

SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE OUTREACH AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE



Members of General Services risk the rains for a group photo.

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:

Wednesday, 23 July 2008

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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Standard Times
Wednesday, 23 July 2008

Justice and Impunity discussed at Miatta Conference Hall

A conference on Justice and Impunity has been discussing the way forward how can these two phenomena be improved. The conference was hosted by the Justice Sector Coordination Office in collaboration with Manifesto 99 and the civil society in Sierra Leone.

The occasion climaxed the celebration of World Day for International Justice on Thursday 17th July. July 17th commemorates the day on which the international community adopted the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in 1998. The ICC is the world's first permanent international tribunal capable of trying individuals accused of the most serious crimes of international

concern, namely, genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes; when the courts in the countries in which those crimes are committed are unable or unwilling to do so.

As of 1st June 2008, 106 countries have become State Parties to the Rome Statute of the ICC. Out of this number, 30 are African, 13 Asian, 16 from Eastern Europe, 22 from Latin America and the Caribbean, and 25 from States. Sierra Leone signed the Rome Statute on 17 October 1998 and ratified it on 15 September 2000.

Each year, human rights activists around the world use this day to host events and activities to promote international justice, and specifically to raise support for the ICC.

In Sierra Leone, the implications of justice and impunity were discussed taking into consideration the prevailing socio-economic situation in the country. Attention was drawn to the work of the International Criminal Court, the Special Court for Sierra Leone, Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Sierra Leone, JSCO and other organizations.

"Addressing justice and impunity in Sierra Leone is, above all, a great stride towards victory for the protection of human rights, the advancement of human security, and the progress of our national justice sector reform", said Ms. Sarah-Ann Lewis, Coordinator of the Justice Sector Coordination Office in the Ministry of Justice.

UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries 22 July 2008

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

Newspaper Summary

World Bank Ranks Liberia High - in Controlling Corruption

(The Analyst, The News, The Informer, The Inquirer, New Democrat, National Chronicle, Daily Observer)

- The government's efforts to stamp out corruption in the public sector appears to be paying off as the media unanimously reflected that the World Bank revealed that Liberia nation has shown the largest improvement than any country globally in controlling corruption over the last two years.
- According to Presidential Press Secretary Cyrus Wleh Badio, the statistics was recently released by the World Bank Institute. Quoting the World Bank Institute's Worldwide Governance Indicators, Badio said Liberia was ranked 185 out of 206 countries on control of corruption in 2005.
- The Presidential Press Secretary made the disclosure Monday at his regular press briefing held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Monrovia.
- The World Bank Institute's Worldwide Governance Indicators data, copy of which is in the possession of this paper says, in 2006, Liberia moved up 39 places in the world ranking to 145.
- According to the data, in 2007, Liberia moved up an additional 32 places to 113 in the world which means that in just two years, the country moved 72 places in the world rankings.
- The latest report runs contrary to the notion held by people locally that the Ellen Johnson Sirleaf administration was submerged in corruption and that the leadership was doing very little to fight it. Upon taking oath the office, the President declared corruption as 'public enemy' number one, vowing to fight the menace in all sectors of the country.

Four Police Officers in Court for Armed Robbery

(The Parrot, The Informer, The Inquirer, The Analyst, The News, New Democrat, National Chronicle, Heritage, Daily Observer)

- Four officers of the Police Support Unit (PSU) at the Liberia National Police (LNP) headquarters, who were arraigned before the Monrovia City Court at the Temple of Justice on Monday, have been charged with the crime of "armed robbery" by the State.
- Officers T. Max Brown, Abel Tue, Bobbie Brown and Harry Blackie were charged Monday by the court for allegedly using a pistol to take away more than L\$11,000 and US\$145.00 and other valuables belonging to residents of the Paynesville community.
- Police authorities had earlier clarified that the disrobed officers are robbers and not armed robbers. Some dailies, particularly the New Democrat newspaper last week carried an article depicting that the six officers engaged in various robberies across the city.

NPFL Starved Nigerian Journalists to Death

(The Informer, The Inquirer, New Democrat, Heritage, National Chronicle, Daily Observer)

- Nigerian journalists, Tayo Awotunsin and Krees Imobibie who were known to have died in the hands of the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) under circumstances that remained unknown in 1990, were reportedly left to starve to death by the rebels, a witness has told the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC).

DEA Raids Criminal Dens in Gbarnga

(Daily Observer)

- [sic]The Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), Bong County Detachment, on Wednesday July 16, 2008, raided several communities in Gbarnga and its environs which were considered by the DEA as hideouts for hardened criminals.

NEC Chairman Claims Liberty Party Leadership Unconstitutional

(The News)

- [sic]National Elections Commission Chairman James Flomoyan says the current leadership of the opposition Liberty Party is unconstitutional and lacks legitimacy. Flomoyan told a news conference Monday that Article 79(e) of the Liberian Constitution provides for an election of party's officials at least once in six years. He claimed that the leadership of Liberty Party was instead handpicked by Cllr. Charles Brumskine, in contravention of the Constitution. Cllr. Brumskine is the founder of the Liberty Party and was its standard bearer in the 2005 presidential election in which he finished third, behind George Weah of the Congress for Democratic Change and Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf of the Unity Party.

JFK Needs US\$6m to Regain Pre-war Status - Administrator Tells Budget Hearings

(The News)

- The General Administrator of the government-owned John F. Kennedy (JFK) hospital has told the budget hearings at the Legislature on Friday that the hospital would need at least US\$6 million to rehabilitate the medical centre to its pre-war status.
- Dr. Wvannie Scott McDonald said there were pressing needs at JFK regarding its resuscitation.
- "We want to get the medical centre up and moving so that it is functional and operational to meet the needs of citizens," Scott McDonald said.
- She told the hearings that the Hospital needs renovation, recruitment of "competent experts" and physicians.
- Scott McDonald also underscored the need to train more para-medical personnel at the Tubman National Institute of Medical Arts (TNIMA), a training arm of the Hospital.
- "We do not have laboratory technicians. We need people in that field," she told the joint Legislative Committee.

Radio Summary

Star Radio *(News culled today from website at 9:15 am)*

Court Charged Four Police Officers with Armed Robbery

Police Academy disqualifies ten ERU officers

- The National Police Training Academy in Paynesville has disqualified ten police officers for bad domestic records.
- The ten officers were part of the Special Emergency Response Unit undergoing vigorous preparation to bear arms and combat crimes in the society.
- The Training Commandant at the Police Academy said the records of the men showed that they were involved in violent behaviours unbecoming of police officers.
- Colonel James Hallowanga said more than one hundred Emergency Response Unit officers are currently in training at the academy.
- Commissioner Hallowanga also disclosed that five female police cadets have been dismissed from the academy for poor academic output.
- The police training chief said the deactivating of old police officers left major leadership gap within the force which requires time to fill.
- Commissioner Hallowanga called on the public to actively engage the police through information sharing to help them successfully fight crime.

Government shuts down 'dubious' websites

- The Post and Telecommunications Ministry says it has begun shutting down websites operating illegal Liberian stamps.
- The Deputy Minister for Operations at the Ministry told Star radio the websites are being operated from Israel, the United States and London.
- Mr. Soko Sackor said the ministry in collaboration with the United States postal services has already shut down a website in New York. Mr. Sackor said those found guilty of the act would be made to face the law through their respective governments.

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

House threatens drastic actions against NIC Chairman

- The House of Representatives has threatened drastic actions against National Investment Commission Chairman Dr. Richard Tolbert.
- The House said it will institute severe punishment if Dr. Tolbert fails to appear before the body on Tuesday.
- According to the House, the NIC boss risks being jailed, fined, or a vote of no confidence passed in him.
- The spokesman of the House said Dr. Tolbert has the last chance to provide details on the additional investment in the Mittal Steel concession.
- Mr. Isaac Redd said Dr. Tolbert would also comment on the alleged granting of investment contracts above ten million US dollars that were not ratified by the Legislature.
- Meanwhile, Justice Minister Phillip Banks is to appear before the House on Tuesday to address measures taken by government to tackle the increase in armed robbery.

NEC warns political parties

- The National Elections Commission has warned it will not hesitate to deal firmly with any individual or political parties who violate the election laws.
- The Chairman of NEC James Fromoyan told a news conference Monday no one should underestimate the commission.
- Mr. Fromoyan observed that some political parties and their leaders have over the weeks engaged in persistent verbal attacks on the commission.
- According to Mr. Fromoyan, some empty talkers have taken advantage of Liberia's gullible population to spread misinformation. He said the years of devastation in the country are a direct consequence of misinformation and mockery.
- Mr. Fromoyan said while NEC is not against freedom of speech, attempts by individuals to malign the reputation of the commission would not go unpunished.
- He said anyone having problem with the commission or any of the commissioners should seek legal remedy instead of making damaging comments. The NEC Chairman however said the commission will not be disturbed by baseless statements from anyone.

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

Liberian President assists flood victims

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has toured the King Gray community, one of the most affected by Sunday's flood. The Executive Mansion says President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf identified with the flood victims by providing mattresses and some food items.
- Presidential Press Secretary Cyrus Wleh Badio told reporters, the General Services Agency and the Ministry of Internal Affairs have been directed to assess the affected areas.
- The assessment would determine the level of assistance government can render the flood victims.
- The President encouraged business houses, agencies and other individuals with the means to assist the victims.

(Also reported on ELBC)

CNN

Tuesday, 22 July 2008

Karadzic will 'fight war crime extradition'

BELGRADE, Serbia (CNN) -- Former Bosnian leader Radovan Karadzic will fight extradition from Serbia on war crime charges, his lawyer said Tuesday.

Lawyer Sveta Vujacic also disputed Serbian accounts of Karadzic's arrest alleging the man known as the 'Butcher of Bosnia' was seized Friday and held in secret for three days.

Karadzic, 63, is accused of ordering the deadly siege of Sarajevo and some of the worst atrocities in Europe since World War II including the 1995 massacre of 8,000 Muslims in Srebrenica

Vujacic said Serbian authorities were not telling the truth about Karadzic's arrest.

"Nobody seems to know who arrested him and where he has been since last Friday at 21:30 hours, when he was arrested," he said.

"He just said that these people showed him a police badge and then he was taken to some place and kept in the room. He was blindfolded ... he was kept in some room ... and that is absolutely against the law what they did."

Vujacic said he will launch criminal proceedings in addition to an appeal against Karadzic's transfer to the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) at The Hague.

A judge has three days to prepare for his transfer. Prosecutor Vladimir Vukcevic said Karadzic has the right to appeal that transfer within those three days.

Serb authorities say Karadzic -- in disguise and using a false identity -- was working at a medical practice in Belgrade prior to his arrest.

Karadzic was so convinced of his disguise he regularly contributed to a health magazine as he brazenly built up his profile as an alternative medical practitioner, The Associated Press reported.

Karadzic focus

Goran Kojic, editor in chief of Serbia's "Healthy Life," released new images of the former leader hidden behind an enormous white beard, long hair and spectacles, identifying one of the world's most wanted men as a regular contributor.

"It never even occurred to me that this man with a long white beard and hair was Karadzic," a shocked Kojic said, according to The Associated Press.

At a news conference in Belgrade on Tuesday, authorities displayed another recent picture of Karadzic that showed him with short white hair, a long white beard and glasses. Before he went on the run, Karadzic was clean-shaven with a mop of salt-and-pepper hair.

Serbian minister Rasim Ljajic said Karadzic was using false documents giving him the name of "Dragan Dabic" and a non-Serbian identity at the time of arrest.

"It wasn't expected at all that this would ever happen to Radovan Karadzic -- that he would ever be caught in this way," said Ljajic, president of the National Council for Cooperation with the Hague Tribunal.

The arrest has been hailed as a landmark for international justice and for Serbia, whose new government has pledged to bring its wanted war criminals to justice as a condition of membership of the European Union.

"We understand that there is an absolute determination by the state to finish this job," Vukcevic said.

Karadzic's arrest earlier drew jubilation in the streets of Sarajevo, the Bosnian capital, which Bosnian Serb forces had shelled heavily during the war, and a small protest from ultra Serb nationalists in front of Belgrade's heavily guarded war crimes court.

Karadzic's brother Luka told reporters that he had seen the former leader in custody.

"Karadzic is in good health. He has lost a lot of weight, he is full of optimism," he said.

Karadzic -- last seen in public in 1996 -- was the Bosnian Serb political leader during the 1992-1995 war that followed Bosnia-Herzegovina's secession from Yugoslavia.

While president of the so-called Serbian Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Karadzic's troops were reported to have massacred hundreds of thousands of Muslims and Croats during a campaign of "ethnic cleansing."

Early estimates of the death toll from the 3-year war ranged up to 300,000, but recent research reduced that to about 100,000.

Vladimir Petrovic, the charge d'affairs at the Serbian Embassy in Washington, said the arrest showed his country's commitment to accounting for its past.

EU foreign affairs chief Javier Solana said: "I think it is very important that Radovan Karadzic will be in front of International Tribunal having a fair trial."

CNN's Alessio Vinci in Belgrade said few in the city believe Karadzic will get a fair trial but the size of the demonstrations is a sign that few care. He said those supporting closer ties with the West are happy at the arrest.

Karadzic's arrest leaves **former Gen. Ratko Mladic**, the Bosnian Serb military commander, as the top-ranking war crimes suspect still at large.

"Today, I can tell you that I feel kind of good," said Zlatko Lagumdzija, a former Bosnian prime minister wounded during the siege. He said the arrest could offer "a chance for new thinking" in Bosnia, still grappling with the scars of war.

Karadzic, a one-time psychiatrist and self-styled poet, declared himself president of a Bosnian Serb republic when Bosnia-Herzegovina seceded from Yugoslavia in 1992.

The Bosnian Serbs, backed by the Serb-dominated Yugoslav military and paramilitary forces, quickly seized control of most of the country and laid siege to Sarajevo, the capital.

During the conflict that followed, the Serb forces launched what they called the "ethnic cleansing" of the territories under their control -- the forced displacement and killings of Muslims and Croats.

He was removed from power in 1995, when the Dayton Accords that ended the Bosnian war barred anyone accused of war crimes from holding office.

CNN

Tuesday, 22 July 2008

Fugitive Karadzic 'wrote magazine column'

BELGRADE, Serbia (CNN) -- Bosnian Serb war crimes fugitive Radovan Karadzic was so convinced of his

disguise he regularly contributed to a health magazine as he brazenly built up his profile as an alternative medical practitioner, The Associated Press reported Tuesday.



As Serbian authorities announced the arrest of Karadzic, 63, on charges of war crimes committed during the brutal Balkans conflict, details of his life during more than a decade on the run were revealed.

Goran Kojic, editor in chief of Serbia's "Healthy Magazine" released new images of the former leader hidden behind an enormous white beard, long hair and spectacles, identifying one of the world's most wanted men as a regular contributor.

"It never even occurred to me that this man with a long white beard and hair was Karadzic," a shocked Kojic said, according to The Associated Press.

Serb authorities said Karadzic -- accused of ordering the deadly siege of Sarajevo and some of the worst atrocities in Europe since World War II including the 1995 massacre of 8,000 Muslims in Srebrenica -- was working at a medical practice in Belgrade prior to his arrest.

At a news conference in Belgrade on Tuesday, authorities displayed another recent picture of Karadzic that showed him with short white hair, a long white beard and glasses. Before he went on the run, Karadzic was clean-shaven with a mop of salt-and-pepper hair.

Serbian minister Rasim Ljajic told Tuesday's news conference that Karadzic, 63, was using false documents giving him the name of "Dragan Dabic" and a non-Serbian identity at the time of arrest.

"It wasn't expected at all that this would ever happen to Radovan Karadzic -- that he would ever be caught in this way," said Ljajic, president of the National Council for Cooperation with the Hague Tribunal.

A judge now has three days to prepare for his transfer to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) at the Hague, and Karadzic has the right to appeal that transfer within those three days, Vukcevic added.

The capture of the so-called "Butcher of Bosnia" has been hailed as a landmark for international justice and for Serbia, whose new government has pledged to bring its wanted war criminals to justice as a condition of membership of the European Union.

"We understand that there is an absolute determination by the state to finish this job," prosecutor Vukcevic said.

Karadzic's arrest earlier drew jubilation in the streets of Sarajevo, the Bosnian capital, which Bosnian Serb forces had shelled heavily during the war, and a small protest from ultra Serb nationalists in front of Belgrade's heavily guarded war crimes court.

His lawyer, Sveta Vujacic, said there were concerns over Karadzic's arrest and treatment, accusing authorities of violating the law by blindfolding him and holding him in a room.

He disputed official statements that Karadzic was captured on Monday, insisting his client was arrested Friday and held for three days before the announcement was made.

Karadzic's brother Luka told reporters that he had seen the former leader in custody.

"Karadzic is in good health. He has lost a lot of weight, he is full of optimism," he said.

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While president of the so-called Serbian Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Karadzic's troops were reported to have massacred hundreds of thousands of Muslims and Croats during a campaign of "ethnic cleansing."

Early estimates of the death toll from the 3-year war ranged up to 300,000, but recent research reduced that to about 100,000.

Vladimir Petrovic, the charge d'affaires at the Serbian Embassy in Washington, said the arrest showed his country's commitment to accounting for its past.

"I think this is an example that the Serbian government is committed to all its international obligations and that it will continue cooperation with the International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia," Petrovic said.

EU foreign affairs chief Javier Solana said: "I think it is very important that Radovan Karadzic will be in front of International Tribunal having a fair trial."

Karadzic's arrest leaves [former Gen. Ratko Mladic](#), the Bosnian Serb military commander, as the top-ranking war crimes suspect still at large.

"While this is an important milestone, the work of the International Tribunal will not be complete until all fugitives have been arrested and tried," a spokesman for U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon said.

"Today, I can tell you that I feel kind of good," said Zlatko Lagumdzija, a former Bosnian prime minister wounded during the siege. He said the arrest could offer "a chance for new thinking" in Bosnia, still grappling with the scars of war.

Karadzic, a one-time psychiatrist and self-styled poet, declared himself president of a Bosnian Serb republic when Bosnia-Herzegovina seceded from Yugoslavia in 1992.

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During the conflict that followed, the Serb forces launched what they called the "ethnic cleansing" of the territories under their control -- the forced displacement and killings of Muslims and Croats.

He was removed from power in 1995, when the Dayton Accords that ended the Bosnian war barred anyone accused of war crimes from holding office.

But he remained "kind of a Robin Hood" to Serbs during more than a decade as a fugitive, said former U.S. diplomat Richard Holbrooke, one of the architects of the Dayton Accords.

Irish Times

Wednesday, 23 July 2008

Political expediency and justice remain awkward bedfellows

ANALYSIS: Karadzic's years on the run show international lack of will in the pursuit of war criminals, writes Chirs Stephen

RADOVAN KARADZIC, the former Bosnian Serb president arrested on charges of genocide this week and due to be transferred to The Hague Tribunal, is a symbol of the schizophrenic attitude of the outside world towards war crimes justice.

When he was charged with genocide and crimes against humanity in 1995, images of his deeds were seared into the world's psyche: the siege of Sarajevo; the death camps where thousands of Muslims perished; and the massacre of 8,000 men and boys at Srebrenica.

But with the end of the Bosnian war, the world turned its back: one spring day in 1997, I stood chatting with his bodyguards a few hundred yards from where Mr and Mrs Karadzic lived in a handsome villa near Sarajevo.

Nato, based 20 minutes away, could have arrested him at any time but chose not to, citing fears of civil unrest. While I waited, his guards waved as an Italian army patrol cruised by, making no attempt to stop.

Later that year, stung by the shame of it all, Nato was galvanised into action, with commandos making a series of swoops on war crimes suspects across Bosnia.

But by then Karadzic had fled into hiding, dodging at least a dozen Nato raids for 11 years until, incongruously, he was arrested this week by Belgrade police apparently while on a bus. In between times, war crimes justice flourished, only to be once more cut off at the knees by lack of international concern.

Giant strides were made after 1997 in jailing more than 30 top Bosnian war criminals and setting up new UN courts for Rwanda, Sierra Leone and East Timor.

But these efforts were dealt a crippling blow by the decision of the Bush administration, following 9/11, that the War on Terror had precedence over international law.

Against a background of Abu Ghraib and Guantánamo Bay, the Bush administration cut aid to nations that joined the International Criminal Court (ICC), which was created 10 years ago as a permanent replacement to the existing UN courts.

And when Belgium enacted war crimes legislation of its own, US defence secretary Donald Rumsfeld threatened to move Nato's HQ out of Brussels unless the laws were revoked.

This lack of commitment has been most marked with the ICC's involvement in Darfur. In April 2005 the UN Security Council, reacting to public opinion, ordered the ICC to investigate Darfur war crimes. But when Sudan refused last year to hand over two officials charged by the court, the security council decided against punitive action.

Last week China, which buys most of Sudan's oil, went further, criticising ICC chief prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo for indicting Sudanese president Omar al-Bashir with genocide, despite overwhelming

evidence that he has a case to answer. There are now suggestions that China may ask other security council members to agree to freeze the ICC charges in perpetuity.

War crimes courts have meanwhile struggled to make their own case. The trial of Slobodan Milosevic, Serbia's former president, dragged on so long that he died of heart failure in 2005 before the case could finish.

And the lack of legal safeguards in the trial of Iraq's Saddam Hussein saw proceedings turn into farce, the defendant being hanged with indecent haste.

This lack of support is not confined to the West: Ugandan president Yoweri Museveni called in the ICC to investigate the murders and rapes of the Lord's Resistance Army and as a result four guerrilla commanders have been indicted.

But with the war in northern Uganda now over, Museveni is calling for the ICC to withdraw the charges in the interest of peace talks and has refused to co-operate in efforts to get the fugitives arrested.

ICC judges have ruled out dropping the charges, but as with Sudan, have received scant support from world leaders for whom political expediency and international justice remain awkward bedfellows.

In this atmosphere, the arrest of Karadzic has been greeted in The Hague with something approaching jubilation.

The former Bosnian Serb president is second only to Milosevic in terms of notoriety, blamed for orchestrating horrors that cost 200,000 lives and created two million refugees.

And Hague prosecutors are being careful to learn the lessons of past mistakes, in particular the decision in the Milosevic trial by former prosecutor Carla Del Ponte to "throw the book" at the defendant.

Milosevic was charged with crimes in three separate wars - Bosnia, Croatia and Kosovo - resulting in a whale of a trial that was already into its fifth year when Milosevic died.

The new UN prosecutor, Belgian Serge Brammertz, is unlikely to make the same mistake with Karadzic.

Having already headed the UN commission investigating the assassination of former Lebanese prime minister Rafiq Hariri, he knows the political pitfalls of running an unwieldy trial.

Karadzic's charge sheet covers horrific crimes, but is less than a third the length of Milosevic's. Brammertz's greatest asset is not the lukewarm support given him by the outside world, but the fact that the system he uses has been shown to work.

Karadzic will face a court that, despite some major mistakes, has proved that it can translate the Hague, Geneva and Genocide conventions into workable laws.

Starting from the premise that a commander is responsible for the actions of his subordinates, Hague prosecutors have painfully, and expensively, spent the past decade building cases that combine advances in DNA testing, satellite photographs, eye witnesses and Bosnian Serb military records to win a string of high-profile convictions.

Among the most successful have been a chain of cases against Bosnian Serbs for the Srebrenica massacre of 1995, an atrocity that is now the world's best-documented massacre.

African jurists have made similar strides with the Sierra Leone Special Court, whose star defendant, former Liberian president Charles Taylor, is also beginning a trial for war crimes in The Hague, at premises rented from the ICC.

The accusations against Taylor match those against Karadzic for horror: under the guise of plundering Sierra Leone for so-called conflict diamonds, Taylor is blamed for orchestrating massacres, rape camps and the mutilation of thousands of innocent civilians.

Both former presidents are likely to lose the argument that their high office gave them immunity, thanks to the precedent set in 1999 when Britain's House of Lords ruled that no such immunity should be accorded former Chilean president Augusto Pinochet.

If the Karadzic and Taylor prosecutions, set to take place in courtrooms a few miles from each other, are successful, they will do more than jail two of the world's most notorious tyrants.

With luck, they will provide very public proof that the war crimes process can work, and that war criminals, no matter how senior, can be held to account for their crimes, no matter how long some have been on the run.

- Chris Stephen is the author of *Judgement Day: The Trial of Slobodan Milosevic* (Atlantic Books, 2004)

Justice Initiative

Tuesday, 23 July 2008

Press Release

Karadžić Arrest Hailed as a Triumph for Victims and for Justice

~ Mladic Must Be Next ~

New York, July 22, 2008 - "The arrest of one of the world's most notorious fugitives, Radovan Karadžić, on genocide and other charges, is a milestone in international justice and signifies major if long overdue progress by Serbia, the Open Society Justice Initiative said today. But Serbia must still move quickly to arrest Karadžić's wartime ally, Ratko Mladic, to fully stake its claim in the new Europe.

"Karadžić's arrest is a historic event, which indicates a sea-change in Serbia's commitment to joining its neighbors as a full member of the European Union" said Robert O. Varenik, acting executive director of the Justice Initiative. "Serbia took a great leap forward but now must follow through with the immediate arrest of Mladic"

Karadžić and Mladic were indicted 13 years ago this week by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) on charges of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes for their roles as alleged architects of crimes committed during the Bosnian war in the 1990s. The charges were later amended to include the alleged role of both men in the Srebrenica massacre which occurred in July 1995, only days before the initial indictment was issued. More than 8,000 Bosniak men and boys were slaughtered in one of the worst crimes in Europe since World War II, which both the ICTY and the International Court of Justice have judged to constitute a genocide. With the ICTY set to shut down by 2011, time is running out to bring the men to justice.

"Catching Karadžić is certainly a great victory, but the long arm of the law must reach further" Varenik said. "Karadžić and Mladic were indicted 13 years ago this Thursday and we cannot let this anniversary pass without recalling Serbia's obligation to apprehend Mladic and bring him to justice before the ICTY shuts its doors."

A new Justice Initiative report released this month in Belgrade, *Shrinking the Space for Denial: The Impact of the ICTY in Serbia*, highlights how the thirteen-year failure to capture Karadžić and Mladic left many Bosniak victims with a sense of profound disillusionment about international justice.

As a Bosniak woman quoted in the report observed, the ICTY has done "so many good things but they're in the shadow of Karadžić and Mladic." The report, by Justice Initiative Special Counsel Diane F. Orentlicher, is available here:

http://www.justiceinitiative.org/db/resource2?res_id=104091.

"The ICTY has had a powerful impact not only on international justice but also on contemporary Serbian society" said Orentlicher. "The court's legacy is mixed - but its positive legacy grew exponentially with Karadžić's arrest, which signifies Serbia's determination to cast its future with Europe rather than remain mired in its nationalist past."