

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



Historic postcard of today's Government Wharf.

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:

Friday, 23 April 2010

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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Charlestaylortrial.org

Thursday, 22 April 2010

Witness Never Saw Charles Taylor Or NPFL Commanders While RUF Trained At Camp Nama In Liberia

By Alpha Sesay

Neither Charles Taylor, nor any member of his Liberian rebel group, ever visited the base where Sierra Leonean rebel forces underwent training in Liberia, a defense witness for Mr. Taylor told Special Court for Sierra Leone judges today in The Hague.

Former Liberian president, Charles Taylor, is on trial for allegedly supporting Sierra Leonean rebels during the country's brutal 11-year war as they raped, mutilated and killed civilians while benefitting from the country's diamond wealth. Prosecutors say that Mr. Taylor gave the rebel group weapons in exchange for blood diamonds, and either controlled, or jointly planned, the rebels' atrocities in his neighboring country. Mr. Taylor has denied all 11 charges against him of war crimes, crimes against humanity and other serious violations of international law. His defense case started in July 2009 with Mr. Taylor on the stand, and since February 2010, witnesses have come forward in his defense.

Martin Flomo George, a Liberian national, today told the court about how the Sierra Leonean rebel group – the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) — underwent training at Camp Nama in Liberia before they invaded Sierra Leone in 1991. Mr. George – who said he was a member of the RUF throughout Sierra Leone's war between 1991-2002 – said he was approached by RUF leader, Foday Sankoh, to join the rebel group in 1991. Based in the Liberian town of Gbarngaha at the time, Mr. George said he willingly joined the group once Mr. Sankoh told him that a liberation struggle in Sierra Leone needed the witness' help. (Gbarngaha served as the headquarter town for Mr. Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) and Camp Nama was within NPFL controlled territory within this time in the early 1990s).

Mr. George said he was taken to the RUF training base at Camp Nama, where he met other Liberians and Sierra Leoneans also undergoing revolutionary training. This did not mean that Mr. Taylor and his NPFL rebels supported the RUF rebels during their training at Camp Nama, however, Mr. George said. Instead, the portion of Camp Nama where RUF rebels were trained — called "Crab Hole" — was cut off from other groups there. Mr. George said he never saw Mr. Taylor at Camp Nama, corroborating a previous defense witness' testimony about "Crab Hole".

As Mr. Taylor's defense counsel, Morris Anyah, asked him whether he ever saw or heard of Mr. Taylor being at Camp Nama, the witness said that "I never saw him there, not a day did I see him on that base."

"When I was training at Camp Nama under the RUF, I never heard about Charles Taylor in Camp Nama," the witness added.

Prosecutors have alleged – backed up by prosecution witnesses – that Mr. Taylor provided support for the RUF during their training at Camp Nama and that RUF leader, Foday Sankoh, held meetings with Mr. Taylor and other NPFL commanders at the camp during this period. Mr. Taylor has dismissed this assertion as false. In his testimony today, the Mr. George sided with Mr. Taylor's account.

Asked by Mr. Anyah whether he ever saw or heard of Mr. Sankoh meeting with any NPFL commanders while at Camp Nama, Mr. George said no.

"I never heard about that and I never saw it," the witness said.

In his testimony yesterday, however, Mr. George said that while the RUF underwent training at a particular section of Camp Nama — which he said was a big military barracks — an NPFL artillery unit was also undergoing training at another section of the camp. He did not say that the two groups interacted with each other.

Also in his testimony today, Mr. George said that when RUF rebels completed their training at Camp Nama in 1991, they did not have any weapons to attack Sierra Leone. He said that as they advanced to enter Sierra Leone, they came across a bundle of arms and ammunition at the Liberian border with Sierra Leone. These weapons, the witness said, were used to attack Sierra Leone. He said they did not know who put the weapons there.

The witness drew a harsh response from the presiding judge of the Chamber, Justice Sebutinde, for the manner in which he responded to her question asking him to clarify his statement about the weapons found by the RUF.

“What should I say? Should I say they were wasting there?” the witness responded in a harsh tone.

This response did not go down well with Justice Sebutinde.

“Mr. Witness, I don’t like your attitude when you are answering questions,” Justice Sebutinde said.

“Nobody in this court was there. You are here to give evidence and to help us understand what went on for the purposes of a very serious trial. Now kindly cooperate with your lawyer in answering and making yourself understood. If you use words that we can’t understand, we ask for your clarification. I don’t know with whom you are losing your temper,” Justice Sebutine told the witness.

“Check your attitude and be courteous to everybody, as we are trying to be courteous to you,” she added.

The witness apologized and thanked the Justice Sebutinde for her caution.

Mr. George’s testimony continues tomorrow.

Thursday, 23 April 2010

By John Kollie

NEWS ITEM

The Prosecution of the Special Court for Sierra Leone alleged that the RUF Rebel Group was established, trained and supported in Liberia by Former Liberian President, Charles Taylor in collaboration with Former RUF Leader, Mr. Foday Sankoh. But a Former Brigade Commander of the RUF, Martin George alias Mao Moa has testified that Mr. Taylor never associated himself with the RUF formation and training. John Kollie transcribes reports from The Hague on the trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor...

Defence Witness, Martin George said the RUF trained him and others at the Camp Naama Military Barracks in Liberia, but he never saw Mr. Taylor at the training base.

Mr. George also denied that Mr. Taylor's rebel forces, the NPFL supported the RUF with food and weapons during their training at Camp Naama in 1991.

But Defence Lawyer, Morris Anyah pressed the witness on Mr. Taylor's alleged support to the RUF. Mr. George also told the court that the RUF invading forces had no weapons after their training to launch the Sierra Leone civil war.

He said the RUF Forces later found a stockpile of weapons of various kinds near the Liberian-Sierra Leone border when they got there. He said the RUF forces did not know who had packed the arms and ammunition in the bush where they found them.

But Presiding Judge Julia Sebutinde insisted that the witness clarify the position of the arms in the bush. Mr. George, the Defence Witness answered in rather harsh tone and displeased the Presiding Judge.

Mr. Taylor's trial was on Thursday delayed for 40-minutes after the morning break. Power failure hit the International Criminal Court building which houses the Special Court for Sierra Leone and disabled the computer system in court. The computer system was however later restored.

By Alpha Sesay

Liberia: Prosecutors Say That Charles Taylor Lied Under Oath When He Testified That RUF Leader Foday Sankoh Was Not Based At Gbarngaha, Liberia



Prosecutors today said that Charles Taylor lied under oath when he said that Sierra Leone's rebel leader only visited him in Liberia for a few days, but did not stay there for months during the civil conflicts in both Liberia and Sierra Leone.

Fayia Musa, a Sierra Leonean rebel insider, today told the Special Court for Sierra Leone that at some point during his country's brutal 11-year conflict, rebel leader Foday Sankoh spent about six months with Mr. Taylor at his National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) headquarters at Gbarngaha in Liberia.

Prosecutors said this account by Mr. Musa, former spokesperson for the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebel group, contradicted Mr. Taylor's own account. The former Liberian president, during his own testimony, had denied suggestions that Mr. Sankoh used to stay at NPFL headquarters at Gbarngaha. Mr. Sankoh was only a visitor there for a few days, Mr. Taylor had told the court. According to Mr. Musa, this was not the case.

"You see Mr. Witness, I believe you told us the truth – I believe Charles Taylor lied under oath," prosecution counsel, Nicholas Koumjian, said to the witness.

"He [Mr. Taylor] was asked "did Foday Sankoh base with you in Gbarngaha?" He [Mr. Taylor] answered, "well again, Foday Sankoh was not based with me in Gbarngaha." He was asked "please explain what you mean when you say he was not based with you in Gbarngaha." And he answered, "well to be based means to be permanent from my understanding, so it was not permanent. If your question is, he visited me in Gbarngaha, yes, but he was not based with me in Gbarngaha, no," Mr. Koumjian said, recounting to the witness the earlier exchange with Mr. Taylor.

Mr. Koumjian asserted that Mr. Taylor lied in his testimony when he said that Mr. Sankoh would only spend a few days with him at Gbarngaha and then he would return to Sierra Leone.

"So we see here, Mr. Taylor lies and says that Foday Sankoh would only stay two or three days. You told us that Foday Sankoh and Mr. Tengbeh went to Gbarngaha for six months before they returned to Sierra Leone, isn't that correct?" Mr. Koumjian asked the witness.

In his response, the witness said that "it is correct."

"They [Mr. Sankoh and Mr. Tengbeh] were there up until the end of the Top 40."

The operation code named Top 40, according to Mr. Taylor and several witnesses, marked the end of collaboration between Mr. Taylor's NPFL and the RUF in 1992. Prosecutors, however, allege that the relationship between Mr. Taylor and the RUF continued even after 1992 and that the former Liberian president continued to provide support to the rebel forces in Sierra Leone. With Mr. Taylor's support and

advice, prosecutors say that the RUF committed widespread atrocities against the civilian population of Sierra Leone. Mr. Taylor has dismissed the allegations as false.

Earlier in court today, Mr. Taylor's defense counsel Courtenay Griffiths informed the judges that the defense will be incapacitated to present witnesses next week due to the problems faced by airlines in flying in and out of Europe caused by volcano ash spreading across the continent's airspace. With only one more witness after Mr. Musa presently in The Hague, it may be difficult to transport witnesses from West Africa to Europe unless there is a significant change with flight availability, he said.

"As a consequence of the disruption to airline traffic into Europe, we will have problems progressing the trial next week because currently there is only one further witness in The Hague, and we know not how long the current travel difficulties will persist or whether indeed flights will be coming in from West Africa at anytime soon," Mr. Griffiths told the judges.

Presiding judge, Justice Julia Sebutinde, conferred with her colleagues and then responded that the problems affecting airline traffic into and out of Europe is disappearing gradually. If progress is made with airline traffic by next week, then the challenge envisaged will not affect the trial, she said.

As Mr. Musa concluded his testimony today, Mr. Taylor's ninth defense witness took the witness stand. The witness, a Liberian national, Martin Flomo George, told the court that he fought for the RUF from the start of the conflict in Sierra Leone in 1991 to its conclusion in 2002.

Mr. Taylor has previously said that Liberian nationals could have fought in Sierra Leone as part of the RUF but that he did not send them there. He said that he had no links with the Liberians who fought in Sierra Leone. Liberian nationals now testifying as former members of the RUF seek to corroborate Mr. Taylor's account that they were indeed part of the RUF in Sierra Leone but with no links to Mr. Taylor.

Mr. Flomo's testimony continues today.


United Nations **Nations Unies**

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary
22 April 2010

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

UN News in Liberia

UNMIL and related UN agencies were not reported in the media today.

Local News on Liberian issues

Celebrations For Independence Day In Sanniquellie Will Go Ahead As Planned, Says President Sirleaf
 [Heritage, Front Page Africa]

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf says the Independence Day celebrations scheduled for Sanniquellie, Nimba County will go ahead as planned.
- President Sirleaf said the July 26, 2010 celebrations will be held on scheduled despite threats of boycott by some elements in the society.
- The President assured that anyone who tries to disturb the pending celebration would be dealt with in keeping with law.
- The Liberian leader said although there has been a land conflict in the county, a special presidential committee headed by businessman Musa Bility is already investigating the issue and there was no need for threats.

Handle 2011 Threshold, Top US Official Urges Politicians
 [New Democrat, Front Page Africa, The News]

- US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, Mr. William J. Burns, Wednesday reemphasized the urgency for passing the Threshold Bill necessary for the 2011 elections.
- Mr. Burns call came after talks with President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and her cabinet.
- He also resounded a similar concern when he met with leaders of political parties during his brief visit.
- The bill, now before the Supreme Court, has been rejected twice by the President, citing “unconstitutionality and economic grounds.”
- At the meeting with the President at the Foreign Ministry, Mr. Burns insisted that the passage of the Threshold Bill “should move ahead quickly” to ensure fair and credible General and Presidential Elections in the 2011.

US Government Announces Assistance Package To LNP
 [The News, Daily Observer, Heritage, The Inquirer]

- The US Government has announced an additional US\$19.75 million assistance package to the Liberia National Police (LNP).
- The US Government said it would also provide support in the rebuilding process of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL).
- Making the disclosure Wednesday, US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, William Burns said his government recognizes the significant progress made in the country mainly in the security sector reform.
- Mr. Burns said the US will continue to encourage the progress in the judiciary sector and other areas of the Liberian government.
- He said his government will also continue to provide technical support to the conduct of the 2011 general elections.
- The US Under secretary of State reaffirmed his government’s commitment to make progress in the development agenda of the Liberian government.
- Earlier, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf briefed Mr. Burns on progress being made by her government in the country recovery programme.

- She expressed appreciation for the strong partnership that Liberia enjoys from the US.

China Government Economic And Trade Delegation Visits Liberia

[Daily Observer, The Informer, Heritage, Front Page Africa, The New Republic]

- Dr. Fu Ziyang, Vice Minister of Commerce of the People's Republic of China, which is in charge of China's foreign aid and foreign economic relations, will lead a 40-member delegation to Liberia from April 22 to 25, 2010 as part of his five-nation (Chad, Central Africa, Gabon and Liberia Congo-Brazzaville) tour in Africa.
- The delegation comprises 14 government officials, 21 business executives and five journalists.
- The purpose of the visit is to improve China's aid work in Africa and promote trade and economic cooperation with said countries.
- During his stay in Liberia, Dr. Fu will pay a courtesy call on President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, hold official bilateral talks with relevant ministers or their deputies, and sign five documents on aid and economic cooperation with Liberia.
- The Chinese Vice Minister will also witness the launching of the Bong Mines project, hold dialogues with diplomats and journalists on issues of Sino-African relations and attend a Forum on Economic and Trade Cooperation with Liberia, among others.

Diamonds Missing, Over 9,747 Carats Out Of Over 58,957 Exported

[New Democrat]

- The Ministry of Lands, Mines and Energy cannot account for over 9,000 carats of diamond and is operating with unidentified mineral dealers, coupled with illegal revenue collection and usage, the just released General Auditing Commission's audits have revealed.
- In 2007 and 2008, the audit indicates that 68,705.24 carats were exported but that the Government Diamond Office reported receiving 58,957.71 carats, thus resulting in a variance of 9,747.53 carats.
- Auditor General John Morlu noted that mineral officials have not provided "material justification" for the 9,747.53 carats discrepancy in the actual number of diamond recorded and exported.
- This, the Auditor General said, might have reduced government's royalties from diamond trade.
- Mr. Morlu noted that the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, introduced by the UN in 2003 to avoid sale of conflict diamond and other gems, is not being fully implemented, with the occurrence of illicit mining and mineral trade.

No Schools Built, Huge Sums Vanish As GAC Reveals Shady Contracts At Education

[New Democrat]

- Evidence gathered through General Auditing Commission (GAC) verification teams reveal how hundreds of thousands of dollars were spent to build or renovate schools while the projects were abandoned or left uncompleted.
- The audits state the Education Ministry entered into contracts with four construction companies for the construction and renovation of schools in five of the fifteen counties at the cost of US\$943,223.30.
- The contractors, Tarwaken Construction Company, Liberia Reconstruction Group, Kaha International and St. George Construction Company were given four months each to complete their respective works.
- None of the schools was completed, and in one case, the NGO Action Aid did the work on which the Ministry said it spent US300, 000, according to the audit.

"No Room For Corrupt Vampires" ... Internal Affairs Minister-Designate Tells Senators

[The News, The Analyst]

- Internal Affairs Minister-designate Harrison Karnwea says under his administration there would be no room for corrupt officials.
- Mr. Karnwea Wednesday told members of the House Committee on Internal Affairs that chronic financial vampires would not be tolerated when confirmed.
- He said "under my leadership, chronic financial vampire who has no regard for fiscal probity but who has elected to temper with the County Development Funds and other resources would certainly have my administration as a force to contend with."
- Mr. Karnwea said he believes funds allocated for county development in the national budget are not meant to be siphoned and funnelled into personal accounts.

Montserrado Superintendent-Designate Releases Grim County Statistics

[National Chronicle]

- The Superintendent-designate of Montserrado County, has released statistics on the number of ghettos and prostitution centres in the county.
- Mrs. Grace Kpaan said a survey done by her office reveals a total of 416 ghettos and 58 prostitution centres within Montserrado.
- According to Mrs. Kpaan, these centres are negatively impacting youth development across the county.
- She made the revelation Wednesday during confirmation hearing before the Senate Committee on Internal Affairs, Reconciliation and Governance.
- The Montserrado Superintendent-designate said if confirmed she would prioritize youth development through education and road rehabilitation.

On Threshold Bill Delays, Opposition Party Drags Executive, Legislative To Court

[National Chronicle]

- The opposition Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) has dragged the Executive and Legislative branches of government to court for failing to pass the threshold bill.
- The CDC filed a writ of mandamus on the two branches of government compelling them to adhere to their responsibilities under the laws of Liberia by passing the bill into law.
- According to the party's Deputy Secretary General, Acarius Gray, the writ is intended for the two branches to quickly pass the bill.
- Mr. Gray said the two branches are playing politics on the passage of the bill at the detriment of the conduct of the 2011 elections.
- The CDC Deputy Secretary General called on the international community to put pressure on the two branches of government to pass the bill.

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

Celebrations For Independence Day In Sanniquellie Will Go Ahead As Planned, Says President Sirleaf

(Also reported Radio Veritas, Sky FM, and ELBC)

Vice President Boakai Recommends External Partnership For Waste Management

- Vice President Joseph Boakai says Liberia's waste management system is dysfunctional.
- Vice President Boakai said attempts over the years to address the waste management problem have not yielded the desired results blaming the failure to address the problem on lack of proper sensitization, the enormity of the problem and the absence of effective institutional mechanism.
- He observed waste accumulation was far more than its collection and the costs of disposal of large quantities were often beyond the financial capacity of city authorities.
- The Vice President however said with effective external partnerships, Liberia's waste management challenges can be converted into economic opportunities.
- Mr. Boakai spoke Wednesday when he launched the second phase of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Reintegration Project which covers the waste management expansion programme.
- The project is expected to train about four hundred vulnerable men and women in Margibi and Montserrado in waste management.

'Controversial' Threshold Bill Sets For Passage Today

- Reports say the House of Representatives is set to pass the 'controversial' Population Threshold Bill into law today.
- According to the reports, the threshold will be set at about 49,000.
- The reports further the proposed threshold was agreed following hours of discussions at the headquarters of the National Democratic Institute (NDI) in Sinkor.
- It was gathered that key members of the House met at the NDI Wednesday to reach a final decision on the controversial Bill.
- The passage of the Threshold Bill will set the basis for political representation in the House of Representatives as being marked by controversy since 2008.

Education Ministry Reacts Sharply To GAC Audit Report

- The Education Ministry has sharply reacted to a General Auditing Commission (GAC) report linking the Deputy Minister for Instruction to a US\$45,000 scandal.
- The GAC in its recent audit findings requested Deputy Minister Hester Williams Catacaw to restitute the money.
- But the Ministry described the GAC request as unjustified because the audit was allegedly conducted with pre-conceived notion.
- An official of the Ministry said the printing house mentioned in the report is valid likewise the books in question.

- But the GAC rubbished the claims by the Education Ministry that it conducted the audit with pre-conceived notion.

Government Minister Identifies Causes Of Unemployment

- Deputy Youth and Sports Minister Sam Hare has attributed the unemployment rate in the country to what he calls human resource gap.
- Mr. Hare said the lacked of work experience has hampered the qualification of many Liberians who claim to have the requisite documents.
- He said the failure of Liberian youths to take advantage of cadet and voluntary programmes has limited their ability to effectively perform on the job market.
- According to Minister Hare, acquiring a high school or college document alone was not sufficient to earn one a good job.
- He spoke Wednesday at the start of a one-day orientation workshop for young college students in preparation for the 2010 National Cadet programme of the Ministry of Youth and Sports in Monrovia.

Montserrado Superintendent-Designate Releases Grim County Statistics

(Also reported Radio Veritas, Sky FM, and ELBC)

In Keith Jubah Murder Trial, Defense Ends Production Of Witnesses

- Defense lawyers in the Keith Jubah murder trial have ended the production of witnesses.
- They produced several witnesses including some of the defendants.
- In their testimonies especially the defendants denied their involvement in the death of Mr. Jubah.
- Most of them claimed they heard about the incident through the media.
- The prosecution is now expected to produce some rebuttal witnesses before the end of the trial.
- Keith Jubah was brutally murder on the 1st November 2009.

Committee Of Experts Completes Work Plan

- The Committee of Experts on Human Rights led by Cllr. Pearl Brown Bull has announced the completion of its work plan.
- The Committee is charged with the vetting of qualified candidates for the Independent National Commission on Human Rights.
- The work plan covers details of the committee's work, application and nomination guidelines for the vetting of commissioners.
- It also includes preparation of acquaintance letters and submission of a budget to facilitate the committee's work.
- The Committee Chairman Cllr Bull said her team has started meeting with national and international stakeholders including civil society, the UN Mission in Liberia and Amnesty International.

(Also reported Truth FM, Sky FM, and ELBC)

PUL, UNDP End Development Journalism Training

- The Press Union of Liberia (PUL) has encouraged Liberian media practitioners to explore specific areas of specialties in the country.
- PUL's President Peter Quaqua believes journalists could do better in their reportage if they specialize.
- Mr. Quaqua observed a bulk of Liberian journalists do not have areas of specialization.
- The PUL President spoke Wednesday at the close of a three-day Development Journalism Training Workshop in Monrovia.
- He said the initiative was aimed at empowering the participants to focus their reportage on development issues in post-war Liberia.
- The PUL leader disclosed plans for the training of more journalists in different areas to enhance their reportage.

(Also reported Radio Veritas, Sky FM, and ELBC)

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

US Government Announces Assistance Package To LNP

(Also reported Truth FM, Sky FM, and ELBC)

International Clips on Liberia

Voter Registration Crucial Ahead of 2011 Poll, Says Liberia's Electoral Commission Chair

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/africa/Butty-Liberia-Voter-Registration-Fromayan-22april10-91782484.html>

The chairman of Liberia's National Electoral Commission said there is a compelling need for the country to conduct a comprehensive voter registration before next year's presidential and parliamentary elections. James Fromayan said without such registration, many Liberians who were displaced by the country's civil war but who have since returned to their original places of residence would be disenfranchised. His comments come as President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and the national legislature continue to wrangle over a controversial Threshold Bill that sets the numerical requirements for representation in the House of Representatives. Fromayan said passage of the threshold bill is critical for voter registration. "Our constitution stipulates that whenever there is a census conducted and the results are released, the legislature has the responsibility to come up with a threshold, and that threshold is simply the figure that will be used to determine how many representatives will be in the legislature. Right now we have 54 members in the House of Representatives, and the constitution says that they ought not to go above 100," he said. Fromayan said passage of the threshold bill is critical because it is a prerequisite for such activities as delineating constituencies and registering voters.

Naomi Campbell vows to keep mum on 'blood diamond' issue

<http://blog.taragana.com/e/2010/04/22/naomi-campbell-vows-to-keep-mum-on-blood-diamond-issue-111871/>

NEW YORK - Naomi Campbell has refused to testify at the war crimes trial of former Liberian strongman Charles Taylor, saying that she would not speak about the huge, uncut "blood diamond" he allegedly gave her in 1997 in South Africa. The supermodel and the warlord were overnight guests of Nelson Mandela, along with Mia Farrow. And Farrow has revealed that she learned of the diamond at breakfast. "Naomi Campbell came down . . . she said during the night some men had knocked on her door and she, half-asleep, had opened the door and it was representatives of President Charles Taylor and that they had given her a huge diamond. And we were like, 'Oh, my gosh,'" the New York Post quoted her as saying. "Prosecutors say Taylor was in South Africa . . . to buy weapons for the Sierra Leone rebels with blood diamonds and that Mia Farrow's information about Campbell helps tie him to the purchase," said ABC correspondent Brian Ross. But Campbell refused to cooperate, and even vowed to keep mum on the issue at a recent Fashion Week appearance to raise money for Haiti. "I didn't receive a diamond and I'm not going to speak about that," she said.

HIV-Positive Liberians Fight Workplace Discrimination

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/africa/HIV-Positive-Liberians-Fight-Workplace-Discrimination-91713094.html>

HIV-positive people in Liberia say they are being discriminated against in the workplace. AIDS counselors say that is adding to depression and isolation. In a country where official unemployment tops 80 percent, it is hard for anyone in Liberia to find a job. But people who are HIV-positive say it is even more difficult for them because many employers refuse to hire people who have the virus that causes AIDS. "We are very troubled about this situation," said Samuel Thompson. "Things are really getting hard on us. Every time we are denied jobs. Our families are suffering. And we are neglected by our own people. We don't know what to do." Samuel Thompson is HIV positive. He says not being able to provide for their families adds to the stress of Liberians who have contracted the virus. "Why should we be treated in such a manner as if to say we are not human beings? We too are human beings," he said. "We are angry about this." HIV counselor Smith Sando says the public rejection of job discrimination further isolates HIV-positive Liberians and can lead to deep depression.

International Clips on West Africa

Guinea

Guinea leader sacks pro-Camara air force, navy chiefs

CONAKRY, April 22 (Reuters) - Guinea's interim leader Sekouba Konate sacked the heads of the air force and navy on Thursday in a purge of the West African country's military leadership. Konate replaced the head of the armed forces on Wednesday in what observers said was an attempt to reign in military elements allied to injured and sidelined former junta leader Captain Moussa Dadis Camara. "Colonel Naby Ibrahima Soumah is named head of the air force replacing Colonel Mamady Mara. Lieutenant Colonel Lamine Toure is named head of the national navy replacing Colonel Mohamed Camara," said a presidential spokesman. A spokesman for Konate said Wednesday the head of the armed forces Colonel Oumar Sanoh -- a perceived ally of Camara -- was sacked and replaced by Colonel Nouhou Thiam.

Côte d'Ivoire

Ivory Coast Leader Scheduled to Meet Senegal President Wade Thursday

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/africa/Ivory-Coast-Leader-Scheduled-to-Meet-Senegal-President-Wade-Thursday--91770589.html>

A special adviser to Ivory Coast President Laurent Gbagbo says Senegal President Abdoulaye Wade will meet the Ivorian leader Thursday to help resolve the ongoing political crisis. Lambert Bahi Serry said Mr. Wade is keeping his promise of paying a working visit to Ivory Coast to assess the current political situation. "He (President Wade) is coming to discuss with the president about the current situation, make his own assessment. And he will try to assist the facilitator President Blaise Compaore to try to resolve the crisis in Cote d'Ivoire," he said. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) is backing mediation efforts by Burkinabe President Blaise Compaore to help resolve the Ivorian crisis. But Ivory Coast's media speculated that Mr. Wade's presence will undermine Mr. Compaore's ongoing mediation efforts to resolve the political crisis. Serry said the Ivorian leader welcomes the regional bloc's effort to resolve the political stalemate.

The UN technical evaluation mission has harvested good information, says its chief

ABIDJAN, Côte d'Ivoire, April 22, 2010/African Press Organization (APO)/ — On the last day of his visit to Côte d'Ivoire, the head of the UN technical evaluation mission, Raisedon Zenenga, has stated that from now he would be more focused on the crisis-resolution process, especially with regard to UNOCI's future role. Speaking at the end of a meeting with the Ivorian President, Laurent Gbagbo, Mr. Zenenga said that the discussion had given him the opportunity to share the results of his consultations on the crisis-resolution process with the President and receive the latter's comments on the issue. «We received the comments and point of view of President Gbagbo, which will be taken into account in our final report to the Secretary-General," he said. «We have harvested a lot of good information through our meetings with various personalities and what remains to be done now is to go back to New York and write our report for the Secretary-General, who mandated us to come here,» he added. The UN technical evaluation mission has been in Côte d'Ivoire since 12 April. During its visit, it has met with national and international actors involved in the crisis-resolution process in Côte d'Ivoire.

United Nations technical evaluation mission meets officials from police and gendarmerie

ABIDJAN, Côte d'Ivoire, April 22, 2010/African Press Organization (APO)/ — A delegation of the United Nations Technical Evaluation Mission, led by Dmytro Oschepkov, held a working session on Friday, 16 April 2010, with General Affro Yao Raphael, the second-in-command of the Gendarmerie and Division Commissioner Roger Godrin Kouadio, Deputy Director of Forensics of Côte d'Ivoire. Mr. Oschepkov said the objective of the meeting, which took place at the headquarters of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), was to discuss UNOCI's cooperation with Ivorian security forces and to know in which areas the mission can be of use to them. «We would like you to submit your ideas and the areas in which you feel we can assist you. We will take your concerns into account and do our best to adapt to your needs," he said. The officials from the police and gendarmerie said there was close collaboration between UNOCI and the security forces. They said that difficulties linked to a misunderstanding of UNOCI's mandate by the Ivorian parties, had been cleared up. «It is thanks to UNOCI's police that we are in the process of setting up a forensic section,» said Commissioner Godrin.

Sierra Leone

Sierra Leone polio shots delayed by volcanic ash

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone (AP) -- The health ministry says a polio vaccination campaign in the West African nation of Sierra Leone is being delayed because of European flight problems caused by volcanic ash. The polio campaign was to begin Friday but the vaccines were to come from Copenhagen. The weeklong airspace closures in Europe caused by the ash threat to planes represented the worst breakdown in civil aviation on the continent since World War II. The ash cloud has had drastic consequences in parts of Africa — showing how one event can have a big impact in today's global economy. In Kenya, thousands of day laborers are out of work because produce and flowers can't be exported amid the flight cancellations. And in Ghana, the flight delays have hurt pineapple growers who export to Europe.

Hirondelle News Agency

Wednesday, 21 April 2010

ICTR/Karemera - ,Mrnd top Leaders Never Created RTLM, says genocide-convict Nahimana

A founder of Radio Television Libre de Mille Collins (RTLM) Ferdinand Nahimana Wednesday told the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) that Joseph Nzirorera, then Secretary General of MRND and his co-top party officials neither participated in the creation of the radio nor used it to present what is described as their 'extremist ideologies'.

"None of the trio formed part of the group set up by 15 persons who created RTLM," Nahimana, who is also a genocide-convict currently serving 30-year-jail term in Mali, claimed before the ICTR chamber presided over by President Dennis Byron, referring to Nzirorera, former MRND President Mathieu Ndirumpatse and his Vice-President Edouard Karemera.

He was giving evidence as the 34th defence witness for Nzirorera in a joint trial under which the MRND former chiefs are charged with crimes committed by members of their party. The prosecution has indicted them for their superior responsibility as top officials of the party then in power.

Led by Nzirorera's co-defence counsel, Patrick Nimy Mayidika, the witness denied allegations that the RTLM was created to serve as a vehicle for the MRND leaders to present their extremist ideologies.

According to the statute of RTLM, he testified, its central ideology included, among others, to collect information and disseminate it with the view to educating the public.

But he acknowledged that the radio turned away from its principles after the death of President Habyarimana.

He testified that Nzirorera and his co-accused neither had any authority to close down the radio nor had any contacts with its journalists.

The trial continues Thursday when the prosecution, led by Don Webster, will cross-examine the defence witness.

FK/SC/ER/GF

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Times Online

Wednesday, 21 April 2010

Radovan Karadzic dismisses Srebrenica survivor as a 'soldier not a victim'

David Charter, Europe Correspondent

Radovan Karadzic was admonished by judges at his genocide trial today for dismissing a Muslim survivor of the Srebrenica massacre as a "soldier not a victim."

The former Bosnian Serb leader was warned by judges at the UN tribunal in The Hague not to make "appalling" comments but stick to asking pertinent questions to the witness, who escaped from an execution squad by playing dead under the bodies of other Muslim men as they were shot.

The court in The Hague heard how the witness was among a group of approximately 30 men who were blindfolded and taken to a meadow to be murdered but he miraculously survived and heard numerous other groups being brought to the site to suffer the same fate. Around 8,000 men died in the Srebrenica massacre.

Dr Karadzic, who is conducting his own defence on 11 charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity for his role in the ethnic conflict of 1992-95 in the former Yugoslavia, failed in an attempt to have testimony stopped from the witness, whose identity was protected from the public. Judges ruled that he could continue even though prosecutors said earlier that evidence about Srebrenica would come later on in the trial.

Just after the witness returned to court after a break, Dr Karadzic said: "You are not a victim, you were a soldier for the Bosnian army." Judge O-Gon Kwon told Dr Karadzic to stick to questions, then later added: "We have a witness who survived an horrendous massacre but you made an appalling comment that he was not a victim but a soldier."

The witness had been in the Yugoslav army and fought for Muslim forces but was unarmed when he gave himself up to Bosnian Serb forces when they took control of the UN Safe Haven of Srebrenica in July 1995.

After being kept for a day in a school gym with hundreds of other Muslim men who received little water and no food, he was put on a truck with around 30 other blindfolded men.

"They drove just a short distance to a field and the prisoners were told to get out," said Julian Nicholls, for the prosecution. "The men were lined up in rows and shot. The witness managed to survive by feigning death as he lay under the body of another victim. Approximately every 10 to 15 minutes another truck full of prisoners would arrive and they would be killed in the same manner. These killings carried on for hours."

After the massacre, Mr Nicholls said that the witness saw "that most of the field was covered in bodies. He noticed not all the prisoners were dead. He could hear sounds coming from some of the men". When night fell he fled through the woods and reached Muslim-held territory.

Cross-examined by the Bosnian Serb wartime leader, the witness had to be cautioned by judges to calm down. "You wanted to drive us out of Bosnia-Herzegovina and create an ethnically clean territory," he told Dr Karadzic, who responded: "We are going to prove the opposite."

The trial continues today and is expected to last up to two years.

Radio Netherlands Worldwide

Thursday, 22 April 2010

ICC prosecutor wants Sudan cases referred to UN

By Robin van Wechem



The Hague, Netherlands

Prosecutors have asked the International Criminal Court (ICC) judges to involve the UN Security Council in Sudan's refusal to execute arrest warrants for Ahmad Harun and Ali Kushayb, both

of whom are wanted for war crimes and crime against humanity, a court document showed Thursday.

The prosecutor's office asked judges to issue a 'finding of non-compliance' against the government of Sudan. "The government of the Sudan continues to commit crimes, promotes and protects the persons sought by the court and harasses all persons who are considered to be in favor of justice," the filing said.

The Security Council requested the ICC to start investigations in Sudan in 2005, but Sudan has refused to cooperate ever since. Not being a member of the ICC, Sudan isn't bound to comply with the ICC's rules. It has hindered all investigations, saying the Security Council resolution is illegal.

Important

The released finding of non-compliance is important, as judges can now officially confirm Sudan's alleged misbehaviour. "The prosecutor has often mourned Sudan's behaviour at the Security Council but now judges can provide a legal base to act upon this claim," says Johan Sluiter, professor international criminal law at the University of Amsterdam.

Good step

Though the prosecutor waited a long time to officially lodge its complaints with ICC judges, trying to keep relations with Sudanese authorities warm, the issuance of the finding of non-compliance is a good step, Sluiter thinks. "Arrest warrants date from 2007 while in the meantime, nothing happened. This might lead to the impression that the ICC is not that important, which obviously is a bad case."

Credibility

The Security Council will have to act if it is to maintain its credibility. "The Council asked for this trial, they cannot turn their heads away right now," Sluiter said. He also points to the ICC's credibility in Africa. Though Africa holds most ICC member states, their initial positivism for the court seems to have faded.

"As the ICC investigates everyone, including the highest authority, the institution might scare power holders. The Milosevic case showed that presidential immunity does not hold, so that sitting presidents can be tried. African leaders might feel threatened by the ICC though this exactly reflects the court's purpose: to prosecute the people responsible," Sluiter said.

AFA

Wednesday, 22 April 2010

Karadzic judges told of mass executions

By International Justice Desk



*The Hague,
Netherlands*

Judges trying Radovan Karadzic heard Wednesday that a witness survived the 1995 Srebrenica massacre by feigning death, hiding under the body of a fellow

Muslim shot by Serb soldiers.

The witness, whose name was withheld and his face obscured from the public, told the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia he fled from Serb forces with thousands of others from the Srebrenica enclave.

Having hidden in the woods, some surrendered and were later taken in trucks holding about 30 captives apiece to a field near Zvornik, where "the men were lined up in rows and shot", prosecutor Julian Nicholls told the court.

More than 7,000 Muslim men and boys were massacred by Serb forces after the fall of the Srebrenica and Zepa enclaves in July 1995, an act for which Karadzic is charged with genocide.

"The witness managed to survive by feigning death as he lay under the body of another victim," Nicholls said, reading to the court a summary of the witness' testimony in earlier trials.

"The witness observed that approximately every 10 to 15 minutes another truck would arrive and those prisoners would be killed in the same manner."

After the killings, Nicholls said the witness saw "that most of the field was covered in bodies. He noticed not all the prisoners were dead. He could hear sounds coming from some of the men." He then fled through the woods to Muslim-held territory.

Cross-examined by the Bosnian Serb wartime leader, the witness became animated and had to be cautioned by judges to "please calm down".

"You wanted to drive us out of Bosnia-Herzegovina and create an ethnically clean territory," he told Karadzic, who responded: "We are going to prove the opposite".

Karadzic, 64, faces 11 counts of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide charges arising from Bosnia's 1992-95 war in which 100,000 people were killed and 2.2 million left homeless.

Arrested in July 2008 after 13 years on the run, he is acting as his own defence lawyer

(Source: AFA)

Miami Herald

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Bosnian ex-official who may face extradition criticizes U.S. silence

By ROY GUTMAN

WASHINGTON -- A former top Bosnian official who is facing possible extradition from Great Britain to Serbia on war crimes charges on Tuesday criticized the Obama administration for remaining silent on his plight.

Ejup Ganic, who was a member of Bosnia's wartime collective presidency, noted that he'd hosted then-first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, now U.S. secretary of state, during her 1996 visit to Bosnia. He said he also met with President Bill Clinton's Balkan negotiator, Richard Holbrooke, during the bitter war between Serbia and Bosnia triggered by Bosnia's independence.

Serbia has demanded that Britain extradite Ganic for his alleged role in the deaths of Serbian troops in a May 1992 incident at the start of the 3-year war, even though two courts, a United Nations tribunal in the Hague and the Bosnian state prosecutor's office, have declined to bring charges. A British court on Tuesday set July 5-9 as the dates to hear Serbia's demand for extradition and for Bosnia's claim that Serbia had abused the extradition process.

Ganic, who stayed in Sarajevo throughout the Serb-led siege of the city, remains under house arrest in London until the hearing.

"The Americans shouldn't be silent on this case. Silence implies approval," Ganic told McClatchy when reached by telephone in London.

Ganic recalled his role as Hillary Clinton's host in March 1996 when she made a famous one-day visit on behalf of her husband to Tuzla in northeastern Bosnia. The visit became the focus of controversy during her 2008 presidential campaign, when she claimed that she'd come under sniper fire - a claim reporters who had been with her disputed.

Ganic said he tried to "play down the damage" by saying at the time that he "was worried about the overall safety."

He expressed dismay that Holbrooke, now President Barack Obama's special envoy for Afghanistan and Pakistan, also has said nothing.

"Everyone is silent, even the American ambassador in Sarajevo," Ganic said. "The State Department should react. They should send an observer here. They should point out that there are findings by the Hague Tribunal and by the Bosnian war crimes tribunal."

Until Tuesday, the State Department had refused to comment. In response to Ganic's remarks, however, State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley said: "We are very aware of the case, and it is proceeding through the British legal system."

A senior U.S. official, who asked not to be identified because of the sensitivity of the case, noted that the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia had "investigated Mr. Ganic and found no basis for the charges. We would hope at the end of this process that the British court will reach the same conclusion."

Ganic said the case is causing a "huge panic" in Bosnia and is damaging the fragile state, as well as the reputation of the war crimes tribunals.

At Tuesday's hearing, Serbia charged that Ganic, as acting president of Bosnia-Herzegovina, had personally ordered attacks on a military hospital, an officers' club, a column of military vehicles, and withdrawing Serbian forces. Ganic maintains he gave no such orders, and no tribunal has found that he did.

The Hague tribunal determined that an attack by Bosnian forces on the withdrawing Serbs was in fact a lawful move against a legitimate military target.

The Serbian submission omitted a major fact in describing the incident at Dobrovoljacka Street, where Bosnian forces killed Serb troops - that the cause of the confrontation was the Serbian abduction of Bosnia's president, Alija Izetbegovic, when his plane touched down at Sarajevo Airport May 2, 1992.

Read more: <http://www.miamiherald.com/2010/04/20/1589360/bosnian-ex-official-who-may-face.html#ixzz0lpAOv38Y>

Global News

Wednesday, 21 April 2010

<http://news.globaltv.com/Looking+back+horror/2935082/story.html>

Looking back, in horror

Governor General Michaëlle Jean recently apologized for Canada's inaction during the Rwandan genocide, and with good reason. The international community failed to intervene as the bloodshed claimed the lives of almost a million people –and left an indelible stain on the history of Africa.



A picture taken on February 27, 2004 shows skulls of victims of the Ntarama massacre during the 1994 Rwandan genocide lined in the Genocide Memorial Site church of Ntarama, in Nyamata. French authorities on Tuesday arrested Agathe Habyarimana, widow of assassinated Rwandan president Juvenal Habyarimana, after Rwanda accused her of helping to plan the country's 1994 genocide.

Photo Credit: Gianluigi Guercia, AFP/Getty Images

The crisis began when the rebels of the Tutsi-dominated Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) invaded Rwanda from Uganda in 1990. The move prompted Rwandan president Juvenal Habyarimana, a Hutu, to implement political reforms.

Rwanda and the RPF signed a deal to end years of civil war in 1993, allowing for power-sharing and the return of refugees. But President Habyarimana was slow in implementing it. A transitional government foundered.

In April 1994, Habyarimana and the president of Burundi were killed in a rocket attack on their plane.

The next day, presidential guards killed moderate Hutu Prime Minister Agathe Uwilingiimana, who had tried to calm tensions.

Following Habyarimana's death, Hutus waged a violent and blood-soaked campaign against the Tutsis and moderate Hutus. Some 800,000 people were killed. Some were hacked to death with machetes by members of a militia.

The RPF advanced, driving the Hutu army and more than two million Hutus into other African countries.

In July 1994 a new government was sworn in with Pasteur Bizimungu, a Hutu, named president and RPF commander Paul Kagame as vice-president. Kagame was elected president in April 2000, and remains in office.

Rwanda's first genocide trial opened in 1996. The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, based in Tanzania, accused Theoneste Bagosora of being in charge of the troops and the Hutu militia who carried out the massacres. He was found guilty and given a life sentence.

Rwandan troops marched into Congo twice in the 1990s looking for the perpetrators of the bloodshed. The genocide is at the root of the recent fighting in eastern Congo that pits Tutsi rebels against the Congolese army and militias.

With files from Reuters

The Daily Tell

Wednesday, 21 April 2010

<http://www.thedailytell.com>

Groundbreaking Approach to Prevention of Genocide

New York — Genocide has claimed more human lives than all the wars of the 20th century combined. It has never been stopped; but we believe it can be prevented. The Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR) takes the never-before-tried approach of training policymakers to thwart genocide *before* it occurs. We do this by bringing them to the Holocaust site of Auschwitz for UN-approved instruction by leading genocide scholars as well as policy practitioners who have actually lived through genocide.

Our recent conference *”Memory, Justice, Truth and Reparations as Tools for Genocide Prevention”* took place April 12-14 in Buenos Aires, bringing together some of the world’s most committed and effective opponents of genocide to usher in a new and promising approach to combating a problem as old as humanity itself. Fittingly, the event was co-organized by the Government of Argentina, site of the “Dirty War” of the 1970s and 1980s in which up to 30,000 people were “disappeared” by the military dictatorship, leading to the founding of the groundbreaking Madres de Plaza de Mayo, as well as the Abuelas de Plaza de Mayo, who were represented at this historic conference. Today, Argentina is a model of transitional justice, an example of the societal healing and institutional rebuilding that can take place in the wake of decades of violent conflict.

On the third day of the conference we presented our first annual Raphael Lemkin Prize to Juan Méndez, President Emeritus of the International Center for Transitional Justice, and Carla Del Ponte, former chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. The AIPR, through its Raphael Lemkin Center for the Prevention of Genocide, awards this prize in recognition of outstanding contribution to the cause of genocide prevention.

What makes the AIPR’s approach so unique? Over the past decade and a half, in the wake of the Rwandan genocide of 1994, citizen activism against genocide has blossomed. Besides the now well-established general human-rights groups, such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, there is now an encouraging abundance of grassroots campaigns against genocide, including the Genocide Intervention Network (and its student branch, STAND, the Enough Project, and Save Darfur. But on the elite level, little has changed.

The most powerful long-term effect of the AIPR’s approach is the creation of a worldwide network of policymakers with the tools and the commitment to prevent genocide and other forms of violent conflict. Now, for the first time, a veteran of the Dirty War in Argentina can trade with his or her colleagues from Burundi, say, or East Timor, not only his or her experience with the personal and societal trauma of genocide, but also the perspective “from the other end,” on building policies and institutional barriers to future conflicts that may explode into genocide once again.

We are available to speak about the Auschwitz Institute and our unique approach in relation to news about any genocide (or violent conflict) past or present — Darfur, Bosnia, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Kosovo, Cambodia, Rwanda, East Timor, Sri Lanka, Congo, Armenia, Burma/Myanmar.

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Reuters

Thursday, 22 April 2010

Rwanda opposition leader accused of genocide link

By International Justice Desk



Kigali, Rwanda

A Rwandan court on Wednesday charged Victoire Ingabire, who heads one of the country's emerging opposition parties yet to register for August elections, with crimes linked to genocide.

Ingabire was charged with promoting genocide ideology, ethnic division and collaborating with the Interahamwe rebels who carried out atrocities during Rwanda's 1994 genocide in which 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus died.

The leader of the unregistered United Democratic Forces faces jail if she is convicted of the charges laid by prosecutors at the Gasabo Intermediate Court in Kigali.

Ingabire said the allegations were baseless. She is set to appear in court on Thursday, when a decision is to be taken on whether she should be granted bail.

Rights groups criticise Rwanda for planning August elections without a meaningful opposition to President Paul Kagame's ruling Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF).

The emerging opposition groups say they face harassment, intimidation and legal and administrative barriers to registration, adding they may form one bloc to oppose the RPF.

Ingabire's party, together with the Social Party Imberakuri (PS-Imberakuri) and the unregistered Democratic Green Party (DGP), said in February they had formed a forum to discuss common problems. Ingabire's arrest came shortly after two senior military officers were suspended and arrested for corruption.

The Rwanda Defence Forces spokesperson, Major Jill Rutaremara, said Lieutenant General Charles Muhire, and the former joint Deputy Force Commander for the AU/UN Hybrid Operation in Darfur, Major General Emmanuel Karenzi Karake, were arrested on Monday.

"Lt. Gen. Muhire was suspended due to serious charges of corruption and misuse of office while Maj. Gen. Karenzi Karake was suspended on serious charges of immoral conduct that contravenes and undermines the values and ethos of the Rwanda Defence Force," Rutaremara said.

"This action was taken in order to enforce discipline, moral conduct and accountability in the Rwanda Defence Force."

Jewish Tribune

Tuesday, 20 April 2010

Official documentary of Nuremberg Trials one of the greatest courtroom dramas in modern history

Written by Barbara Shainbaum

TORONTO – Nuremberg: Its Lesson for Today (1948) [The 2009 Schulberg/Waletzky Restoration], is the official documentary of the first Nuremberg Trial, which lasted from Nov. 21, 1945 to October 1946.

One of the greatest courtroom dramas in modern history, this compelling and thrilling film demonstrates how the four allied prosecution teams from the United States, Great Britain, France and the Soviet Union built their case against the top Nazi war criminals.

Invaluable as an historical document of the Nazi rise to power and Hitler's strategy during WWII, Nuremberg shows how the trial established the "Nuremberg principles" and set the foundation for all subsequent trials worldwide for crimes against humanity, peace, war crimes and genocide.

Nuremberg also gives definitive proof that the Jews were Hitler's primary intended victims.

After five arduous years and three major challenges, the 2009 Schulberg/Waletzky Restoration film gelled. It was meticulously restored by Sandra Schulberg and Josh Waletzky. The 1948 black-&-white film was written and directed by Stuart Schulberg (Bud Schulberg's brother and Sandra Schulberg's father.)

Released in Germany during 1948/49, as part of the US Department of War's denazification/re-education campaign, US officials declined to show Nuremberg to American audiences while the Marshall Plan was in progress because, as Sandra Schulberg postulates, "it might have swayed US audience public opinion against rebuilding Germany after the war."

As a result, the English-language version was not properly completed and the original negative and sound elements were lost or destroyed. It was never released to American theatres, a decision that caused controversy.

Nuremberg: Its Lesson for Today adopts the structure of the actual trial, using the indictment's four counts as its organizing principle. Set in the Nuremberg courtroom, it reconstructs the prosecution's case and refutes the Nazi defendants' claims by using their own documents, photographs and propaganda films against them: i.e., testimony of infamous figures like Hermann Goering, and graphic atrocity footage of human cruelty.

Sandra Schulberg said, "My uncle [Bud Schulberg] arrested Leni Riefenstahl [German propaganda filmmaker] as a material witness. She thought she was being arrested as a war criminal at first. They needed her as a material witness to point out and identify people in the Nazi films."

After Sandra Schulberg's mother died in 2003, Sandra was cleaning out her mother's apartment when she personally discovered the voluminous boxes of her father's files that she had inherited contained his Nuremberg letters and documents and a 16mm print of it. "It was an incredible untold story," she told me in her interview. "When I saw the good condition of the German version, and the appalling condition of the English version, I contacted the Holocaust Museum."

Nuremberg was one of the first films to make extensive use of film as evidence, using footage from The Nazi Plan (a four-hour compilation of authenticated German material) and Nazi Concentration Camps (a

one-hour compilation of camps liberated by the American and British in 1945), evidentiary films produced under Bud Schulberg's supervision that were presented at the Nuremberg trial. Nuremberg cuts back and forth to these films.

Because the original master was lost, a new 35mm negative for Nuremberg was made from a good German print someone had loaned the 2009 team. Stuart Schulberg had emphasized the importance of hearing live sound, so they reconstructed the complex sound track to create an international soundtrack permitting modern audiences to hear the voices of the English, French, and Russian-speaking prosecutors, and the voices of the German witnesses, defendants and defence attorneys, in addition to audiences hearing the original German spoken in *The Nazi Plan*.

Sandra Schulberg luckily found the original composer's handwritten, fully-orchestrated, musical cues for the Nuremberg film in her father's files. Composer John Califra worked closely with Waletzky, a composer himself, to precisely match the reconstructed music to the rest of Borgmann's score.

"We had the co-operation of six archives in three countries," Sandra Schulberg affirmed. "The Holocaust Museum, the Spielberg Archive, The US National Archives, NARA and the Bund (Germany), and the National Archives of the Netherlands."

The film premiered in The Hague in Holland as the focal point of the Erasmus Prize ceremonies. In 2009, the prize was awarded to Ben Ferencz, one of the original Nuremberg prosecutors, who is now 90, and to Antonio Cassese, first president of the International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and currently president of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon.

"Nuremberg is an incredible piece of cinematic history," Sandra Schulberg said, "and our restoration allows you to hear the American, British, French and Russian prosecutors, as well as the Nazi defendants and their defence attorneys – all speaking in their own voices. You feel you are in the courtroom."

The North American premiere of *Nuremberg: Its Lesson for Today* (1948) [The 2009 Schulberg/Waletzky Restoration], a TJFF Special Presentation, was screened on Sunday at 7 p.m. at the Bloor Cinema. Following the screening, a special guest panel discussion included: Sandra Schulberg (Restoration Co-Creator), Josh Waletzky (Restoration Co-Creator) and Evan Solomon (Host, CBCNN, Power and Politics with Evan Solomon)

A second screening will be Sunday, April 25 at the Cineplex Odeon Sheppard Centre Cinemas at 6:30 p.m. You can order tickets by phone at (416) 967-1528.

Capital News (Kenya)

Wednesday, 21 April 2010

Five Kenyan judges to hear Kabuga case

BY CORRESPONDENT



Felicien Kabuga/ File

A five-judge appellate court is set to hear a case in which the wife of Rwandan fugitive Felicien Kabuga is appealing against a freeze order on assets that she co-owns with her husband.

Court of Appeal judges Riaga Omollo, Erastus Githinji and Alnashir Visram said on Wednesday that the circumstances surrounding the case are complicated and ought to be heard by a five-judge bench.

The judges referred the case file to Chief Justice Evan Gicheru to constitute the bench to hear the matter on a priority basis.

The judges reached the decision after the State through Director of Public Prosecutions Keriako Tobiko and Kenneth Ogeto representing Josephine Mukazitoni agreed that issues raised in the application should be handled by a bench of five.

"The circumstances surrounding the appeal are serious and complicated. We find that the matter should be heard by a bench proposed by the parties . We direct that listing be done on a priority basis," said Justice Omollo.

Key issues that the parties want the Appeals Court to determine is the nature, character and legal effect (if any) of the resolution of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) made under the United Nations Charter.

They also want the highest court in Kenya to make a finding whether such resolutions have a binding force under Customary International law.

The court, they further say, should determine whether the UNSC resolutions requiring Kenya to co-operate with the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) in the tracing and freezing of assets and property of Mr Kabuga in Kenya, impose upon Kenyan authorities an obligation to co-operate and if so, the obligation is enforceable by Kenyan courts under the Kenyan domestic law.

Ms Mukazitoni is appealing against the decision of High Court judge Muga Apondi on May 5, 2008 who issued an order freezing Mr Kabuga's assets in Nairobi yet Kenyan courts do not have authority to do so.

The judge granted the orders following an application by the State.

While freezing the assets, justice Apondi said that being a UN member, Kenya was obliged to comply with a request from the ICTR to help trace the Rwandan fugitive.

Ms Mukazitoni wants the freeze on property she co-owns with the husband lifted, saying Kenya had no legal right to seek a block on the family's assets.

A team of investigators tracing the fugitive discovered that Mr Kabuga was receiving Sh290,000 every three months from the property and suspected that the money was assisting the fugitive to evade arrest.

The appellant claims justice Apondi had no jurisdiction to entertain the application and contravened section 75(1) of the Constitution of Kenya.