

**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.  
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact  
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## 'Fambul Tok' Launches Reconciliation Tournament

*By Bampia J. Bundu*

In collaboration with Play 31, Fambul Tok Sierra Leone on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2008 launched a 'Chiefdom Reconciliation Tournament' in a village called Gbekedu in the Kissy Ten Chiefdom, Kailahun District.

Speaking at the launching ceremony, Fambul Tok's Technical Advisor, Mr. Robert Roche pointed out that reconciliation is a continuous process as it achievement requires time. "In that regard, Fambul Tok has decided to engage various chiefdoms within the Kailahun District in 'home' and 'away' tournaments in order to foster peace, unity and friendship among the chiefdoms," he disclosed. He noted that Fambul Tok have been engaging the minds of the people for the past one year, adding that the project is now using football to unite the people once

again. He therefore called on the locals to use the football process as a way of emancipating their minds from the odds of the eleven years brutal civil war and accept each other as one family.

A football encounter between Gbekedu and Tamba Taykoh villages, with both males and females, mark the commencement of the tournament. The encounter saw the visiting Tamba Taykoh female team defeating the host by three goals to two, in a penalty shoot out, while the male team of the host, Gbekedu, defeated the visiting team by two goals to nil.

Earlier in his welcome address, Section Chief of Gbekedu Village, George Nyuma wondei commended Fambul Tok for bringing happiness once again in their lives, adding that since the inception of their village, they have never been engaged in such friendly activities with other villages.

Section Chief of Tamba Taykoh Village, Tongi Chiefdom, Fatoma Josiah confessed that the occasion has accorded him and some of his subjects the opportunity to visit the host village, while commended the Fambul Tok project for such a laudable venture. "Fambul Tok has really unite us as one family and we will from now henceforth be working in the interest of each other," he pointed out.

Fambul Tok Director, Mr. John Caulker thanked the chiefdom people for mobilizing themselves in their numbers to grace the match which shows their commitment towards the reconciliation process. He revealed that the tournament will continue till next year as all of the chiefdoms in the district will play among themselves home and away matches.

Standard Times  
Tuesday, 11 November 2008

## OPINION

BY SANTIGIE KAMARA

One of the key commandments in the book of Exodus clearly states that "thou shall not kill" this presupposes that only the creator in heaven and earth has the right to take the life of his servants without questioning. However, disobedience and lack of love has left the world in a very precarious situation.

It is very common to hear about murder, manslaughter genocide to name but a few in most parts of the world.

Following the establishment of the United Nations in 1945, the founding fathers thought it prudent to guarantee the lives and safety of its members which brought about the formation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948. The right to life is one of the basic fundamental principles enshrined in the universal declaration. Today, this particular with levity as man's inhumanity to man is holding sway on a daily basis. This writer is totally against the act of murder or manslaughter based on the simple fact that "every individual has the right to life irrespective of race, financial status or other wise. Innocent people have lost their lives as a result of the "mosaic" law. Africa leaders are in the habit of using the Death Penalty against those they perceive to be a threat to their regimes. The late Ibrahim Sorie Fomah and other lost their lives as a result of what most political pundits referred to as "political threats". Moreover, GMT KaiKai and other faced the gallows as a result of political threats.

The brutal murder of Bambay Kamara, Yayah Kanu Salammy Coker to name but a few came as a result of revenge, hatred and suspicion.

Similarly, a total number of twenty-nine military officers were summarily executed and others earmarked for future death.

Research also indicates that the late rebel leader of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) Col. Foday Sabannah Sankoh was on death row and followed his release by the government of the late President Siaka Stevens. He nursed diabolic plans which led to an untold suffering on the lives of so many Sierra Leoneans.

Unlike Foday Sabannah Sankoh, there are quite a considerable number of Sierra Leoneans who have lost their loved ones as a result of the death penalty. While other are still enduring the pinch, the perpetrators are moving in peace with their families forgetting about the nightmares they have left in the life of others. In African, quite a considerable number of countries have abolished the death penalty. Over forty-eight countries in Europe have done like wise.

In a bid to ensure that this particular dream is realize in Sierra Leone, Amnesty International Sierra Leone Section has taken up the fight in ensuring that the death penalty is abolished in Sierra Leone. The Director of Amnesty International - Sierra Leone, Mr. Brima Sheriff spoke about the essence of the occasion and noted that it is significant for the death penalty to be abolished completely from the law books of the country. The Director noted that there were quite a considerable number of Sierra Leoneans that were under the death row following the AFRC era and noted that the likes of I.B. Kargbo, the Chief of Defence Staff Major General Nelson Williams, Denis Smith who were also on death row are now serving the country to the best of their abilities. Mr. Sheriff stated that if these people had been killed, they would not have been on a position to help Sierra Leone as they are now doing.

The Director of LAWCLA who chaired the programme, Mr. Melron Nicol-Wilson made reference to the TRC recommendations and noted that the death penalty is a violation of Human Rights. Mr. Nicol-Wilson made references to countries that have already abolished the death

## The need to abolish Death Penalty in Sierra Leone

penalty and added that the Sierra Leone domestic court must change from death penalty to life imprisonment.

In his statement, the AIG crime services Mr. Francis Munu spoke on the significance of the occasion and noted that civilization must prevail.

Mr. Francis Munu maintained that law is used to regulate the society and called for a balance. The AIG reminded the gathering that the law makes provision for the death penalty and it should be established genuinely. Mr. Munu revealed that he will not subscribe to the notion of "abolishing the death penalty" and pointed out that it has nothing to do with crime and people should be accountable for their actions.

The legal adviser attached to the Ministry of Defence Lt. Col Koroma noted that

death penalty acts as a detriment and made mention of fabricated cases and argued that it caused the death of innocent people. Lt. Col. Koroma also spoke about the high rate of crime in some part of the country and observed that people on death rows, in most cases die before their time. The legal adviser supported the notion and called on the authorities concerned to abolish the death penalty from the law books of Sierra Leone.

In reality, the seminar actually brought together a mixed reactions from members of the civil society and other members of the public regarding the abolishment of the death penalty.

Even though the law prescribed a tooth for a tooth punishment against murderers, since the summary execution of twenty nine sol-

diers in 1999, there is no reported case of hanging or capital punishment in the country. There are a considerable number persons of such sentences at the Pademba Road prisons who are on death row as a result of the Mosaic Law. Certainly, the government of President Ernest Bai Koroma has to look into that particular law so that it will be properly modified. Unlike any part of the world, Sierra Leone is now a Democratic state where the rule of law is applicable.

Even though that is the case, it does not signify that the death penalty should not be in existence. There are some certain states in the United States of America where capital punishment still holds sway.

Therefore, one should not come into hasty conclusion like that without giving instances to the acclaimed nation of democracy.

Inna Lillahi wa inna ilaihi rajeun  
"Truly! To Allah we belong and truly,  
to Him we shall return  
**THE LATE RETIRED MAJOR ABU NOAH**



**My dearest dearest Abu  
Today marks the third year  
since you are gone  
I loved you then  
And I love you now  
- missing you!  
Rest in Perfect Peace**

**Till we meet again  
Forever Michaela**

## BBC World Service Trust

Monday, 10 November 2008

### **Profile of Mr. Terry Munyard, Charles Taylor's Lawyer who withdrew from the case**

CHEESEMAN: The Presiding Judge of the Special Court for Sierra Leone sitting in The Hague on last Friday announced the withdrawal of one of the top Lawyers of accused Former Liberian President, Charles Taylor from the war crimes trial. The Judge said Mr. Terry Munyard attributed his withdrawal to professional ethics. BBC World Service Trust, Joseph Cheeseman in this profile looks at the Defence Lawyer Terry Munyard and the effect of his decision to withdraw temporarily from Taylor's team.

Mr. Terry Munyard, a British barrister, was one of the four top lawyers the Special Court for Sierra Leone provided for the legal defence of Mr. Charles Taylor when the former Liberian leader sacked his first defence lawyer, Karim Khan.

Mr. Munyard always stepped in the leadership position of the defence team when lead defence lawyer, Courtenay Griffiths was away.

Mr. Munyard was known by the Judges and his fellow lawyers for stirring the Court into laughter when everything in the court seemed too serious and unhuman. He was also known for his tough and probing questions to Prosecution witnesses when they appeared on cross-examination.

Terry Munyard received his Bachelor of Law, LL.B. Degree from Kings College in London, England in the 1970s. Mr. Munyard practices civil and criminal law, specifically working on public order and political activist cases.

Mr. Munyard was called to the Bar of England a year after completing his law degree but did not at that time contemplate going into practice. In the 1970s he worked in various areas of legal publishing, specializing in the then developing fields of employment and discrimination law. He was an active trade unionist at the same time. Mr. Munyard was involved with the National Council for Civil Liberties, eventually being elected to its national executive committee.

The three lawyers presently on the defence team, Courtenay Griffiths, QC, Lead Counsel, Terry Munyard, Co-Counsel, and Morris Anyah, Assistant Co Counsel, have meticulously shared the Prosecution witnesses among themselves based on experience.

Courtenay Griffiths and Terry Munyard, the two senior lawyers on the Defence team usually take on the insider and linkage witnesses. These types of witnesses are reported to be more knowledgeable about the alleged linkage between Mr. Taylor and the Sierra Leone rebel group, the RUF. Mr. Morris Anyah, the youngest on the team, is usually given the crime base witnesses or victims of the war in Sierra Leone. Indeed the withdrawal of Mr. Munyard from the Defence team is likely to upset the balance of this division, especially where a new lawyer is coming in to learn the chemistry of Charles Taylor's war crimes case.

One legal expert here told me the withdrawal of Mr. Terry Munyard from Charles Taylor's Defence team would indeed negatively impact the morale and ability of the team to provide a vibrant and robust defence for Mr. Taylor when the Prosecution concludes its side of the case. However, Lead Defence lawyer, Courtney Griffiths indicated to me they would be asking the Court for few months break to prepare themselves better for the legal defence of Charles Taylor.

## Peterborough Examiner

Monday, 10 November 2008

<http://www.thepeterboroughexaminer.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=1288826>

### **Hunting down war criminals**

Posted By SARAH DEETH , EXAMINER STAFF WRITER

Once in charge of overseeing local investigations into break and enters and assaults, Steve Streeter has been investigating war crimes for the past year.

Streeter, an inspector with the city police department, returned from an investigative mission in Sierra Leone, a West African country recovering from a brutal civil war lasting from 1991 to 2002.

The RCMP has an international peace operation branch, he explained, sending police officers from across Canada to countries like Jordan, the Ivory Coast, the Congo, Afghanistan and Haiti.

When he applied, Streeter was working as the staff sergeant in charge of the criminal investigations branch of the city police department.

Streeter heard about the opportunity through former city police sergeant friend Rob Hotston, who went to Sierra Leone in 2006.

"He gave me a little heads up about what it's all about," Streeter said.

He left for Sierra Leone Sept. 24, 2007, leaving behind his wife and three grown children.

There was an orientation for new officers, he said, but he didn't receive any formal training for his new job.

"Investigative work, police work, is the same wherever you are," Streeter said. "You identify witnesses, you interview witnesses, you get the facts."

Those facts included stories about mass rapes, acts of terrorism, abductions, sexual slaver and conscription of child soldiers.

"There are thousands of those kids over there," Streeter said. "There's a whole generation that's lost."

He coped, he said, by trying to remember that everything has already happened and the past is beyond his control.

"And that the reason I'm there is, in some small way, to make it right for people," he said

Streeter's information was passed on to prosecutors working for the UN-established Special Court for Sierra Leone.

"We actually got some of the first convictions for the conscription of child soldiers," Streeter said.

Streeter worked with police officers from all over the world, including Pakistan, Australia, the United States and Sierra Leone.

"We could not have done our jobs without them," he said of his Sierra Leone colleagues.

During his time in Sierra Leone, Streeter lived in a walled compound in Freetown, the nation's capital.

The biggest adjustment, he said, was not the culture or the work, but living in the poorest nation in the world.

The average daily income in Freetown is only about \$1, he said. "But you're there for a couple of weeks, and you start to pick up on the smiling faces."

He said he grew to love the natural beauty of the country.

"From my house I could walk to the Atlantic Ocean," he said. "It was a little bright spot in life."

The prominent environmental degradation was hard to accept at times, he said. On one occasion Streeter was on the beach when he noticed a large cargo ship passing by.

"I noticed some kind of slick substance was coming out of it," Streeter said. That substance was a load of garbage the ship dumped into the ocean.

"Within hours, a five kilometre stretch of beach was ankle-deep in garbage," he said. "That was kind of hard to swallow."

Streeter managed to return home three times during his mission, and his first trip back was a bit of a shock.

After landing in Heathrow airport, he couldn't help but notice the designer stores and gourmet bars throughout the airport.

"It was like a huge shopping mall for the rich and famous," Streeter said. "That really hit me."

Streeter returned to Peterborough Sept. 25.

He's now in charge of uniform patrol officers, which, he said, requires a different set of skills.

Sierra Leone is a better place today than it was six years ago, he said, and hopefully the world will realize that.

There's also the hope, he said, that people will take notice of what happened there during that war.

"And that these kinds of wars won't be tolerated," he said.

Article ID# 1288826

**United Nations**  **Nations Unies**

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

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**UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries**  
**10 November 2008**

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

**Newspaper Summary**

**Two Experts Return Home after giving technical assistance to team investigating Email Scam**

(The Inquirer, Liberian Express, The Parrot)

- The Inquirer newspaper reports that two experts from the James Mintz Group, Inc (JMG) who were in the country to assist the Independent Ad-Hoc Committee to investigate the alleged e-mail scam linking the President office to corruption have returned home.
- According to a release issued in Monrovia recently, the group was engaged to assist the independent Ad Hoc Committee in the identification, reviewing and analyzing certain government computers and servers.
- The JMG experts were to also take a forensic image of the hard drives and servers, and analyze the data from those computers to determine their authenticity and review other information relevant to the investigation. The investigation involves former Minister of State, Willis Knuckles alleged circulation of emails soliciting money from the Liberia Ship and Corporate Registry (LISCR) relative to the extension of that company contract to manage the Liberia's Maritime Programme. Meanwhile, the Liberian Express and the Parrot newspapers report that the 'Dunn's Committee' headed by United States based Liberian Professor Elwood Dunn has been allotted an amount of US\$ 400,000 for the investigation process.

**Over-spending, Illegal Payments at NASSCORP --Audit Report Claims**

(The News, Heritage, The Monitor)

- The report of audit conducted by the General Auditing Commission (GAC) on the National Social Security and Welfare Corporation (NASSCORP) covering the financial year 2005/6 and 2006/2007 revealed over spending and other illegal payments of honorarium and stipend to board members. The report indicated that between July 2005 and July 2007, the Board of Directors of NASSCORP awarded four increases in the remuneration it established and paid itself.
- According to the GAC, though NASSCORP Decree is explicit that the Director General of the entity shall not receive Board remuneration, the current Director General Francis Carbah and his immediate predecessor participated in honorarium and stipend payments made to the Board amounting to US\$17,750.
- The Monitor newspaper quoting a GAC audit report called for the standardization of board fees for public institutions urging the government to ensure a timely resolution. Meanwhile, the Heritage newspaper reports that Mr. Carbah was over the weekend reportedly "stopped" from leaving the country to attend a World Bank Seminar on Social Security Reform in the U.S.

**MTA Acquires Additional Buses to East Transport Problem**

(The Informer, Heritage)

- The Monrovia Transit Authority (MTA) has announced the arrival of ten new buses to ease the transportation problem across the country. Addressing a news conference at the weekend, MTA Managing Director, Sewan Wiah said the buses came through a grant that was presented by an American based company in Holland.



- Mr. Wiah said though the buses are intended for the use of the public, he said students will be prioritized and that special arrangements will be put in place to allow them pay a minimum fee on the buses.

### **Press Union Elect New Leadership**

(The Inquirer, The Monitor, The News, New Vision, The Parrot, Liberian Express, The Independent)

- The media reports that the Press Union of Liberia (PUL) has elected a new corps of officers to administer the affairs of the Union for the next two years. Those elected are the current Secretary General, Peter Quaqua as President. Mr. Quaqua won the elections by 137 votes from a total of 245 votes cast ahead of his rival Bernard Waritay with 107 votes.
- Broadcast journalist Philip Sandi was elected Secretary General by 120 votes ahead of Jallah Grayfield who garnered 69 votes, Philip Moore 38 votes, and George Walkins 15. The only female in the race, Inquirer's Melissa Chea-Annan and LBS's Jacob Parley both won by white ballot for the positions of Assistant Secretary General and Vice President respectively, while Mr. Joshua Kpenneh was re-elected Treasurer after defeating Moses Whenyou of Star Radio with 143 votes to 96. Although the election has ended but there were talks amongst supporters of Waritay that the process was marred by irregularities.

### **NIC Debunks Bribery Claims**

(The News, The Inquirer, The Analyst, Daily Observer)

- The National Investment Commission (NIC) has described as "blatant, unwholesome, and diabolical lies" a local newspaper report that its officials have received kickbacks for the rebidding process for the Western Cluster mining concession. NIC in a press release over the weekend said the story published in the November 7-9 edition of the Liberian Express under the caption "LME, NIC Officials in Bribery Scam as 'Knucklesgate' probe gets underway is nothing but falsehood and fabrication intended to ruin the hard-earned image of the commission.
- According to the release, the story alleges that the Public Procurement and Concession Commission has requested a halt to the re-bidding process for the Western Cluster Iron Ore Mining Concession in the wake of reports that two more officials of the Ministry of Lands and Mines and the National Investment Commission may have received kickbacks in the deal. In the face of these developments, the NIC said, it is challenging the author of the story to go beyond mere allegation and provide credible proof to authenticate the story.

### **German Government to Train Road Builders**

(National Chronicle, The Informer, The Monitor, The News, New Vision)

- The German Government has commenced a four-year capacity-building programme for private Liberian road builders. Under the arrangement through Inwent, the German government will develop the skills of local engineers in the field of road construction and maintenance over the four year period. Inwent Senior Project Manager for Business Development and Infrastructure, Heinrich Plote said the German government has been attracted to Liberia's infrastructure development due to the destruction caused by the civil war.
- Mr. Plote spoke at the end of a planning workshop for members of the Association of Liberian Road Constructors in Monrovia. He said his government would support members of the organization and other private road constructors and enterprises in the road sector in Liberia.
- Mr. Plote said 200 private enterprises in the field of road construction throughout Liberia would benefit from the programme and the constructors will also be taught how to prepare tenders for contracts. Mr. Plote indicated that it has been observed that Liberian companies lack capacity to singularly undertake big projects.

## **Radio Summary**

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

### **LET-USA Dedicates US\$45,000 School Project in Bong County**

- The Liberia Educational Trust USA-branch has dedicated a US\$45,000 primary school project in Salala, Bong County.
- The dedication which was carried out in collaboration with the Monrovia Office of LET is an annex to the Martha Tubman Primary School.
- According to the Chairman of LET-USA, Robert Sirleaf the dedication is in celebration of the students of the school and the people of Salala.
- Mr. Sirleaf said the school construction project is among several others being targeted by Government.
- The head of LET-Liberia, Dr. Evelyn Kandakai said Liberia stands to benefit from a total of US\$1.3 million.
- The Salala School project was implemented by the Liberia Agency for Community Empowerment, LACE.

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

### **PUL Elect New Officials**

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

### **More Buses to Ease Monrovia's Transport Problem**

### **STAR RADIO** *(News monitored today at 9:00 am)*

#### **UNMIL SRSG Takes Night Patrol with Police**

- The Special Representative of the Secretary-General Ms. Ellen Margrethe Løj has acknowledged that the Liberia National Police (LNP) is still faced with numerous challenges but said the mission was prepared to join the LNP in facing these challenges which include logistics and infrastructure among others.
- Speaking when she toured several police stations and depots in Monrovia and its environs Saturday night, Ms. Løj said there is nothing the UN wants more than success for the LNP in its operations.
- She said the tour gave her a firsthand impression of the challenges faced by LNP personnel, especially during their night operations.

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

#### **Government to Construct National AIDS Secretariat**

- Government says it would shortly construct a National AIDS Commission Secretariat to lead a national response to the disease.
- According to a release, a steering committee has been constituted to coordinate HIV/AIDS activities in various ministries and agencies.
- The HIV/AIDS steering committee would provide needed policy direction, institutional development and capacity building.

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## BBC

Monday, 10 November 2008

### Rwandan anger at Germany arrest

Rose Kabuye was detained on her arrival at Frankfurt

Rwanda's foreign minister has condemned the arrest of a senior Rwandan official in Germany in connection with a killing that triggered the 1994 genocide.

Rosemary Museminali told the BBC that the arrest of Rose Kabuye, chief of protocol for Rwandan President Paul Kagame, was "illegal and flawed".

Ms Kabuye was detained in Frankfurt on a warrant issued by a French judge.



She is one of nine senior officials wanted over the shooting down of former President Juvenal Habyarimana's plane.

All are members of the party which ousted the genocidal regime.

Rwanda's foreign minister said Germany had no right to arrest Ms Kabuye.

"The whole system which the arrest warrants were based on was flawed, it was based on politically motivated information," she told the BBC's Network Africa programme.

Correspondents say Ms Kabuye, a former guerrilla fighter with the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF), now Rwanda's ruling party, has heroic status in Rwanda.

She has since served as an MP and mayor of the capital Kigali, and is one of President Kagame's closest aides.



### Diplomatic immunity?

The plane carrying Habyarimana, a Hutu, was shot down on 6 April 1994, as Mr Kagame's Tutsi rebels were advancing on Kigali.

The Hutu extremist government accused the RPF of the assassination. Within hours, militias set up roadblocks and started to systematically murder any Tutsis or moderate Hutus they could find.

The RPF has always accused the Hutu extremists of shooting down the plane, to provide a pretext for carrying out their genocidal plans.

Some 800,000 people were slaughtered in just 100 days before Mr Kagame's forces ousted the Hutu government.

A German diplomat told AFP news agency that Ms Kabuye had been in Germany on private business and that Germany was "bound to arrest her" by a French-issued European arrest warrant.

Ms Kabuye has visited the country before but under German law could not be arrested as she was part of an official delegation.

Ms Museminali said Rwanda had been aware of warnings about the risk of arrest, but said her country believed Ms Kabuye was protected by diplomatic immunity.

"We did not think they had any right or any base to arrest her."

"Rose Kabuye is going to fight it out and we are very confident that she will emerge innocent," she said.

Ms Kabuye's lawyer said she would be transferred to France "as quickly as possible".

Ms Kabuye and the eight other senior RPF officials were indicted in France in 2006 following an investigation.

The charge led to an immediate break in diplomatic relations between Paris and Kigali that has continued ever since.

Ms Museminali said the African Union was taking up Ms Kabuye's arrest with the EU.

"We do not think that France has any right to pass any legal jurisdiction over Rwanda, a country especially that has been implicated in the 1994 genocide," she said.

President Kagame has long accused France of complicity in the genocide.

## **BBC**

Saturday, 8 November 2008

### **UN alleges war crimes in DR Congo**

Villagers said the rebels killed civilians in their homes

The rebel forces of Gen Laurent Nkunda and pro-government militias in the Democratic Republic of Congo have been accused of war crimes by the UN.

The alleged crimes took place in the eastern town of Kiwanja this week when it was captured by Gen Nkunda's forces. Several civilians were reported killed.

The UN said investigators did not yet have a clear idea of what happened.

Fighting between government and rebels forces has left hundreds of thousands of people displaced since August.

The head of the UN mission (Monuc), Alan Doss, said he was concerned about what he described as "targeted killings of civilians by different armed groups" in Kiwanja, 80km (50 miles) north of the provincial capital Goma.

"We condemn them, we deplore them, and we remind the different groups involved that international law is very clear on this - these are war crimes that we cannot tolerate," he said, quoted by AFP news agency.

The UN investigation followed reports by Human Rights Watch that civilians were killed in their homes in Kiwanja, both as pro-government militiamen tried to take the town and after their departure.

At least 26 people are known to have died. UN military spokesman Jean-Paul Dietrich told the BBC that while some may have died in crossfire, others were summarily shot.

The rebels said they had attacked armed, pro-government militiamen, but reports say there was no evidence to suggest the dead people were fighters.

### **Humanitarian catastrophe**

The investigation came as African leaders meeting in Nairobi called for an immediate ceasefire, for UN peacekeepers to be given a wider mandate and for humanitarian corridors to be set up to help the displaced.

The DR Congo government has accused UN peacekeepers of failing to stop rebels from killing civilians.

But while Rwanda has been accused of supporting the rebels a Uruguayan officer serving with the UN peacekeepers in DR Congo said the government side was being reinforced by Angolan troops.

The officer spoke to international news agencies in Goma, saying the Angolans had arrived there four days ago.

Two eye-witnesses have told the BBC they have seen Angolan troops in the area.

Angola is an ally of the Congolese government and has been invited by Mr Kabila to provide military assistance. But its government has said it will not intervene directly.

Angola and Zimbabwe both supported DR Congo with troops during the 1998-2003 war.

The situation in DR Congo has been described as a humanitarian catastrophe, and an estimated 250,000 people have been made homeless by the conflict.

The UN has 17,000 peacekeepers in DR Congo, making Monuc its largest mission in the world.

But only a few hundred peacekeepers are in the areas affected by the latest violence, and human rights groups have also criticised the UN for failing to prevent the killings.

Gen Nkunda says he is fighting to protect his Tutsi community from attack by Rwandan Hutu rebels, who fled to Congo after the 1994 genocide.