

**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:**

Tuesday, 2 February 2010

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.  
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact  
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## Premier News

Tuesday, 02 February 2010

## ICC 'Must Probe Nigeria Religious Violence In Jos'

**A** Nigerian rights group has urged the International Criminal Court (ICC) to investigate violence between Muslims and Christians in the city of Jos.

The group, known as Serap, wrote to ICC chief prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo asking him to open an inquiry into the deaths of 326 people in the riots.

The activists also want the army and police investigated over claims they used excessive force to restore order.

Muslims and Christians fought with each other for several days in January.

The official death toll was given by police as 326 - although other estimates are much higher, with Muslim officials saying that 364 Muslims were killed.

Christian leaders have not yet confirmed a death toll -

step in because the government was unlikely to take action.

People classified as



*Both mosques and churches were targeted during the violence*

although earlier estimates said around 65 Christians had died. More than 300 people have been arrested.

Lawyer Femi Falana wrote the letter to Mr Moreno-Ocampo, arguing that the ICC should

indigenes and settlers - Hausa-speaking Muslims living in Jos for decades still classified as settlers Christians mostly back the ruling PDP; Muslims generally supporting the opposition ANPP

## UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 1 February 2010

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

### **International Clips on Liberia**

#### **Adopted family's fate rests in Oklahoma judge's hands five Liberian sisters at center of child abuse case in MAJOR county**

Published: February 1, 2010

FAIRVIEW — It was a brisk winter day in the country, but the weather wasn't enough to keep three little girls indoors. They danced with hands clasped in the field outside their two-story log cabin, before running to the back door. They're among the five Liberian-born sisters who lived in this picturesque postcard of Americana. That was until one of the girls, age 13, accused her adopted family of abuse. Now the sisters are one dancer short. The fate of the five sisters, ages 5 to 16, and the family that adopted them is scheduled to be decided today in Major County District Court. Ardee Verlon Tyler, 51, and his wife, Penny Tyler, 46, are charged with felony child abuse. Their son, Ashton Malachi Tyler, 20, is charged with rape by instrumentation. Their daughter, Nathania Dellare Tyler, 21, is charged with misdemeanor assault and battery. All have pleaded no contest. The Oklahoman attempted to speak with Penny Tyler on Wednesday outside her home. She said at the advice of her attorney she could not comment but did say that her main concern is the welfare of her daughters. The case has been lingering in the court system since October 2008, along with a deprived juvenile case involving the girls the Tylers adopted in 2005 from an orphanage in the African nation of Liberia.

### **International Clips on West Africa** **Cote D'Ivoire**

#### **Cote d'Ivoire president launches independence jubilee celebrations**

ABIDJAN, Feb. 1 (Xinhua) -- Cote d'Ivoire President Laurent Gbagbo on Sunday launched the celebrations to mark the West African country's 50th anniversary of independence.

"I declare the 50th year of Cote d'Ivoire's independence officially opened," Gbagbo said in a speech addressed the people gathering around the Presidential Palace in Abidjan.

The president expressed hope the jubilation should bring about liberty, reconciliation and renewal of the country. Gbagbo asked the national commission created for this occasion to make an assessment of the 50 years of independence of the African Francophone countries.

"In Africa, we have not yet reflected on our independence. The question that is thrown at us today is, since 50 years ago when we got independent, how have our countries changed and what have we done with the 50 years of independence," he said. The National 50th Independence Commission has a role of sensitizing Cote d'Ivoire citizens to use this occasion to celebrate the historical event, ensure that they end the crisis they have gone through, renew their patriotism for a unified and undivided country and to increase their confidence that each one of them can do something to construct their country.

### **Local Media – Newspaper**

#### **President Sirleaf Attends AU Summit in Ethiopia**

(Liberian Journal, Liberian Express, The Informer, Heritage, The Independent, Public Agenda, The Analyst, The Inquirer, In-profile and FrontPage)

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf is in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia for the 14th ordinary session of the African Union (AU).
- The session will be held on February 1 and 2 at the United Nations Conference Centre.
- An Executive Mansion release says President Sirleaf will hold meetings with various leaders including Canada's Foreign Minister and US Assistant Secretary of State for African affairs.
- The Liberian leader will also be part of an Extraordinary Session of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

### **LACC Recommends Prosecution for CBL, Others**

(Liberian Journal, The Analyst, New Democrat, The Inquirer and Daily Observer)

- The Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) has recommended that the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) along with several commercial banks be formally charged and prosecuted for acts of corruption.
- The LACC recommendation was contained in a letter addressed to Justice Minister Christiana Tah.
- The Commission wants the CBL and commercial banks charged and prosecuted under Chapter 15, Sub-chapter F of the New Panel Code of Liberia, which captioned "Economic Sabotage and covers issues as fraud on internal revenue of Liberia, misuse of public money, property or record.
- The LACC further said the CBL and commercial banks are to also be charged and prosecuted inline with Section 15.82b of the New Panel Code of Liberia, which deals with theft, illegal disbursement and expenditure of public money.
- The LACC says its decision to call for the prosecution of the CBL and commercial banks for acts of corruption follows months of evidence gathering.

### **Ministry of Defense Assesses Border Security**

(Daily Observer)

- Authorities at the Ministry of National Defense (MOD), in collaboration with some members of Liberia's Defense Support Group, assessed some of the major entry points into the country over the weekend.
- According to the Public Affairs Officer of the Ministry of National Defense, David Dahn, the aim of the exercise is to strengthen Liberia's border security relationships with her neighbours and to verify and assess security situations at the borders.
- Accompanying the Liberian Defense authorities on the exercise were Bangladeshi officers of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) assigned to Sector 'B', representatives from the African Union (AU), representatives from the embassies of the United States and The People's Republic of China, as well as a mentor from the United Kingdom (UK) assigned to the Ministry.

### **WAEC-Monrovia Launches Website**

(The News and The Inquirer)

- The Monrovia Office of the West African Examinations Council (WAEC) has for the launched an online information service, [www.liberiawaec.org](http://www.liberiawaec.org).
- The Head of WAEC National Office, Professor Thomas Gaie said the new technology service provides online registration, results checking and online verification of results.
- According to Professor Gaie, students throughout the country and around the world can now log onto the new WAEC website for test results and other key information.
- He however said students and interested parties are required to purchase what he called a result checker card to access results.
- Professor Gaie said the introduction of the new technology will pave the way for Liberian schools to adapt computer literacy in the system.
- Meanwhile, Professor Gaie has announced that Liberia will host the 58th annual Council Meeting in March this year.

### **Cape Mount Health Team Gets Bikes For Accessibility**

(New Democrat)

- Medical Team International (MTI) with funding from USAID has donated thirteen motorbikes valued at US\$52,000 to the Health Team of Grand Cape Mount County.
- MTI Country Director William Massaquoi said the bikes will help ease the transportation needs of health practitioners in the county.
- The County Health Team through Dr. Julius Garbo praised MTI for the bikes and assured they would properly care for them.

### **Opposition Politician Accused President of “Desecrating” the National Legislature**

(Liberian Journal, National Chronicle, The Independent, The Analyst, The Inquirer and The Monitor)

- An Executive of the opposition National Patriotic Party (NPP), Lewis Brown in response to President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf’s second-term bid has accused the Liberian leader of vaulting her responsibilities as President.
- At a news conference over the weekend in Monrovia, Mr. Brown said the President desecrated the National Legislature by choosing to announce her candidacy for the forthcoming Presidential election at that venue.

### **DynCorp Gets US\$20M AFL Contract**

(New Democrat)

- The U.S. Department of State has awarded DynCorp International a task order for operations and maintenance support in Liberia under the AFRICAP contract.
- The task order which is valued at 5.2 million for the initial 6 months base period has a potential total value of US\$20 million over two years if all options are exercised according to the report.
- Under the task order DynCorp International will provide operations and maintenance support for the facilities of the Armed Forces of Liberia at the Edward B. Kesselly Barracks and Camp Ware in Liberia.

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

#### **President Sirleaf Attends AU Summit in Ethiopia**

#### **LACC Recommends Prosecution For CBL, Others**

*(Also reported on Radio Veritas, Truth FM, Sky FM, and ELBC)*

#### **Attorney Zargo, Others Testify In Angel Togba Murder Trial Today**

- Three members of the first team of investigators who probed the death of Angel Togba are expected to testify today Monday at Criminal Court B.
- They include former head of the Criminal Investigation Division of the Liberia National Police, Attorney Stephen Zargo, and two senior homicide investigators, Eric Hney and Nyepan Nyepan.
- Judge Blamo Dixon subpoenaed them based on a defense request.
- Dr. Anthony Quaye testifying earlier for prosecution, alleged Attorney Zargo’s team influenced his report, a claim many people have criticized.
- The testimonies of the men are seen as very crucial to disproving the state’s claim that Angel Togba died from strangulation.
- John Richardson, a Liberian architect, testifying Friday for the defense said measurements that led to the conclusion that death by hanging was not feasible are erroneous.

#### **Representative Wesseh Blamoh Resigns From Peace Committee**

- The Chairman of the House Committee on Peace and Reconciliation, Representative Wesseh Blamoh has resigned.

- Representative Blamoh's resignation comes amidst controversy over the implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) report.
- Reports say Representative Blamoh's resignation comes at a time when the TRC report remains a subject of controversy at the Legislature.
- Meanwhile, Representative Blamoh has said last year's legislative freeze placed on the TRC report is now null and void after the return of lawmakers from the annual break.
- He said President Sirleaf is now under obligation to submit her three-month Progress Report on the implementation of the TRC report to the Legislature.

### **USAID Signs Multi-million Dollar Agreements With Two Banks**

### **Cape Mount Health Team Gets Bikes For Accessibility**

### **WAEC-Monrovia Launches Website**

### **Fire Destroys More Than Six Houses In Sinkor**

- A raging fire has reportedly destroyed more than six houses in the 5<sup>th</sup> street community in Monrovia.
- The exact cause of the fire incident is yet to be established.
- Meanwhile, a group of disabled people made homeless by the fire incident have made a SOS call for philanthropic organizations to come to their aid.

*(Also reported on Radio Veritas, Truth FM, Sky FM, and ELBC)*

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## Penki News

Tuesday, 2 February 2010

<http://news.penki.lt/news.aspx?Lang=EN&Element=News&Topic>

### Hague Prosecutor Brammertz: Balkans “still suffering” from Yugoslav wars

“I was once beaten up so badly, I spent four days in a coma. I was thrown out onto a heap of corpses, and I was found there by one of my comrades.” This is the testimony of just one victim of the Yugoslav wars who testified at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in the Hague. Chief Prosecutor, Belgian Serge Brammertz held talks with MEPs on the Foreign Affairs Committee on 26 January. We spoke to him.



One of the most crucial aspects of the stabilisation of the successor states of Yugoslavia has been the carrot and stick of potential future EU membership. Slovenia has already joined and Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro all want to follow suit.

However, cooperation with the ICTY is a precondition of progress towards EU membership. This is why the European Parliament regularly monitors developments in the region.

One of the key areas of discussion on 26 January was what to do should fugitives like Serb General Ratko Mladić and Serb Goran Hadžić continue to evade the Court.

What are the overall lessons learned from Tribunal's work?

You know, we are not yet at the end of the process, probably it is too early to have a final conclusion. I think it is clear that by having indicted 161 persons the tribune has played a major role in addressing the crimes committed in the region.

Of course the Tribunal in its initial phase had a number of organisational, logistical problems to deal with. But I think at the end of the day if we look at the number of cases prosecuted I think it has been quite successful.

In a broader context, you know that after the Tribunal, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), the Special Court for Sierra Leone and Cambodia we have the International Criminal Court (ICC). I think the experience with the ad hoc tribunals has played a major role in the creation of the ICC as a permanent tribunal.

Suffering cannot be put into numbers, but give us some idea of the scale of the Tribunal's work?

We have millions of pages of documents at the tribunal. We have thousands of victims who have testified during these 16 years. Figures are relative and differ in terms of victims. There are victims who have lost their lives, victims of rape, victims who lost their families.

The entire region is a victim of the crimes committed by a number of individuals and the entire region is still suffering politically.

Given that Ratko Mladić and Goran Hadžić are still at large, when do you think the ICTY will finish its work?

The only good scenario is that the fugitives are arrested during the lifetime of the Tribunal, which means the next two or three years.

In the worst case scenario, the UN Security Council is working on the so-called residual mechanism - a kind of institution to be created after the closure of the Tribunal, which will deal with remaining requests of assistance for witness protection. This mechanism will also have a tribunal component - a kind of a "sleeping tribunal" to be activated if one of the fugitives is arrested at a later stage.

I think the message that the Security Council and the international community really wants to give is that whenever, wherever the fugitives are arrested there will be a judicial mechanism to deal with them.

## The Pitt News

Thursday, 28 January 2010

### War crimes ambassador speaks at Pitt law school

By Richard Rosengarten / Staff Writer

For inspiration, Stephen Rapp looks back about 65 years, to the Nuremberg Trials.

He quotes former U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice Robert Jackson, the man who helped lead the prosecution of Nazis and other World War II war criminals:

“The wrongs which we seek to condemn and punish have been so calculated, so malignant and so devastating that civilization cannot tolerate their being ignored, because it cannot survive their being repeated.”

Rapp, who spoke in the Teplitz Memorial Courtroom of the law school yesterday, has worked as a prosecutor in numerous international courts and tribunals, achieving unprecedented convictions that recognized sexual slavery and forced marriage as crimes against humanity.

He has also convicted people for the crime of direct and public incitement to commit genocide.

In September, Rapp became the U.S. ambassador at-large for war crimes issues, meaning he helps bring alleged war criminals to trial. His position, which was created by the Clinton administration, exists in few other governments.

So Rapp, who was appointed by President Barack Obama, works without appropriations, trying when he can to marshal funds from other organizations.

He spoke yesterday about the role of the United States in international criminal courts, which has been complex and contentious.

“The idea of universal jurisdiction is a controversial one,” Rapp said.

International courts and tribunals have sought to prosecute people for crimes against humanity. There have been prosecutions responding to conflicts in places such as Rwanda, Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The United States ratified a treaty that created the International Criminal Court in 2002, but later “unsigned” it, relieving itself from its commitment to refrain from “acts which would defeat the object and purpose” of the treaty.

It is one of only two countries that has not ratified the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child, which was designed to protect children’s rights. The other country is Somalia, whose transitional government recently announced its intent to become a member.

The United States has been cautious of submitting to universal standards of conduct, Rapp said. The Bush administration adamantly opposed involvement with the International Criminal Court.

Obama has adopted a more solicitous approach, but most policy experts consider the United States far away from joining.

“I do not think we’ll see a president in the foreseeable future submitting the treaty to the Senate for ratification,” Rapp said.

Still, he said, the United States is heavily involved in issues of international justice, participating in domestic debates on defining torture.

“If you remember the days of the Bush administration, there was the whole debate about terrorism — whether they should be held incommunicado, whether they’re people who should benefit from the Geneva Conventions or whether they should be called unlawful combatants,” Charles Jalloh, a Pitt law professor who was born in Sierra Leone, said.

Jalloh invited Rapp to visit Pitt. He met Rapp when they were on opposing sides in the case against former Liberian President Charles Taylor, in the Special Court for Sierra Leone. Jalloh served as the defense after Taylor fired his counsel. Rapp led the prosecution.

Rapp said he believes in the power of international justice, but that he wants to do more.

“People are not brought back, and wounds are not healed by justice,” he said.

Rapp is busy extending his influence.

After leaving Pittsburgh, he will travel to New York to speak at Pace Law School, hold meetings on Rwanda and visit the Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation. Later, he will stop in Tanzania, Ethiopia and Baghdad.

He will be in Berlin by Feb. 16 for the Berlin Film Festival, where he will host a reception, see a new documentary about Nuremberg and “shake down” the Russian minister for funds for the Special Court in Sierra Leone.

He said he hopes to be back in the United States by Feb. 19.

Rapp said his goal is to make it easier for individual countries to bring justice to those who commit crimes against humanity, making sure the International Criminal Court is a last resort.

The international trials are important and emblematic, Rapp said, but they will only handle a handful of cases.

“If it’s going to happen,” he said, “it should happen in each individual country.”

International courts can only do so much. Rapp said his goal is to make local systems more effective so that there’s a better chance of justice at home.

Reuters

Monday, 1 February 2010

### **Bosnia Muslim ex-commander arrested for war crimes**



*Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina*

Bosnian police arrested a Muslim wartime commander on Monday on suspicion of killing more than 20 Croat civilians and

prisoners of war during the Muslim-Croat war in 1993, the state prosecutor's office said.

Zulfikar Alispago, 51, was arrested on charges of crimes against civilians and prisoners of war, plus violations of the laws and practices of warfare, it said in a statement.

Alispago served as a commander of the special military unit "Zulfikar" that is believed to have carried out the mass killing during an attack on a village in southern Bosnia in April 1993.

"The war crimes in Trusina village were committed on April 16, 1993, when 19 civilians and three Croat soldiers who had earlier surrendered were killed, and four civilians, of whom two children, were wounded," the statement said.

Alispago is the most senior officer arrested so far from a group of Bosnian Muslims charged with the atrocities in Trusina. Five of his wartime comrades were arrested last year.

Bosnian Muslims and Croats entered the 1992-95 war as allies against Bosnian Serbs but then fought their own war in 1993-94, which was ended by a Washington-brokered peace agreement.

Alispago will be handed over to the Bosnian state war crimes court set up in 2005 to try thousands of suspects from the 1992-95 war and to take over mid- and low-ranking cases from the United Nations war crimes tribunal in The Hague.

Source: Reuters

## Radio Netherlands Worldwide

Monday, 1 February 2010

### Hariri tribunal president visits Lebanon

By Vessela Evrova



*Beirut, Lebanon*

The president of the Lebanon tribunal, which investigates the murder of former Lebanese premier Rafiq Hariri, met President Michel Sleiman and other officials on his first visit to Lebanon on Monday.

The Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL) chief, Antonio Cassese, briefed Sleiman "on the progress the tribunal has made and the steps planned for the next phase of the investigation," a statement released by Sleiman's office said.

Cassese's first visit to Lebanon is to promote the tribunal to the Lebanese population, and show that they are committed to fulfilling its mandate. Results of the visits are to follow later in the week.

Cassese and his deputy, Ralph Riachy, are also scheduled to meet Foreign Minister Ali Shami and Justice Minister Ibrahim Najjar, as well as parliament speaker Nabih Berri during their week long visit.

According to Peter Foster, spokesperson at the tribunal in Leidschendam, the Netherlands, the purpose of the visit is "to facilitate an exchange of views and create an opportunity to meet government representatives and key officials interested in the work of the Tribunal."

These include the President of the Bar Association and several universities, including St. Joseph and the Lebanese University.

#### **Impartiality vital**

In order to preserve the tribunal's impartiality, Cassese and Riachy will not meet Prime Minister Saad Hariri, the son of the assassinated premier, or Defence Minister Elias Murr "because of the personal link they have with cases that may fall under the tribunal's jurisdiction," the tribunal announced prior to his visit.

Murr was also a minister in Rafiq Hariri's cabinet. While unforeseen, "conflict of interest needs to be avoided", said Foster.

The tribunal, also dubbed the Hariri tribunal, was set up by the UN Security Council in 2007 to try suspects in the assassination of Hariri and 22 others, killed in a massive bomb blast on the Beirut seafront in February 2005.

The bombing was widely blamed on Syria although Damascus has denied any involvement. A UN commission of inquiry said it had found evidence to implicate Syrian and Lebanese intelligence services but there are currently no suspects in custody.

## Voice of America

Monday, 1 February 2010

### **Chadian Survivors of Habre's Rule to Mark 10th Anniversary of his Indictment**

Howard Lesser

On Wednesday, the victims of politically motivated killings and torture allegedly carried out in the 1980's by former Chadian president Hissene Habre will mark the 10th anniversary of his indictment by a judge in Senegal. Habre has yet to stand trial, either in Senegal, where he has lived in exile for the past 17 years, or in Belgium, which indicted him in 2005 for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and torture. Exiled Chadian dictator Hissene Habre has lived in Senegal since 1993. He remains under nominal house arrest, pending trial for overseeing the killings and torture of Chadians in detention during the 1980's.

The African Union, which is meeting through Wednesday in Addis Ababa, is reportedly crafting a progress report on Senegal's preparations to prosecute Habre. But Dakar attorney Mouhamed Kebe, who represents several of the surviving Chadians, says he's skeptical about their progress, but hopeful that a demonstration in the Chadian capital Ndjamena on Wednesday can spur the African leaders to take action.

"We have some demonstrations in Ndjamena, a march, some rallies, and we are also trying to see to what extent we can discuss this in a society of religious people here (in Senegal) in order to make them understand that they should be in solidarity with the victims there and to see how they can help them and push in order to make this happen," he suggested.

Kebe says as the years unfold without any action, the number of victims dwindles, and further delays only lessen the likelihood that Chadian survivors will see justice done.

"Definitely, we want to make this prosecution and this trial happen because the victims are waiting for 10 years, and a few of them have passed away and others are always suffering. So they want to see this prosecution and this trial happen," he said.

Under a universal jurisdiction law, Belgium sought Senegal's help in extraditing Habre to trial in Europe after his first indictment was thrown out in Senegal on a technicality. But the African Union stepped in and asked Senegal in July, 2006 to prosecute Habre "on behalf of all Africa," a move that attorney Kebe says in effect blocked the European initiative and placed the onus back on Senegal.

"We cannot say that something very concrete has been done. We have to keep in mind that Belgium requested from Senegal to extradite him (Habre) to Belgium to try him, and that the African Union asked Senegal not to extradite Habre to Belgium in order to prosecute and to try him on behalf of Africa. So since they are jeopardizing the mission of another country to make this happen, they (the AU) should do so (help Senegal) because it's their obligation to make it happen," he said.

Although European countries continue to facilitate the Dakar government's ability to host a trial with offers of funding, Kebe says the ball is in Senegal's court to overcome delays in finding a facility to house the trial and what he says is a reluctance by Senegalese officials to come up with a credible budget for their European allies, Belgium, France, the Netherlands, and Switzerland to help fund.

"The European Union has always expressed its commitment to help Senegal and to give funds. In my understanding, Senegal has not given the European Union a concrete document which can explain exactly what are the steps to go ahead. In my opinion, it is Senegal's obligation to give something very, very clear

in terms of proposals which can allow the EU to fund and to give assistance,” he said.

In Addis Ababa at the AU summit, African leaders are debating how to give the organization greater influence to act against power grabs, unconstitutional changes of power, and a growing number of presidents who have extended their rule and refused to relinquish power. Speaking for his Chadian clients, attorney Kebe says he hopes that the African Union summit will not squander another chance to encourage Senegal to bring Hissene Habre to justice.

“African states are not very willing to see this trial happening. The reason is that Habre is one among many past dictators who should be tried. And the prospect of seeing Habre prosecuted and tried is not a very good sign for them because they may be thinking still that tomorrow, it can be (done to) them. This is why many presidents or many ex-presidents who are in the situation like that of Habre don’t want to see this happen. That’s maybe why they don’t push,” he explains.

In December, a joint team from the European Union and the African Union travelled to Senegal with the intention of drafting a budget that would ultimately permit Senegal to put the Chadian dictator on trial.

To coincide with the 10th anniversary of Habre’s indictment, human rights groups have released a new study that demonstrates Habre’s full involvement in tracking and ordering the deaths and torture of hundreds of prisoners operated by his political police, the feared Chadian Documentation and Security Directorate (DDS).

Chadian lawyers for the victims claim that Habre kept in direct communications with his security chiefs about the status of hundreds of detainees during the 1980’s, that thousands of victims are mentioned in the documents, and that 1,208 prisoners are detailed as having died in detention.

## Human Rights Watch

Friday, 29 January 2010

### Hissene Habre knew about killings in Chad



*Dakar, Senegal*

Former despot Hissène Habré knew about the hundreds of deaths in Chad's prisons operated by his political police, a coalition of human rights

organisations said Friday. The announcement came on the eve of the 10th anniversary of his indictment in Senegal.

The findings are based on a new study by the Human Rights Data Analysis Group (HRDAG). The conclusions are based on thousands of documents generated by the Documentation and Security Directorate (DDS) – the state security force that pursued opponents and operated notorious prisons during the Habré regime. The files were discovered by chance by Human Rights Watch in 2001 at the abandoned Security Directorate's headquarters in N'Djamena, the Chadian capital.

#### **No distant ruler**

"The evidence shows that Habré was not a distant ruler who knew nothing about these crimes," said Jacqueline Moudeina, president of the Chadian Association for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights, who is also a lawyer for the victims. "Habré directed and controlled the police force, which tortured those who opposed him or who simply belonged to the wrong ethnic group."

This information could be critical in the long-delayed prosecution of Habré, who has been accused of killing and systematically torturing thousands of political opponents during his rule in Chad, from 1982 to 1990, the groups said. The announcement came from the Chadian Association for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights (ATPDH), the Chadian Association of Victims of Political Repression and Crime (AVCRP), the Chadian League for Human Rights, the African Assembly for the Defense of Human Rights (RADDHO-Senegal), the National Organization for Human Rights (ONDH-Senegal), Human Rights Watch (HRW), the International Federation of Human Rights (FIDH), and Agir Ensemble pour les Droits de l'Homme.

Habré was first indicted on February 3, 2000 by a Senegalese judge, but the charges were thrown out on a technicality. In 2006, Senegal agreed to an African Union (AU) mandate to prosecute Habré, but it has refused to act until it receives €27.4 million from the international community, its estimate of the cost of the trial.

"It's been 10 years since Senegal first indicted Habré, but in these 10 years, thousands of my fellow survivors have perished and we are no closer to Habré's trial," said Souleymane Guengueng, 59, who almost died of dengue fever during two years of mistreatment in Chadian prisons. "Unless Senegal acts soon, there won't be any victims left at the trial."

### **Well-informed**

The analysis of prison documents reveals that there was a direct superior-subordinate relationship between Habré and his appointed Security Directorate leadership and that Habré was well-informed of its operations. This analysis shows that Habré received 1,265 direct communications from the agency about the status of 898 detainees. A total of 12,321 victims are mentioned in the documents, including 1,208 who died in detention.

"Our analysis of document flow encompasses more than 2,700 administrative records, which together illustrate a clear communication and command link between President Habré and his political police," said Romesh Silva, senior demographer for HRDAG and lead author of the report. "Our findings also confirm earlier qualitative accounts of prisoner conditions and high mortality within the DDS. Perhaps most compelling is the fact that the information gathered by the DDS and Habré to document their own abuses can now be used to hold them responsible for their actions."

### **Universal jurisdiction**

Under international law, individuals can be found criminally responsible for serious human rights violations if they knew or should have known that forces under their authority or control were committing crimes and failed to act to prevent the crimes or punish those responsible.

Senegal has said that it will not move forward with the case until it receives full international funding for all the costs of the trial. Senegal's estimate of €27.4 million includes €8 million to reconstruct a courthouse. The European Union, Belgium, France, the Netherlands, and Switzerland have publicly or privately agreed to help finance the trial, but are waiting for a "credible" budget. Chad has offered €3 million as an "initial" contribution. In December 2009, a joint team from the European Union and the AU visited Senegal and is expected to propose a revised budget for finally bringing Habré to trial.

### **On behalf of Africa**

In July 2006, the AU mandated Senegal to prosecute Habré "on behalf of Africa." The upcoming AU summit of heads of state and government in Addis Ababa from January 31 to February 2 will consider a progress report on Senegal's preparations for the case. Habré's victims, and their supporters, called on the AU to press Senegal to move forward.

"The failure to prosecute Habré is a shame on Africa," said Dobian Assingar of FIDH and honorary president of the Chadian League for Human Rights. "This case is a golden opportunity for Africa to show that is capable of fighting against impunity. Instead Africa is failing its victims."

Habré's victims will mark the 10th anniversary of the indictment with a series of activities in N'Djaména.

(Source: Human Rights Watch)