

**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:

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Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
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Standard Times
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SPECIAL ISSUES

BY PROJECT SYNDICATE

It is only a little more than fifteen years ago that the first of the contemporary international courts was created to prosecute those who commit war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide. That court, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, may soon mete out justice to a new defendant, following the arrest in Belgrade of Radovan Karadzic, wartime leader of Bosnia's Serbs.

Yet there is already a persistent theme in criticism of such tribunals: in their effort to do justice, they are obstructing achievement of a more important goal, peace. Such complaints have been expressed most vociferously when sitting heads of state are accused of crimes. The charges filed by the prosecutor of the International Criminal Court against Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir for crimes against humanity and genocide in Darfur are the latest example. Indeed, the denunciations of the justice process this time are more intense and more vehement than in the past.

The complaints were also loud in 1995, when the ICTY's prosecutor indicted Karadzic and his military chief, General Ratko Mladic, and even louder when they were indicted again later in the same year for the massacre at Srebrenica. The timing of that second indictment especially aroused critics, because it came just before the start of the Dayton peace conference. Because they faced arrest, Karadzic and Mladic did not go to Dayton.

But, as matters turned out, their absence did not hinder the parties from reaching an agreement. Indeed, it may have helped as the leaders of Bosnia, Croatia, and Yugoslavia negotiated an end to the war in Bosnia.

In 1999, the ICTY indicted Slobodan Milosevic, President of Yugoslavia, for crimes committed in Kosovo. Again, there were denunciations that focused on timing. NATO's intervention in Kosovo was underway, and critics claimed that prosecuting Milosevic made the tribunal an arm of NATO and would prevent a settlement. That prediction was wrong. Milosevic capitulated two weeks after he was indicted, and the war ended.

The next sitting head of state

to be indicted was Liberian President Charles Taylor. Although the prosecutor for the Special Court for Sierra Leone indicted Taylor in March 2003 for his crimes in the war that had devastated that country, the indictment was not disclosed publicly until three months later. Again, timing was a principal factor in sparking outrage. The indictment was made public in June 2003, while Taylor was attending a peace conference in Ghana that was intended to settle the civil war in his own country.

As hosts of the conference, the Ghanaians were particularly incensed at being asked to make an arrest under such circumstances, and refused to do so. Though it is possible to sympathize with the Ghanaians, who were placed in a very awkward position, the indictment intensified demands for Taylor's removal. He fled into exile in August, effectively ending the war. Taylor is now be-

Is International Justice the Enemy of Peace?

ing tried in The Hague, and, after two decades of horrendous conflict, Liberia is at peace and rebuilding under a democratic government.

We cannot rule out the possibility that doing justice in Darfur will make it more difficult to achieve peace there. Justice and peace are independent values. Each is immensely important in its own right. In the long run, doing justice seems a way to contribute to peace, but one cannot be sure that things will work out that way every time.

On the basis of the record so far, however, some skepticism seems in order over the claim that justice will obstruct peace. After all, the conflict in Darfur has been underway for five and a half years. An estimated 300,000 people have been killed by forces ultimately controlled by al-Bashir, and an estimated

2.7 million have been forcibly displaced. Just a week before the indictment, seven African Union and UN peacekeepers were killed and 22 injured during an ambush by well-armed militiamen. No peace settlement is under serious consideration. So what basis is there for suggesting that the indictment of al-Bashir is obstructing a settlement? What settlement is there to obstruct?

It should be noted that the Darfur case was referred to the ICC by the UN Security Council. The treaty establishing the ICC empowers the Security Council to delay a prosecution if this is needed to bring about a peace settlement. So critics of the indictment should at least be made to bear the burden of demonstrating to the Security Council that a peace settlement is likely if they wish

the Council to act.

The world embarked on the creation of international criminal tribunals a decade and a half ago in order to end the impunity with which heads of state and leaders of guerrilla groups commit atrocious crimes. As the arrest of Karadzic shows, that effort is gradually succeeding. The indictment of al-Bashir, who is as entitled to the presumption of innocence as any other defendant, is another important milestone on the long road that must be traveled to reach the goal that the world set for itself.

Aryeh Neier, the president of the Open Society Institute and a founder of Human Rights Watch, is the author most recently of *Taking Liberties: Four Decades in the Struggle for Rights*.

UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries 30 July 2008

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

Newspaper Summary

(The News, New Democrat, The Informer, The Inquirer, Heritage, The Analyst, Public Agenda)

House Casts another "Vote of No Confidence" in Two Deputy Ministers

- The media reports that the House of Representatives has cast a "Vote of no Confidence" in Acting Finance Minister Tarnue Mawolo and Deputy Justice Minister Ceaineh Johnson. The House found them guilty of violating the investment incentive law of Liberia by affixing their signatures to the US\$150 million contract that awarded the Buchanan Renewable Energies (BRE) a 100 percent tax waiver. Appearing before the House yesterday, Minister Mawolo however differed that the contract was in violation of the Liberia incentive law. Minister Marwolo explained that the 150 million component of the document is the total investment the company is expected to undertake within the duration of the contract while the 3.4 million is the initial investment which is below 10 million and does not require legislative ratification. Last week, the House of Representatives cast a similar "Vote of no Confidence" in the Chairman of the National Investment Commission, Dr. Richard Tolbert. Meanwhile, President Sirleaf on Monday nullified the BRE contract stating that there were errors in the contract.

Liberia, China Sign MOU...To Build Three Schools

(The Analyst, Public Agenda, the News, The National Chronicle, The Informer and Heritage)

- The Governments of Liberia and China have signed a memorandum of understanding under which China will lead the construction of three schools in Montserrado and Bomi Counties. An Executive Mansion release says the agreement was signed Thursday by the Ministers of Finance, Public Works, Justice and Education on behalf of the Government of Liberia while Chinese Ambassador Zhou Yuxiao and the project's construction manager signed on behalf of the Chinese Government.
- In remarks following the signing ceremony, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf reiterated Liberia's commitment to the Sino-Liberia partnership. The President hoped for mutual relationship between the two countries, in which Liberia will also offer China something tangible to further cement the relationship. For his part, Chinese Ambassador Zhou emphasized his government's commitment to completing programs earmarked by President Hu Jintao during the China Africa Forum in 2006

Liberia Launches Demographic Health Survey Report

(The Inquirer, National Chronicle, Heritage)

- Government in collaboration with development partners will today launch the 2007 demographic and health survey.
- According to the Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS), the report highlights the current fertility rate in the country.
- In a statement, LISGIS said the report will also provide the current child and maternal mortality rate as well as the prevalent rate of HIV/AIDs in the country.
- The survey was conducted by LISGIS, the Health Ministry and the National Aids and STI's Control Programme and was funded by the Government, USAID, UNFPA, UNICEF and UNDP.

Radio Summary

Star Radio *(News culled today from website at 9:00 am)*

President Sirleaf Addresses National Legislature

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf is expected to address the joint session of the National Legislature today.
- The President's address comes a few days after the House of Representatives passed a "Vote of no Confidence" in the Chairman of the National Investment Commission, Richard Tolbert for what the Lower House termed as violating the investment incentive law.
- However, a statement issued by the House of Representatives said the President will brief the body on the result of the Liberia partnership forum held in Berlin, Germany.
- The session will also review a number of priority issue relative to the scrupulous implementation of the Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS).

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

Two Deputy Ministers Follow Tolbert with Vote of No Confidence"

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

Government Launches 2007 Demographic Health Survey Report

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

U.S. Based Group Wants Reduction in Lawmakers' Salaries

- The U.S. based Universal Human Rights International (UHRI) has called for a proportionate reduction in the salaries of Liberian lawmakers.
- The group argues that the salaries and benefit of lawmakers are not representative of the people they serve saying it must reflect the living standards of their constituencies.
- The UHRI proposed an amendment to the constitution for a part-time legislative act to reduce the salaries of lawmakers.

CNN

Thursday, 31 July 2008

Karadzic set for first court appearance

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (CNN) -- Former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic will make his first court appearance Thursday, more than 13 years after he was first indicted for war crimes, genocide, and crimes against humanity.

Serbian newspaper Blic published the first post-arrest photograph of the 63-year old, which showed he had cut his hair and shaved off the beard that had helped disguise his identity for so long.

Karadzic arrived at The Hague on Wednesday morning following his extradition from Serbia.

Officials at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) said Karadzic will receive a medical check and be informed of the court's procedures and then go to the cell where he will stay during the trial. He will also be given a legal briefing that outlines his rights and options for defense.

The first indication of how Karadzic plans to plead will come at 4 p.m. (10 a.m. ET) Thursday, when Karadzic appears in court for the first time. He can enter a plea or defer a plea for as long as 30 days.

Chief Prosecutor Serge Brammertz said Karadzic's arrest last week after more than a decade on the run is important for the victims of his alleged crimes and for international justice.

"It clearly demonstrates that there is no alternative for the arrest of war criminals and that there can be no safe haven for fugitives," Brammertz said.

The tribunal has indicted Karadzic on 11 charges including genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, which Brammertz called "the most serious crimes under international law." Watch the chief prosecutor's statement »

The charges stem from the 1992-95 war in Bosnia-Herzegovina, when Karadzic was president of a breakaway Serb republic.

The tribunal accuses Karadzic of leading a campaign that killed thousands of men, women and children, mainly Bosnian Muslims and Bosnian Croats who were killed by Serbs as part of a violent effort to rid the region of non-Serbs.

Forces under Karadzic's command rounded up tens of thousands of non-Serbs and held them in camps where, an indictment says, the Serbian forces "tortured, mistreated, sexually assaulted and killed non-Serbs," the tribunal said Wednesday.

"The indictment also charges Karadzic with responsibility for a protracted campaign of shelling and sniping of civilian areas of Sarajevo, killing and wounding thousands of civilians, including children and the elderly," a tribunal statement said.

Serbian authorities arrested him July 21 in Belgrade, Serbia, after more than a decade on the run -- a time during which he disguised himself by growing a long white beard and mustache and re-invented himself as a practitioner of alternative medicine.

Brammertz gave rare praise to Serbian authorities, saying they deserve "full credit" for apprehending Karadzic.

"This arrest is a major achievement of Serbia's cooperation with the tribunal," he said.

Thursday's court appearance will offer the public the first chance to see Karadzic since his arrest. Until now, the public has only seen old photographs and videos of him in disguise.

The actual trial will not begin for several months, Brammertz said. Watch what awaits Karadzic »

Karadzic's lawyer in Belgrade said last week that his client planned to defend himself at the tribunal. Brammertz said he doesn't know whether Karadzic will choose to represent himself, but he advises against it.

"It will be, at the end of the day, up to the judges to decide if they allow self-representation or not," Brammertz said. "As far as the prosecution is concerned, already in the past we have objected and mentioned the difficulties of going with self-representation, especially if you speak about very complex cases, very complex legal questions where legal counsel is in our minds a very important advantage."

The Bosnian war was Europe's bloodiest conflict since World War II and the longest of the wars spawned by the breakup of Yugoslavia in the early 1990s. Backed by the government of then-Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic, Bosnian Serb forces seized control of more than half the country and launched a campaign against the Muslim and Croat populations that introduced the term "ethnic cleansing" to the world.

Karadzic was removed from power in 1995, when the Dayton Accords that ended the Bosnian war barred anyone accused of war crimes from holding office. Though he portrayed Serbs as victims, Karadzic is accused of responsibility for the massacre at Srebrenica, a U.N. "safe area" Serb troops overran in July 1995.

Nearly 8,000 Bosnian Muslim men and boys were killed at Srebrenica, the worst European massacre since World War II.

Milosevic died in March 2006 while on trial at The Hague. The highest-ranking figure to remain at large is Gen. Ratko Mladic, the Bosnian Serb military commander during the Bosnian war.

Milosevic was transferred to the tribunal in June 2001, and his trial began the following spring. When he died in March 2006, Milosevic had been on trial for more than four years.

Brammertz said he hoped to learn lessons from the way the Milosevic trial proceeded, perhaps not allowing Karadzic's case to run as long.

"We intend, of course, to use the pretrial phase to make a certain number of motions to the judges in order to have written evidence accepted, to have adjudicated facts accepted, which means that we hope that the amount of evidence to be presented in court therefore will be reduced," he said.

"It will be a complex trial as I said," he added. "Do not expect a trial taking only a very short period. But we are fully aware of the importance to be efficient in this regard."