

**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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UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 17 September 2009

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

International Clips on Liberia

UN mission in Liberia confirms mandate extension

MONROVIA, Sep 17, 2009 (Xinhua via COMTEX) -- The UN peacekeeping mission in Liberia has confirmed the extension of its mandate by one year after the world body unanimously adopted a resolution early in the week on the issue. Ellen Margrethe Loj, the special representative of the United Nations secretary central and head of the mission to Liberia, told reporters at the mission headquarters in Monrovia on Wednesday that the UN mission in Liberia will last till Sept. 30, 2010 under the resolution adopted Tuesday by the UN Security Council. The resolution underscored the mission's continuous support for the peace process in Liberia, she noted. According to a copy of the resolution circulated to journalists at the mission's headquarters, the United Nations Security Council endorsed the secretary general's recommendations that the mission, known as UNMIL, should continue in the West African country, with a gradual and phased drawdown to ensure that it effectively carries out its security responsibilities.

Liberia toughens drug trafficking laws

(AFP) MONROVIA — Liberia's parliament approved a new law Wednesday to crack down on narco trafficking amid concerns that druglords want to turn the West African nation into a transit point. The new law does not allow drug smuggling suspects bail while on trial and imposes a minimum sentence of 25 years in prison for those found guilty, said George Mulbah, head of the chamber of deputy's law reform panel. "We have seen reasons to believe that there is a need to pass the law because there is a gradual attempt by drug traffickers to make Liberia a drug transit point," Mulbah told AFP. Under the current law suspects can post bail and convicts face sentences of five to 10 years in prison. "I will like to say bravo to our legislature," said James Jeddah, director of the country's drug enforcement agency. "We are happy and we believe that this will empower us, making us more efficient in carrying out our mandate."

International Clips on West Africa

Sierra Leone

<http://www.voanews.com/english/Africa/2009-09-17-voa4.cfm>

Sierra Leone Journalists Urges Court to Decriminalize Libel

The President of the Sierra Leone Association of Journalists (SLAJ) is urging the country's Supreme Court to expedite its ruling in a case concerning the 1965 Public Order Act which criminalizes libel. Sierra Leone journalists had challenged the Act on the grounds it was detrimental to media freedom and freedom of expression. They even staged a news blackout of the judiciary this past June to protest the Supreme Court's failure to rule on the matter. The journalists said they postponed their blackout only after President Ernest Bai Koroma intervened and promised that the court would deliver its verdict in mid-September. Umaru Fofana, president of the Sierra Leone Association of Journalists said the Public Order Act is contrary to Sierra Leone's current constitution.

APC Government Accounts for Boat Disaster...163 Onboard; 39 Rescued; 61 Corpses Recovered

www.news.sl/drwebsite/publish/article_200513010.shtml

The Joint Maritime Committee Task Force set up by the ruling All People's Congress (APC) government, to look into circumstances surrounding a passenger boat that capsized in the high seas of the country, has submitted its findings to the President of the Republic of Sierra Leone. The report was submitted to President Ernest Bai Koroma on Monday 14th September 2009; exactly one week after the boat coming from Shenge in the southern part of the country capsized and drowned several Sierra Leoneans on Tuesday 8th September 2009.

Guinea

Rusal outcome to 'set tone for Guinea investors'

www.businessday.co.za

CONAKRY — Resources companies with operations in Guinea will be unsettled by a court decision to rescind a deal with Rusal, but even a jumpy Guinean government is unlikely to throw out the economically vital miners. A court in the world's biggest bauxite exporter said last week that the 2006 sale of the Friguia alumina refinery to Russian metals giant Rusal was unlawful, and the Guinean state would resume ownership of its largest industrial operation. Since then, the government said it was open to talks with Rusal, the world's biggest aluminium maker. The court's decision is the latest in a string of disputes between the government of Capt Moussa Dadis Camara — who took power in a military coup in December after the death of president Lansana Conte — and the foreign mining groups that work in the west African country.

Ivory Coast

Trafigura offers payouts in Ivory Coast waste case

AMSTERDAM/ABIDJAN, Sept 17 (Reuters) - International commodities trader Trafigura said it is close to offering compensation to 31,000 people who said they became ill from toxic waste dumped around the Ivorian economic capital of Abidjan. Trafigura has repeatedly said it is not to blame and that chemical slops disposed of three years ago in Ivory Coast could not have caused the deaths and serious illnesses to which they have been linked. Trafigura Beheer BV and British law firm Leigh Day & Co, which is representing claimants, said in a joint statement late on Wednesday they were in settlement talks, but did not mention a figure. "It currently appears that this settlement is likely to be acceptable to most, if not all, of the claimants," Trafigura and Leigh Day & Co said. The class action was scheduled to be heard in an English court in London next month.

Ivory Coast Election Could Be Delayed Again

<http://www.voanews.com/english/2009-09-16-voa32.cfm>

Ivory Coast has missed the deadline for publishing provisional voter lists for the country's long-delayed presidential elections, now scheduled for November. Ivory Coast's election commission confirmed that it has missed the September 15 deadline for publishing voter lists, a setback that could postpone presidential polls already delayed many times since 2005. The vote, now slated for November 29, is an attempt to find a lasting political solution to nearly a decade of internal conflict in the once stable West African nation that is the world's top cocoa producer.

Local Media – Newspaper

UN Security Council Extends UNMIL's Mandate

(The Inquirer, New Democrat, New Vision, The Analyst, Daily Observer, The Informer)

- The United Nations Security Council has extended the mandate of UNMIL for another year.
- The Council however endorsed the UN Secretary General's recommendation for UNMIL to continue its drawdown process, gradually and in phases.
- Addressing UNMIL's weekly press briefing Wednesday, the Special Representative of the Secretary General to Liberia, Ellen Margrethe Løj said in line with the draw down, the council has agreed to reduce the troops in the country by 2000.
- Ms. Løj said the overall military strength of UNMIL would be 8,200 while the number of UN police force would remain at 1,400.
- She said the Security Council also authorized UNMIL to assist government with the 2011 elections by providing logistical support and facilitating a peaceful process and called on the authorities to ensure the timely passage of all required electoral legislations so the 2011 elections can be held on schedule.

UNMIL Not Involved in Rape of Sapo Forest Reserve

(Daily Observer)

- [SIC]The Special Representative of the Secretary General to Liberia, Ellen Margrethe Løj has denied that personnel of the mission were involved in illicit mining and criminal activities in the Sapo National Park.
- The clarification comes in the wake of reports that several Ghanaians, Nigerians, Malians and Nigerians some believed to be serving with UNMIL were involved in the plundering of the National Park.

Slain AFL Soldier Buried As Family Demands Release of Autopsy report

(Daily Observer)

- The AFL Soldier that died in training has been buried amidst calls for the release of report of an autopsy conducted on his body.
- Private Ambrose Welleh Swen was shot during ambush training at the Camp Sandi Ware military barracks outside Monrovia.
- Defense Ministry authorities described the killing as an accident and denied report that live bullet was used. But the family doubted the report and called for an autopsy.
- Family sources said the autopsy was conducted two weeks ago but the result is yet to be released.

TRC Report Implementation Unlikely, Legislature Suspends all Actions

(New Democrat, Heritage, National Chronicle)

- The Legislature has finally adopted a joint resolution to suspend all actions on the final report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Liberia (TRC).
- The adoption of the joint resolution followed intense lobbies between the Senate and House of Representatives.
- The joint resolution provides that all actions on the implementation of the TRC final report remain suspended until January 2010.
- It also mandates President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf not to submit any progress report to the Legislature on the execution of the TRC recommendations as required by law.
- The TRC in its report recommends the prosecution of alleged perpetrators of the war including lawmakers, and a public office ban for the President and others.

Government begins Book Distribution, Targets Primary Schools

(Daily Observer, Heritage)

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has launched the distribution of over one million primary school textbooks across the country.
- The textbooks covering Mathematics, Social Studies, Science and Language Arts are expected to be distributed to all primary schools throughout the country.

- Launching the distribution at the state-owned, E. Jonathan Goodridge High School, President Sirleaf urged students to take their lessons seriously to compete with others in the sub-region.
- She warned that any copy of the books found on sale would be confiscated but did not say what would happen to people selling them.
- The over one million books were purchased by government at the cost of US\$4.4 million.

Oil Discovered at Liberia-Sierra Leone Border

(Daily Observer, New Democrat)

- Anadarko Petroleum Corporation, the oil exploration company that discovered one billion barrels of oil in Ghana, has announced a deep water discovery at Liberia-Sierra Leone border.
- The oil was discovered at the Venus exploration well in block SL6/07 off the shores of Sierra Leone.
- Explorers drilled the Venus B-1 well to a total depth of approximately 18,500 feet (about 5,900 feet of water) and encountered more than 45 net feet of hydrocarbon pay.
- According to a statement issued by Anadarko, Venus is the first deep water test at the Sierra Leonean-Liberian border.

Government of Liberia Lauds UNFPA

(The Monitor, The News)

- The Government of Liberia has lauded the UN Population Fund in Liberia for its commitment to the development of the country.
- Speaking when the new Resident Representative of UNFPA paid her a courtesy call, Foreign Minister Olubanke King- Akerele said the agency's continuous support to the development and welfare of the country has made the organization one of the viable partners of Government.
- Ms. Esperance Fundira replaces Ms. Rose Gakuba who ended her tour of duty recently.
- In response, Ms. Fundira promised to continue to lead the UNFPA's local operation for the benefit of the people of Liberia.

Local Media – Star Radio (*culled from website today at 09:00 am*)

TRC Report Implementation Unlikely, Legislature Suspends all Actions

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

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Slain AFL Soldier Buried As Family Demands Release of Autopsy report

Government begins Book Distribution, Targets Primary Schools

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

WAEC Monrovia Office Says Lack of Funds Hampering Operations

- The Monrovia Office of the West African Examinations Council says the lack of adequate support is seriously hindering its operations.
- The Head of WAEC, Professor Thomas Gaie said the budgetary allocation of over US\$500,000 can only settle salaries of the staff.
- Mr. Gaie said the lack of adequate funding has made his office unable to make its annual contribution to the regional office in Ghana since 2003 saying Liberia was indebted in the tune of nearly one million US dollars.

BBC Online

Wednesday, 16 September 2009

Finnish genocide trial in Rwanda

A Finnish court has moved to Rwanda to hear evidence in the genocide trial of a former Rwandan preacher who moved to the Scandinavian country in 2003.

Finland has charged Francois Bazaramba with genocide and 15 counts of murder in Rwanda in 1994.

Finnish law allows prosecutions for crimes against humanity wherever they are committed.

If found guilty, Mr Bazaramba, 58, faces a maximum sentence of life in prison. He denies all the charges.

'Enough evidence'

The Finnish court began sitting in Rwanda's capital, Kigali, on Tuesday.

Witness accounts were being heard "behind closed doors" in a hired office, a Rwandan judicial source was quoted as saying by the AFP news agency.

The source added that Rwandan judicial officials were not allowed into the hearings.

Mr Bazaramba is following proceedings via video link from Finland.

Some 800,000 people were killed in Rwanda's genocide

The Finnish court is expected to spend about a month in Rwanda.

Mr Bazaramba has been seeking asylum in Finland since 2003 after arriving from Zambia. He has been held in detention since 2007.

Finnish prosecutors have said they have enough evidence to try Mr Bazaramba, rather than extradite him to Rwanda where they fear he may not get a fair hearing.

The Tanzania-based International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda is still operating, but several other countries - including Canada and France - have tried genocide suspects.



Mr Bazaramba is following proceedings via a video link from Finland

Rwandan authorities accuse Mr Bazaramba, a Hutu, of having participated in planning, leading and carrying out the massacre of 5,000 Tutsis while the head of the Union of Baptist Churches of Rwanda (UEBR) in the municipality Nyakizu in southern Rwanda.

In the Rwandan genocide, about 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus were killed by Hutu militias after the assassination of the Hutu president.

Radio Netherlands Worldwide

Friday, 18 September 2009

Bagaragaza enters guilty plea at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR)

By International Justice Desk



Arusha, Tanzania

Michel Bagaragaza the former Managing Director of OCIR-Tea, the controlling organisation for the tea industry in Rwanda during the

genocide period, entered a plea of guilty on 17 November to the count of complicity in genocide as contained in an amended indictment.

Bagaragaza, who voluntarily surrendered to the ICTR on 16 August 2005 initially pleaded not guilty to the four counts of which he was indicted including “genocide” and “conspiracy to commit genocide”.

Bagaragaza was later transferred to the UN prison quarters of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia’s (ICTY) detention unit on 18 August 2005. The request came from the ICTR Prosecutor owing to security concerns related to Bagaragaza’s voluntary surrender to the tribunal.

Referral Orders Refused

Following the refusal of the ICTR’s Prosecutor request to have the trial moved to Norway on 19 May 2006 owing to the fact that Norway does not have a specific provision against genocide, the prosecutor requested the trial be moved to the Netherlands on December 12 2006.

On 13 April 2007 the ICTR-Trial Chamber III accepted the transfer of the case. However, in a similar case involving another Rwandan, The Hague District Court afterwards stated that the Dutch Courts do not have any jurisdiction in trying such a case. The referral order was therefore revoked and Bagaragaza was transferred back to Arusha, Tanzania on 20 May 2008.

Sentencing

The Chamber scheduled the hearing of character witnesses for the Defence in preparation for sentencing on 2 November 2009, following the Prosecutor’s presentation of the new indictment and pleas agreement.

The plea agreement was accepted by Trial Chamber III, composed of Judges Vagn Joensen, Bakhtiyar Tuzmukhamedov, and Gberdao Gustave Kam.

Reuters

Wednesday, 16 September 2009

Bosnian Muslims protest UN ruling

By Hermione Gee



Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

The International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) decided to release Plavsic, a former Bosnian Serb President, after she served two-thirds of an 11-year sentence for persecuting Muslims during the war.

"They don't think about the blood of so many of our children, whom we are still digging out of mass graves," said Kada Hotic, a mother still searching for a son who went missing in the 1995 Srebrenica massacre of 8,000 Muslims.

"Comfortable"

"Nobody feels sorry for them but they feel sorry for Plavsic, who spent her prison days very comfortably, writing books and memoirs," Hotic said.

Plavsic, a close associate of former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, pleaded guilty at her trial to persecutions on political, racial and religious grounds.

The relatives and wartime detainees who came from across Bosnia also protested before the U.N. office in Sarajevo against the court's decision to trim the scope of the case against Karadzic, indicted for genocide in the Bosnian war.

Calls for resignation

Protesters carried banners and burned pictures of Karadzic and tribunal judges. They called for the resignation of tribunal judge O-Gon Kwon, who last week asked prosecutors to cut Karadzic's indictment to avoid an over-lengthy trial.

Zumreta Sehomeric of an association of Srebrenica mothers said: "The Hague tribunal is politically corrupted, punishing the victims and awarding the criminals."

Celebrations

But while Bosnian Muslims, the biggest victims of the Bosnian war in which more than 100,000 people were killed, were outraged at Plavsic's release, Bosnian Serbs celebrated.

Bosnian Serb Prime Minister Milorad Dodik on Wednesday travelled to Sweden, where Plavsic is being detained, to visit the woman who installed him as a prime minister after Karadzic left politics in the late 1990s.

Dodik caused public outcry last weekend when he denied hundreds of civilians were killed and wounded in the Bosnian Serb wartime shelling of the northern town of Tuzla and the Bosnian capital of Sarajevo in 1995.

The Jerusalem Post

Tuesday, 15 September 2009

Mounting troubles with the Int'l Criminal Court

By Brett Joshpe

This piece was submitted before the Goldstone Report was released on Tuesday afternoon



Explosion from IDF artillery fire in Gaza during Cast Lead.

Photo: AP

Two things are happening on different sides of the Atlantic Ocean at the moment that bode poorly for freedom, democracy and defeating terror. As many are aware, US Attorney-General Eric Holder has appointed a special prosecutor to investigate whether CIA interrogations of al-Qaida members warrant criminal charges. Second - and less well publicized - the International Criminal Court's prosecutor, Luis Moreno-Ocampo, is contemplating whether the ICC has jurisdiction to investigate and potentially prosecute Israelis for alleged acts committed in Gaza during Operation Cast Lead.

The latter is troubling not just because an international tribunal is targeting the US's closest ally for waging a legitimate war of self-defense against terrorism. An overreaching ICC also has important implications for US officials. For one, the CIA issue could appear before the ICC at some point as well, despite the fact that the US - like Israel - is not currently a signatory to the court. Ocampo just announced that he was looking into possible war crimes committed by NATO soldiers, including Americans, in Afghanistan, which could foreshadow an investigation into other alleged "crimes" committed by US personnel.

WITH AN internationalist mentality that dominates his administration, President Barack Obama seems incapable of standing up either to far-left domestic or international pressure. Despite his pledge to "look forward" after the Bush administration, he is now squarely embroiled in the dirtiest kind of political fight, the kind that could lead to criminal charges. Furthermore, investigating CIA interrogations will undoubtedly chill future intelligence probing and hamper America's ability to collect information on possible terrorist plots.

Which is why, legally, the implications for the administration's recent decision to launch an investigation could be even greater than first realized. An American prosecutor should recognize the political radioactivity of pursuing Bush administration or CIA officials for trying to extract information from suspected terrorists. Americans, by and large, will not support it, and there will be a political price to pay. That is why it may be easier to punt the issue to the ICC. Doing so would enable the Obama administration to disclaim responsibility for the decision, hence washing its hands partially of the investigation it started.

It would also serve as a huge concession to the far-left, which has sought ICC accession since the court's creation in 2002. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has already expressed "great regret" that the US is not a signatory to the court. State Department legal adviser Harold Koh, also known for his internationalist views, criticized the Bush administration for "attacks on... the International Criminal Court," while also acknowledging that "the US government has long expressed concern about the authority of the ICC prosecutor to initiate investigations of US soldiers and government officials stationed around the world."



The International Criminal Court in The Hague.

Photo: Courtesy

The ICC's prosecutor is perilously close to doing exactly that with Israel. Organizations like Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, which are also highly critical of the US, are making wildly inaccurate accusations that Israelis committed war crimes and crimes against humanity during Operation Cast Lead. They continue to meet with Ocampo and publish reports urging him to initiate an investigation. Richard Goldstone's much-anticipated report to the United Nations Human Rights Council published yesterday said that both sides committed "war crimes" as well as "possibly crimes against humanity." The report, whose original mandate was only to investigate wrongdoing on the part of Israel, is likely to provide additional encouragement to Ocampo to move forward.

MEANWHILE, OBAMA continues to face domestic pressure from his liberal base on issues like health care and international affairs. If the US were to join the court or even allow it to investigate alleged interrogation abuses on an ad hoc basis, which is permitted under the Rome Statute, it would assuage the far-left, while further crippling our military apparatus and subjecting US officials and soldiers to second-guessing from unaccountable international bureaucrats. Yet it could happen, as it would satisfy some liberals' insatiable desire for some Bush administration flesh and provide the ultimate US mea culpa to the world community, while passing the ultimate decision whether to prosecute to an outsider.

It is shameful that Obama is not standing up, both to domestic and international pressure, and defending Israelis and Americans who risk their lives fighting for freedom. The war on terror is daunting enough without getting kicked in the gut by the very system and people they are protecting.

The writer is an attorney and author in New York City. He recently co-authored a memorandum of law that was submitted to the International Criminal Court.

The Daily Star

Thursday, 17 September 2009

The failures of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon are lessons to be learned

Abandonment not an option, but open court necessary to bring killers to justice

By Chibli Mallat

That the Special Tribunal on Lebanon (STL) has been a failure is a gross understatement. We need to salvage it, if necessary, against its own incompetence. This argument is validated by the immense yearning for justice in Lebanon and elsewhere in the Middle East. The Cedar Revolution was defined, from its earliest days, by its call for truth and justice. Four years later, we have grown ever more distant from both.

And yet what was the choice? We, who made the Revolution, called for an international tribunal because of the structural inadequacy of the Lebanese judiciary. Lebanese judges on their own were and continue to be unable to deal with the massive criminal conspiracy that killed our former prime minister, and the continued pattern of assassinations that followed.

Since most Lebanese believed (and continue to believe) that the Syrian leadership was responsible for the assassination, the alternative was to threaten military hostilities, at worst, and to cut Lebanon's relations with Syria, at least.

It is the fundamental role of a government to protect its people, and retaliation is in the order of things indeed permitted by international law and the right of self-defense under Article 51 of the UN Charter. The Lebanese government has done nothing so far. Even perfunctory measures such as limiting trade relations with Syria could not or were not taken. Considering the impotence of the government, we decided to go for the STL.

What is the choice now? The Special Tribunal on Lebanon failed because of the lack of professionalism amongst the prosecutors and their staff, including press secretaries whose main task seemed to stifle our criticism of their bosses.

The current prosecutor, Daniel Bellemare, has carried on with the mute and unprofessional work of his predecessor, Serge Brammertz. We hear nothing from them, except that we should not trust other sources, like the press, who are doing their job in their stead. Four Lebanese generals were apprehended, then released, and we know officially nothing of the reasons behind their long arrest, or their release.

I am not impressed by the tantrum of Jamil Sayyed, who oversaw one of the worst moments for Lebanese civil liberties in recent history, including when he brazenly shadowed journalist Samir Kassir for weeks on end just because of Kassir's courageous criticism of the police state Sayyed was putting in place. Yet the generals are entitled, as we are, to an explanation, and to compensation if they were thrown in jail for two years without cause. More purposefully, what are the investigators/prosecutors doing? What are they being paid for?

Then again, what is the choice now? To abandon the STL altogether is not an option, despite its dramatic shortcomings. To abandon the STL would be a direct appeal for people to take justice in their own hands, and they will. We should not have a shred of a doubt about this, except to remind ourselves against that temptation: when people take justice in their hands, oftentimes the innocent die instead of the guilty. So we need to salvage the STL on the basis of fundamental human rights principles.

The first principle is the reason the STL was established in the first place: to end impunity. The killers are still on the loose. For Hariri and the other two hundred victims killed or wounded in a pattern that started in October 2004, we were right to ask for truth and justice. We need to continue putting pressure on the STL to perform, and to tell us what they are doing, indeed to start opening up their files to the victims' families, or else for the prosecutor to resign.

If the STL indicts people, whoever they are, they need to be tried. The leading judges on the STL are respected international figures, and they will have to perform in accordance with international human rights standards, lest their reputation is ruined. If the Der Spiegel-rumored involvement of Hizbullah is confirmed; alternatively and additionally, if the STL does find clues involving the Syrian leaders, there is no other attitude to take but the request to see those formally accused or indicted tried. No amount of rapprochement with Damascus and Hizbullah within a national unity government can change that basic fact, that the killers should be surrendered to the tribunal for a proper trial.

The second principle is the protection of justice against politics. Like all international tribunals, the STL is "political," in the sense that its establishment needed to go through a political process, in this case the UN Security Council. This is in the nature of the beast. But it is necessary to minimize the impact of politics on the STL. The four generals' fate provides a useful example in this regard.

Despite the accusation of a politicized STL, they were released. If the STL was indeed political, they would still be in jail in the Hague. We also need to insist, against the detractors of the STL, that the importance of a tribunal comes from its holding its session in open court, and unfettered access of the accused to their lawyers, and for the victims to the investigation files. The victims' families should be more proactive in this request, and not allow the tribunal to be dominantly guided by Saad Hariri and other politicians.

The third principle is to widen the call for justice, not to narrow it. Amnesty International has underlined the need to address the large swathe of unpunished crimes in Lebanon, of which Rafik Hariri's murder is only one. I have advocated, and continue to advocate, that a serious process address all the innocent victims of the many Lebanese wars, for the silence that descended on the country in 1990 has simply failed to bring peace. The families of the victims can simply not be silenced. Like Hariri's family they have a right to know.

Likewise, the kidnapping by Moammar Gadhafi of Mussa al-Sadr requires an international mechanism that proves effective for his family and those of Abbas Badreddin and Muhammad Ya'qub, who "disappeared" on an official visit to Libya in 1978. Gadhafi and several co-conspirators were indicted in Lebanon in an important decision in 2008, and arrest warrants issued. They need to be made effective worldwide, and the UN is a good place to start.

Those three lessons of the STL are true also on a regional and international level. It is already happening, and the Pakistani government has asked for an international enquiry into the assassination of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. Last Sunday at the Fête de l'Humanité in Paris, I saw Palestinian activists and their French supporters advocating a Special Tribunal for Gaza.

Their requests are now bolstered by the important conclusions of the Goldstone-led UN investigation, excerpted on this page. From a practical point of view, the Commission is advocating, in case impunity continues within Gaza and Israel for those accused of war crimes and crimes against humanity, that the Security Council transfers the file to the International Criminal Court (ICC). This may be a significant development in international law generally, and in the Middle East in particular. What it also provides is a possibly more solid judicial remedy than the STL, which is the ICC.

Indeed, the emergence of the ICC resulted from the proliferation of special tribunals. International human rights organizations, along with key governments, decided in the mid 1990s that one international criminal court was better than several ad-hoc tribunals. We should start considering the transfer of the STL and its incorporation into the ICC.

In addition to the prosecution of the Sudanese president before the ICC for the atrocities committed in Darfur, three other major investigations and eventual trials are afoot: in Gaza, where the possibility of the ICC prosecutor to act is now bolstered by the call of the Goldstone-led UN mission's specific recommendation; in Lebanon, where the continued ineffectiveness of the prosecutor will push for a more serious professional body to take the matter up; and in Iraq, where a call of the government for an investigation and a Special Tribunal for the continuing atrocities of foreign-supported bombers in Iraq has come to a head. There, the lesson is particularly clear: the Iraqi government should join the ICC and refer the file of continued mass murder to the ICC Prosecutor.

International criminal justice is a new concept in the world. It is unfortunate that a couple of prosecutors in the STL have failed to discharge their duties, but the basic lesson learnt from the STL is the need for more justice, not less.

Chibli Mallat edits the *Daily Star* law page. A professor at the University of Utah and at Saint Joseph's University in Lebanon, and an international criminal lawyer, he is the author of "2221, The Lebanese Cedar Revolution – An essay on and non-violence and justice," Beirut 2007 (available on <http://www.mallat.com/articles/March2221.htm>).