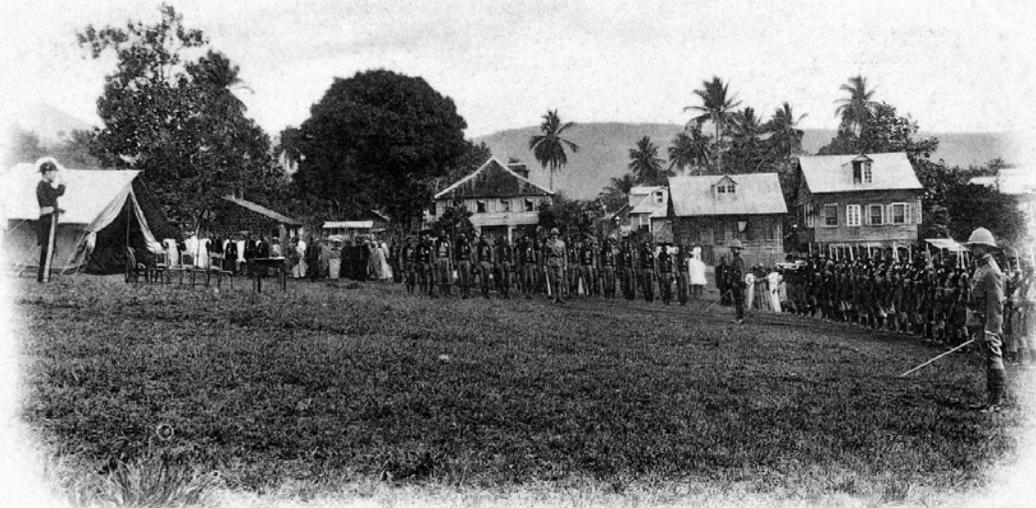


SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE OUTREACH AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE



Sir C. A. King Harman, Governor of Sierra Leone, &c. His Excellency Giving the Royal Salute. Medals for Bravery at Ashanti about to be presented.

The British "Ashanti Expedition" took place between 7 December 1895 and 17 January 1896. Sir Charles Anthony King-Harman was Governor of Sierra Leone between 1900 and 1904.

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:

Monday, 8 June 2009

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
Martin Royston-Wright
Ext 7217

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International News

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Awareness Times Online

Friday, 5 June 2009

In Sierra Leone, Deputy Special Court Prosecutor Completes Successful European Mission

The Deputy Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, Joseph F. Kamara, has completed a mission to several European capitals where he promoted the work of the special court.

One of the goals of the events was for participants to profit from the lessons of the Special Court. "Sharing our knowledge and learning from one another, we further the cause of justice and peace for all", said Mr. Kamara

During the month of May, Mr. Kamara first delivered a lecture at a training seminar in Berlin, Germany on rapid response to humanitarian crisis. He spoke on the role of the Special Court in securing peace and justice in Sierra Leone.

Next, the Deputy Prosecutor was in Oslo, Norway, for an INTERPOL conference, where he addressed the challenges of prosecuting international war crimes.

Mr. Kamara then gave two final presentations in the Dutch capital of The Hague, seat of the Special Court trial of former Liberian President, Charles Taylor.

At the International Criminal Court, he spoke on the RUF Judgment and what it means for international jurisprudence and for Sierra Leone.

At the Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies, Mr. Kamara concentrated on the legacy of the Special Court.

Participants were keenly interested in the precedents set by the Court. Mr. Kamara focused in particular on the recent groundbreaking rulings in the RUF judgment. "The groups I met with were particularly impressed by the Sexual Slavery as a Crime against Humanity and forced Marriage - the first such convictions in world history".

"The Special Court has set a standard of independence and fairness hitherto unknown in the sub region", said Mr. Kamara.

"There is great interest in our work and accomplishments internationally. Sierra Leoneans should be proud to know this tribunal is looked to as a model for justice in many respects".



Press Release, 08 June 2009

UNMIL/PIO/PR/34

Evoking age-old traditions, UN Envoy honors Mongolian Guard Force for supporting justice

Freetown – Sierra Leone: The Mongolian Guard Force, mandated to protect the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone, has been praised for the positive impact they have made in peace-building efforts in the West African Region and for carrying out their duties with “constant grace and respect.” The remarks were made by UN Envoy Ellen Margrethe Løj in Freetown, Sierra Leone at a medal parade ceremony held on 4 June, in honor of 250 members of the Mongolian Contingent, currently under the command of the UN Mission in Liberia – UNMIL.



“Mongolian Peacekeepers have acquired a reputation for bringing exceptional discipline to peacekeeping operations, an international outlook and an ever-ready approach to their tasks, regardless of the environment they find themselves in,” she said, as she applauded them for rapidly adapting to their new environment.

The Contingent provides security for the premises of the Special Court, protects the detainees when they are moved outside the Court’s compound, and if required, is responsible for evacuating officials and detainees in cooperation with the UNMIL’s Quick Reaction Force (QRF). In addition, a support engineer platoon is stationed at the Level 1 hospital. The Special Court for Sierra Leone is mandated to try those bearing the greatest responsibility for crimes against humanity and violations of international humanitarian law in the Sierra Leonean conflict since November 1996.

Ms. Løj extended her gratitude to the 10 women peacekeepers assigned to the Mongolian Guard Force for their dedication and for the commitment they have demonstrated in providing vital services in communications and as doctors and nurses. She pointed out that: “the ceremony couldn’t come at a better time – a week after commemorating UN Peacekeeping day - which this year, paid homage to women in peacekeeping.”

Evoking Mongolian traditions, Envoy Løj paid a special tribute to the Contingent Commander, Lt Col. Majdaa Munkhbayar, for inspiring dedication and commitment in the management and discharge of the Contingent’s duties, and for embodying the great Mongolian leader, Ghengis Khan’s notion of *inspiring and preserving good management of family, society and state affairs at large*. “You have demonstrated that commitment to the community around you by repairing one of the classrooms of the Bay Army Pre-primary School, and by distributing notebooks, pens and pencils to school children in Freetown.” She said.



She further echoed the great Mongolian leader’s emphasis on “*correcting ourselves, and then putting our house and the state in order,*” and took the opportunity to remind all UN peacekeepers, civilian and uniformed to “uphold, protect and preserve the peace that the region has worked so hard to attain,” urging all to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the values of the United Nations.

“We are all responsible, as individuals and as a collective, to guard against sexual exploitation and abuse to protect those that we have travelled so far to serve, by safeguarding their intrinsic dignity,” she said, referring to the Secretary-General’s policy of zero-tolerance against sexual exploitation and abuse.

Present at the ceremony were Force Commander Lt. General ATM Zahirul Alam, UNMIL’s Director of Mission Support, Mr. Stephen Lieberman; Sierra Leone’s Minister of Defense and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, as well as the Deputy Registrar of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, Ms. Binta Mansaray and Senior UNMIL Military Officials.

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 5 June 2009

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

International Clips on Liberia

Liberia Tops Most Corrupt Countries- Report

Kampala, Jun 05, 2009 (New Vision/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- UGANDA is ranked among the countries most affected by petty bribe, according to the 2009 Global Corruption Barometer of Transparency International, an international watchdog.

A total of 55% of Ugandan respondents said they or anyone living in their household paid a bribe in the past 12 months.

Uganda scores the third-highest among 69 countries in Asia, America, the Middle East, Europe and Africa sampled. It shares the third place with Cameroon.

Liberia tops the list, with 87% of respondents saying they paid a bribe in the past year, followed by Sierra Leone (62%).

Local Media – Newspaper

Three Liberians Charged with Stealing US Aid to Liberia

(The News, New Vision and New Democrat)

- Reports attributed to international wire services in the local dailies suggest that three Liberians - Joe Bondo, Morris Fahnbulleh and Thomas Parker - have been charged with massive fraud involving more than \$1 million worth of U.S. aid to Liberia through a Christian humanitarian organization, World Vision Liberia.
- The officials who worked for World Vision in Liberia are accused of directing a scheme to take food aid intended for relocating Liberians, sell it in local markets and keep the profits for themselves. They are also accused of using construction materials meant to restore war-ravaged communities to build multiple homes for themselves, with labor provided by U.S.-funded aid workers.
- One of the accused, Joe Bondo who was manager on the project, has been in a Washington jail since his arrest May this year. The three officials have been charged with 12 criminal counts, including fraud, theft, lying to investigators and witness-tampering.
- Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf recently admitted that corruption in both the public and private sectors was one of the major obstacles to the progress of her government. From observation and analyses, it is evident that the effects of corruption on development are disastrous, particularly restricting vulnerable people's access to such essential services as water, health and education.

Government Admits Failure in Phase-one of Poverty Reduction Strategy

(Daily Observer, Liberia Journal, The Inquirer, Liberian Express, The News)

- Government has released its preliminary report on the first phase of the Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) otherwise known as 'Lift Liberia'.
- Planning Minister, Amara Konneh said the Government was only able to deliver 18 percent of the 107 deliverables targeted for the first phase of the PRS.
- Minister Konneh told journalist that 68 percent of the deliverables were off target while 13 percent did not meet the deadline.
- The first phase of the Poverty Reduction Strategy ran from April 2008 to April 2009,

- Under the PRS Government identified 347 interventions in three years which is estimated at US\$1.6 billion.

Senate Committee Set to Probe US\$1 Million Transfer from CBL

(Daily Observer, New Vision, New Democrat)

- The Liberian Senate has ordered a probe into the transferred of more than US\$1 million recently from the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) to a private account at Eco- Bank Liberia. The Senate's decision followed a communication from three Senators requesting an investigation into the "scam". Three persons alleged to have masterminded the transfer of the US\$ 1,171, 751.00 from the CBL and the Ministry of Finance (MOF) to EcoBank have been charged for allegedly committing economic crime against the State and are currently in court facing trial.
- They are Joseph Kollie, Officer-in Charge of the Banking Department, Jessie Korboi, Officer-in-Charge of Domestic Banking, all from the CBL and Toe Watson from the Reconciliation Department at the Ministry of Finance.

Finance Ministry Heats Up Domestic Debt Payment

(The Informer, National Chronicle, The Analyst)

- The Ministry of Finance has intensified the payment of domestic debt to scores of vendors/ creditors in the country. Deputy Finance Minister for Administration Arthur Fumbah said the payment exercise will be done in two categories in accordance with KPMG's 2006 and 2008 vetting results.
- KPMG is a renowned international British accounting firm that vetted claims of Liberian domestic debt. The Deputy Minister said the first category of payment covers outstanding payment to claimants and reissued checks for claimants who did take delivery of checks in 2006; the second category of payment ranges from US\$1 to US\$25,000.
- Deputy Minister Fumbah then advised that claimants to bring along proper ID cards, driver license, passport power of Attorney, business registration and tax clearance certificate before receiving their domestic checks. The Finance Ministry last week announced that it would pay out up to over 60 million Liberian dollars in domestic debt, and phase of the payment process commenced late Wednesday.

House Increases Pressure on Greaves

(Daily Observer, The Informer)

- The 64-member House of Representatives has increased pressure on the Liberia Petroleum Refining Company's (LPRC) Managing Director Harry Greaves to halt the US\$24.8 million.
- The move comes barely three days after the LPRC's writ of prohibition to the Supreme Court of Liberia against the House leadership. The LPRC withdrew the Writ of Prohibition filed against the House of Representatives on Wednesday, 24-hours after it was filed. At Thursday's Plenary, House Chief Clerk James Kabba read a letter from the Court withdrawing an earlier stay order issued through the writ of prohibition by Mr. Greaves. Following the reading, plenary reaffirmed its earlier decision to halt the contract to expand LPRC's storage facilities.
- During last Tuesday's session Mr. Greaves was asked by the House to put a halt to the ZAKHEN contract he signed until the Lawmakers review same.

Chico Poised to Build New Bridge in Bokay Town - Bassa Highway

(The Informer)

- China Henan International Cooperation (CHICO), the company contracted by the Liberian Government to rehabilitate the Cotton Tree- Buchanan Highway said the company will construct a new bridge on the river in Bokay Town. Making the disclosure, Mr. Wu Zhenjioa, Special Assistance to the Manager of CHICO, said the reconstruction of the bridge is part of the contract signed between the Government of Liberia and his company. He said the bridge will be rebuilt to allow the free flow of traffic.

Local Media – Star Radio *(News monitored today at 09:00 am)*

Government says it failed in implementing First Phase of Poverty Reduction Strategy

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

Three Liberians Accused of Diverting Food Aid

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

Government Pre-Qualifies Four Companies for Management of LEC

- Government has pre-qualified four international companies for the management of the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC).
- LEC authorities say the winner of the contract will provide technical services including strengthening the managerial capacity of the entity to make it a viable institution.
- Speaking at a news conference Thursday, Deputy Manager for Technical Services and Operations, Mr. Joseph Mayah said the contract seeks to provide electricity to thirty percent of the population of Monrovia by 2015.

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

Group of Civil Society Organizations Declare “Day of Mourning” against Corruption

- More than 15 civil society organizations have declared a day of “national mourning” against the growing wave of corruption in the country.
- At a news conference Thursday, the committee called all Liberians to join the campaign wearing black on Tuesday June 9.
- The Chairman of the Civil Society task force, Saydee Monboe said the declaration of black Tuesday will symbolize the death of corruption.
- He disclosed that position statements will be presented to the United States Embassy in Monrovia and the European Union drawing attention to the situation.
- Mr. Monboe said other diplomatic institutions including the Ghanaian Embassy, the African Union, ECOWAS and UNMIL would also be notified.

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

Truth F.M. *(News monitored today at 10:00 am)*

“Special Senate Committee” Set to Probe US\$1 Million Transfer from CBL

- The Liberian Senate has ordered a probe into the transferred of more than US\$1 million recently from the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) to a private account at Eco- Bank Liberia.
- The Senate’s decision followed a communication from three Senators requesting an investigation into the “scam”.
- Three persons alleged to have masterminded the transfer of the USS\$ 1,171, 751.00 from the CBL and the Ministry of Finance (MOF) to EcoBank have been charged for allegedly committing economic crime against the State and are currently in court facing trial.
- They are Joseph Kollie, Officer-in Charge of the Banking Department, Jessie Korboi, Officer-in-Charge of Domestic Banking, all from the CBL and Toe Watson from the Reconciliation Department at the Ministry of Finance.

Voice of America

Sunday, 7 June 2009

ICC Prosecutor: Sudan's Government Must Arrest Bashir

By Margaret Besheer

The chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court says in the coming months his office will continue to monitor crimes committed in the Darfur region of Sudan while stepping up efforts to arrest fugitives -- including Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir. From United Nations headquarters in New York, VOA's Margaret Besheer reports.

Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo told the Security Council Friday that it is the government of Sudan's responsibility to arrest President Bashir. He stated, "the arrest warrant concerning President al-Bashir has been sent to the Sudanese authorities. The government of Sudan has the responsibility to arrest him. Their legal obligation stems from the U.N. Charter and U.N. Security Council resolution 1593."

That resolution, adopted in 2005, gave the court at The Hague the authority to investigate possible war crimes and crimes against humanity perpetrated in the Darfur conflict since 2003.

So far the court has granted arrest warrants for three individuals - Sudanese Minister Ahmed Harun, militia leader Ali Kushayb, and most recently, President Omar al-Bashir. The court also issued a summons for rebel leader Bahr Idriss Abu Garda as a result of an attack on African Union peacekeepers in Haskanita that killed 12 in 2007.

Moreno-Ocampo told the Security Council that his primary concern is arresting those already indicted and continue the review of on-going crimes. He said there are no plans to open new investigations, at least for the next six months.

He called on states who are party to the Rome Statute, which established the International Criminal Court, to arrest anyone indicted found traveling in their countries. And called on those who are not parties to cooperate. Moreno-Ocampo continued, "states not Party to the Statute have no such legal obligation, but Resolution 1593 urges them to cooperate fully with the Court."

Moreno-Ocampo said every effort will be made to have regional organizations, such as the African Union and Arab League, influence the Sudanese to try such grave crimes in their own national courts. He added, "should regional organizations succeed in promoting national accountability mechanisms for the victims of other crimes, and stop new abuses, we would not need to further intervene."

Speaking to reporters with the prosecutor standing next to him, Sudanese Ambassador Abdalmahmood Abdalhaleem Mohamad made clear the Khartoum government does not plan to arrest its own president.

Ambassador Mohamad stated, "we are not going to cooperate in any way with it. And indeed, the record is very clear to everybody - that it is politically motivated and that it will not deliver justice to anybody. So we are not going to cooperate and this is the message to the man on my left -- that he will be dreaming if he thinks that in any way Sudan is going to cooperate with his court."

Unfazed by the ambassador's remarks, Moreno-Ocampo said in many countries presidents have been arrested. He pointed out that they are often marginalized first and then held accountable. He said the court is a permanent body and could wait for Mr. Bashir's arrest. But he stressed that the people who are suffering in Darfur do not have the luxury of time on their side.

Earth Times.org

Friday, 5 June 1009

<http://www.earthtimes.org/articles/show/>

ICC: Al-Bashir will be brought to justice, arrest may take time



New York - Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir will eventually be brought to justice even though it may take time to arrest him, the prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) said Friday. While Luis Moreno Ocampo admitted the difficulty of apprehending a head of state like al-Bashir, he said that other former leaders had been brought to court, including former Liberian president Charles Taylor and Serbian president Slobodan Milosevic.

"The arrest warrant concerning President al-Bashir has been sent to the Sudanese authorities," Ocampo told the United Nations Security Council, which convened to review the ICC's work in the past six months.

"The government of Sudan has the responsibility to arrest him," Ocampo said. Sudan has not signed the Rome Statute, which would make it a party to the ICC, and has rejected the warrant issued by the ICC on March 4 to arrest al-Bashir.

Ocampo said judicial decisions against heads of state are "a process that can take time, months or years. In the end, however, they all face justice."

The ICC has charged al-Bashir with five counts of crimes against humanity, including extermination, rapes and killings, and two counts of war crimes. The court rejected the prosecution's demand to indict al-Bashir for genocide.

Since the ICC issued the arrest warrant in March, al-Bashir has travelled freely outside of Khartoum to several Middle East countries that are not party to the ICC and therefore not obligated to implement the warrant.

Chinaview.cn

Saturday, 6 June 2009

Sudanese ambassador to UN lashes at Ocampo

CAIRO, June 6 (Xinhua) -- Sudanese ambassador to the United Nations condemned statements made by the International Criminal Court (ICC) prosecutor Louis Morino Ocampo on Darfur during an open session of UN Security Council, pan-Arab Al-Arabiya TV reported Saturday.

During the session, Ocampo read out a summary of the ICC biannual report on Darfur at which he said that evidences he has proved that Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir is involved in the crimes committed in Darfur, and the mass killing is still continuing, the prosecutor added.

In a statement to the press following the session, the Sudanese ambassador harshly condemned Ocampo's statements, describing him as a criminal, a liar and a mercenary of death and destruction.

"Once again the mercenary of death and destruction, the so called ICC prosecutor is spreading lies and carries forward a message of destruction and sabotage peace in Sudan," the ambassador said.

The diplomat accused Ocampo of dishonesty, saying that "he exposed his professional lack of honesty because he said everything in the report but not the position of the regional, international organizations that deplored and rejected his submission."

The Sudanese ambassador added that Sudan is not going to cooperate with the ICC, saying that Ocampo "will be dreaming" if he thought any way that Sudan is going to cooperate with his court which he described as a court of European justice that killed and enslaved many Africans in the past.

Moreover, he termed Ocampo as "a fugitive of Sudanese justice ... one day the people of Sudan will give you a lesson about justice."

On his part, Ocampo said al-Bashir will sooner or later stand before the ICC for trial.

Editor: Wang Guanqun

NationalJournal.com

Thursday, 4 June 2009

ONLINE EXCLUSIVE

Congress Presses Obama On African Conflicts

Despite Obama's Campaign Pledges, Action Has Been Slow; Lawmakers And Activists Are Pushing For More
by David Herbert

President Obama promised to take a hard line on genocide and other war crimes during the campaign, but since then he has been slow to tackle some of Africa's most intractable conflicts, leaving many activists impatient and Congress calling for more action.

Most recently, lawmakers have focused on the two-decade-long insurgency in northern Uganda, where the Lord's Resistance Army has kidnapped and conscripted thousands of children and displaced more than 2 million people. Obama talked tough on such atrocities during the campaign last fall, pledging to resolve the crisis in Darfur and recognize the Armenian genocide. And sure enough, the administration features some heavy hitters from the anti-genocide community, like Samantha Power, author of *A Problem from Hell: America in the Age of Genocide* and now an adviser on the National Security Council, and Ambassador to the U.N. Susan Rice.

But in April, Obama avoided bringing up the Armenian genocide during and after a trip to Turkey to avoid offending a key regional ally. With a growing to-do list of other issues, Obama has been slow to act on current crises as well, and some activists are tapping their fingers.

"They're realizing that there aren't easy answers, that there needs to be bold action, and they haven't taken it." -- Rep. Ed Royce, R-Calif.

"I think some of us are pretty antsy to have this administration get their ducks in a row, and while you have these champions in government, it may take time," said Julia Spiegel, a Uganda-based field researcher for the Enough Project, an anti-genocide effort of the Center for American Progress.

A bill introduced two weeks ago by Sens. Russ Feingold, D-Wis., and Sam Brownback, R-Kan., and Reps. Jim McGovern, D-Mass., Brad Miller, D-N.C., and Ed Royce, R-Calif., would require Obama to develop a comprehensive strategy to end the brutal two-decade-long war in Uganda.

The U.S. has collaborated with Kampala to take out Lord's Resistance Army leader Joseph Kony before, with disappointing results. In December, the U.S. Africa Command provided financial and logistical support to the Ugandan army in a botched cross-border raid that failed to catch Kony and indirectly led to the slaughter of hundreds of Congolese villagers by retreating LRA fighters.

The Uganda bill is just the latest prod from Congress encouraging Obama to take action on African conflicts.

Five representatives publicly chided the president in March for not having appointed a special envoy on Sudan. A week later, Obama tapped former Air Force Major Gen. Scott Gration for the post.

Despite the president's perhaps understandable focus on other domestic and international issues, Royce sees the reliance on Congress for encouragement and leadership problematic. And at a time when the administration doesn't appear to have the appetite to pursue aggressive solutions, the California

Republican worries that Obama is considering loosening sanctions on the Sudanese government as a sign of good faith, something he considers a mistake.

"I noticed that candidate Obama was very critical of [George W.] Bush's Sudan policy," said Royce, who has been active in resolving conflicts in Liberia and Sierra Leone. "Now they're realizing that there aren't easy answers, that there needs to be bold action, and they haven't taken it."

Obama's early moves on Darfur haven't been a hit with activists either, particularly the fact that there was no envoy yet in place when the International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant for Sudanese President Omar Al-Bashir in March. The military strongman expelled 13 aid organizations in retaliation, worsening the humanitarian crisis. Jerry Fowler, president of the Save Darfur Coalition, said he and others had unsuccessfully lobbied the administration for months to appoint an envoy before the widely expected warrant was handed down.

Graton's belated appointment also raised some eyebrows among activists -- the general had previously lobbied for the top job at NASA -- and they are anxious for the president to follow through on a campaign pledge and present a plan to end the genocide in Darfur.

"There's a critical need for the administration to articulate what their strategy is on Sudan," Fowler said. "[For Obama,] just using his voice would be of huge importance."

The Enough Project had hoped that Obama would mention Darfur in his Cairo speech today, and he did, if fleetingly. Northern Sudan is overwhelmingly Muslim, as is most of Darfur.

Regardless of complaints that the administration isn't making these conflicts a priority, there are signs that the administration and Congress aren't communicating well enough with African leaders. In Uganda, many government and military officials were caught off guard by the recent bill, which they learned about from belated local press accounts, according to Angelo Izama, a Ugandan political reporter and founder of a think tank on security issues in the Great Lakes region.

"It took everyone by surprise," he said. "If anything, it shows you how removed some of this activism is from the players here."

The Phnom Penh Post

Monday, 8 June 2009

What is a legitimate defence for KRT accused?

Written by Peter Annear

Dear Editor,

It is a long-established principle, for a fair trial, that the accused have the right to a defence. For this reason, the five former leaders of the Khmer Rouge now appearing before the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia have been provided with all the means for their own legal representation at the court's expense.

The responsibility of the defence team in a trial such as this needs to be carefully considered. In general, the circumstances seem to be crystal clear: The Khmer Rouge presided over a political system that caused the death of 1.6 million people. It is therefore difficult, on the face of it, to refute the charges against those who led the Khmer Rouge.

Consequently, counsel for Khieu Samphan, Jacques Verges, has openly employed tactics based on the "rupture defence", his own invention within legal defence strategies. In brief, the strategy aims to destroy the trial process rather than convince the court of the innocence of the accused parties.

Now other defence teams within the Khmer Rouge trial, including the team defending Nuon Chea, appear to have come to the same conclusion - without much hope of refuting the charges against their clients, they seek instead to destroy the trial itself. We are driven to this conclusion by witnessing the repeated, gratuitous and mostly irrelevant attacks on members of the court staff and its institutions by these defence teams.

In circumstances such as these, one would expect that the role of the defence team is to ensure that the evidence against the accused is presented with absolute accuracy and fairness, and the defendants are judged then on the merits of the case. It is to the discredit of those who have taken on the role of the KR defence that they have chosen to do otherwise. What is threatened now is that these defence teams will destroy a process designed to settle, once and for all, the historical record. This will be a tragic disservice to those most affected by the Khmer Rouge regime.

Reuters

Monday, 8 June 2009

FACTBOX: Divisive issues facing Lebanon

HARIRI TRIBUNAL

Establishing an international tribunal to try suspects in Hariri's killing was a key goal of anti-Syrian politicians, who blamed Damascus for the killing. The issue aggravated political conflict with Syria's allies in Lebanon.

Plans for the court were never approved by the Lebanese parliament or president. The Security Council voted in May 2007 to set up the Special Tribunal for Lebanon and it began work in March at The Hague. Hezbollah again questioned the neutrality of an international inquiry into the assassination after the tribunal ordered the release of four pro-Syrian generals held without charge since 2005.

They had been detained at the request of the then head of the U.N. investigation. Calling the inquiry "dishonest" and "politicized," Hezbollah's leader said on May 1 that nobody should ask him to accept the tribunal's decisions in advance. The issue could raise tension in Lebanon again if the prosecutor issues indictments or calls as witnesses any Syrian officials or their Lebanese allies.

Syria denies any role in the killing.