

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



**PRESS CLIPPINGS**

**Enclosed are clippings of local and international press on the Special Court and related issues obtained by the Outreach and Public Affairs Office**

**as at:**

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Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.  
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# Special Tribunal for Lebanon

Monday, 17 May 2010



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## Press Release

### **Courtroom for Special Tribunal for Lebanon to host Taylor Trial**

**Leidschendam, May 17 2010:** The Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL) is pleased to announce that it will host the Special Court for Sierra Leone's (SCSL) trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor beginning 17 May 2010. The SCSL will be relocating from the International Criminal Court's (ICC) courtroom in The Hague.

A Memorandum of Understanding was completed between the STL and the SCSL which made the move possible. Under the agreement, the SCSL will pay for all trial-related costs.

The newly constructed courtroom was made available to the SCSL in the spirit of inter-tribunal cooperation. The work of the STL will continue to progress and will not be affected by the move.

*For general information about the STL please contact the STL Press Office at: [STL-Pressoffice@un.org](mailto:STL-Pressoffice@un.org)*

Associated Press

Monday, 17 May 2010

### **Charles Taylor's war crimes trial shifts venue from one international court to another**

The war crimes trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor has changed venue from the International Criminal Court.

Taylor is on trial at the Special Court for Sierra Leone on charges of arming and supporting notoriously brutal rebels in Sierra Leone's 12-year civil war.

His trial is being held in The Hague because of fears it could spark fresh violence if staged in Sierra Leone. The Taylor trial has moved because the International Criminal Court is currently staging two trials in its two courtrooms.

It sat for the first time Monday in a newly built courtroom at the Special Tribunal for Lebanon, which is investigating the 2005 assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri but has yet to indict any suspects.

Charlestaylortrial.com

Tuesday, 18 May 2010

Daily Summary

## **Prosecutors Say Witness Lied To The Liberian TRC About His NPFL History**

By Alpha Sesay

Prosecutors today sought to impeach the credibility of Charles Taylor's defense witness by pointing out that he has not been truthful about how he was recruited into Mr. Taylor's Liberian rebel group, as well as the positions he claims to have held in the rebel group during the early days of the Liberian conflict.

Timan Edward Zammy, a former member of the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) has spent more than a week testifying for Mr. Taylor, focusing his testimony mainly on the conduct of the NPFL in Liberia and refuting claims that the Liberian rebel group was best known for committing heinous crimes against civilians. Prosecutors say that the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebel group—a group which Mr. Taylor is accused of supporting in Sierra Leone—copied their tactics from the NPFL. Mr. Zammy has said that civilians were protected in areas under NPFL control. As his cross-examination continued today, prosecutors focused mainly on pointing out areas in the witness's testimony where they believe he has not been truthful.

One area of focus today was Mr. Zammy's account about how he was recruited into the NPFL. What he has told Special Court for Sierra Leone judges is different from what he told the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Liberia. During his direct-examination last week, Mr. Zammy told the court that he was recruited into the NPFL in the 1980s by one Alfred Mehn, popularly known in the NPFL as the "God Father." Prosecution counsel Katherine Howarth pointed out to the witness that he had told the Liberian TRC that it was Mr. Taylor who recruited him into the NPFL while he was in Ivory Coast. Noting the discrepancy, the witness said that his testimony before the TRC was a mistake.

"So when you told the Truth and Reconciliation Commission that Charles Taylor recruited you from the Ivory Coast, you got that wrong, correct?" Ms. Howarth asked the witness.

"It is not wrong, it is an error. I am repeating it, it's an error, it's a mistake," the witness responded.

Asked directly whether he was saying that he had "made a mistake when giving evidence to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission," the witness said "yes."

"A mistake is not a lie, a mistake is allowed to be made, anybody can make a mistake," Mr. Zammy said.

Ms. Howarth also pressed the witness hard on his evidence in direct-examination that in 1991, Mr. Taylor appointed him as Battalion Commander for the sixth Battalion of the NPFL, which was stationed in Bomi Hills. Ms. Howarth pointed out that other defense witnesses who testified about the NPFL command structure did not mention Mr. Zammy's name as Commander of the sixth Battalion. These defense witnesses included Yanks Smythe, Karnah Edward Mineh and Mr. Taylor himself.

"Yanks Smythe does not mention you as sixth Battalion commander," Ms. Howarth told the witness.

"Yes, he does not mention me but I was sixth Battalion commander in 1991. Maybe he does not know," Mr. Zammy said.

In Mr. Smythe's testimony, he said that the sixth Battalion commander in 1991 was Mr. Oliver Varney. Mr. Zammy insisted that Mr. Smythe probably made a mistake, insisting that he succeeded Mr. Varney as the sixth Battalion commander.

Another defense witness Mr. Mineh also testified that Mr. Varney was sixth Battalion commander. Mr. Zammy insisted that these witnesses were mistaken.

"This is a mistake. It was in 1990 that Oliver Varney was Battalion Commander and I succeeded him," the witness said.

Reading from a January 2010 transcript, Ms. Howarth again pointed out that Mr. Taylor, while he testified on his own behalf, only referred to Mr. Zammy as "an Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) officer" and as "one of the Special Forces."

"This is all he [Taylor] had to say about you. He doesn't mention you as sixth Battalion commander. Another defense witness Yanks Smythe does not mention you as sixth Battalion commander and your one time friend Edward Mineh does not mention you as sixth Battalion commander. Were you actually sixth Battalion commander?" Mr. Howarth asked the witness.

"I will not tell lies. I served as sixth Battalion Commander in 1991...I was commander of the sixth Battalion from February 1991 to November 1991," the witness responded.

Ms. Howarth also pointed out to the witness that he failed to tell the TRC that he served as sixth Battalion of the NPFL and that when he made statements to defense lawyers in Liberia, he also did not tell them that he occupied such a position. The witness explained that at the TRC, they did not ask him about any command positions that he occupied and that when he spoke with defense lawyers, he told them that he indeed was the sixth Battalion commander in 1991.

Prosecutors believe that pointing these flaws in Mr. Zammy's testimony will impeach his credibility and make him a witness whose account cannot be relied on.

Mr. Zammy's cross-examination continues tomorrow.

## UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary

17 May 2010

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

### UN News in Liberia

#### UNMIL

##### **Human Rights Violations Relatively Improved, But...**

[Heritage]

- The United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) and the Catholic Justice and Peace Commission(JPC) have said that the issues of human rights violations have improved a “little” under the President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf-led Government.
- In separate interview last weekend at St. Paul Bridge, outside Monrovia, officials of UNMIL and JPC noted that Liberia is six years away from the era when the unlawful beating and killings of citizens were sanctioned by the state.
- The officials said they are not suggesting that President Sirleaf’s has not committed any human right violation, but such case, is perhaps isolated.
- “Things are improving,” said Eugene Nindorera, UNMIL chief for Human Rights and protection, stressing Liberia is making one step at a time towards good governance in term of human rights violations.
- Reports of journalists and students being manhandled and police brutality seemed to be non state sanction should be an isolated case, Cllr. Augustine Toe, executive director of JPC said.

##### **UNMIL Concerned Over Human Rights**

[Public Agenda, The Analyst, National Chronicle]

- The Chief of Public Information of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), George Somerwill has observed that many people in Liberia are still not well informed about their rights and by extension what is meant by human rights.
- Mr. Somerwill said every human being in the world has certain basic human rights which are inalienable and that it was important for Liberians to be informed about their basic human rights and the way to hold their government accountable for the protection of those rights.
- He spoke Thursday in Monrovia at a one-day capacity building workshop on human rights awareness for Liberian journalists under the theme, ‘Human Rights Awareness Workshop.’
- The one-day interactive forum organized by UNMIL Human Rights Section with the support of the Public Information Office of the Mission brought together at least 16 media practitioners, representing various institutions including print and electronic.

### Local News on Liberian issues

##### **President Sirleaf Visits US for Talks**

[Public Agenda, The News, National Chronicle, Front Page Africa, Heritage]

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf is in the United States to participate in several events and hold consultations with US government officials.
- The Executive Mansion says President Sirleaf will also hold talks with US business executives and other partners.
- A release says the President will also meet executives of Lockheed Martin Corporation to review plans of Delta Airlines’ Trans-Atlantic flights to Liberia.
- According to the Executive Mansion, President Sirleaf will also hold talks with executives of Chevron Corporation on the prospects for oil exploration in Liberia.

- During the visit, the Liberian leader is to undergo her routine annual medical check-up.
- She is later expected to receive honorary degrees from Rutgers University in New Jersey, and Yale University in Connecticut and deliver a Commencement Address at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.
- Meanwhile, the Liberian chief executive will also visit Geneva, Switzerland and later participate in the Africa-France Summit in Nice, France, which runs from May 31 to June 1.
- During President Sirleaf's absence from the Country, Justice Minister Christiana Tah will coordinate the affairs of government from May 15 - 21 and later Defense Minister Brownie Samukai from May 22 - June 2 both in consultation with Vice President Joseph Boakai and under the President's direction by telephone.

### **President Sirleaf Makes New Appointments, Reconstitutes LBS Board**

[New Vision, Front Page Africa, The Inquirer, The Informer]

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has made several new appointments in government subject to confirmation by the Senate.
- Those appointed are: Cllr. Eva Mae Mappy-Morgan, Tax Court Judge; J. Gabriel Nyenka, Sr., Deputy Internal Affairs Minister for Operations; and Jamah Allison Barco, Assistant Internal Affairs Minister for Planning & Research.
- Others named include T. Wilson Gaye, Assistant Education Minister for Administration; G. Warsuwah Barvoul, National Fire Service Director; and Lawrence Sackey, Deputy Director, National Fire Service.
- President Sirleaf has also reconstituted the Board of Directors of the Liberia Broadcasting System (LBS) with Mr. Alhaji Kromah as Chairman.
- Others appointed on the Board are the ministers of Justice, Finance and Planning and Economic Affairs; Ambassador Davis Daniels, Rev. A. Moses Rhoulac, Mrs. Fannie Cole Weefur, Mrs. Weade Kobbah Wureh and the Chairman of the Mass communications Department at the University of Liberia, Professor Joe Mulbah.

### **UP, Opposition Lawmakers Clash Over Controversial Threshold Bill**

[Heritage]

- Opposition lawmakers in the Liberian Senate have accused their Unity Party (UP) colleagues of principally stalling the passage of the controversial Population Threshold Bill.
- The accusation by the opposition lawmakers came on the heels of reports that the Threshold Bill is being delayed unnecessarily by members of the Legislature.
- According to Sinoe County Senior Senator, Mobutu Vlah Nyenpan, the public must view their UP's colleagues as the "culprits" behind the stalled Threshold bill.
- Senator Nyenpan echoed the claim by the opposition lawmakers in the Senate during last Thursday's session on whether to resume discussions on the Threshold Bill amid a stay order issued by the Supreme Court via Justice-In-Chambers Kabineh Ja'neh.
- The Sinoe lawmaker further averred that the UP lawmakers are doing everything possible to ensure that the bill is not passed into law.
- He said the alleged action by the UP lawmakers is fueling propaganda that the Legislature is selfish regarding the passage of the bill.

### **Bong Lawmaker Recommends Death Penalty**

[New Democrat]

- A Representative of Bong County has called on President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf to begin signing death warrants for convicted murderers.
- Representative George Mulbah said the death by hanging penalty is crucial to the reduction of murder cases in the country.
- Representative Mulbah urged the President to follow the example of former President William R. Tolbert who signed numerous death warrants during his administration.
- Despite being signatory to international treaties against death penalty, the Bong lawmaker said the death penalty should be maintained.
- Speaking at the opening of the May term of court, earlier this week in Gbarnga, Bong County, Representative Mulbah foresees a country with a huge number of murderers if the death penalty is not enforced.

### **Junior Government Minister Detests GAC's Finance Ministry Audit Report**

[Liberian Express, The Informer, The Analyst]

- Assistant Finance Minister for Expenditure and Debt Management Matthew Flomo says his character has been injured by the final audit report released by the General Auditing Commission (GAC).
- Minister Flomo described as misrepresentation of the fact claim by the GAC that he served as assistant minister during the audit period.
- According to Mr. Flomo, it was Ms. Aletha Browne who served in the post during the period covered by the audit report.
- He said he was appointed to the position by the President on November 3, 2008 and officially assumed duties in December of the same year.
- Mr. Flomo explained the HIPC audit on the Finance Ministry covered the period of July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008 something he believes should not have included his name.
- The Finance Ministry official feels his alleged misrepresentation has made him an unfortunate recipient of disdain and dishonour by the gullible public.

### **Lands, Mines & Energy Official: Diamond, Gold Are Still Being Smuggled Out of Liberia**

[Heritage]

- The Deputy Minister of Lands, Mines and Energy has disclosed that diamond and gold are still being smuggled out of the country.
- According to Deputy Minister John G. Nylander, the ugly act is causing the government to suffer loses in the collection of revenue in the mining sector of the country.
- Minister Nylander made the disclosure Saturday, May 15, 2010 when he served as guest speaker at the induction and certification ceremony of the Gold and Diamond Miners Workers Union of Liberia (GODIMWUL) in Monrovia.
- The Deputy Minister of Lands, Mines and Energy said diamond and gold are being smuggled out of the country because of what he calls the porous nature of Liberia's borders.

### **Former President Charles Taylor Trial Transferred To New Location**

[Liberian Express, New Democrat]

- The trial of former Liberian President, Charles Taylor has been transferred to a new location in The Hague.
- The Judges of the Special Court for Sierra Leone have also postponed the production of evidence until Monday May 17.
- The postponement is intended to facilitate the re-location of Mr. Taylor's trial.
- The new arrangement specifies that Mr. Taylor will still face the same Judges of the Special Court when his war crimes trial resumes Monday.
- The trial will relocate from the courtroom of the International Criminal Court to a newly-constructed courtroom for the Special Tribunal for Lebanon established by the United Nations to try people suspected of assassinating Former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri.
- Mr. Taylor's trial will be the first to be held in the newly constructed courtroom of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon.

### **Raging Fire Destroys Old Government Hospital, Displaced Hundreds**

[Liberian Express, New Democrat, National Chronicle, The Inquirer]

- A raging fire has destroyed the Old Government Hospital Building on Ashmun Street in the Dusty Road Community.
- The cause of the fire which started Saturday evening is yet unknown.
- It is not also yet clear if there is any human casualty but according to reports family members were in tears while in search of their relatives.
- Other reports have it that some victims of the fire incident were rushed to hospital.
- According to the reports, the fire disaster left the entire west and central wings of the building completely destroyed.
- Fire fighters were seen containing the situation but to no avail as the fire kept raging with plumes of smoke.
- Huge explosion could also be heard as parts of the burning building were falling.
- Occupants of the building said their properties were all burnt by the fire although the magnitude of the loss is not yet known.
- The Old Government Hospital Building had more than 100 rooms and over a 1000 squatters.

## **I'll Quit If... Auditor General Challenges Government**

[New Democrat, New Vision, Front Page Africa]

- The Auditor General, Mr. John Morlu, says he is prepared to resign if the Government is prepared to hire international auditors to prove that his findings on unaccounted for millions at the various ministries he has audited in compliance with the HIPC (Heavily Indebted poor countries) requirement are wrong.
- Mr. Morlu vow to step down should the government account via independent international audits for millions it has allegedly misappropriated follows series of counter-claims from officials, with the President declaring that she needed more evidence to act on the audits.
- The Auditor General said the government cannot account for over US\$50 million, which his reports indicated was expended without supporting documentations.

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

### **President Sirleaf Visits US for Talks**

### **Bong Lawmaker Recommends Death Penalty**

### **Junior Government Minister Detests GAC's Finance Ministry Audit Report**

### **Former President Charles Taylor Trial Transferred To New Location**

### **LINSU Warns Against Exams Malpractices**

- The Liberia National Student Union (LINSU) has cautioned authorities of the West African Examinations Council (WAEC) to administer the pending senior high school exams inline with international practices.
- LINSU In a statement, asked the WAEC to provide the right atmosphere for students to write the exams which begins today Monday, May 17.
- It said WAEC must not deploy unreasonable examiners to frighten students and render them confused.
- LINSU also warned against the extortion of money from students by those it considered wicked examiners.
- The student group believes the wicked examiners who collect bribes are people who spoil the education system.

### **Woman, 53 Arrested With Huge Quantity of Marijuana**

- The Anti Drug Unit of the Liberia National Police has arrested a woman with over 1,500 kilograms of Marijuana.
- Police picked up Wlede Koffah Thursday, along with three others who brought the drug from Nimba County.
- They were negotiating the purchase of the drug worth over 250-thousand Liberian Dollars, when police working on a tip-off moved on them.
- The four are currently in police custody and are expected to be sent to court next week.
- Police sources said Ms. Wlede Koffah, 53 is a resident of the Classroom Community in New Kru Town and is said to have been in the business for over 20 years now.

### **Raging Fire Destroys Old Government Hospital, Displaced Hundreds**

### **Storm Renders Dozens Homeless In Borlorla**

- Reports from Borlorla Township, Margibi County say dozens of people have been made homeless following a rainstorm in the area.
- The Township Commissioner of Borlorla James Weetor said about ten houses were destroyed by the storm.
- Commissioner Weetor said the homeless people are being accommodated in neighboring homes left untouched by the storm.
- The Borlorla Commissioner is meanwhile appealing to the Red Cross, local and international NGOs to come to the aid of the displaced people.

### **Former Information Minister's Unification Formula Offset**

- A Researcher at the University of Liberia's Institute for Population Studies has taken exception to a call by former Information Minister Laurence Bropleh for a reform in the production of national documents.
- Dr. Bropleh said some inquiries on national documents are divisive and should be reformed citing the inquiry about people's county of origin as one aspect that must be transformed to promote true unification.
- But Mr. Dennis Wiagbe argued the disclosure of county of origin on national document is important for demographic purposes.

- Mr. Wiagbe said such data was necessary for regional distribution of the population and not a source of disunity, describing Dr. Bropleh's call as political and not in the interest of the research process, which guides policy makers.

## International Clip on Liberia

### **Liberian President Sirleaf Visits the U.S.**

[www.africanseer.com/news/africa/49478-Liberian-President-Sirleaf-Visits-the.html#ixzz0oBx0Yh1p](http://www.africanseer.com/news/africa/49478-Liberian-President-Sirleaf-Visits-the.html#ixzz0oBx0Yh1p)

Liberian President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf has arrived in the United States for what aides are calling a combination of both private and official visit. But, it's not clear whether she will meet with President Barack Obama at the White House, amid speculation of U.S. dissatisfaction over the Liberian government's fight against corruption, and whether President Sirleaf is ready to implement the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) report. The commission's report bans the president from running for public office for the next 30 years because of her alleged role in Liberia's civil war. Liberia's ambassador to the United States, Milton Nathaniel Barnes, said President Sirleaf will be meeting with officials from both the private sector and the U.S. government to brief them on the progress towards Liberia's reconstruction. "The president is here to meet with both our partners, both in the U.S. government leadership and in the private sector, those private sector entities that are involved in our partnership in Liberia, especially on the side of the U.S. government and sort of updating them on where we are on the progress of the reconstruction of Liberia," he said.

Ambassador Barnes said President Sirleaf will also conduct personal business while in the United States.

## International Clips on West Africa

### **Guinea**

#### **PENPIX-Frontrunners in Guinea's presidential election**

Reuters - Guinea has scheduled a presidential election for June 27, a poll that could provide the West African state its best chance at emerging from a history of authoritarian rule followed by an unstable military junta. Following are the front-runner candidates: Alpha Conde - At nearly 73-years-old, the leader of the Rassemblement du Peuple de Guinea (RPG), can play the card that he has opposed all three of the country's most recent generally ill-liked leaders -- Captain Moussa Dadis Camara, Lansana Conte, and Sekou Toure. He was poised to win a presidential election against Conte (1984-2008) in 1993 before the government annulled a batch of votes. Cellou Dalein Diallo - The 58-year-old leader of the Union des Forces Democratiques de Guinea (UFD) has prior experience in power that could both help him and hurt him. He served in Conte's government as a minister and prime minister, giving him an opportunity to see the issues and opportunities facing the West African nation. Sidya Toure - Born into an ethnic minority -- the Diakhankes making up less than 1 percent of the population -- the leader of the Union des Forces Republicaines (UFR) nonetheless enjoys strong support in the Sousou dominated Lower Guinea region that includes Boke, Boffa and the capital Conakry. Francois Fall - Another former prime minister under Conte, Fall has confirmed he will be a candidate in the poll. Previous jobs include Guinea's representative at the United Nations and ambassador to Central African Republic.

#### **Campaigning starts for Guinea vote amid dispute fears**

Reuters - Guinea's first election since a military coup in 2008 must establish democracy in the mineral exporting West African country and bring it back into the international fold, a frontrunner candidate said as campaigning began. The presidential vote, scheduled for June 27, will be pivotal for a region cursed by civil wars, armed power-grabs and rigged elections, and offers Guinea a chance at its first genuinely free poll since independence from France in 1958. "I hope these elections (...) will allow the people of Guinea to freely choose their leaders, allow the establishment of democracy, and above all allow Guinea to re-enter the international community," said Alpha Conde, head of political party the RPG. "We are still on schedule for June 27 -- the atmosphere here is that there should be no choice," said Elizabeth Cote of the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), which is working in Guinea to raise awareness of democracy. The electoral commission says voting cards will be ready by June 15, but concerns about incomplete voter lists mean losing candidates might claim grounds for contesting the result, and protests may turn violent. "Everything could very well be smooth up to the election, but there is a big risk that people might not accept the result," Cote said.

## **Ivory Coast**

### **Ivory Coast takes up disputed voter list after delay**

Reuters - Ivory Coast's electoral commission began vetting a hotly disputed voter registration list on Monday, restarting a process that has been delayed since mid-February and crucial to holding the presidential poll. More than 1 million people on the list are being asked to present documents proving their Ivorian citizenship, amid accusations by President Laurent Gbagbo's government that the list has been stacked with opponents. "The operation has begun and it will last 15 days," said Yacouba Bamba, spokesman for the electoral commission. Ivory Coast elections, meant to heal the country after a 2002 -03 civil war that divided it in two, have been delayed repeatedly since 2005. Elections preparations were most recently halted in mid-February after Gbagbo dissolved the electoral commission and the government, sparking violent street protests across the West African country. Analysts have said smooth elections are key to reviving investment in the No. 1 cocoa grower, once a leading West African economy.

## **Sierra Leone**

### **UNIDO Director-General in Moscow for meetings with Russian officials, to sign agreement on financing**

**project**[http://www.unido.org/index.php?id=7881&tx\\_ttnews%5Btt\\_news%5D=474&cHash=55f3f87668](http://www.unido.org/index.php?id=7881&tx_ttnews%5Btt_news%5D=474&cHash=55f3f87668)

Building the technical capacity of Sierra Leone's fishing sector and applying cost-effective seafood processing technologies are the aims of a project by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) that will be financed by the Russian Federation. An agreement on this was signed in Moscow today by UNIDO Director-General, Kandeh K. Yumkella, and the Russian Deputy Foreign Minister, Alexander Yakovenko. "When it comes to supporting development in Africa, the Russian Federation is clearly back on the map. Today's agreement to fund a project in Sierra Leone is a clear example that Russia is becoming a major voluntary contributor to the work of UNIDO," said Yumkella. According to an agreement signed in 2009, UNIDO will receive a special purpose contribution worth USD 2.6 million per annum from the Russian Federation for environmental and technology promotion projects in the Eurasian Economic Community (EurAsEC) and in Sierra Leone. Director-General Yumkella said that years of civil conflict in Sierra Leone almost destroyed the country's industrial fishery sector. "At present, there are two main constraints that are preventing the growth of the industrial fishing sector: support institutions do not have the necessary human resource capacity, particularly at the middle and junior levels of management, and there is no local skilled labour, so it has to rely on foreign workers," he said.

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## Foundation Hirondelle

Monday, 17 May 2010

### **Nzitorera denies involvement in killings of ethnic Tutsis**

Genocide suspect Joseph Nzitorera, former Secretary General of then Rwandan ruling party, MRND, Monday denied setting up plans to exterminate Tutsis before or after the death of President Juvenal Habyarimana on April 6, 1994.

"I neither had any plans nor incited extermination of Tutsis. I neither had any thought of killing anybody in my life," Nzitorera told the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) when testifying for his own defence.

Examined by his lead counsel Peter Robinson, Nzitorera told the ICTR Chamber that he never abetted anyone to kill other people nor having groups under him involved in the killings or committing other crimes like rape.

Before Nzitorera's testimony, Col. Theoneste Bagosora, a considered master-mind of the 1994 genocide, entered the witness box and told the UN Tribunal that he would withdraw from testifying for Nzitorera's defence if his lead French lawyer Raphael Constant would be penalized for his failure to attend the court sessions.

He claimed that his lawyer's schedule was tight up and the registry has to consult him [Constant] first before setting up a date for his appearance.

The Tribunal, however, ordered Constant to appear before the court on June 21.

Nzitorera is tried jointly with former MRND President Mathieu Ndirumpatse and his Vice President Edouard Karemera with crimes committed by members of their party. Karemera has already completed his defence. Nzitorera's defence testimony continues Tuesday.

# The Standard

Monday, 17 May 2010

## Why Ocampo's 'modus operandi' baffles many

By BIKETI KIKECHI

A top politician in Government says International Criminal Court (ICC) Chief Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo hinted he already has names of post-election violence suspects who will be facing justice at The Hague before Christmas.

That contradicts Ocampo's own admission that he does not have conclusive evidence against the culprits and that was why he had started conducting fresh investigation.

"He already knows the persons he is looking for. He is just preparing the evidence against the culprits," the politician told The Standard at the Serena Hotel.

This appeared to confirm fears about Ocampo's modus operandi and suggestions that he could end up claiming a bigger scalp.

### Credible evidence

In his trade mark style, the guarded prosecutor left Kenyans guessing about who will be standing in the dock at The Hague later this year. Ocampo has already placed before the judges a list of 20 names compiled through lists prepared by the Kenya National Human Rights Commission, the National Security Intelligence Service and Prof Philip Alston's report on extra judicial killings and the civil society.

His critics dismissed his investigation and accused him of fishing in shallow waters because he does not have credible evidence for the case.

"It appears he cannot rely on what civil society groups gave him and that is why he is running around in search of more evidence," said an MP from the North Rift.

During his four-day visit in Nairobi, Ocampo met journalists, ministers, civil society groups from areas that were affected by violence, victims in Mathare and the two principals.

A minister who met Ocampo confirmed the prosecutor appeared more interested in logistics of how suspects and victims will be handled prior and during the prosecution.

The minister agreed that key politicians have every reason to worry because Ocampo will go for those with the heaviest responsibility.

Ocampo has left Kenyans guessing on how many suspects he will be taking to The Hague, after giving contradictory statements from when he arrived on Saturday until his departure on Wednesday night.

"I will start from scratch to collect evidence on two or three Kenyans who bear the biggest criminal responsibility," said Ocampo.

Ocampo's unpredictable style of operation is causing ripples among the country's political class, raising fear that he could go for those with both political and criminal responsibility.

"He will spring a big surprise by arraigning one of the big two to the ICC at The Hague," said conflict resolution expert David Nyekorath Matsanga.

Dr Matsanga was in Nairobi to caution Kenyans against Ocampo's overzealousness where he initiated another process of stopping the investigation, this time through the United Nations Security Council.

Before leaving the country, Ocampo met President Kibaki and Prime Minister Raila Odinga in the company of Ministers Moses Wetang'ula, George Saitoti, James Orengo and Attorney General Amos Wako.

Before the meeting, Ocampo had on Monday revised the list of his suspects upwards from two to six, among them three security officers.

Changed tune

During his first news conference, Ocampo had made it clear the ICC will not pursue cases involving extra judicial killings because police officers could have committed the offences without getting orders from their seniors.

But later just before he left, Ocampo changed tune and charged that security officers are to take responsibility for crimes, including shooting dead of people during the riots that rocked the country after the botched presidential elections.

He also made it known that he was not interested in political analysis of utterances that may have caused discontent in some quarters. But according to Matsanga, Ocampo has in the past gone for politicians without credible evidence that they had committed crimes against humanity.

"He was given the best offices to work from in Khartoum when he was investigating the Darfur case and police escort to carry out his work by President Omar el Bashir," said Matsanga.

Ocampo gave no clue that President Bashir was on his wanted list until he returned to The Hague three days later and issued warrants of arrest.

Matsanga strongly believes that is exactly what could be in the offing for either one or both principals of the coalition government in Kenya.

"The 'double faced strategy' of Ocampo and the secrecy surrounding Kenya's case with a hidden hand of international agencies raises a lot of questions," said Matsanga.

He argued that Ocampo was partial in the Uganda and Sudan cases and thus only exacerbated conflict in those countries.

Other commentators, however, believe Ocampo may not necessarily go for the top political guns because of the consequences that could arise from his actions.

Kenya National Human Rights Commission Vice Chairman Hassan Omar told The Standard Ocampo would not go for political responsibility.

"He will go for those who planned and paid for the riots, those who hosted the killers and those who paid youths to burn houses," said Hassan. He dismissed claims that statements made by some ODM politicians after the disputed election results amounted to incitement to violence.

Ocampo first came to public attention in 1985 as Assistant Prosecutor in the 'The Trial of the Juntas'.

## United Nations News

Monday, 17 May 2010

### **Kenyans reject local tribunal in favour of the ICC**

Following the 2007 post electoral violence that rocked Kenya, an overwhelming majority of Kenyans rejected the idea of a local tribunal in favour of the International Criminal Court, ICC, take over the matter of investigation and prosecution. The reason: a deep seated mistrust of local institutions. Mutula Kilonzo, Kenya's Minister of Justice sat down with UN Radio's Gerry Adams to explain what impact the ICC will have on Kenya politics.

**KILONZO:** We have a grand coalition government where both sides are alleged to have participated in this disputed election related violence. And out of the natural tendency of self interest they have used that self interest to block the establishment, unfairly and wrongly in my view and also to their disadvantage because Ocampo is going to take them for a true ride, and a nice ride probably to The Hague. They were better off accepting a local tribunal in Kenya because when they are arrested in Kenya or they are in Kenya prisons we can take them milk and some bread now, their relatives would have to buy tickets to go the Hague, so (chuckling)...

**ADAMS:** I heard anywhere from 2 to 6 people could be indicted. Do you know the names of those people?

**KILONZO:** Oh no, and I wouldn't want to know. I am Minister for Justice not Minister for Injustice.

**ADAMS:** Or do you know who they might be or from which area they might come from?

**KILONZO:** Oh no. And I would hate to know because I have been threatened, my wife was, my child was threatened because of the position I took on The Hague. Because there are lot of people who thought that by defeating a local tribunal, The Hague will never happen. It would take 30 years like Ombondia? It would take 15 years like it has taken in Rwanda. No! Not when I am Minister for Justice. It has taken us only 8 months to bring Ocampo to Kenya and I have no doubt in my mind he will finish his investigation by the end of the year. Therefore, for me, I don't want to know who did what, I just want to make sure that justice is done. So, Ocampo's investigation is critical because at the end of it we will know whether international crime was committed.

**ADAMS:** What impact do you think the prosecution will have on the coalition government?

**KILONZO:** Dramatic. My joy is that even as I sit with you here at the United Nations is that, even simultaneously with a referendum process for a new Constitution, we have managed to bring the ICC into Kenya. Ocampo has spent a week in Kenya and there is no single violence, there is no intemperance, there is no instability and people are going about their business. They are actually debating more the Constitution than Ocampo. That for me is a tremendous achievement. And only history will tell.

**ADAMS:** I understand that that some of the witnesses in this ongoing investigation were concerned about their safety. Can you tell me something about that?

**KILONZO:** It is much worse than that. The information that I have is that some witnesses may have lost their lives, some witnesses may have lost loved ones through intimidations, threats and killings. But the fact of the matter is that although we have a witness protection act, it is inadequate so I cannot answer as to what Ocampo is doing to those witnesses because as a lawyer I am quite familiar that you are only a witness once a case has started and to the extent that the Court had not yet authorized the investigation- and that is why I am complaining about it. The Court should not have taken so long to authorize the

investigation. 4 months, 5 months is completely unacceptable to me because during that period any person with evidence cannot by law be treated as a witness.

**ADAMS:** So what is the next step?

**KILONZO:** The next step I do hope that Ocampo will agree to set up an office in Nairobi, for purposes of civic education or somewhere in the country as they normally do in all countries so that they can be able to continue educating the public. The expectations in Kenya are far too high, as I said 82% of the population saying "take them to the Hague" but they all can't go. The Hague doesn't have the wherewithal -both human resource or financial wherewithal to be able to cope with a maximum of say 7 cases. The ultimate responsibility under the principle of supplementarity is Kenya's to set up a local mechanism for this purpose. We will decide that only at the point to which Ocampo's investigation suggests that international crime has been committed in 2008.

**PRES:** Kenya's Justice Minister, Mutula Kilonzo, speaking to Gerry Adams.

## Hirondelle News Agency

Thursday, 13 May 2010

### **Verdict expected next month for oldest ICTR detainee**

The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) will deliver its verdict in Yussuf Munyakazi's trial "at the end of June", ICTR spokesman Roland Amoussouga told Hirondelle News Agency on Thursday.

Yussuf Munyakazi, aged 75 and a father of thirteen, is the oldest ICTR inmate. In the 1990s, he was a wealthy landowner turned into a prosperous businessman.

He is charged with genocide and extermination. According to the indictment, he was in 1994 the head of the Interahamwe militia in his hometown of Bugarama (Cyangugu prefecture).

The Prosecution accuses Munyakazi of having led murderous attacks against Tutsis who had sought refuge in churches in three parishes, Nyamasheke, Shangi and Mibilizi.

Munyakazi denies any responsibility.

His trial started on April 22, 2009. On January 28, 2010, Nigerian prosecutor Segun Jegede requested the maximum penalty arguing that the accused had been part of "a well orchestrated campaign aiming at the elimination of Tutsis".

The defendant's lead counsel, Tanzanian Jwani Mwaikusa, requested his client's acquittal. He pleaded that Yussuf Munyakazi had neither been a militia leader nor participated in any killings.

According to the defence lawyer, the sole connection between his client and the Interahamwe was the fact that a member of the militia, Tarek Aziz, rented one of Munyakazi's houses.

Yussuf Munyakazi was arrested in May 2004 in the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) where he lived as an Imam (Muslim religious leader) under a false identity.

# The Globe and Mail

Monday, 17 May 2010

## Canada urged to probe Sri Lankan war crimes

Anthony Reinhart

Canada should mount a domestic search for Sri Lankan war criminals and lean hard on the South Asian country to submit to an outside probe of atrocities on both sides during the last months of its war against the Tamil Tigers, says a global conflict-prevention group led by Canadian Louise Arbour.

In a report released Monday, a year after the war's end, the International Crisis Group cited "reasonable grounds to believe the Sri Lankan security forces committed war crimes" by intentionally shelling civilians, hospitals and humanitarian operations in a final push to destroy the separatist Tigers. In turn, the Tigers reportedly shot civilians who tried to flee rebel areas and held others captive in a bid to raise international pressure for a ceasefire.

The Brussels-based group, funded by donors and governments including Canada's to study armed conflict and how to avert it, called for a United Nations-backed inquiry to account for a Sri Lankan government victory over the Tigers that came "at the cost of immense civilian suffering and an acute challenge to the laws of war."

### Conflict-prevention group alleges war crimes in Sri Lanka

Canada, the United States, India and other countries with significant Sri Lankan populations should insist on such a probe, the group said, and impose sanctions on Sri Lanka – which is not a member of the International Criminal Court – unless it complies.

"I would like to see Canada encourage the [UN] secretary-general to launch an international investigation," Ms. Arbour, the crisis group's president and former chief prosecutor for the International Criminal Tribunals for the Balkans and Rwanda, told The Globe and Mail.

Ms. Arbour, a former Supreme Court of Canada justice, added that Canada "should not hesitate to exercise its universal jurisdiction" to prosecute Sri Lankan war crimes and human-rights abuses if suspects surface here. While 33,485 people identified themselves as Sri Lankan in the 2006 census, Canada is said to be home to about 200,000 Sri Lankan Tamils, the largest such group in the world outside Asia, many of whom supported the Tigers' 26-year insurgency.

A Department of Foreign Affairs spokesman did not respond to the report, but in an e-mail to The Globe, Alain Cacchione wrote that "Canada has consistently registered its governance and human rights concerns" during the conflict. He added that Canada expects "a viable political solution" to address all Sri Lankans' hopes, and that it will support the country's efforts "to promote national reconciliation and reconstruction within a united Sri Lanka."

Bob Rae, the Liberal foreign affairs critic who worked with the Sri Lankan government and the Tigers during past peace efforts, said the widely respected crisis group's "significant" findings deserve a fuller response from the Conservative government.

"The efforts by the Sri Lankan government for reconciliation have not exactly been overwhelming to this point," said Mr. Rae, who was denied entry to Sri Lanka as a "security threat" before he could observe conditions at displaced-persons camps last June. "It's going to take more than these bromides from the Government of Canada to get to the bottom of things."

Ms. Arbour said an investigation is necessary to deter other countries from adopting “the Sri Lankan option” – unrestrained military action, refusal to negotiate and disregard for humanitarian concerns – to quell insurgencies. A full accounting is also essential for Sri Lankans, and for diaspora Tamils in places like Canada, to move on peacefully, she said.

“We really believe that unless there’s accountability for what happened, there is no chance – no chance – of a lasting peace in Sri Lanka,” Ms. Arbour said.

Chitrangenee Wagswara, Sri Lanka’s High Commissioner to Canada in Ottawa, reserved comment on the report until she hears from her government in Colombo. “These are allegations that have been made and they stand as allegations at the moment,” Ms. Wagswara said.

David Poopalapillai, spokesman for the Canadian Tamil Congress, said he was “very happy” the report called for an independent inquiry, as Tamils have demanded since before the war ended. “Our cries have been vindicated,” he said.