [sic] A notorious criminal hideout located behind the Ministry of National Defense, commonly known as 'Blagbah' at the corner Benson and Center Streets has been abandoned following a recent raid by the Liberia National Police (LNP). During the raid, led by the Assistant Police Director Sam Saryon, a number of suspected criminals were apprehended. The raid by the police last week followed previous failed efforts to clear the 'Bblagbah' community of hardened criminals and drug addicts even though structures hosting the hoodlums were destroyed. Those arrested have been charged with crimes ranging from armed robbery to phone theft, drug abuse as well as vandalism and cemetery theft. Following the clearance of the community, original inhabitants are beginning to return home and police have assigned officers in the area.

#### **Liberian Leader Comments on Capital Flight Claims - Urges Accuser to Show Proof**

(The News, The Analyst)

- The News and Analyst newspapers quote President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf as saying that if anybody has proof of her officials transferring funds abroad to their families and relatives should produce evidence. President Sirleaf said "loose talks" will not help, but challenged accusers to produce evidence on claims they can substantiate.
- The President's comment was in reaction to recent allegations by the Political Advisor of the Congress for Democratic Change (CDC), Milton Teahjay that people in the Unity Party government were transferring huge sums of money from Liberia monthly.
- Speaking at the 3rd anniversary of the Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) held at Fish Market soccer field, Mr. Teahjay said based on statistics from two reputable money transfer institutions, Money Gram and Western Union, the total of US\$13.7 million is being illegally transferred outside the country on a monthly basis.

## **President Sirleaf Mute on Second Term - Says "I'll decide when the time Comes"**

(The Informer, The News, New Democrat)

- The News Reports that President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf made a rather ambivalent comment on whether she would contest the 2011 general and Presidential elections. The President said she did not want to say categorically whether she would contest or not, instead, she wants to concentrate on development initiatives for 2009 and 2010.
- The Informer newspaper said the President's apparent refusal to give a definite answer on the matter is seen by political observers as a contrast to her campaign promise of leading the country for just one term.
- Last year, a group of women presented a petition to President Sirleaf in Grand Gedeh County for her to contest the 2011 elections. The President received the petition, but declined to state ultimately whether she would run. A similar petition was offered to the President this year during a cabinet retreat held in Lofa County.
- It can be recalled President Johnson-Sirleaf had said she would not contest after the expiration of her first term in office, and noted that she will not be an imperial president.

## **State Witnesses Link Senator Kaine to Mass Murder**

(Daily Observer, Heritage, The Inquirer)

- Two former suspects in the Timour massacre whom the state set free on Monday to serve as its witnesses have linked Senator Roland Kaine to the killings.
- The Daily Observer reports that both men, Emmanuel and Gibson Kpangbah were reportedly on the scene of the killings on June 7 and claimed Senator Kaine had phoned in to tell them to do anything they could with the workers that had gone to brush Mr. Charles Bennie's farmland.
- The two suspects have been discharged as defendants and admitted as state witnesses. A third witness, Abu Daramy, along with the two men was acquitted due to what prosecutors described as insufficient evidence to convict them.

## **Liberian Gets Top ECOWAS Post**

(The News)

- Dr. Jeanetta K. Johnson has been appointed by ECOWAS Heads of State as Deputy Director General of the West African Health Organization (WAHO). WAHO is a specialized institution of ECOWAS.
- The protocol establishing the organization was adopted in 1987 by Heads of State and Government from the 15 countries making up the Economic Community of West African States. The organization is charged with the responsibility to attain the highest standard and protection of health of the people in the sub-region.
- A release said Dr Johnson, former Minister of Health and Social Welfare has a wealth of experience and has worked with the United Nations Population Fund, Medecins Sans Frontiers International, World Vision, Save the Children UK, MERCI, and Medical Relief Services.

## **Radio Summary**

**Star Radio** *(News culled today from website at 8:35 am)*

### **President Sirleaf is in South Africa For Visit**

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has left the country for a six-day visit South Africa and Namibia.
- President Sirleaf is in Johannesburg to participate in the 90<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of former South African President, Nelson Mandela.
- An Executive Mansion release said the President will also address the 6<sup>th</sup> Nelson Mandela annual lecture series.
- Meanwhile, in Namibia, the Liberian Leader will discuss a possible assistance to Liberia in developing the fishing industry.

*(Also reported on Truth F.M. and ELBC)*

### **Solicitor General Comes Under Criticism For Travel "Advisory"**

- The Liberia Watch for Human Rights says call by Solicitor General Cllr. Tiawon Gongloe that people should avoid travel during the midnight hours has endangered national security.
- The group said the pronouncement suggests that security has broken down.
- At the same time, a Grand Bassa County Representative, Byron Brown has given the Solicitor General 48 hours to retract the statement saying it violates the constitutional provision of free movement.
- Meanwhile, the Senate's National Security Chairman, Senator Prince Johnson says the travel warning issued by Cllr. Gongloe is dangerous and depicts government's inability to protect its citizens.

*(Also reported on Truth F.M. and ELBC)*

### **Sanitation Workers' go-slow continues at MCC**

- Workers of the Monrovia City Corporation Sanitation Division have vowed not to abandon their go-slow action initiated Tuesday.
- The aggrieved workers say their strike will continue until management meets their demands including five months arrears and US\$55 salary increment given by Government in the 2006/2007 Fiscal Budget.
- They said they would ensure that the streets remain dirty to attract management's attention to their plight.
- Monrovia City Mayor, Ophelia Hoff Saytumah on Monday threatened to sack anyone participating in the go-slow action.

### **Media Executive differs with Senator Scott on Co-habitation bill**

- A media executive, James King, says the proposed co-habitation bill sponsored by Maryland County Senator, Gloria Scott is counter-productive to marriage and called on members of the Senate not to give credence to it.
- Mr. King said lawmakers who intend to address the social problem of young people should instead focus on more critical issues such as abortion that was claiming lives on a daily basis.

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Los Angeles Times  
Thursday, 10 July 2008

## Darfur genocide charges will be sought

The International Criminal Court's chief prosecutor will ask for an arrest warrant for Sudan President Bashir next week, diplomats say.

By Maggie Farley, Los Angeles Times Staff Writer  
11:45 PM PDT, July 10, 2008

UNITED NATIONS -- The International Criminal Court's chief prosecutor will ask judges to issue an arrest warrant for the president of Sudan next week on charges of genocide and crimes against humanity, diplomats and an official close to the case said Thursday.

The prosecutor, Luis Moreno-Ocampo, issued a statement Thursday announcing that he would submit evidence of crimes committed against civilians in Sudan's western region of Darfur over the last five years, though he will wait until Monday at the pretrial chamber to name names.

If the judges issue an arrest warrant, Sudanese President Omar Hassan Ahmed Bashir would be the first sitting or former head of state to be charged with genocide by the 6-year-old international court in The Hague.

The prosecutor may seek the arrests of other senior Sudanese officials later, said the official close to the case, who requested anonymity because he was not authorized to speak publicly about the proceedings.

U.N. officials are concerned that the request for warrants could cause the Sudanese government to retaliate against peacekeepers and aid workers in Darfur -- or even eject them. But they have not asked Moreno-Ocampo to soft-pedal his charges against Bashir, said U.N. and court officials.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon had tried to keep the court's quest for justice in Darfur on the margins of negotiations with Sudanese officials, concerned that it would disrupt the deployment of additional troops for a United Nations-led peacekeeping force. But Thursday, he told reporters that "in principle, I believe that peace and justice should go hand in hand."

The Sudanese envoy to the world body fueled fears that a request for Bashir's arrest would jeopardize U.N. operations in Darfur. "All options are open," Ambassador Abdalmahmood Abdalhaleem said. "It is playing with fire."

Darfur has been racked by violence since a rebellion against the central government began in 2003. At least 200,000 people have been killed, according to most estimates, most of the deaths blamed on militias that critics charge were unleashed by the government to put down the insurrection.

The U.N. in January took command of an African Union peacekeeping effort in Darfur. The force is expected to eventually consist of 26,000 troops, though it has grown only slightly from the original 9,000 African troops because of delays in deployment and supplies.

U.N. peacekeepers and aid workers, who have faced repeated attacks from gunmen, began retrenching in Darfur after an attack Tuesday on U.N. forces that killed seven and injured 20. The Sudanese ambassador blamed the Sudanese Liberation Movement/Unity rebel group, but U.N. officials say they suspect that the

Sudanese army was linked to the attack.

Humanitarian groups have been withdrawing staff members from remote areas and preparing for demonstrations or attacks in response to Moreno-Ocampo's actions Monday.

"We take the situation quite seriously," said a humanitarian coordinator for Darfur, especially because nongovernmental organizations and the U.N. have faced frequent violence over the last six months. The coordinator requested anonymity for security reasons.

Sudan probably will not turn over its leader if a warrant is issued. Sudan has ignored arrest warrants issued last year for an official and a rebel leader, and even promoted the official, Ahmed Haroun, to oversee humanitarian affairs for the people he is charged with helping displace in Darfur.

"I swear to God, I swear to God, I swear to God, we will not hand over any Sudanese to the International Court," Bashir recently told a gathering of Sudan's Popular Defense Forces.

Moreno-Ocampo's strategy is risky, human rights groups and diplomats say. Besides potentially alienating the head of state who controls U.N. access to Darfur and triggering a retaliation, proving the crime of genocide is very difficult, said Richard Dicker, director of the International Justice Program at Human Rights Watch.

Moreno-Ocampo will have to show that the systematic killings in Darfur were ordered by Bashir with the specific intent to eliminate the Massalit, Zaghawa and Fur groups on the basis of their ethnicity.

The government claims that the conflict was triggered by rebels from those groups, and that the government and allied militias responded in self-defense. Any casualties occurred in the course of a counter-insurgency operation, and in intertribal warfare, officials have repeatedly said.

"If genocide is the charge that the ICC prosecutor is pursuing, he has set himself a high hurdle to get over," Dicker said.

Though warrants against Bashir would be a first for the ICC, its prosecutor would be following a path blazed by other tribunals.

A special court backed by the U.N. indicted Liberian President Charles Taylor in 2003 for atrocities committed during a 10-year civil war in neighboring Sierra Leone. His trial is underway.

Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic was indicted by the international war crimes tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in 1999, while he was still in office, and was turned over to authorities after he was overthrown in a popular uprising. He died of heart failure in 2006 during his trial in The Hague.

Moreno-Ocampo, an Argentine who helped put his country's former ruling junta behind bars, has been called quixotic in his quest for justice while at the International Criminal Court. He has opened investigations of violent campaigns in the Democratic Republic of Congo, northern Uganda, Darfur and the Central African Republic. The court has issued 12 arrest warrants.

Moreno-Ocampo will be making his new far-reaching case against a backdrop of criticism after the recent collapse of his prosecution of a Congolese warlord accused of using child soldiers. The trial chamber suspended the trial of Thomas Lubanga after the court ruled that the prosecutor withheld evidence that could help the defense.

The Darfur case could help shore up Moreno-Ocampo's credibility, or undermine it.

"Charging a sitting head of state is going to generate a lot of commentary and controversy," Dicker said. "But given what has happened in Darfur since 2003, it is hardly a surprise that the trail of evidence leads to the head of state. It is an important step toward the end of impunity."

Reuters

Friday, 11 July 2008

## China fears Darfur charges fallout ahead of Games

Fri 11 Jul 2008, 6:26 GMT

By Chris Buckley

BEIJING (Reuters) - China fears the International Criminal Court (ICC) prosecutor's likely charging of top Sudanese officials will intensify conflict over Darfur just as Beijing readies for Olympic Games, sources and experts said on Friday.



The ICC prosecution said on Thursday that court judges in The Hague will be presented on Monday with evidence of alleged crimes in Darfur, the strife-plagued region of Sudan, and prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo will seek to charge at least one person.

The Washington Post reported Moreno-Ocampo will seek a warrant for Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir, accusing him of genocide and crimes against humanity in Darfur, where government-linked militia have fought

rebels.

Two sources familiar with diplomatic discussions of the prosecutor's plans over past weeks said China fears the security and diplomatic fallout, especially if Bashir is named.

The accusations will also renew attention on China's close ties with Khartoum weeks before the Beijing Olympic Games in August. International groups critical of Khartoum have said the Games should be used to protest against Beijing's role in Sudan.

In private talks with other U.N. Security Council permanent member states, Chinese diplomats warned the arrest move would "vastly complicate" struggling peace efforts in Darfur and could prompt Bashir to choke off all cooperation and embolden rebel groups to resist negotiations, said one of the sources.

"China believes this will make political dialogue on Darfur so much more difficult," said the other source, who said he had discussed the issue with diplomats involved.

"The Olympic Games haven't entered into China's consultations, but the timing is very bad."

If the ICC prosecutor was going to seek fresh arrests, China preferred he was "pragmatic" and targeted lesser officials, the two sources said. Both spoke on condition of anonymity, citing the official sensitivity about the issue.

But Chinese experts openly echoed those worries.

"Although the ICC has the authority to do this, I must say it has not always done things in the wisest way possible," said Zha Daojiong, an international relations professor at Peking University who has studied China's energy stake in Sudan.

"It will be easy enough to indict, but do they have a back-up plan for the consequences? ... Don't get rid of a leader you don't like and then leave the people you claim to be helping in limbo," said Zha.

"Bashir of course may bear culpability for Darfur, but it's a complicated situation, and this will make it even worse," said Shi Yinhong, an international relations expert at Renmin University in Beijing.

"China may now find it much harder to influence Sudan, but international public opinion will become excited over this and expect much (from China), especially before the Games."

International experts estimate some 200,000 have died and 2.5 million have been forced to flee homes in Darfur since conflict erupted in 2003, when rebels took up arms against the government.

China is a major investor in Sudan's oil and its biggest weapons supplier. But the country's oil imports from Sudan are relatively small.

In the first five months of this year, Sudan was China's seventh biggest supplier of imported crude, sending 4.4 million tonnes, a fall of nearly 6 percent on the same period last year.

China has sent 140 engineers to support the UN-African Union peacekeeping force in Darfur, and plans to send more next week.

Only 9,000 troops and police out of the planned 26,000 "hybrid" peacekeeping force have been deployed, partly due to Sudan's fears they could be used to enforce ICC arrest warrants.

## United Nations News Centre

Tuesday, 8 July 2008

### ***International Criminal Court suspends release of Congolese rebel leader***



Thomas Lubanga Dyilo

8 July 2008 – The Appeals Chamber of the International Criminal Court (ICC) has suspended the release of Thomas Lubanga Dyilo, a Congolese rebel militia leader accused of recruiting child soldiers.

Last week, the ICC's Trial Chamber ordered Mr. Lubanga's release after ruling that he could not receive a fair trial, with no judgment made regarding his guilt or innocence.

Proceedings against him were suspended on 16 June, after the Trial Chamber found that prosecutors had failed to disclose more than 200 documents to the defence that have the potential to prove his innocence.

According to the judges, the release was the "logical consequence" of the stay on the proceedings, "as it is at present impossible to secure a fair trial for the accused."

Mr. Lubanga will remain under custody until the Court rules on the Prosecution's appeal.

The founder and leader of the Union of Congolese Patriots in the Ituri region of the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), he has been charged with a series of war crimes, including conscripting and enlisting child soldiers into the military wing of his group and then using them to participate in hostilities between September 2002 and August 2003.

Mr. Lubanga's trial was due to have been the first to be held by the ICC.