

**SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE  
OUTREACH AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE**



**The famous 'East-end Paddle' masquerade in Maryland, USA**

**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:**

Tuesday, 1 December 2009

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.  
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## International News

Charles Taylor Helped Sierra Leonean Rebel Commanders... / <i>CharlesTaylorTrial.org</i>	Pages 3-4
UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary / <i>UNMIL</i>	Pages 5-7
Prince Johnson Indicts TRC Commissioner Steward / <i>Star Radio</i>	Page 8
Stopping the Guinea Crisis From Destabilizing West Africa / <i>Cocorioko</i>	Pages 9-10
Belgian Court Convicts Rwandan Banker in Genocide Trial / <i>Radio Netherlands Worldwide</i>	Page 11
Rwanda and France Restore Diplomatic Relations / <i>BBC Online</i>	Page 12
John Demjanjuk Nazi Crimes Trial Starts in Munich / <i>BBC Online</i>	Pages 13-14
International Criminal Court aims at U.S.? / <i>Examiner.Com</i>	Page 15
Khmer Rouge Lawyers Demand Probe into Govt 'Meddling' / <i>Agence France Presse</i>	Page 16
The Khmer Rouge Tribunal: Cambodia's Healing Process / <i>Time</i>	Pages 17-19
Cambodia's Khmer Rogue Trial Declines to Investigate Judges / <i>Radio Australian News</i>	Page 20
Court in The Hague to Rule on Bemba's Release / <i>Agence France Presse</i>	Page 21
Calls for LRA to Face Congo Charges / <i>Institute for War and Peace Reporting</i>	Pages 22-23
New Evidence of Abuse of Women Prisoners / <i>Institute for War and Peace Reporting</i>	Pages 24-25

## CharlesTaylorTrial.org (The Hague)

Thursday, 26 November 2009

### **Liberia: Charles Taylor Helped Sierra Leonean Rebel Commanders Reconcile Their Differences, But Not For A Military Takeover Of The Country, He Says**

Alpha Sesay

Charles Taylor helped three major Sierra Leonean rebel commanders to reconcile their differences but such reconciliation was not for purposes of a military takeover of the country, the accused former Liberian president told Special Court for Sierra Leone judges today in The Hague.

Mr. Taylor was responding to questions during his cross-examination today on his decision to host Revolutionary United Front (RUF) leader Foday Sankoh, his deputy Sam Bockarie and Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) leader Johnny Paul Koroma in a meeting in Liberia. Mr. Taylor explained that after the signing of the peace agreement between the government of Sierra Leone and the RUF in 1999, there were certain differences between the RUF and the AFRC which needed to be resolved in order to make the peace agreement successful. Prosecution counsel Mr. Nicholas Koumjian today suggested to Mr. Taylor that he wanted to help the rebel commanders reconcile their differences in order to restore a military regime in Sierra Leone.

"Did you invite Foday Sankoh, Sam Bockarie and Johnny Paul Koroma to Liberia for reconciliation on how to return to military power in Sierra Leone?" Mr. Koumjian asked Mr. Taylor.

Mr. Taylor responded with a resounding "No."

The AFRC which was formed by members of the Sierra Leone Army (SLA) overthrew the elected government of Sierra Leone in 1997 and formed a merger with the RUF. The AFRC/RUF junta regime ruled Sierra Leone until 1998 when they were forcefully removed from the country's capital by West African peacekeepers. In 1999, the government signed a peace agreement with the rebel forces in the Togolese capital, Lome.

Mr. Taylor agreed with Mr. Koumjian today that when the three rebel commanders met in Liberia, the government of Sierra Leone was not represented there.

Why not invite the government of Sierra Leone?" Mr. Koumjian asked.

"Because the government of Sierra Leone was not part of the issues between them. There was bad blood between the SLAs and the RUF and their purpose was to sort out that bad blood," Mr. Taylor said.

Mr. Taylor said that Sierra Leonean president Ahmed Tejan Kabbah "was kept informed" of the meeting between the rebel commanders in Liberia.

Mr. Taylor insisted that the meeting with the rebel commanders in Liberia was necessary to make the peace agreement between the Sierra Leone government and the rebels successful. He explained that at the signing of the peace agreement in Togo, a decision was taken to make RUF leader Mr. Sankoh vice president of Sierra Leone but nothing was said about what position should be given to AFRC leader Mr. Koroma. It was at the meeting in Liberia, of which President Kabbah was kept informed, that a decision was taken to make Mr. Koroma the Chairman for the Commission for Consolidation of Peace (CCP), Mr. Taylor said. Mr. Taylor said that he kept other West African leaders informed of these developments.

"I did not act alone," Mr. Taylor said.

"I was on the phone with with Obasanjo [Nigerian president], Eyadema [Togolese president] and Kabbah [Sierra Leonean president]. I was not a lone ranger in this. Johnny Paul Koroma needed assurance and i assured him," he added. According to the former Liberian president, it was after this reconciliatory meeting in Liberia that the RUF and AFRC leaders decided to travel together to Sierra Leone. They were received in Sierra Leone by president Kabbah, Mr. Taylor said.

On Mr. Koumjian's suggestion that "that was not the purpose of the meeting" in Liberia, Mr. Taylor responded that "if Kabbah as the legitimate president of Sierra Leone did not want them in Sierra Leone, he would not have allowed them."

Mr. Taylor explained that Nigerian president "Obasanjo sent them a plane, he sent me 225,000 USD for them and i sent them to Sierra Leone."

Right through his testimony as a witness in his defense, Mr. Taylor has insisted that his involvement with Sierra Leonean rebels was purely for peaceful purposes in the West African country. He has explained that upon his election as president of Liberia, he became a member of the Committee of Five, a body set up by West African leaders with a mandate of facilitating a peaceful end to the conflict in Sierra Leone. Prosecutors on the otherhand have alleged that Mr. Taylor was involved in a joint criminal enterprise with the RUF rebels in Sierra Leone. The rebels, prosecutors say, used to transport Sierra Leone's blood diamonds to Mr. Taylor in Liberia and that in return, the Liberian president gave them supplies of arms and ammunition for use in Sierra Leone. Mr. Taylor has said that he did not have arms and ammunition to fight rebel forces in his own country and therefore could not have supplied any materials to the RUF. As he continues his testimony, the former president has challenged prosecutors to present evidence that he used Sierra Leone's diamonds to enrich himself and open bank accounts in various countries as alleged. From July 14 to November 10, Mr. Taylor testified in direct-examination as a witness in his own defense. As his cross-examination commenced, prosecutors sought to present "fresh evidence" to impeach Mr. Taylor's testimony but the accused former president's defense objected, calling it a "trial by ambush." The judges will use Monday to determine whether such "fresh evidence" should be used by the prosecution. There will therefore be not court hearings on Monday.

Mr. Taylor's cross-examination continues on Tomorrow.

## UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 30 November 2009

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

### **International Clips on Liberia**

#### **Addy's Hope works to sustain Liberian orphanage**

Midland Reporter-Telegram 30 November 2009

As his brother and sisters took turns hanging decorations on the tree Saturday, 4-year-old Toben Petree leaned on his mom as she pulled a Liberian ornament out of the box nearby and reminded him that one came from his hometown. "This is our African one," she said, holding it up on her finger. John and HollyAnn Petree said their four children get to add a new ornament to the tree each year. Last year they were given decorations from Liberia to celebrate the addition of their brother, who was adopted at the start of 2008 from the orphanage the Petrees run through their adoption and child relief ministry, Addy's Hope. Toben, they said, is one of the about 35 children who've been adopted by U.S. families from the orphanage since 2007. The facility also houses groups who aren't eligible for adoption, but live there to gain an education the Petrees hope will allow them to give back to their villages when they leave the home as adults. "Our prayer is to work ourselves out of a job," HollyAnn Petree said. "We want to pour resources back in." Since Liberia halted international adoptions earlier this year, though, the Petrees have been struggling to keep enough resources flowing into the orphanage to care for the about 49 children who are there.

### **International Clips on West Africa**

#### **Sierra Leone**

#### **Sierra Leone Soldiers to Be Kicked Out of Mau**

Nairobi, Nov 30, 2009 (The Nation/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- Hundreds of soldiers who served in UNAMSIL, the UN peacekeeping mission to Sierra Leone, in 2001 are among those to be removed from the Mau Forest in the next phases of the government eviction exercise, investigations by the Sunday Nation reveal. The military personnel are reported to have sunk their earnings from the mission into the Maasai Mau and OI Pusimoru sections of the vast forest, the largest of Kenya's five key water towers. Their imminent eviction adds a new dimension to the exercise as it puts politicians who reportedly sold the land to the members of the military in an awkward position. The soldiers reportedly bought the land from a Cabinet minister from Rift Valley in the OI Pusimoru area which measures 2,900 square hectares. One of the villages in the OI Pusimoru area is named Sierra Leone in reference to the country where the soldiers served.

#### **Cote d'Ivoire**

#### **DJ Tables Of Ivory Coast Cocoa Export Declarations Per Co**

ABIDJAN, Nov 30, 2009 (Dow Jones Commodities News via Comtex) -- Ivory Coast's shippers and cocoa processors declared 31,029 metric tons of cocoa for export from Nov. 12-25, taking the cumulative total for the 2009-10 season to 142,432 tons, official data showed Monday. The cocoa season runs from Oct. 1 to Sept. 30 the next year. Two newly registered companies appeared in this fortnight's figures, which have yet to be identified.

The following table shows the tonnage of unprocessed cocoa beans declared for export per shipper in the 14 days to Nov. 25, in the preceding 14 days and the cumulative totals for the season. All figures are in metric tons.

### **Local Media – Newspaper**

*No newspaper appear on the newsstand today due to the holiday (Liberia's 18<sup>th</sup> President Birth Anniversary)*

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

#### **BIN Identifies Islamic Senators As Masterminds Behind Mecca Scam**

- Speaking at a news conference in Monrovia, the Commissioner of the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization, Colonel Chris Massaquoi named Senators Abel Massaley and James Momo as the principal organizers of a scam involving the distribution of tickets for the Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca.
- According to Commissioner Massaquoi, the two lawmakers have admitted to organizing the dubious Mecca journey and expressed regrets that they failed.
- The BIN says it has turned over to the leadership of the Islamic community the ten Muslim pilgrims that were deported from Saudi Arabia.
- Two weeks ago, the National Hajj Committee of Liberia reported a major criminal syndicate saying some unscrupulous persons allegedly sold plane tickets to non-Liberian Muslims alleging that members of the current Legislature were part of the scam executed in collaboration with Zadom Sheriff a Liberian based in Dubai.

#### **ERU Ordered To Takeover Sinoe Rubber Corporation**

- Reports from Sinoe County say the authorities have ordered the Emergency Response Unit (ERU) of the Liberia National Police (LNP) to takeover the Sinoe Rubber Corporation.
- The reports say the order followed a wave of lawlessness at the plantation.
- According to the reports, Sinoe County Attorney, John Gabriel called on the ERU to move to the plantation without delay and return fire-for-fire in case of any eventuality.
- The order which was contained in a radio broadcast aired on the Voice of Sinoe is intended to put the police in a defensive mood should disgruntled illicit tappers open fire on them.

#### **Completion Of Road And Bridge Rehabilitation Sets Beyond 2011**

- The Liberian Government says the ongoing road and bridge rehabilitation will not be completed before its tenure expires in 2011.
- Public Works Minister Samuel Kofi Woods said it would be raising false hopes if government makes such a commitment.
- Minister Woods said the road and bridge rehabilitation process requires time for the needed results to be achieved.
- The Public Works boss said the Tubman Bridge also know as the Old Bridge would not be completed in 2010 but a significant progress would be made.
- He disclosed that discussions are currently ongoing between government and Japan for the expansion of the Somalia Drive in Gardnersville-Paynesville suburbs.

### **Radio Veritas** (*News monitored today at 09:45 am*)

#### **Bropleh Refutes Claims Of Asking UMC For Reinstatement Lobby**

- Suspended Information Minister Laurence Bropleh has rejected claims that he asked the United Methodist Church to lobby with President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf for his reinstatement.
- Rev. Dr. Bropleh's comments followed a statement by the Liberian Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church (LAC-UMC) disassociating itself from the reported lobby with President Sirleaf for his return to the Information Ministry.
- The United Methodist Church in a statement said it cannot intervene for the suspended Information Minister on grounds that he is not a member of the local Annual Conference of the UMC but has a membership with the Baltimore Annual Conference of the Church in the United States.
- But Dr. Bropleh said he is a transferred member of the S. Trowon Nagbe United Methodist Church.

#### **NEC Warns Of No Elections In 2011 If...**

- Authorities of the National Elections Commission (NEC) have again warned that there can be no elections in 2011 if the Population Threshold Bill is not passed into law by the National Legislature.
- NEC Chairman James Fromayan said time is running out for the preparation of the 2011 General and Presidential Elections citing the failure of the National Legislature to pass the threshold bill.
- The NEC Chairman said the Commission's concern was not an alarm but rather intended to alert citizens who might want to blame the NEC if the holding of the 2011 elections is stall because of the absence of the Threshold Bill.

### **Truth FM** *(News monitored today at 10:00 am)*

#### **President Sirleaf Declares December 1 World AIDS Day**

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has by proclamation declared Tuesday, December 1 World AIDS Day to be observed throughout the country as a working holiday.
- The Day will be observed under the theme, "Universal Access and Human Rights".
- A Foreign Ministry release said the observance of the Day is in recognition of the immense contribution of the United Nations to combat HIV/AIDS as well as the importance the Liberian Government attaches to the preventive, education and treatment of the disease in the interest of the Liberian people.

#### **Montserrado Citizens Discuss TRC Final Report**

- A series of consultative meetings to discuss the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Final Report has commenced in District Six of Montserrado County with opposing views from residents of the over 36 communities of the district.
- Some of the district residents called for the full implementation of the report as recommended by the Commission to serve as deterrence for future war planners and executors.
- Other members of the communities on the contrary want no action taken in the name of peace and reconciliation.
- They argued that implementing the TRC's Report is capital intensive and that money expected to be used for prosecution could be used to improve the living standards of impoverished Liberians.

#### **Six Nigerian Medical Doctors Arrive To help Boost Liberia's Health Service**

- A team of six medical doctors out of nineteen from Nigeria has arrived in the country to take up assignment at various medical facilities across the country.
- Speaking at the arrival of the medical doctors, Nigerian Ambassador to Liberia Ebenezer Adigun reaffirms Abuja's support to Liberia's health and educational sectors.
- Ambassador Adigun said the presence of the Nigerian medical doctors would further boost the country's health system.
- The Liberian Government through Assistant Foreign Minister for Afro-Asian Affairs George Wisner said the arrival of the Nigerian medical doctors added value to the diplomatic relations between Nigeria and Liberia.
- The remaining medical doctors are expected to arrive shortly for assignment.

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## Star Radio (Liberia)

Monday, 30 November 2009

Written by Julius Kanubah

Nimba County Senator Prince Johnson says he has obtained classified document in which TRC Commissioner John Steward confirmed being a rebel fighter.

According to Senator Johnson, Mr. Steward confessed to fighting for the infamous combat security group, the black beret.

According to him, the confession by Commissioner Steward was contained in his affidavit and verbal testimony before a US District Court in Minnesota.

Senator Johnson said the testimony was given in a case between former rebel leader George Boley and the Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights.

He said the testimony by Commissioner Steward was done on behalf of the Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights sued by Mr. Boley.

Senator Johnson said the June 18, 2009 confession by Commissioner Steward questions his neutrality and the credibility of the TRC final report.

When contacted, Commissioner Steward said he would not dignify the comments by Senator Johnson because he was never a rebel fighter.

Commissioner Steward, who did not confirm or deny providing an affidavit against former rebel leader Gerge Boley, said if he did, it was his right.

## Cocorioko

Tuesday, 1 December 2009

### Stopping the Guinea crisis from destabilizing West Africa

Written by Louise Arbour of the International Crisis Group Tuesday, 01 December 2009 03:49

Three West African states — Liberia, Sierra Leone and Cote d'Ivoire — have emerged from civil war to fragile stability in the past few years. But a civil war is brewing in Guinea that may destroy those achievements and produce a humanitarian disaster.

When the country's long-time dictator, Lansana Conte, died in 2008, it briefly looked like Guinea might transition relatively smoothly to elected government. That hope began to fade when Captain Moussa Dadis Camara, the leader of the military junta that had taken over, began to backtrack from the promise that he would not seek permanent power. It turned to nightmare on Sept. 28, when soldiers killed more than 150 demonstrators and raped scores of women.

There may be worse to come. In the month before that massacre, observers reported the recruitment of militias in Guinea's isolated forest region, where elements of the badly fractured military leadership were training fighters for possible bids to seize power.

Many of these fighters are ex-combatants from the Liberian civil war, when Guinean militias helped overthrow Charles Taylor's dictatorship. In its recruiting drive, the junta, some of whose members were deeply involved in that conflict, is reactivating the networks that fed West Africa's recent wars.

Two days after the massacre, officials from the regional organization, Ecowas, told the International Crisis Group that international action was urgently needed to remove the military from power and hold early elections. Their fear was not only of a war that could spread like wildfire but also of the consequences of another power grab.

Only months before, the president of Niger overthrew his country's Constitution and got away with it. Captain Camara and the Guinean military saw that and drew the conclusion that they could do likewise. If they now solidify their power, a half dozen leaders across Africa will be calculating their chances to do the same, Ecowas officials warned. We must not allow that to happen.

After the September massacre, Ecowas and the African Union began demanding that the military keep its promise to yield power to elected civilians and appointed President Blaise Compaoré of Burkina Faso to mediate the process.

The large majority of Guineans who insist they will not accept military rule have formed the Forces Vives, a coalition of political parties, unions and other elements of civil society. But Captain Camara and the junta will not go easily. Mr. Compaoré, a former soldier, coup leader and political godfather of Charles Taylor, is not the most reliable man to preach democracy and civilian rule.

An attempt to replace Captain Camara, who gives signs of mental instability, with another general, even temporarily, could fracture the military's unity and bring the militias out of their forest camps with guns blazing. The Forces Vives understandably will not accept a junta offer or a Compaoré proposal of a "national union" government the military would inevitably dominate.

What is needed quickly is broad international support for the good intentions of Ecowas and the African Union. The Compaoré mission should accept U.N. offers of mediation support and stick to the region's initial objective: managing the junta's withdrawal from power. The U.S., with a major investment in a

stable Liberia, should supplement its diplomatic backing for that effort by delegating a senior military officer to speak general-to-general with the junta.

The junta has abused Russia's major bauxite investment to the point that Moscow recognizes the junta equals chaos, and is cooperating with the Africans. Immediately after the September massacre, the junta announced a \$7 billion Chinese investment. Details of the deal with the Hong Kong-based company remain murky, and there are clear signs Beijing is skeptical that its interests would be served by Captain Camara. In any case, it should make sure no Chinese company props up the junta.

The elements of an unusually unified international approach — a transitional administration for no more than six months to prepare civilian elections — thus exist. What is needed is high-level attention in the main capitals, both to keep the pressure on and to prepare an operational strategy.

That strategy needs to include incentives for the Guinean military to cooperate — incentives that involve legitimate roles under a civilian-led government. An early step should be to get an Ecowas political and military team on the ground in Guinea, to provide guarantees against another massacre and prepare the way for a group to safeguard elections. The alternative for quickly putting such a strategy in place is likely to be a new war from which all West Africa would suffer.

Louise Arbour is president of the International Crisis Group.

## Radio Netherlands Worldwide

Tuesday, 1 December 2009

### Belgian court convicts Rwandan banker in genocide trial



*Brussels, Belgium*

A Belgian court found a Rwandan banker guilty of an indeterminate number of murders, attempted murders and rapes committed during the 1994 genocide in his country.

Ephrem Nkezabera (57), nicknamed "banker to the genocide," who is being treated for liver cancer, was not present in court as the guilty verdict was handed down or at any time during the trial.

His sentence, which could be life imprisonment, will be handed down on Tuesday, following the jury trial.

A request from the former director of the Commercial Bank of Rwanda for the trial to be postponed for health reasons was dismissed. His lawyers were also absent from court.

Reading out his list of crimes, the public prosecutor had stressed Friday that the accused "played a direct part in the genocide by distributing arms to the killers and giving them specific order to rape Tutsi women and then execute them". Accusations of genocide have been excluded because Belgian courts saying can not retroactively apply a law on genocide adopted in 1999 for acts committed five years earlier.

Nkezabera admitted, during pre-trial questioning, that he had financed and armed Hutu extremists involved in the genocide and bankrolled the extremist radio station Radio Télévision Libre des Mille Collines (RTLM).

He however denies raping women while their family members were killed, arguing that they were willing partners.

The trial is the fourth in Belgium linked to the genocide in Rwanda, in which the United Nations says around 800 000 people were killed, most of them from the Tutsi ethnic minority.

The Assize Court of Brussels has already condemned to heavy sentences two nuns, a university teacher and a businessman in 2001, two traders in 2005 and a former major in July 2007.

Ephrem Nkezabera, who was in hiding in Brussels, was arrested in June 2004, at the request of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR).

## BBC Online

Monday, 30 November 2009

### Rwanda and France restore diplomatic relations

Rwanda and France have restored diplomatic relations three years after they were broken in a row over responsibility for the 1994 genocide.

Both governments said they had agreed to appoint ambassadors at the end of long negotiations.

The two nations fell out after a French judge said President Paul Kagame helped spark the genocide, and Rwanda accused France of arming the Hutu militias.

On Sunday Rwanda was also admitted to the Commonwealth.

BBC East Africa correspondent Will Ross says Rwanda seems to be in demand - not only with France and English-speaking nations but also with China.

It is strategically placed next to the mineral rich Democratic Republic of Congo and also has one of the best armies on the continent - a key asset considering it is located in a much troubled region, our correspondent says.



*Some 800,000 people were killed in Rwanda's genocide in 1994*

### Hutus in France

Rwanda's Foreign Minister Rose Museminali told the BBC's Focus on Africa that Paris and Kigali would look at all the issues which had caused problems between the two governments.

"We have been working with the government of France to normalise our relations, that is what has culminated today," she said.

She added that France should now make an effort to arrest any suspected Hutu militia leaders living in France.

Relations between Paris and Kigali had been poor for several years but were severed in 2006 after a French judge accused Mr Kagame and several senior officials of being behind the 1994 murder of Rwanda's Hutu President Juvenal Habyaremana.

The shooting down of his plane triggered the 1994 genocide where some 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus were slaughtered in just 100 days.

The Tutsi-led government of Mr Kagame had already accused France of backing and arming the Hutu government.

The warming of ties with France comes on the same weekend that saw Rwanda join the Commonwealth. Rwanda, a former colony of Germany and Belgium, is just the second country to be admitted without a British colonial past or constitutional link to Britain.

Mozambique is the only other Commonwealth member without historic UK ties.

## BBC Online

Monday, 30 November 2009

### John Demjanjuk Nazi crimes trial starts in Munich

John Demjanjuk, accused of helping to murder nearly 28,000 Jews at a Nazi death camp, has gone on trial in the German city of Munich.

Mr Demjanjuk, who is 89 and was deported from the US in May, entered the courtroom in a wheelchair. His eyes were closed but he seemed conscious.

He denies being a camp guard at Sobibor, in Nazi-occupied Poland.

The trial is expected to last until May and, if found guilty, Mr Demjanjuk could be sentenced to 15 years in jail.

The trial's first session was delayed for over an hour, as large numbers of people tried to gain access.

#### 'Hollywood, not Sobibor'

Organisers were overwhelmed by the crowds of people trying to get in, including journalists and relatives of Holocaust survivors.

Thomas Blatt, a Sobibor survivor, told journalists on his way into court that he was not looking for revenge.

"I'm here to tell the way it was years ago, I don't know Demjanjuk in person," he said.

The accused arrived in an ambulance, which witnesses say struggled to get past the crowds at the entrance.

Ukraine-born Mr Demjanjuk was wheeled into the courtroom, in a reclined position and looking pale.

But a doctor who examined him two hours before the trial said his vital signs were stable, the Associated Press news agency said.

Efraim Zuroff, director of the Nazi-hunting Simon Wiesenthal Center's Israel Office, said: "Demjanjuk put on a great act. He should have gone to Hollywood, not Sobibor."

#### 'Moral double standard'

Defence lawyers say he will not speak at all during the trial, and will neither confirm nor deny that he was at Sobibor.



#### AT THE SCENE

Oana Lungescu, BBC, Munich

After a delay of 70 minutes John Demjanjuk entered the court in a wheelchair, wearing glasses and a dark blue baseball cap, and covered in a blanket. He mumbled at first, but then settled down to listen to a Ukrainian interpreter - his eyes apparently shut.

His lawyer immediately went on the offensive - accusing German judges of double standards. "How can John Demjanjuk, a Ukrainian prisoner of war, be found guilty," he asked, "when several German SS officers, who served in the death camps,

#### DEMJEANJUK - PROSECUTION CHALLENGES

89 years old, health failing

Described by prosecution as low-ranking guard

No death camp survivors to testify against him personally

Defence lawyer Ulrich Busch said the case should never have gone to trial, citing cases in which Germans assigned to Sobibor had been acquitted.

"How can you say that those who gave the orders were innocent... and the one who received the orders is guilty?" Mr Busch told the court. "There is a moral and legal double standard being applied today."

John Demjanjuk, a retired car worker in the US state of Ohio, stands accused of having helped the Nazi death factory to function.

Prosecutors say that, as a camp guard at Sobibor, he pushed thousands of Jewish men, women and children to their death in the gas chambers.

### 'Hell on earth'

Mr Demjanjuk was captured by the Nazis while fighting in the Soviet army. He denies even being at Sobibor.

But prosecutors say statements from a now-dead Ukrainian place Mr Demjanjuk at that death camp.

The statements - which the defence says are inconsistent - say Mr Demjanjuk "participated in the mass killing of Jews".

Over 60 years after the end of World War II, this may be Germany's last big war crimes trial.

But the BBC's Oana Lungescu in Munich says that, as the first to focus on a low-ranking foreigner rather than a senior Nazi commander, it breaks new legal ground.

As Mr Demjanjuk is in poor health, doctors have asked that hearings should be limited to two 90-minute sessions per day. There are no living witnesses in this case, but over 30 people listed as joint plaintiffs are expected to testify about what happened at Sobibor, described by investigators as hell on earth. Two are camp survivors, others lost relatives or their entire families among the 250,000 people murdered there.

This is the second time John Demjanjuk has appeared in court. Two decades ago, he was sentenced to death in Israel, convicted of being Ivan the Terrible, a notoriously sadistic guard at the Treblinka death camp.

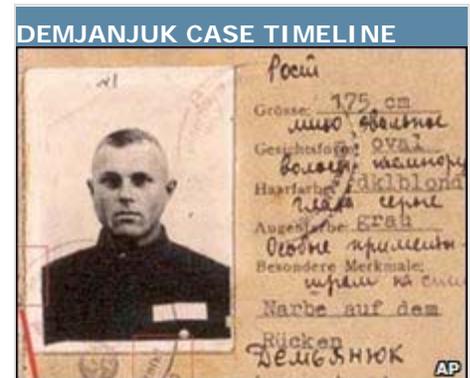
But that ruling was overturned after new evidence showed that another Ukrainian was probably responsible.

Prosecutors relying heavily on about 30 joint plaintiffs and circumstantial evidence

Profile: John Demjanjuk

Escaping death camp life of 'hell'

John Demjanjuk in pictures



1952: Gains entry into the US, claiming he spent most of war as German POW

1977: First charged with war crimes, accused of being "Ivan the Terrible"

1981: Stripped of US citizenship

1986: Extradited to Israel

1993: Israeli Supreme Court overturns conviction, ruling that he is not Ivan the Terrible

2002: Loses US citizenship after a judge said there was proof he worked at Nazi camps

2005: A judge rules in favour of deportation to his native Ukraine

2009: Germany issues arrest warrant; deported by US and charged

Examiner.Com

Monday, 30 November 2009

### International Criminal Court aims at U.S.?



*A.P. photo/ Khalil Senosi -- Prosecutor Ocampo of ICC in Kenya*

Pres. Bush rejected subordinating the U.S. to International Criminal Court (ICC). He wanted to avoid its possibly treating the U.S. unfairly. Sec. of State Clinton regrets not joining it.

Chief ICC prosecutor, Luis Moreno Ocampo already claims some jurisdiction, because U.S. troops fought in Afghanistan, which did ratify the Rome Statute that founded the ICC. He is investigating NATO and U.S. conduct there, but is coy about saying so, falling back on generalizations that could include them.

At first, he confirmed what the ICC website explains, that the ICC was established to “end impunity for the perpetrators of the most serious crimes of concern to the international community.” Any war crimes by NATO and the U.S. would pale by comparison with the mass-murders in Sudan and Congo. If the ICC diverts scarce resources to minor problems, it may let major crimes elude justice.

Mr. Ocampo, however, believes in investigating the worse crimes in each arena. He does not want Muslim states to claim he has a double standard. In other words, he is expanding ICC effort beyond its purpose and because of invalid criticism. He boasted that NATO trainers advise troops that if they transgress, they are subject to arrest and trial by ICC (Daniel Schwammenthal, Wall St. J., 11/27, Op.-Ed.).

Mr. Schwammenthal objects to U.S. troops falling under foreign jurisdiction. He does not state why. He does not attribute his objection to wanting to rely upon the U.S. constitution. He does not assert that the U.S. has high judicial standards, though it has taken time for the U.S. to adopt them to the new kind of warfare undertaken by international jihad. He does acknowledge that so far, Mr. Ocampo has done exemplary work. He does not attribute his objection to foreign public opinion turning increasingly and non-objectively against the U.S.. He does not deny objecting to U.S. being held to account.

Agence France Presse

Tuesday, 1 December 2009

## Khmer Rouge lawyers demand probe into govt 'meddling'



*Phnom Penh, Cambodia*

Lawyers for a former Khmer Rouge leader demanded that investigators at Cambodia's war crimes court question premier Hun Sen and government officials over alleged interference.

The defence for former Khmer Rouge ideologue Nuon Chea cited a September statement by Hun Sen - who himself defected from the communist regime in 1977 - that witnesses do not have to testify to the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC).

"If Hun Sen has indeed told witnesses that they do not have to cooperate, then he has committed a criminal offence and is seriously affecting the judicial investigation," defence lawyer Michiel Pestman said.

A copy of the request also cited a government spokesman's remark in October that six senior government and legislative officials summoned by the court should not testify.

"(Hun Sen's) conduct is affecting the fair trial of our client because some of these were witnesses we asked for," Pestman said.

"Ultimately it could undermine the whole legitimacy of the court," he added.

The process has often been hit by allegations that Hun Sen's administration has attempted to interfere in the tribunal to protect former regime members who are now in government.

The troubled tribunal, which has also been hit by accusations local staff were forced to pay kickbacks for their jobs, was created in 2006 to try leading members of the regime on charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

As the court has sought to investigate other suspects, Hun Sen has made fiery speeches warning further prosecutions could plunge Cambodia back into civil war.

The court plans to try Nuon Chea, former Khmer Rouge head of state Khieu Samphan, foreign minister Ieng Sary and his wife, minister of social affairs Ieng Thirith sometime in 2011.

The court's first trial, of former Khmer Rouge prison chief Kaing Guek Eav, alias Duch, completed its final arguments last week.

(AFP)

## Time

Monday, 30 November 2009

### **The Khmer Rouge Tribunal: Cambodia's Healing Process**

By CHRISTOPHER SHAY / HONG KONG



A memorial at the Choeung Ek mass-grave site in Cambodia is composed of victims' skulls. A flag is reflected in the glass panel

Sarah Caron / Polaris

When the Khmer Rouge emptied the Cambodian capital Phnom Penh of human inhabitants in 1975, one of Pol Pot's soldiers murdered 4-year-old Theary Seng's father. Later, Theary Seng, her mother and siblings ended up in a prison in southeast Cambodia. One day, Theary Seng awoke to an empty cell — the prison population had been massacred overnight. In a rare act of mercy, the Khmer Rouge soldiers allowed the handful of children to survive. Theary Seng eventually escaped to a Thai refugee camp and then to the U.S. Her story is by no means unique in Cambodia. In just this one prison in Svay Rieng province, between 20,000 and 30,000 people were executed, and during the Pol Pot era, about 1.7 million Cambodians died — more than 20% of the country's population.

Still traumatized by those years and subsequent decades of political instability, many Cambodians had hoped that the U.N.-backed Khmer Rouge tribunal, a hybrid Cambodian–international court, would help push the country toward reconciliation. In November 2007, Theary Seng, now a human-rights lawyer in Phnom Penh, applied to become the first civil party at the Khmer Rouge tribunal — whereby she and other Khmer Rouge victims are participating in the criminal proceedings with their own set of lawyers. On Friday, the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) — the official name of the tribunal — finished hearing its first case. Prosecutors sought a 40-year jail sentence for Kaing Guek Eav, known as Duch, (pronounced Doik) who ran the notorious S-21 prison, a Phnom Penh high school transformed into an interrogation center where Duch is accused of overseeing the grisly deaths of approximately 15,000 people. Over the last six months of hearings, the court heard accounts of interrogators who ripped off toenails, suffocated prisoners with plastic bags, forced people to eat feces, electrocuted prisoners and drained blood to extract confessions. During the trial, Duch, 67, said that

Cambodians should hold him to the "highest level of punishment." But he also begged for forgiveness, saying he was only "a cog in a running machine." Duch's defense team painted the former math instructor as a mid-level bureaucrat who didn't personally torture anyone and was only following orders, and on Friday, Duch pleaded for the tribunal to release him.

Such has been the topsy-turvy nature of the tribunal. Indeed, just getting to the end of the first case was an ordeal. There have been allegations of a kickback scheme where Cambodian employees at the tribunal are forced to pay back a part of their salaries to the government officials who gave them their jobs. On two different occasions, only last-minute donations from Japan allowed the Cambodian side of the court to pay its staff. Then, in a fiasco dubbed Waterlilygate, one of the international lawyers said documents found in a moat filled with lilies had been stolen from his office. And last week the New York–based Open Society Justice Initiative, an international law monitor, accused the Cambodian government of meddling with the tribunal, claiming "political interference at the ECCC poses a serious challenge to both the credibility of the court and its ability to meet international fair trial standards."

Despite these issues, Theary Seng says the tribunal has ultimately helped the healing process by encouraging people to talk openly about the Khmer Rouge era. She says that though most Cambodians assume there is some degree of corruption at the tribunal, "we are not to the point where it should shut down." She says that the Khmer Rouge tribunal is more than a court of law — "it's also a court of public opinion."

About 28,000 people attended Duch's trial at the ECCC on the outskirts of Phnom Penh, and millions more Cambodians followed the tribunal on television and the radio. With about 70% of the Cambodia's 14 million people born after the Khmer Rouge regime, the trial enabled an entire generation to learn about their country's terrible past. Youk Chhang, the director of the Documentation Center of Cambodia, says that the fact that the tribunal was held in Cambodia was key to sparking interest in the trial and knowledge about the period. In January, the University of California at Berkeley's Human Rights Center released a report saying that 85% of Cambodians had little or no knowledge of the trial. Now, with the distribution of a new textbook on the Khmer Rouge coinciding with the trial, Youk Chhang says "the whole country is aware."

The tribunal has also helped Cambodians in unexpected ways. A counselor sits next to every survivor who testifies — at one point during the Duch trial, a judge even ordered a witness to see a psychiatrist, according to Sotheara Chhim, a Cambodian psychiatrist and director of the Transcultural Psychosocial Organization (TPO). An estimated 14% of the population suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder, and Sotheara Chhim says the number of people who suffer from depression or anxiety is likely much higher than that. Though information about mental health is still limited in rural Cambodia, "the trial brought out a lot," Sotheara says.

Now comes the waiting. A verdict for Duch isn't expected until March. For Theary Seng, the Duch case "is sort of a test trial" for the more important Case Two when four high-ranking Khmer Rouge leaders will be in the dock: Nuon Chea, 83, who was second in command to Pol Pot; former head of state Khieu Samphan, 78; former Foreign Affairs Minister Ieng Sary, 84; and Ieng Thirith, 77, the former Social Affairs Minister. They are expected to face the tribunal in 2011 in a case that could last years. Case Two, says Theary Seng, will make Duch's case look like "a cakewalk." Unlike Duch, the four defendants held high-level positions in the Khmer Rouge, have denied complicity in war crimes and refused to apologize. Time is also running out. With the youngest defendant aged 77, some or all of the defendants may not live long enough to face the tribunal.

If the past year is any indication, the tribunal will face many more hurdles, but Theary Seng says it has benefited Cambodia. The trial, she argues, has generated much needed discussions about history as well as mercy across the country. Says Theary Seng: "The Khmer Rouge tribunal has triggered a process of forgiveness." And perhaps a process leading finally to closure.

## Radio Australian News

Tuesday, 1 December 2009

### Cambodia's Khmer Rouge trial declines to investigate judges



Cambodia's war crimes tribunal has dismissed a request to investigate two of its foreign judges, including Australian Rowan Downing, for bias.

The panel of five judges at the joint UN-Cambodian tribunal was forced to investigate an allegation of bias made by Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen in September.

Hun Sen said he knew that some foreign judges and prosecutors were taking instruction from their governments.

Under the rules of the court, if the claims were true, such action could be grounds for their dismissal.

Following Hun Sen's comments, lawyers for former Khmer Rouge foreign minister Ieng Sary filed the request last month to investigate Australia's Rowan Downing and the Netherlands' Katinka Lahuis.

In their decision released Tuesday the judges unanimously ruled that the request to investigate their colleagues was inadmissible and unfounded.

The ruling came days after the conclusion of the trial of the first defendant, Comrade Duch, with the prosecution asking he be sentenced to 40 years jail.

The verdict in the case of Duch, who ran the Khmer Rouge's main prison called S-21, will be announced early next year.

## Agence France Presse

Sunday, 29 November 2009

### **Court in The Hague to rule on Bemba's release**

THE HAGUE — The International Criminal Court will rule next week whether or not DR Congo ex-vice president Jean-Pierre Bemba should be released ahead of the start of his war crimes trial, it said on Friday.

Judges will hand down judgment Wednesday in an appeal by the prosecution against the court's decision to free Bemba, it said in a statement.

The court in August granted Bemba a conditional release ahead of the start of his trial, but said he had to stay in his holding cell in The Hague while a country is sought that is willing to host him.

No states have volunteered as yet.

The prosecution immediately lodged an appeal on the grounds that Bemba was a flight risk and may harm witnesses in his trial, for which a starting date of April 27 has since been set.

The 47-year-old stands accused of three charges of war crimes and two of crimes against humanity allegedly committed in the Central African Republic (CAR) from October 2002 to March 2003.

He will stand trial for acts of murder, rape and pillaging allegedly committed by members of his Congolese Liberation Movement (MLC) while helping troops of then CAR president Ange-Felix Patasse resist a coup bid.

His trial will be the ICC's third since it started operating in The Hague in July 2002.

A business tycoon who left DR Congo in 2007 after losing presidential elections held during a political transition in the wake of a 1998-2003 civil war, Bemba was arrested on an ICC warrant in Brussels in May 2008.

He had briefly led the opposition, but was forced into exile when government forces tried to disarm his private militia in clashes that killed 300 in March 2007.

## Institute for War and Peace Reporting

Wednesday, 18 November 2009

### **Calls for LRA to Face Congo Charges**

Campaigners want ICC to indict Ugandan rebels for crimes they are alleged to have committed in DRC.

By Melanie Gouby in the Hague and Gabriel Shabani in Kinshasa

Human rights activists are calling on the International Criminal Court, ICC, to charge the Lord's Resistance Army, LRA, leaders with a series of brutal crimes they are accused of perpetrating in the Democratic Republic of Congo, DRC.

LRA leader Joseph Kony and two others are wanted by the ICC for war crimes in northern Uganda. However, the LRA moved into the DRC in 2005 and since 2008 has staged raids across the northeast – reportedly raping, abducting and burning villages in retaliation for attacks by the Ugandan army. They are also alleged to have committed crimes against civilians in the Central African Republic, CAR, and Sudan.

One of the most recent attacks took place on September 25 in Digba, DRC, where 22 people were killed with machetes and knives in a raid carried out by over 40 members of the LRA, according to the Agence France Presse.

A leading Congolese human rights activist says the crimes committed in DRC should be added to the indictment against the LRA. Kony, Vincent Otti, Raska Lukwiya, Okot Odiambo and Dominic Ongwen were charged with crimes against humanity five years ago. Lukwiya and Otti have since been killed.

“The crimes committed by Kony's troops in the DRC correspond to the description of international crimes punishable by the ICC. Therefore they must not be left aside. Kony and the other leaders have not been arrested yet and the case has not moved forward, thus [the ICC] has plenty of time to add new charges,” said Delly Mawazo Sesete, executive director of Goma-based Credhdho.

Elise Keppler, senior counsel at Human Right Watch, echoed Mawazo's call for additional charges against the LRA leaders.

“In order to see justice done it is vital that there be prosecution for the crimes committed in the DRC in addition to the crimes committed in northern Uganda,” she said. “Human Right Watch has urged the ICC to look closely at the crimes that have been committed in the DRC, and if the evidence meets the necessary threshold to add charges or to issue arrest warrants for additional persons.”

The LRA was formed in 1987 and claimed to represent the Acholi people of northern Uganda against President Yoweri Museveni. Fighters are said to have mutilated victims by cutting body parts such as noses, ears or lips. They are also believed to have abducted over 20,000 civilians, many of them children, to use them as soldiers.

Between 2005 and 2008, the violence diminished as the LRA took refuge around Garamba national park in the DRC. But in 2008, as peace negotiations with the Ugandan government failed, Kony called for his men to take up arms and atrocities began again in the northeast.

A coordinated offensive by the Ugandan, Congolese and Sudanese forces merely scattered the fighters across the region.

ICC rules say it is possible for prosecutors to add new charges against the LRA with article 58.6 of its founding Rome Statute stating, “The prosecutor may request the pre-trial chamber to amend the warrant of arrest by modifying or adding to the crimes specified therein. The pre-trial chamber shall so amend the warrant if it is satisfied that there are reasonable grounds to believe that the person committed the modified or additional crimes.”

But that doesn’t seem likely to happen soon. A representative of the ICC’s office of the prosecutor told IWPR that arresting Kony and the others is the court’s priority, not adding new charges to the existing indictments.

“Too much time has been wasted and the reason why crimes are continuing is the lack of arrest of persons for whom arrest warrants were issued in 2005,” Emeric Rogier said.

“The highest priority for the office of the prosecutor, and for all those seeking to put an end to continuing LRA crimes, needs to be the arrest of the three top commanders of the LRA for whom arrest warrants have been outstanding for more than four years now.”

However, Rogier said the ICC has investigated alleged LRA crimes in DRC.

“In the last 18 months, this office collected information, including victim and insider witness testimony, which indicates that, following orders by Joseph Kony to begin a new abduction campaign, there have been more than 2,000 abductions, more than 1,250 killings and well in excess of 300,000 people displaced in DRC, Sudan and CAR,” he said.

The Congolese government also believes the arrest of Kony should be the top priority.

“For everything that occurred after the arrest warrant was issued, we must take into account that the court will be able to add these new developments when the arrest is made. The prosecutor will be able to add them to his indictment,” said Lambert Mendé, the DRC minister of communication.

Mendé estimates the number of LRA fighters in DRC at 150-200 though others suggest the figure is closer to 1,000.

Keppler says new charges are important for the victims of the LRA.

“Currently there are Ugandan victims’ communities represented by the existing charges. Communities in the DRC are not incorporated into the charges for the crimes that currently exist,” she said. “Insuring that justice is done includes having a sense of redress for the victims, which will not be possible where there is no representation of the kind of crimes committed in the DRC.”

Mariana Goetz from the NGO Redress, which works with torture victims, agrees that DRC-related charges should be added to the ICC case against the LRA.

“For the victims, it is important that justice publicly acknowledge their sufferings,” Goetz said.

Melanie Gouby is an IWPR reporter in The Hague. Gabriel Shabani is a Kinshasa-based journalist who produces IWPR’s Facing Justice radio programme.

## Institute for War and Peace Reporting

Thursday, 5 November 2009

### **New Evidence of Abuse of Women Prisoners**

Former inmate describes how corrupt jail staff collude in sexual exploitation of female convicts.

By Heritier Maila in Lubumbashi

A former inmate of Kasapa central prison in Lubumbashi has claimed that rape and sexual abuse of female prisoners is widespread, leading to many women becoming pregnant and giving birth while in jail.

Masudi Sangwa, who spent nearly five years in Kasapa for embezzlement and assault, said that male inmates often pay prison guards to provide them a female prisoner with whom they can have sex. The women frequently do not have a say in the matter, he said.

Towards the end of his time there, Masudi was made head of his prison unit, a role that entailed taking care of other inmates and their belongings, and helping the guards to maintain discipline.

Sangwa says that this gave him a perspective on prison life not usually available to other inmates, and allowed him to see how corruption and poor prison management play a role in the sexual exploitation of female prisoners.

As a unit head, Sangwa explained that he was able to stay outside the prison buildings later than the other prisoners, who had to be returned to their cells by 5.30 pm.

“It is during these night hours that many things happen outside,” he said. “Unit heads meet with guards from 7 pm in the waiting room of the prison hospital, which is turned into a nightclub. Lutuku (traditional alcohol) is widely served.”

Sangwa says that money for running the “nightclub” is extorted from other prisoners, “This collection is actually used to buy alcohol from the military base [close to the] prison.”

He added that those who do not pay up are likely to get undesirable chores the following day, such as cleaning the toilet.

Sexual relations are common at the so-called nightclub gatherings, Sangwa said, with many women taken against their will.

“If a prisoner wants to make love, he just has to give money to the unit chief, indicating the woman he wants,” he said. “Then the unit chief gets in touch with his colleague from the women’s unit with a bribe. Whether she likes it or not, whether she’s married or not, the designated women are brought in the evening to the prison hospital.”

As a result of this, Sangwa continued, many women fall pregnant and leave prison with a number of children.

The conditions in Congolese prisons are dire and life is particularly hard for children who have to spend their first few years there, he went on.

Sangwa said that women who have children in prison then face family problems once they've served their term.

"I even saw a woman who, after having served her five-year sentence, left the prison with her two children, but was then rejected by her husband," he said.

Hubert Mpanda, an independent human rights activists and journalist, said that sexual exploitation of inmates was a common problem in many prisons in the Democratic Republic of Congo, DRC, and should not be tolerated.

"The law remains the law and must be applied everywhere where there is an infraction," he said. "Things are even more serious when these acts are encouraged by prison guards. Impunity and passivity are destroying the values of our country."

Gisèle Nsadi, a campaigner for women's rights for local NGO Centre d'Intégration Sociale de la Femme, said that the facts of the situation are clear – when you visit the female unit of the prison, you see many women with young children, whom they gave birth to whilst there.

"How can our authorities not protect our women prisoners, considering that sexual violence is like an epidemic in the DRC?" she said.

Valentin Lumbala, a sociologist at Lubumbashi's university, says that an important step towards stamping out endemic sexual exploitation would be to offer prison guards better working conditions and pay.

"Otherwise, they will keep taking advantage of these women," she said. "For guards, this constitutes an easy business."

IWPR sought to question the Kasapa authorities about the alleged abuse there. Justin Kasongo, one of the prison managers, responded by saying police officers based at the prison are tasked with protecting inmates and insisted that he was not aware of the reported nightclub gatherings.

But in an interview with IWPR, Jean Marie Dikanga Kazadi, the spokesman of the provincial government of Katanga, said, "We are aware about what happens in Kasapa prison. This is why the provincial government of Katanga warns all officers who engage in corrupt practices."

He said that the administration was trying to improve working conditions for police officers at the prison, including supplying them with food at weekends.

"Also, we have asked all women who are a victim of sexual abuse in prison to let us know as soon as possible. The provincial inspector of police has already been instructed to punish all indisciplined guards," he said.

Meanwhile, Jacques Ilunga, the provincial inspector of police, urged officers to refrain from corrupt practices.

"You should not be a police of beggars," he said at a police parade on October 18. "You ask too much of the population and that is why you get corrupted easily. The day we catch a policeman who has the desire to be corrupt, I tell you his place is in prison."

Héritier Maila is an IWPR trainee.