

**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.  
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact  
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### Local News

Army Captain Causes Chaos on Ferry / <i>The Spectator</i>	Page 3
Two Villages Bury Hatchet / <i>The Exclusive</i>	Page 4

### International News

Charles Taylor Monthly Trial Report: April 2010 / <i>Charlestaylortrial.org</i>	Pages 5-11
UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary / <i>UNMIL</i>	Pages 12-16
French Arrest Rwandan Doctor Accused over Genocide / <i>BBC Online</i>	Page 17
ICC Refers Sudan War Crimes Cases to UN / <i>BBC Online</i>	Page 18
Amnesty Int'l Calls On Powers To Join International Criminal Court / <i>Amnesty International</i>	Page 19
Africa: Amnesty International Reports on State of Human Rights / <i>Amnesty International</i>	Pages 20-24
Amnesty: U.S., Europe shielding Israel over Gaza war crimes / <i>Haaretz.com</i>	Page 25
Reviewing Justice in Kampala / <i>ISN</i>	Pages 26-27
Rwanda: ICTR Prosecution Seeks Life Sentence for Kanyarukiga / <i>The New Times</i>	Page 28
Witness Blames Rwandan Mayor for False Accusations... / <i>Hirondelle News Agency</i>	Page 29
Youth Plan ICC Demo / <i>Daily Monitor</i>	Page 30
Sri Lanka Shuts Rehab Camp for Rebel Child Soldiers / <i>Radio Netherlands Worldwide</i>	Page 31

## Army Captain Causes Chaos on Ferry

Satan descended on the evening ferry on Sunday when a Sierra Leone Army captain exploded into a fit of rage at the screening of the Charles Taylor trial. He barked out orders at the film selector that he should change it to something else.

In the video clip produced by the Special Court, the counsel for Taylor was busy defending his collaborating with regional and international organisations to bring pressure on the RUF to negotiate peace, when the captain ordered the selector to change it to something else. He was ignored on two occasions, on the third he was challenged by a passenger.

Within a split second the other passengers who were equally incensed confronted him, told him to back-off and insisted the screening should continue. At this point hell was let loose and the captain found himself being confronted from every angle. Some passengers managed to push and shove him around before a few passengers and a Colonel I.B.M Koroma intervened to calm nerves.

But Colonel Koroma's intervention nearly backfired when instead of addressing the issue went on an ego tour to show his profile. Passengers found themselves be-

ing talked at by Col. Koroma who claimed to have studied law and being legal adviser to the Sierra Leone Army. As if this is not off-putting enough, he claimed to have attended a conference recently. With no end in rants, he claimed the captain is in law school. When the Colonel finally spoke on the issue he was interrupted when he ignorantly claimed the film selector was screening the Taylor trial for business. A passenger interrupted saying 'They are distributed free. They are not for sale.'

As Colonel Koroma continued to send shock waves among the passengers when he claimed screening the Taylor trial reminds of the war - the abuses, killings. Either by design or out of ignorance he did not talk about the holding to account of those who caused so much pain to people. Also, there was not a single word on justice for victims, a passenger was heard protesting. Another was heard saying 'If this is what a legal adviser can offer, then mediocrity rules supreme in our army.'

Colonel Koroma exploded a final bomb when he appealed to the passengers to respect the feelings of the captain and not screen the trial. At this point the passengers interrupted him saying 'What about the feelings of the majority'. He

was forced to cut short his rants amidst murmurings from passengers, who had lost patience with his bias. The captain later had what seems like a lecture from a passenger who by every indication was highly educated. This reporter heard him say something along the lines of due process and the role of defence and prosecution in fair trial. The captain on his part kept nodding his head in manner characteristic of a surrendered warrior.

The Exclusive  
Thursday, 27 May 2010

# Two villages bury the hatchet

*By Solomon Yarjoh*

One of the core values of Fambul Tok is to walk alongside communities to find their own answers. It is convinced that if organizations walk alongside communities they will simply identify challenges and resolve issues in their own traditional way.

For the past two years, Fambul Tok continues to create space for both victims and perpetrators to reconcile and embark on development. It stresses on unity and how powerful communities will be if they join hands together for the development of their localities. Using Fambul Tok structures, many villages are now at developmental stage as most of them embark on farming, building broken bridges or constructing houses.

Last week during fambul tok reconciliation ceremony, Golahun and Joyah villages in

Kamajei chiefdom, Moyamba district decided to forget the past and work as 'wan fambul'(one family) in the interest of peace and reconciliation.

Residents of Joyah village complained that they always face molestation anytime they meet with Golahun community. They accused Golahun of attacking them anytime they meet in public forum. On the other hand, Golahun people also said Joyah does not cooperate whenever it comes to community work. They cited examples on road rehabilitation, football matches etc

Chiefdom Speaker for Kamajei, Tamba Lavalie asked the two villages to see reason and work in the interest of peace and development. He said the section lacks good road network and other facilities, stressing that if they work as one family peace will prevail.

**Charles Taylor Monthly Trial Report: April 2010**

By U.C. Berkeley War Crimes Studies Center

This report was written by Jennifer Easterday.

**1. Overview**

The Defense case moved ahead steadily in April, with three new witnesses taking the stand for Charles Taylor. By the end of this reporting period, Taylor's Defense team had called a total of eleven witnesses. Much of the testimony this month focused on events occurring before the indictment period (which spans from 1996 to 2002), including the formation and training of the RUF in 1991, its first incursions into Sierra Leone, and the early years of the war. This testimony can help the Defense disassociate Taylor from allegations that he created and/or supported the RUF from 1991 through the conclusion of the war in 2002.

Witnesses who testified during this reporting period include:

- 1) DCT-146, Charles Ngebeh
- 2) DCT-306, Fayia Musa
- 3) DCT-062, Martin George a.k.a. "Flomo"
- 4) DCT-131, Karneh Edward Minneh

This report summarizes witness testimony heard during the month of April and identifies important issues that have arisen at trial. As with previous WCSC monitoring reports, it is available at [http://socrates.berkeley.edu/~warcrime/SL\\_Monitoring\\_Reports.htm](http://socrates.berkeley.edu/~warcrime/SL_Monitoring_Reports.htm).

**2. Defense Themes and Strategies**

The Defense strategy has to been to disassociate Taylor from the RUF. Therefore, witnesses have testified about the early days of the RUF, including training, ammunition supplies, and its first incursions into Sierra Leone. Defense witnesses corroborated Taylor's testimony that Taylor's support of the RUF ended in 1992, after Top Final. Witnesses further testified that the RUF obtained weapons from attacking its enemies and from ULIMO—not from Charles Taylor or the NPFL.

**3. Prosecution Themes and Strategies**

The Prosecution continued its strategy of discrediting the Defense witnesses through prior inconsistent statements, inconsistencies in Defense witness testimony, personal knowledge, bias, and implicating the witnesses in RUF crimes. The Prosecution also asked RUF insiders about crimes that the RUF had committed during the war. Witnesses admitted that the RUF committed many brutal crimes, but denied both personal culpability for such crimes as well as Taylor's culpability for those crimes.

**4. Legal and Procedural Issues****a. Disclosure of Witness Statements**

As with previous Defense witnesses, the Prosecution continued to request disclosure of witness statements prior to cross-examination. With Witness DCT-306, the Prosecution focused its arguments on what it considered the patent insufficiency of the Defense witness summary for DCT-306. The Prosecution argued that according to SCSL jurisprudence, witness summaries must enable the Prosecution and Court "to appreciate and understand the nature and content of a witness's proposed testimony" and must include detailed summaries of the incidents and/or events which a witness is called to testify upon: Exact location and date if available of these alleged incidents and/or events; position and/or role of a witness in relation to the crimes charged in the indictment; nexus between the accused and the proposed testimony of a witness; and other details as counsel deems necessary and would clearly demonstrate the essence of that testimony.[2]

Initially, the Prosecution argued that because the Defense witness summaries to date had not met that standard, it would be in the interests of justice and the efficiency of the trial for the Court order that the Defense disclose its witnesses' statements ten days before a witness testifies so that this issue would not continue to occur. The Prosecution ultimately dropped this request before the Judges had the opportunity to rule, however. In lieu of blanket disclosure, the Prosecution simply pressed for DCT-306's witness statement.

The Defense opposed the motion for disclosure of the full witness statement, reminding the Court that there is no blanket right for the Prosecution to see the witness statements, and that the Prosecution only has the right to apply on a case-by-case basis for disclosure of a witness statement after the witness has testified. Counsel for the Defense opined that, in the case of DCT-306, the summary provided the Prosecution with sufficient information to properly cross-examine the Witness: "a summary is exactly what it says. It is not exhaustive; it is a summary."<sup>[3]</sup>

Trial Chamber II acknowledged that the summary for Witness DCT-306 was indeed brief, but concluded that it was not grossly insufficient. The Trial Chamber agreed that the Witness's evidence did include areas not specifically mentioned in the summary, but concluded that the Prosecution had not demonstrated undue or irreparable prejudice, pursuant to the relevant legal standard. Accordingly, the Court denied the Prosecution's motion for full disclosure of the witness statement. Instead, the Chamber held that the proper remedy was to allow the Prosecution additional time to prepare its cross-examination in relation to those areas not contained in the summary. Court adjourned an hour early for this purpose, although Counsel for the Prosecution indicated that the adjournment was unnecessary. He noted that Prosecution's request for additional time was to research some 40,000 pages of transcripts for the cross-examination, and that the little time granted by the Court was unhelpful in that regard.

The Prosecution filed a motion seeking leave to appeal the decision. Under Rule 73(B), the Court may grant leave to appeal a decision on a motion in exceptional circumstances and to avoid irreparable prejudice to a party.<sup>[4]</sup> The Prosecution argued, inter alia, that the decision condoned the Defense's "systematic failure to provide adequate summaries," which impairs the Prosecution's ability to test the evidence and in turn may constitute an interference with the course of justice.<sup>[5]</sup> The Prosecution warned that this practice was likely to continue throughout the Defense case, causing the Prosecution irreparable prejudice.<sup>[6]</sup>

The Defense argued that there were no exceptional circumstances and that no irreparable prejudice existed, because the issue involved the Trial Chamber's discretionary and consistent application of settled jurisprudence.<sup>[7]</sup> The Defense further contended that the decision would not prevent the Prosecution from effectively challenging evidence.<sup>[8]</sup>

The Trial Chamber denied the Prosecution's application. The Court considered that the Prosecution's refusal of extra time to prepare for its cross-examination of DCT-306 was inconsistent with its claim to irreparable prejudice for lack of the witness statement. The Court further considered that the issue was not one of a fundamental legal nature, since the decision involved the case-by-case discretionary application of settled law.<sup>[9]</sup>

#### **b. Taylor Refused to Appear in Court**

On April 28, 2010, Taylor refused to attend trial due to what he considered demeaning and undignified treatment by the personnel at the security center where he is held. Taylor objected to the method of transport whereby the security personnel leave him waiting handcuffed in a van while they retrieve an accused on trial at the ICC in order to transport both accused in a single convoy. This issue had arisen earlier in the course of his defense case, in January.<sup>[10]</sup> In the past, Counsel for the Defense claimed Taylor had been left for 30 minutes in the van. On this occasion, Taylor complained that he had been left sitting for ten to fifteen minutes. Taylor gave his team permission to continue in his absence. The Presiding Judge directed the Registrar of the Special Court to once again look into this issue and find a way to ensure that it would not happen again.

After the mid-morning break, Counsel for the Defense told the Court that although Taylor was ready and willing to come to Court and in spite of an order from the Registrar to the Dutch authorities ordering him to be brought to Court, the authorities would be unable to transport Taylor that afternoon. Apparently, the Dutch security company only had one team able to do such transports, and they were unable to bring Taylor for the afternoon session. The Defense moved for an order from the Bench that Taylor be transported to Court that afternoon. After conferring, the Judges unanimously declined to make such an order. In the Court's view, the wait was not unreasonable, inhumane

or degrading, and its previous order to the Registrar to rectify the matter was sufficient. The Registrar's subsequent filing on the matter was confidential, and thus not accessible to trial monitors.[11]

5. **Witness Testimony**

a. **DCT-146, Charles Ngebeh, Cross-Examination**

Ngebeh's cross-examination had been suspended on March 24, 2010, in an effort to remedy an insufficient witness summary. Upon resumption of his testimony, the Prosecution questioned Ngebeh extensively about the RUF and AFRC joint command structure during the junta. The Witness testified that Bockarie ordered the AFRC and RUF commanders to work together as a team. However, he claimed that it was the AFRC acting under SAJ Musa's orders that attacked Freetown in January 1999, and that the RUF was not responsible for that attack. Ngebeh contended that the RUF attempted to join the AFRC in Freetown, but were blocked by ECOMOG.

Under cross-examination, Ngebeh testified that although Taylor supported the RUF in 1991, Taylor was not responsible for atrocities committed in Sierra Leone. He agreed with the Prosecution that the atrocities committed in Sierra Leone by the RUF were terrible, but insisted that Taylor had nothing to do with them. The Witness denied that he had personally committed crimes during the war.

The Prosecution also inquired about ownership of diamonds mined by the civilians, asking if they were considered to be government property. The Witness responded that during the time that RUF was in power (1991 – 1996), diamonds were government (i.e. RUF) property, but when the RUF and the AFRC started working together after the 1997 coup, the diamonds became personal property. "When you get your diamonds you can sell them wherever you want to sell them. After the coup diamonds no longer were government property," Ngebeh told the Court.[12] However, Ngebeh said that if someone found a large diamond (seven carats or larger), they were required to hand it over to the RUF/AFRC "government"—or face arrest. He also claimed that the RUF maintained RUF mines, but individuals could also mine for themselves.

The Prosecution asked Ngebeh about 2001, during which time the Witness claimed the RUF was at peace. He denied that the RUF was committing crimes such as rape, murder, and other brutalities against civilians at that time. The Prosecution, attempting to impeach his testimony, introduced human rights reports that attested to such crimes being committed by the RUF against refugees returning to Sierra Leone in 2001. Ngebeh admitted that the RUF had previously committed such crimes, but adamantly denied that it continued in 2001.

Again mirroring a Defense cross-examination strategy, the Prosecution asked the Witness whether he had been paid or promised payment from anyone at the SCSL. The Witness denied that he had received funds from the Defense, but said he had received funds from the WVS including a daily allowance, travel assistance, assistance paying rent for his home, and funds for medical expenses for him and his family. The Prosecution alleged that according to WVS records, the total amount was 1,661,000 Leones, or approximately \$423 USD. The Witness said that this might be true, but he was not sure because he had not been keeping his own records.

a. **DCT-306, Fayia Musa**

Witness DCT-306, Fayia Musa, is a Sierra Leonean national of the Kissi tribe, born in Kailahun District in 1956. He served in the RUF as an agricultural officer (teaching civilians how to farm) and later as an RUF spokesperson and a member of the RUF delegation at the Abidjan peace talks.

The Witness described how the RUF established collective farms, and sold coffee and cocoa crops at the Sierra Leone/Guinea border for cooking supplies and ammunition. Musa testified that there was no trade across the Sierra Leone/Liberian border because the Liberian border region was controlled by ULIMO. He claimed that this barter system began in 1992 after Top Final, when Liberians were expelled from the RUF, and ended in 1995 when the RUF began engaging with the international community for peace talks. Musa denied that civilians were forced to farm.

i. **NPFL- RUF Relationship**

Musa acknowledged that there were Liberians in the RUF, but claimed that many of them had familial or tribal ties to Sierra Leone. The Prosecution alleges that the presence of Liberians in the RUF indicates Taylor's control and/or

support of the RUF. Musa's testimony casts doubt onto that theory by suggesting that Liberian nationals might have fought with the RUF for reasons other than being under Taylor's command.

The Witness testified that the two groups had a falling out in 1992, leading to battles between Liberians and Sierra Leoneans known as Top 20, Top 40, and Top Final. After Top Final, Musa claimed that Sankoh announced that he would never go back to Liberia. According to the Witness, Sankoh kept his word. Asked by the Presiding Judge why Sankoh made this vow, Musa said that Sankoh had relied a lot on Charles Taylor for support, but that support did not come, and instead the Liberians had attacked the Sierra Leoneans. This helps corroborate Taylor's claims that he did not assist Sankoh or the RUF after 1992.

ii. **Rape**

The Witness told the Court that the RUF had rules, which if broken, would lead to punishment. Relying on "Footpaths to Democracy," a book co-authored by the Witness and launched by the RUF on December 1995, Musa said that if an RUF member raped, he would be punished. He gave an example of a man who was killed for raping a pregnant woman.

iii. **Sam Bockarie was "A Devil"**

Musa told the Court that after Foday Sankoh was arrested in Nigeria, he and other members of the RUF delegation to the Abidjan peace talks concluded that Sankoh should no longer be leader of the RUF. For this, Sankoh had them arrested by Sam Bockarie, who took over the leadership of the RUF. The Witness testified that after Bockarie arrested him, he spent two and a half years as an RUF prisoner. Musa referred to Bockarie as a devil who ordered the daily physical and mental torture of him and other prisoners. The Witness stood up in Court to show scars from beatings Bockarie purportedly ordered. "Sam Bockarie, I have started and I will end with this: He is – he was a devil," he told the Judges.[13] Musa reiterated that the punishments administered to RUF members were on Bockarie's orders, and not Taylor's.

iv. **Cross-Examination**

1) **Liberians in the RUF**

The Witness refuted claims from another Defense Witness that NPFL soldiers were part of the RUF group that initially invaded Kailahun district. John Vincent, a Liberian former member of the RUF, had told the court that Liberian nationals from the NPFL helped capture Koindu.[14] Asked by the Prosecution if Vincent was lying, the Witness responded, "I cannot tell whether he was lying or not, but the group which met us was RUF." [15] Musa testified that he was captured by the RUF in Kailahun, and therefore had personal knowledge of the rebels that participated in the invasion. This is one of several inconsistencies in the testimony of Defense witnesses the Prosecution has highlighted, with the aim of discrediting their testimony.

2) **Forced Labor**

The Prosecution also delved into the topic of forced labor. Asked if the civilians felt like slaves working for the RUF, the Witness responded that the reality on the ground was that they all had to work in order for them to eat. The Witness said that he did not know if other people were treated as slaves but could only talk about what he knew—that everyone willingly worked to get food.

3) **Links between the RUF and Taylor**

The Prosecution asked the Witness about Dr. Addai-Sebo, who had been instrumental in publishing the RUF book "Footpaths to Democracy." The Witness agreed that Dr. Addai-Sebo had been especially involved in the editing. Asked if Dr. Addai-Sebo had worked elsewhere before showing up in RUF territory, the Witness said that he had not. The Prosecution said that Addai-Sebo was Taylor's publicist and introduced the RUF delegation in Ivory Coast to Musa Cisse (Taylor's chief of protocol). The Witness agreed that Addai-Sebo introduced them to Cisse but insisted that he did not know how they knew each other.

4) **Child Soldiers**

The Prosecution asked the Witness if the RUF armed children. The Witness responded that they did, admitting that the children were about eleven years old and older. The Witness also admitted that in the book, “Footpaths to Democracy,” the RUF stated that they armed children. The Prosecution also asked about the RUF anthem, which said, “Go and tell my parents they may see me no more.”[16] The Witness admitted that children were indeed taken from their families.

5) **Taylor lying under oath?**

The Witness testified that Foday Sankoh spent about six months with Taylor at his NPFL headquarters in Gbarnga, Liberia. However, Taylor had testified that Sankoh was not based in Gbarnga, but only visited for a few days.[17] The Witness stuck with his answer, and maintained that Foday Sankoh had been in Gbarnga until the end of the Top 40 operation in mid-1992. The Prosecution said that this inconsistency implied that Taylor lied under oath.

The Prosecution also managed to point out another inconsistency between the Witness’s testimony and that of Taylor. Asked by the Prosecution if he travelled to Gbarnga in July 1995 and then travelled with Taylor to Accra in August 1995, the Witness responded that he did—but denied that the visit had anything to do with military support. The Prosecution then referred to Taylor’s testimony where Taylor testified that he moved to Monrovia in July 1995 and never left Monrovia until the elections in 1997.[18] Taylor has also testified that he cut all ties with the RUF in 1992. Both of these statements from Taylor contradict Musa’s testimony.

b. **DCT-062, Martin George a.k.a. “Flomo”**

Witness DCT-062, Martin “Flomo” George, was born on June 15, 1970 in Bong County, Gbarnga. He was recruited by the RUF on January 8, 1991. He held the position of Colonel in the RUF.

i. **RUF Arms and Ammunition**

George told the Court that he and other RUF recruits trained at Crab Hole, part of Camp Naama in Liberia. The Witness said he never saw Taylor at Crab Hole, and claimed that the RUF trainees did not mix with NPFL trainees from other parts of Camp Naama.

The Witness told the Court that he left Crab Hole on March 1, 1991 to attack Sierra Leone. He said that there were a total of 381 RUF fighters that left Crab Hole, which were divided equally into two battalions. He said that it took eighteen days of travel before his battalion reached Bo Waterside, a town on the Liberian side of the border with Sierra Leone. George claimed that they were unarmed when they left Camp Naama, but found arms and ammunition waiting for them under tarps near the border. He said he did not know how the weapons had arrived there. The Witness and other members of the RUF purportedly used these weapons to launch an attack on barracks in Sierra Leone. He testified that although his group encountered NPFL soldiers along the way, they did not provide the RUF any manpower or weapons for their initial attack.

Indeed, the Witness testified that the RUF never received arms and ammunition from the NPFL, but rather obtained all of their materiel from attacking SLA soldiers. George contended that the RUF later bought arms and ammunition from ULIMO, including a shipment delivered from Abu Keita to Sam Bockarie before the RUF attack on Kono in 1998. The Witness denied that Taylor had provided any guns or ammunition from Taylor for this attack. Moreover, George denied that diamonds mined in Kono were given to Taylor or Benjamin Yeaten.

ii. **Liberians in the RUF and their Contact with Taylor**

The Witness testified that the Liberians in the RUF never had any communication with Taylor. He added that the entire time (between 1991 and 2002) that he was in RUF, he never heard anybody having radio contact with Taylor. This testimony contradicts Prosecution witness Isaac Mongor, who testified about having communicated with Taylor. However, George said that he and Mongor used to “pass the night” in the same place, and he never heard any communication between Mongor and Taylor or Taylor’s commanders.[19]

iii. **Cross-Examination**

During cross-examination, the Prosecution attempted to impeach the Witness's credibility by questioning him on the accuracy of his previous testimony and his personal knowledge of what he testified about. The Prosecution also asked the Witness about crimes committed by the RUF, including using child soldiers and amputations.

George admitted that the RUF kept SBUs, and that there were children under fifteen years old with their group. He said that he had more than three small boys with him, who he would feed and take care of. However, George denied that the boys were used for military purposes, telling the court that they were used only for domestic chores, including at times carrying fighting materiel. The Witness said that the SBUs were technically RUF members though, because "as long as you were RUF, you just had to be a member. [. . .] When an enemy captured you, you cannot say you are not a member of the RUF. You can't deny that. So we considered them to be members of the RUF." [20]

Prosecutors have alleged that the RUF, under Taylor's command, began to amputate civilians' hands in order to keep them from voting in the 1996 elections. Many crime-base witnesses have testified in the Taylor trial about such amputations. George denied that Sankoh gave an order to cut off hands to prevent people from voting. The Witness told the Court that he was present when Sankoh ordered RUF commanders to put a stop to the election, but claimed that Sankoh did not order amputations.

c. **DCT-131, Karnah Edward Mineh**

The 10th Defense Witness is Karneh Edward Mineh born on February 12, 1952. He became a farmer but later joined the Armed Forces of the Republic of Liberia. He later moved to Nimba County where he became the bodyguard of Joseph Fangalo, a general in the Armed Forces of Liberia at the same time and superintendent of the county. He later served as a commander in the NPFL.

The Witness testified that four men who were then part of the NPFL (Anthony Mekunagbe, Degbon, Oliver Varney and One Man One) stole NPFL supplies and sent them to ULIMO. Asked by the Defense why they did this, the Witness responded that the four later joined ULIMO and formed a unit called the Black Kaddafa. Mineh was an NPFL commander fighting ULIMO alongside these other commanders in the Cape Mount region of Liberia until this group changed sides and started fighting with ULIMO as the Black Kaddafa. This testimony is in line with Taylor's claims that the Black Kaddafa was set up by NPFL fighters who were trying to eliminate him, and that the members of the group were investigated and ultimately executed.[21]

[1] This report was written by Jennifer Easterday.

[2] RUF, Case No. SCSL-04-15-746, "Consequential orders concerning the preparation and the commencement of the Defence case," 28 March 2007, 4-5.

[3] Taylor, Trial Transcript, 16 April 2010, pg. 43 (lines 16-17).

[4] Rule 73(B), Rules.

[5] Taylor, Case No. SCSL-03-01-T-953, "Decision on urgent Prosecution application for leave to appeal decision of 16 April 2010," 5 May 2010, 2.

[6] Id.

[7] Id. at 3.

[8] Id.

[9] Id. at 5-6.

[10] See Judy Mionki and Jennifer Easterday, "Charles Taylor Trial Report (November 10, 2009 – February 18, 2010)," War Crimes Studies Center, (March 2010), pg. 11.

[11] Taylor, Case No. SCSL-01-03-T-952, “Submission of the Registrar pursuant to Rule 33(B) regarding the transport of the accused to court on 28 April 2010,” 4 May 2010.

[12] Taylor, Trial Transcript, 12 April 2010, pg. 14 (lines 2-4).

[13] Taylor, Trial Transcript, 13 April 2010, pg. 81 (lines 21-22).

[14] Taylor, Trial Transcript, 25 March 2010, pg. 51 (lines 12-18).

[15] Taylor, Trial Transcript, 19 April 2010, pg. 77 (lines 5-7).

[16] Taylor, Trial Transcript, 20 April 2010, pg. 104 (lines 21-22).

[17] Taylor, Trial Transcript, 25 November 2009, pg. 76 (lines 11-14).

[18] Taylor, Trial Transcript, 13 April 2010, pg. 105 (lines 23-25).

[19] Taylor, Trial Transcript, 26 April 2010, pg. 11 (lines 21-26).

[20] Taylor, Trial Transcript, 28 April 2010, pg. 67 (lines 13-16).

[21] Kimberley Punt and Jennifer Easterday, “Direct Examination of the Accused Charles Taylor,” War Crimes Studies Center, (December 2009), pg. 22, available at [http://socrates.berkeley.edu/~warcrime/SL\\_Monitoring\\_Reports.htm](http://socrates.berkeley.edu/~warcrime/SL_Monitoring_Reports.htm).

## UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 26 May 2010

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

### UN News in Liberia

*UNMIL is not reported in the news today.*

### Local News on Liberian issues

#### **President Sirleaf Meets US President Thursday**

[Heritage, In Profile Daily, New Democrat, New Vision, The Informer, The Inquirer, The News]

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf is expected to meet US President Barack Obama Thursday, May 27 at the White House.
- An Executive Mansion dispatch from the USA quotes the White House as saying the US values the long bonds of history between the two countries.
- The White House said President Obama welcomes the opportunity to discuss with President Sirleaf on a wide range of bilateral and regional issues.
- The statement said Liberia is an important democratic partner of the US that has made tremendous strides in many areas including consolidation of stability, improving governance, contributing to regional peace and development in recent years.
- According to the White House, the people of America have maintained their links with Liberia through some of the challenging times of the post-war country.
- The statement further maintains the US will remain deeply engaged with Liberia as the country continues to look to the future.

#### **Call for Finance Ministry to Audit GAC Sparks Disagreement in House**

[Heritage, New Democrat, Public Agenda]

- Controversy Tuesday erupted in the House of Representatives over a letter calling for an audit of the General Auditing Commission (GAC) by the Finance Ministry.
- The debate was triggered by the controversial letter from Montserrado and Unity Party Representative Dusty Wolokollie.
- Representative Wolokollie said his call for the audit of the GAC was in line with Chapter 53 of the New Executive Law of 1972 which was repealed in 2005.
- According to him, the repealed Chapter changed the status of the General Auditing Office as a body under the Executive Branch of government.
- He said it created the GAC as an independent body under the Legislature and provides for an audit of its accounts by the Finance Ministry.
- The argument by Representative Wolokollie sparked controversy with majority members of the House protesting the letter.
- Lawmakers Regina Teah of Montserrado and Saywah Dunah of Nimba warned against witch-hunting the GAC amidst the damaging HIPC audits which indicted the Finance Ministry.
- Also, lawmakers Vinicious Hodges of Grand Bassa and Eugene Fallah-Kparka of Lofa said the 1972 law cited by Representative Wolokollie was no longer in existence.
- Amidst the over one hour debate, the House voted to send the letter to its Committees on Judiciary, Finance and Public Accounts for advice in two weeks.

[The Informer, The Inquirer]

- The Press Union of Liberia (PUL) has called on President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf to go beyond disagreeing with the failed arrest of the Communications Director of the General Auditing Commission, Ernest Maximore.
- The PUL said the President needs to take concrete steps to radically reorder the National Security Agency (NSA) to stop its harassment of ordinary peaceful citizens.
- The PUL believes the NSA has over the years been turned into an establishment of torture and fear with the apparent support of the Presidency, because this is not the first time the NSA has acted in defiance to democratic norms and the rule of law.
- The Union records the harassment of printing houses, the arrest and detention of Mulbah Morlu, Counselor Syrenius Cephus and the latest attempted arrest of Ernest Maximore, while expressing their democratic thoughts.

### **Delta Begins Direct Flight To Liberia**

[Front Page Africa, The Inquirer, The News]

- Delta Air Lines yesterday announced new service between Atlanta and Monrovia, Liberia, expanding the airline's position as the leading US carrier operating flights to Africa.
- The new service, which is scheduled to begin September 4, will connect Delta's hub at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport and Roberts International Airport in Monrovia with a stop in Accra, Ghana.
- The flight will be operated on 215-seat Boeing 767-300ER aircraft, equipped with 34 Business Elite seats and 181 seats in Economy.
- Delta has received approval from the Liberian Civil Aviation Authority, and preliminary approval from the US government, to sell seats for the new flight for the planned launch in September.
- Final US government approvals are expected before the flight begins.
- "As the Number 1 US carrier serving Africa, Delta remains committed to expanding our presence into fast-growing African markets," said Perry Cantarutti, Delta's senior vice president of Europe, Middle East and Africa.
- "Our new service between our Atlanta hub and Monrovia will provide convenient connections between Liberia and cities across the United States."
- "The government is enthusiastic about the prospect of Delta providing a direct flight between Monrovia and the United States, which would be the first such service in many years," said President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

### **NPA Accused of Fraud**

[Heritage, Public Agenda]

- The management of the National Port Authority (NPA) has been accused of intrusive practices into a bidding process at the port.
- Reports say NPA Managing Director Matilda Parker, including the Chairman of the National Investment Commission Richard Tolbert, have employed a scheme not to turn over the management of the port to an American company-APM Terminal, the runner of the Maersk-line that won the bid.
- According to the reports, the delay into process has got to be lucrative with scanty information of bribe taking.
- The reports further say a Dubai company favored by the Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) is reportedly dishing out money to control the wisdom of the IMC by denying the APM-Terminal that is the winner of the bid.
- But the head of NPA Public Relations Jacobs Walker has dismissed the reports as untrue nothing that the bidding process was fair.
- NIC Chairman Richard Tolbert, said information concerning unjustifiable process to double cross the bid at the NPA was the work of liars.
- He denied reports that a Dubai company was giving money to members of the IMC.

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

#### **Call for Finance Ministry to Audit GAC Sparks Disagreement in House**

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

#### **House Rubbished Letter for Intervention in GAC Sex Scandal**

- The House of Representatives has rubbished a letter requesting its intervention in the sexual harassment claim against Auditor General John Morlu.

- The letter by Montserrado Representative Moses Tandapolie sought the setting up of a special committee to look into the sexual harassment claim.
- Representative Tandapolie said it was his strong belief that the House has the responsibility to intervene in such sexual allegation which has generated debate.
- However, the House voted on a motion by Montserrado lawmaker Rufus Neufville for the letter to be noted and that it must never appear before the plenary for debate.
- In the motion, Representative Neufville stressed the sexual harassment claim was a matter that can be tried before a court of competent jurisdiction.

### **President Sirleaf Meets US President Thursday**

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

### **State Department Announces Fee Increase for Non-Immigration Visa**

- The US State Department has announced the implementation of a fee increase for all non-immigration visas starting Friday June 4.
- The new fees reflect the estimated costs for non-immigration visa services per applicant in the coming year.
- A US Embassy release says the new fees are the product of a worldwide cost-of-service study conducted by the State Department in June 2009.
- According to the release, the study demonstrated that certain categories of non-immigration visas require more processing than others.
- The State Department believes it is more equitable to all visa applicants to charge fees that accurately reflect the cost of processing the visas.
- The release clarifies no other fees for consular services are affected by this new charge.

### **Liberian Spelling Bee Winner Off To the US**

- The winner of the 2009 Liberia National Spelling Bee left the country Tuesday, May 25 for Washington DC to participate in the Scripps National Spelling Bee.
- Ms. Sandra Tamba, 12, is a former six grade student of the R. B. Richardson Baptist School in Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County and will be the first Liberian to participate in the Scripps National Spelling Bee.
- The release said Ms. Tamba will join fellow winner of the Ghana National Spelling Bee to participate in the US Scripps Spelling project in May 2010.

### **Civil Servants Write Civil Service Director**

- The leadership of the Civil Servants Association has written the Director of the Civil Service Agency putting forth some demands to be addressed by government.
- The Association wants Dr. William Allen to submit the demands to the Legislature during the budget hearing.
- Among the demands are budgetary appropriation for the construction of affordable housing for civil servants especially nurses and teachers.
- The group also wants increment in salaries and allowances of civil servants as well as settlement of their arrears.
- As part of the demands, the Association called on government to allocate resources to reactivate the Monrovia Free Zone Authority to enable employees return to work.
- The Association further requested that government raise the income of pensioners and retirees to better their living condition which has become deplorable.
- The Civil Servants Association said as representatives of the people, the lawmakers need to listen to their demands and make the necessary appropriation.

### **FLY Secretary General Raps on African Liberation Day**

- The Secretary General of the Federation of Liberian Youth (FLY) said an ambitious United States of Africa cannot be possible unless Africans liberate their minds.
- Mr. Jerry Tarblo said Africa must now rise up to the challenge of fighting new colonialism if they truly intent to be liberated.
- According to the FLY Secretary General, the liberation of Africa depends on African themselves, and not Europeans or Americans.
- Mr. Tarblo said Africa should now rediscover itself as the cradle of civilization by doing away with inferiority.
- He spoke Tuesday at the occasion marking the observance of African Liberation Day under the theme "African Liberation, Peace and Democracy."

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

#### **No Security Threat over Liberia, Says Police Chief**

- Police Director Marc Amblard said there is no security threat over Liberia ahead of the 2011 elections.

- He said the police will continue to remain robust in the fight against armed robbery and other crimes.
- Director Amblard made the assertion after he and Assistant Police Director for Public Safety Meekie Gray emerged from a secret session with the plenary of the House of Representatives.
- They were summoned by the plenary of the House to give explanation on pressing national security issues.
- The police chief said they discussed matters on traffic regulations and the preparedness of the police ahead of the 2011 elections.

#### **Finance Minister Attends ADB Annual Meeting in Abidjan**

- Finance Minister Augustine Ngafuan has arrived in Abidjan, the Ivory Coast for the African Development Bank's (ADB) annual meeting as head of the Liberian delegation.
- Other members of the delegation include, Natty B. Davies, Minister of State without Portfolio and Deputy Central Bank Governor Samuel Thompson.
- While at the ADB meeting, Minister Ngafuan will participate in high level discussions with other African Finance Ministers aimed at shifting the bank's policy and outreach to member states over the coming years .
- The Finance Minister was also one of three Finance Ministers selected to hold meetings with shareholders and other partners of the bank to discuss resource allocation under the African Development Fund 12 the financing framework created to support member countries programs in the future.
- Minister Ngafuan will also be attending the fifth session of the Board of Governors that will elect the new Executive Director and President of the bank.

#### **PUL Wants President Sirleaf Go beyond Disagreement**

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

### **International Clips on Liberia**

#### **President Sirleaf to Raise Liberia's \$35 M Income to Botswana's \$1.3 Billion? [www.theperspective.org](http://www.theperspective.org)**

President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, through her advisers, at the Poverty Reduction Strategy town halls, has promised to increase Liberia's \$35 million royalty income to an amount comparable to Botswana's \$1.3 billion. Is such a promise an electoral statement or a deception? Surrounded by remnants of the Grand Old True Whig Party such as Clarence Simpson, now an advisor to the Firestone rubber plantation; Varney Sherman, current chairman of the ruling party and legal counselor to Liberian-ArcelorMittal (New Democrat Online); Estrada Bernard, Richard Tolbert; Florence Chenoweth, Clavenda Bright-Parker, etc, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf did direct her foot soldiers to deliver the good news. The delegation dutifully selected and used the prosperity of Botswana and demonstrated how Liberia's economic Poverty Reduction Strategy will spur economic prosperity. Her lieutenants assured the audience at the town hall meetings that the Sirleaf government would emulate the good polices of Botswana. That's good promise. However, the government would need to reform its policy on: (1) spending and (2) generating revenue from Liberia's lucrative minerals if it intends to keep its promise. Since there are many reports on government expenditure, let us review the revenue policy. In 2009, Liberia received about 10% (\$35 m/\$347m) of its budget from 71 investors managing Liberia minerals. The 71 entities such as latex from firestone, Iron ore, diamond, gold, timber, etc represent almost the most lucrative minerals. Unlike Liberia, Botswana's royalty income funded 50% of its \$2.6 billion dollar budget in 2009.

#### **Delta to add service to Liberia Associated Press**

ATLANTA – Delta Air Lines Incorporated said Tuesday it will begin once-a-week service between Atlanta and Monrovia, Liberia, in September. The flights between Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport and Roberts International Airport in Monrovia will stop in Accra, Ghana. Delta, based in Atlanta, had planned to start the flights last June, but they were delayed while the airport in Monrovia was brought into compliance with international aviation standards. Delta said the service will begin September 4 and use Boeing 767 aircraft with 34 premium seats and 181 seats in coach. The airline said Liberian aviation officials have approved the flights, and U.S. regulators have given preliminary approval. Delta has operated in Africa since 2006. In a statement issued by Delta, Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf said her government was enthusiastic about the first direct flights to the United States in several years. Delta said it will begin three weekly flights between Atlanta and Accra next month.

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

## Guinea

### France declares neutrality in Guinea vote AFP

France is not backing any candidate for president of Guinea, the foreign ministry said Wednesday following local media reports that Paris had thrown its weight behind the main opposition leader. Voters in the mineral-rich West African country will cast ballots on June 27 to choose a president, the first free election since independence from France in 1958. There have been some reports in Guinean media that Alpha Conde, leader of the main opposition Rally of Guinean People (RPG), was Paris's choice to lead the country. "This historic ballot belongs to Guineans," said French foreign ministry spokesman Bernard Valero. "France, along with its partners, fully supports the electoral process. It does not support any candidate," he added. Conde is one of 24 candidates running for the presidency along with former prime ministers Cellou Dalein Diallo, Francois Lonseny Fall, Lansana Kouyate and Sidya Toure. One woman is also standing, Kaba Hadja Saran Daraba, who served in the former government of long-time leader Lansana Conte.

### Rural Guinea Communities Find Creative Ways to Fight Maternal Deaths [www.ethiopianreview.com](http://www.ethiopianreview.com)

Health workers in Guinea say free, government-subsidized cesareans can work in the fight against maternal deaths if women can reach the operating table in time. One rural community has devised some clever ways to improve women's health. In the maternity ward of Kissidougou's regional hospital in south eastern Guinea, 20-year-old Mariam Balde held her twin babies, a boy and a girl, born eight days ago via a cesarean operation paid for by Guinea's government. She says she had to have an operation because the babies were in the wrong position and they could have died. She says she did not know what a cesarean was or that she needed one, but that she is grateful. She says she now encourages all women to get their prenatal checkups and to come to the hospital immediately if they are having trouble. One woman in Guinea dies for every 100 live births, and women in rural areas are at particularly high risk. Guinea's government offers free cesareans, but health workers say the initiative does not do much good if families do not have the money or the means to get women to hospitals.

## Ivory Coast

### Ex-Ivory Coast diplomat nabbed in Japan for alleged gambling support [www.breitbart.com](http://www.breitbart.com)

Tokyo police have arrested a former Ivory Coast diplomat on suspicion of illegally supporting gambling in Tokyo, investigative sources said Wednesday. Charles Thierry Yozan, 42, is suspected of receiving some 40 million yen from gambling sponsors in return for a room in a multi-tenant building in Tokyo's Minato Ward between March and October 2005, they said. But Yozan has denied the allegation, they said. Investigators from the Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department arrested the gambling sponsors and their customers during a baccarat game in the room in October 2005 and later found out that the room was leased to Yozan, who was then a diplomat working at the Ivory Coast embassy in Tokyo. In early 2006, the police asked the embassy through Japan's Foreign Ministry to deprive Yozan of his diplomatic privileges and to cooperate in the investigations into the gambling incident. The embassy rejected the request and Yozan left Japan on March 30, 2006. But police seized Yozan when he arrived at Narita Airport on May 22 to see his family in Japan.

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## BBC Online

Thursday, 27 May 2010

### **French arrest Rwandan doctor accused over genocide**

French authorities have arrested a Rwandan doctor accused of involvement in the 1994 genocide.

Eugene Rwamucyo has been wanted by Interpol since 2006, and was dismissed from his job in a hospital in northern France last month.

Rwandan authorities, who allege Dr Rwamucyo committed war crimes during the genocide, welcomed the arrest.

Dr Rwamucyo has denied the accusations, saying he is the victim of a campaign by the Rwandan government.

He was arrested in Sannois, north of Paris, after attending the funeral of a former Rwandan official convicted for war crimes during the genocide, French officials said.

His detention is the latest in a series of moves by French authorities against genocide suspects, and comes amid improving diplomatic relations between Rwanda and France.

French President Nicolas Sarkozy visited Kigali in March and his Rwandan counterpart, Paul Kagame, is due to make a return visit to France next week.

Rwanda's Prosecutor General Martin Ngoga told Rwandan radio on Thursday that he thought France's attitude had changed.

"We are pleased," he said. "We've noticed in the past few days that France is committed to prosecuting alleged 'genocidaires' [people who committed genocide] who have taken refuge there."

Some 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus were killed in the 100-day genocide in 1994.

Those most responsible for the killings are being tried by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) based in Arusha, Tanzania.

## BBC Online

Wednesday, 26 May 2010

### ICC refers Sudan war crimes cases to UN

The International Criminal Court has reported Sudan to the UN Security Council for refusing to arrest two suspected Darfur war criminals.

Former Minister Ahmed Haroun and militia leader Ali Muhammad Al Abd-Al-Rahman are both alleged to have been involved in attacks on civilians.

The ICC took the unprecedented move after the government refused to accept arrest warrants for the two men.

It comes one day before President Omar al-Bashir starts a new term in office.

A special adviser to the ICC prosecutor, Beatrice le Fraper, told the BBC that similar action might be taken in relation to President Bashir, who is also wanted by the ICC for alleged war crimes in Darfur under a warrant issued in March 2009.

"The arrest warrant will not disappear [on Thursday] when there is an inauguration of President al-Bashir," said Ms le Fraper.

"It's very important that all those who attend the inauguration remember that it is first and foremost the inauguration of a man who has been charged with the crime of extermination."

Mr Bashir, who strongly denies the charges and rejects the jurisdiction of the ICC, has refused to hand over the two alleged war criminals.

He is due to be sworn in as Sudan's head of state on Thursday, after winning last month's elections.

#### Unprecedented move

Ms le Fraper said it was the first time the ICC had formally asked the Security Council to take action against a member country for failing to implement arrest warrants against its citizens.

The prosecutor will appear before the United Nations on 11 June to explain that Sudan has refused to arrest the indicted men, the BBC's Africa editor Martin Plaut reports.

They are former Humanitarian Affairs Minister Ahmed Haroun - who allegedly recruited, funded and armed the Janjaweed militia - and Ali Muhammad Abd-Al-Rahman, one of the most senior militia leaders.

Ms le Fraper said the Security Council had asked Sudan to co-operate with the court two years ago, but that the government had refused.

The warrants list 51 counts of crimes against humanity and war crimes allegedly committed in the war-torn Darfur region.

The charges include murder, torture, mass rape and the forced displacement of entire villages.

Since the conflict in Darfur began in 2003, some 2.7 million people have fled their homes and the UN says about 300,000 more have died.

## Amnesty International

Thursday, 27 May 2010

### **Amnesty Int'l Calls On Powers To Join International Criminal Court**

Amnesty International says 2009 was a landmark year because the International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant for Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir for war crimes and crimes against humanity in the Darfur region.

The human rights group Amnesty International is calling on Russia, China and the United States to join the International Criminal Court -- the only independent permanent court with the authority to try genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.

In its annual "State Of The World's Human Rights" report, Amnesty also called on India, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey to sign up for the court.

Amnesty said 2009 was a landmark year for international justice because the International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant for Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir for war crimes and crimes against humanity in the Darfur region.

But Claudio Cordone, Amnesty International's interim head, said justice often remains elusive because many governments continue to hold themselves above the law or to protect their political allies instead of handing them over to face trial -- circumstances that create what Cordone called a "global justice gap."

"Powerful governments, despite their rhetoric -- they often speak about the importance of human rights and fighting impunity -- and when it comes to the crunch, then they actually apply double standards," Cordone said.

# Amnesty International

Thursday, 27 May 2010

## **Africa: Amnesty International Reports on State of Human Rights**

### Document

The regional overview for Africa, published in "The State of the World's Human Rights," Amnesty International's report for 2010:

"No one ever asked the Sudanese themselves if they want the arrest warrant against their President. [But] undoubtedly, yes: it's time."

This Sudanese activist reflected the feelings of many in the region when the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued its arrest warrant against President Omar Al Bashir of Sudan in March. President Al Bashir was accused, as indirect perpetrator, of war crimes - specifically attacking civilians and pillaging - and crimes against humanity - specifically for murder, extermination, forcible transfer, torture and rape. This was a powerful and welcome signal sent to those suspected of being responsible for gross human rights violations: that nobody is above the law, and that the rights of victims should be upheld.

Members of civil society in Africa frequently stressed the importance of strengthening international justice, and called on the African Union (AU) and its member states to work with the ICC, but in July, the AU Assembly adopted a resolution stipulating it would not collaborate with the Court in surrendering President Al Bashir. The AU also reiterated its request to the UN Security Council to suspend the ICC proceedings against President Al Bashir, and expressed its intention to limit the Prosecutor's discretion to initiate investigations and prosecutions. Although some AU states seemed to disagree with the position taken by the AU as a whole, their voices were drowned out by the more vocal opponents of the ICC.

The stark contrast from many leaders in Africa between their human rights rhetoric and the absence of concrete action to respect, protect and promote human rights is not new. But hardly ever has it been demonstrated so unequivocally as with their reaction to President Al Bashir's arrest warrant. This triggered a wide – and still ongoing - debate in Africa on the role of international justice in ensuring accountability for gross violations of international human rights and humanitarian law.

Sadly, there are numerous other examples from 2009 that demonstrate the lack of political will in Africa to ensure accountability on any scale.

### **Conflict**

Members of armed opposition groups and government security forces in Central African Republic, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Somalia and Sudan continued to commit human rights abuses with impunity in those parts of the countries affected by armed conflict or insecurity.

In Somalia there was no functioning justice system and no effective mechanism was put in place to monitor human rights abuses. The conflict between the various armed groups and government forces resulted in thousands of civilian casualties due to the indiscriminate and disproportionate nature of many of the military operations conducted by all parties to the conflict, especially around the capital Mogadishu. Civilians were often targeted in attacks and densely populated areas were shelled. Military assistance, including shipments of arms from the USA, to the Transitional Federal Government, without adequate safeguards in place to ensure that such assistance does not lead to gross human rights violations, risked exacerbating the situation. The conflict in Somalia also continued to have implications for stability in the rest of the Horn of Africa.

In eastern DRC, sexual violence, attacks against civilians, looting and recruitment and use of child soldiers continued unabated. Joint military operations of the national Congolese army (FARDC) and the UN peacekeeping force (MONUC) against the armed group the Democratic Liberation Forces of Rwanda (FDLR) displaced thousands more people, destroyed villages and killed and wounded thousands. The FDLR continued to target

civilians. MONUC was heavily criticized for its support to the FARDC in these military operations as the national army was also responsible for numerous human rights violations.

The arrest in Germany in November of Ignace Murwanashyaka, President of the FDLR, and his deputy, Straton Musoni, was a positive development and demonstrated the contribution universal jurisdiction can make in addressing impunity. The government of the DRC refused to arrest former rebel commander Bosco Ntaganda and surrender him to the ICC, even though the government is legally obliged to do so as an arrest warrant has been issued. Other senior FARDC officers accused of war crimes or other serious human rights violations have not been suspended from duty or brought to justice.

In March, the AU mandated a panel under former South African President Thabo Mbeki, to explore ways of ensuring accountability as well as reconciliation in Darfur. The report of the Mbeki panel, released in October, contained a wide range of recommendations to obtain justice, establish the truth about past and ongoing human rights abuses and seek reparations for those affected by human rights abuses or their relatives. The Mbeki panel recognized the role the ICC plays in addressing impunity.

And yet, although a number of countries indicated that President Al Bashir would be at risk of arrest if he were to visit, many others, such as Egypt, Ethiopia and Eritrea were more than pleased to receive the Sudanese President. And the government of Sudan ignored international attempts at justice and continued to refuse to arrest former government minister Ahmad Harun and militia leader Ali Kushayb even though warrants from the ICC have been outstanding against both of them for war crimes and crimes against humanity since April 2007.

Conflict between various communities in Southern Sudan increased, specifically in Jonglei, leading to thousands of people being displaced and numerous others killed and wounded, including civilians.

Any help humanitarian organizations might have been able to offer people was hampered by the difficult working environment in the country, partly due to the general insecurity and partly because they were often targeted by parties to the conflict or bandits. This was also the case in the DRC, eastern Chad, and Somalia. UN and AU peacekeepers, often with a mandate to protect the civilian population, were also attacked in these four countries.

Accountability and reparations for past human rights violations were often not effectively addressed in post-conflict situations either. In Liberia, for example, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, established to shed light on the human rights violations committed during the period 1979-2003, published its final report in 2009 and recommended establishing an extraordinary criminal tribunal to investigate and prosecute those suspected of having committed crimes under international law. However, concrete steps need to be taken by the authorities to implement these recommendations.

In Burundi, there was only limited progress in establishing a Truth and Reconciliation Commission and a Special Tribunal within the Burundian justice system to investigate Burundi's violent history and to prosecute, if established, crimes of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Good news came primarily from the Special Court for Sierra Leone, which concluded all its trials in 2009, including those at the appeal stage, except that of former President of Liberia Charles Taylor, which continued throughout the year. However, the reparations programme in Sierra Leone lacked means to be of much significance for the people affected by human rights abuses during the 1991-2002 conflict. The UN Security Council also extended in December the mandate of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda until the end of 2012 to ensure it could finalize the trials.

By the end of 2009, Senegal had still not started the trial of former Chadian President Hissène Habré, as requested by the AU, allegedly due to lack of resources. However, requests from Senegal for financial assistance were deemed excessive by international donors.

### **Public security concerns**

The lack of commitment to address impunity was also reflected in the attitude of many governments in the region towards human rights violations committed by their law enforcement and other security officers. It was not unusual in 2009 for security forces to use excessive force and to commit unlawful killings, including extrajudicial executions.

On 7 February, the Presidential Guard in Madagascar fired live ammunition at unarmed demonstrators marching on the Presidential Palace in Antananarivo, killing at least 31 people. No independent and impartial investigation was conducted into the unlawful killings despite requests from the family members and human rights organizations.

In Nigeria, hundreds of people are unlawfully killed every year by the police, and 2009 was no exception. These unlawful killings, many of which may be extrajudicial executions, and which occur in police stations, at road blocks or in the street, are hardly ever investigated. Those who live in poverty face a greater risk of being killed as they are not in a position to bribe police officers. The law in Nigeria provides more grounds for lethal force than those permitted by international human rights law and standards.

There was no indication that the government of Cameroon had initiated investigations into the unlawful killings of about 100 people in 2008 when security forces cracked down on violent demonstrations against the increased cost of living and a constitutional amendment to extend the President's term of office. The government of Kenya did not take measures to ensure accountability for human rights violations committed during the post-election violence in 2007/8 when more than 1,000 people were killed. As a result, the prosecutor of the ICC sought authorization from the Court to investigate possible crimes against humanity during the post-election violence in Kenya.

On 28 September, more than 150 people were unlawfully killed in Guinea when security forces violently repressed a peaceful demonstration in a stadium in the capital Conakry. Women participating in the demonstration were raped in public. No credible investigations were initiated by the authorities so the UN set up an international Commission of Inquiry. It concluded that crimes against humanity had been committed and recommended referral to the ICC.

At least here there was political will among the UN, AU and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to act swiftly to determine the facts and identify those responsible. Unfortunately, this was more an exception than a rule in the region.

The problems in 2009 were compounded by the fact that security forces continued to be poorly paid, badly trained and ill-equipped. In many states security forces were still primarily a tool for repression and not for maintaining law and order, or for serving the public. In this way the demand for accountability was squashed by further violations.

### **Repression of dissent**

In many countries, journalists, political opponents, trade union activists, and human rights defenders had their right to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly violated. Across the region, governments' reaction to criticism was often to discredit and attack the messenger, including through intimidation, arbitrary arrests, enforced disappearances and sometimes killings. In some countries the judiciary lacks independence and magistrates are intimidated - so the judiciary becomes yet another tool of repression.

The work of journalists was restricted in numerous ways and the list of governments in 2009 that repressed basic freedoms and the right of their people to information, is long: in Angola, journalists faced lawsuits for "abusing the media" and defamation charges leading to prison sentences; in Cameroon, a journalist was sentenced to three years' imprisonment for publishing "false news" and others were charged with insulting government officials; journalists were also arrested in the DRC, Eritrea, Gambia, Nigeria and Uganda for their work; Sudan and Chad deported several foreign journalists and media laws restricting their work were introduced or remained in place in both countries as well as in Rwanda and Togo; print media in Sudan were heavily censored for most of the year; in Madagascar, Nigeria, Senegal and Uganda various media outlets were closed down; in Côte d'Ivoire, the Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Guinea, Kenya, Senegal, Swaziland and Tanzania journalists were harassed and intimidated; in Somalia, nine journalists were killed and many others fled the country, as they and human rights activists were also threatened by members of armed groups.

Human rights activists were intimidated for their work across the region, and sometimes arrested, including in Burkina Faso, Chad, the DRC, Mauritania, Swaziland and Zimbabwe. Other countries, including Ethiopia, passed legislation restricting the legitimate work of civil society. In Gambia, the President reportedly threatened to kill anyone wishing to destabilize the country and specifically threatened human rights defenders. In Kenya, two prominent human rights defenders were killed in broad daylight in Nairobi by unknown gunmen. In Burundi, a human rights defender working on corruption, including within the police, was stabbed to death at his home.

Political opponents of the government, or people perceived to be, were arbitrarily arrested in many countries, including Cameroon, Chad, Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Madagascar, Niger and Zimbabwe. Those in detention were regularly tortured or otherwise ill-treated. Some political opponents remained a victim of enforced disappearance, including in Chad and Gambia. Military personnel in Guinea Bissau killed a number of political and military figures.

In some countries, such as the Republic of Congo, Guinea, Madagascar, Mauritania and Uganda, demonstrations were violently repressed.

### **People on the move**

The ongoing armed conflicts and insecurity on the continent meant hundreds of thousands of people remained displaced in 2009, often living in camps, in precarious conditions with limited access to water, sanitation, health, education and food. Many of the internally displaced in northern Uganda returned to their homes but had no access to basic services.

Refugees and asylum-seekers in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda were forcibly returned, or were at risk of being so, to their countries of origin where they still faced persecution or other risks. In South Africa the police response to xenophobic attacks against migrants and refugees, and destruction of their property, was often inadequate.

In Mauritania, migrants continued to be arbitrarily arrested and detained before being expelled, a policy put in place by the authorities as a result of pressure from European states to control migration. Angola expelled an estimated 160,000 DRC nationals in a process fraught with abuses, including reports that Angolan security forces subjected those expelled to wide-ranging ill-treatment including sexual abuse. Some died during the expulsion. In retaliation, the DRC expelled thousands of Angolan citizens, including refugees.

One positive development of 2009 was the adoption by the AU of the Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa, recognizing the specific vulnerability and needs of displaced people.

### **Housing – forced evictions**

The rapid urbanization on the continent also causes displacement. Every year, tens of thousands of people end up living in informal settlements, often in very precarious living conditions with no access to basic services such as water, sanitation, health and education.

People have no access to adequate housing, no security of tenure and are at risk of forced evictions. The forced evictions often lead to the loss of their livelihood and their meagre possessions, and drive people deeper into poverty. Those evicted are hardly ever consulted, are not given advance notice of the evictions and are not granted compensation or adequate alternative housing. In 2009 the trend continued, and mass forced evictions took place in Angola, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Ghana, Kenya and Nigeria.

### **Economic concerns – corporate accountability**

The lack of corporate accountability resulted in a range of human rights abuses. In eastern DRC, the exploitation of natural resources, specifically in the mining industry, continued to fuel the conflict. Armed groups as well as the national army were involved in the exploitation of natural resources and were trading with private economic actors. Children were working in some of the mines.

In the Niger Delta in Nigeria the situation deteriorated as security forces committed human rights violations during their military operations against armed groups. Armed groups kidnapped numerous oil workers and their relatives and attacked oil installations. The oil industry damaged the environment and had a negative impact on the standard of living and livelihood of local people. Laws and regulations to protect the environment were poorly enforced, and impunity for past human rights abuses continued, further contributing to poverty and conflict.

Due to corruption, nearly 30,000 victims of the 2006 dumping of toxic waste in Côte d'Ivoire, were at risk of missing out on the compensation granted to them by the multinational corporation Trafigura in an out-of-court settlement in the UK.

## Discrimination

Discrimination against people based on their perceived or real sexual orientation continued in various countries. Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people as well as human rights activists working with and for them were harassed and intimidated. Some faced arbitrary arrest and detention as well as ill-treatment. New legislation to further criminalize homosexuality was introduced or debated in parliaments across the region.

Burundi, for example, adopted a new penal code in April that criminalized consensual same-sex relations. In Uganda an Anti-Homosexuality Bill was introduced for consideration by parliament, building on the existing discriminatory laws by proposing new offences such as the "promotion of homosexuality". The Bill also sought to impose the death penalty and life imprisonment for some offences. In Nigeria, discussions continued on the draft Same Gender Marriage Bill, which would criminalize people of the same sex getting married, and also make criminals of their witnesses or officiators.

In Cameroon and Senegal, men faced harassment, arbitrary arrest and detention, torture and unfair trials because they were suspected of engaging in same-sex relationships. In Malawi two people were arrested and charged with "unnatural practices between males and gross public indecency" at the end of December, following a "traditional engagement ceremony". They were reportedly ill-treated while in detention.

More positive was the public statement in Rwanda by the Minister of Justice that homosexuality would not be criminalized, as sexual orientation was considered a private matter.

People were also discriminated against across the region for their gender, ethnicity, religion and identity. Discrimination and violence against women and girls prevailed in many societies and in different forms. Women and girls continued to be raped, particularly in situations of armed conflict such as in Chad, the DRC and Sudan. Some countries also recorded high levels of domestic violence although in most no proper reporting or investigating system was in place. Most women and girls faced numerous obstacles to obtain access to justice. Discrimination and the low status of women in countries such as Burkina Faso and Sierra Leone affected their ability to seek healthcare, and contributed to high levels of maternal mortality. Traditional harmful practices continued, including female genital mutilation and early marriage.

In Sudan, women were arrested and flogged for wearing trousers – which were considered "indecent or immoral". In Somalia, al-Shabab ("youth") militias closed women's organizations. In northern districts of Sierra Leone women were not allowed to contest chieftaincy elections. An attempt to address the inequality of women in law sparked protests in Mali, and Nigeria still has to adopt legislation to incorporate the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, almost 25 years after it chose to ratify this treaty.

In Mauritania, Special Rapporteurs of the UN highlighted the ongoing marginalization of black Mauritanian people. Several religious groups remained banned in Eritrea and people were persecuted due to their religion. In Burundi and Tanzania, killings and mutilations of albino people continued, driven by cultural and religious beliefs. Some suspected of involvement in the killings were convicted of murder in Tanzania.

## Conclusion

Lack of accountability in Africa was not only reflected in the reluctance of many states to investigate and prosecute those responsible for crimes under international law, or to collaborate with the ICC on the arrest of President Al Bashir. The lack of accountability for human rights abuses – by local and central authorities, law enforcement agencies, armed groups and corporate actors – continued to be a systemic problem across the continent. Unless it is addressed, there will be no lasting improvement in the realization of all human rights as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and regional and international human rights treaties. The AU should lead by example, but in certain situations it has become part of the problem. The call for accountability from civil society has become stronger over the years in Africa, but commitment from the political leadership is required to make significant change.

Haaretz.com

Thursday, 27 May 2010

## **Amnesty: U.S., Europe shielding Israel over Gaza war crimes**

In its annual report, the rights group accuses Israel of continually violating human rights in Gaza with its ongoing economic siege.

By Haaretz Service and News Agencies

Amnesty International complained in its annual report released Thursday that the U.S. and members of the European Union had obstructed international justice by using their positions on the UN Security Council to shield Israel from accountability for war crimes allegedly committed during last year's Gaza war.

The rights group also accused Israel of continually violating human rights in the Gaza Strip. It cited Israel's ongoing economic blockade as violating international law, leaving Gaza residents without adequate food or water supplies

In its report, Amnesty lauded a United Nations commissioned report released last year by South African justice Richard Goldstone for highlighting Israeli violations during the war in Gaza. Goldstone's findings found both Israel and Hamas guilty of war crimes during the conflict.

"Israeli forces committed war crimes and other serious breaches of international law in the Gaza Strip during a 22-day military offensive codenamed Operation 'Cast Lead' that ended on 18 January (2009)," the rights group said.

"Among other things, they carried out indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks against civilians, targeted and killed medical staff, used Palestinian civilians as 'human shields', and indiscriminately fired white phosphorus over densely populated residential areas," it added. "More than 1,380 Palestinians, including over 330 children and hundreds of other civilians, were killed."

"In a display of counter political bias, the UN Human Rights Council, initially resolved to investigate only alleged Israeli violations," said the report. "To his credit, Judge Richard Goldstone, subsequently appointed to lead that investigation, insisted that the UN Fact-Finding Mission should examine alleged violations by both Israel and Hamas."

The group's report listed examples of what it said were war crimes committed by Israeli forces, but did not provide details of sources.

Amnesty's annual roundup of global human rights abuses urged members of the G-20 — a collection of major industrial countries and fast-growing developing countries — to set an example to the international community by signing up to the International Criminal Court.

The United States and others have refused to ratify the court's founding treaty partly because they fear the court could become a forum for politically motivated prosecutions of troops in unpopular wars like Iraq.

The U.S. State Department said in response to Amnesty's accusations that it "supports the need for accountability for any violations that may have occurred in relation to the Gaza conflict by any party."

"As we have said, the responsibility to address alleged abuses during the Gaza conflict lies with the Israelis and the Palestinians," the State Department said in a statement.

Israel earlier this year submitted a 46-page response to Goldstone's inquiry, which accused both Israel and Hamas of "grave breaches" of the fourth Geneva Convention.

In its report, Israel claimed its forces abided by international law throughout the war last year.

## International Relations and Security Network (ISN)

Thursday, 27 May 2010

### Reviewing Justice in Kampala

The summit of summits on the international criminal justice circuit is set to kick off in Uganda next Monday with debate over the crime of aggression commanding center stage, Claudio Guler writes for ISN Security Watch.

By Claudio Guler for ISN Security Watch

From 31 May to 11 June, 1,500 to 2,000 delegates from 110 states parties, observer states, other states invited by the UN General Assembly, and members of civil society, academia and practitioners of international criminal justice will descend on Kampala, Uganda to participate in the first and only statutorily mandated review conference of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC).

The conference will feature numerous events and debates, including an exhibition football match promising to showcase the dribbling skills of UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni. None, however, is garnering more comment and attention than efforts to define and operationalize the crime of aggression.

### Judging performance

The conference agenda includes a series of stocktaking exercises that will appraise the first and soon-to-be eight years of the Court's work. The stocktaking will look at four areas: the impact of the Rome Statute system on victims and affected communities - discussions will certainly address ongoing witness protection concerns in Kenya; complementarity, the legal principle that calls for the primacy (precedence) of national judicial efforts ; and peace and justice, striking the proper balance between the demands of making peace and guaranteeing accountability.

The Assembly of States Parties (ASP), the intergovernmental body that oversees and funds the Court, has further approved for debate two amendments to the Statute other than the crime of aggression.

Delegates must decide whether or not to remove a temporary and transitional war crimes amnesty provision. Set out in Article 124, the provision gives states parties the choice to exempt their nationals from war crimes prosecutions for seven years following ratification of the Statute. To date, only France and Colombia have made use of the provision.

The second amendment is a Belgian proposal to criminalize 'the use of poison, poisoned weapons, asphyxiating, poisonous or other gases and all analogous liquids, materials or devices as well as the use of bullets that expand or flatten in the body to armed conflicts not of an international character.' The provision already exists for conflicts of an inter-state nature.

### Thou shall not aggress

The debate on the aggression amendment has in the main two parts: definitional issues and jurisdictional issues.

The ASP established a Special Working Group on the Crime of Aggression in 2002. Since then, the group has convened periodically to come up with a definition and has tabled a draft version for the conference.

The draft version defines the crime of aggression as: "the planning, preparation, initiation or execution, by a person in a position effectively to exercise control over or to direct the political or military action of a State, of an act of aggression which, by its character, gravity and scale, constitutes a manifest violation of the Charter of the United Nations"; and an act of aggression – favoring a specific, list-based interpretation based on UN General Assembly Resolution 3314 (XXIX) of 14 December 1974 rather than a generic one – as: seven different acts of hostility that amount to an act of aggression.

Discussing the US position with ISN Security Watch that Washington is widely seen as the most significant holdout from the Rome Statute system given its frequent rhetorical appeals to human rights and the rule of law, Matthew

Heaphy, deputy convenor of the American NGO Coalition for the International Criminal Court (AMICC) explained, “The US was absent from the aggression negotiations for eight years and thus did not participate in the informal discussions that led to a draft proposal to be considered at the Review Conference. The American delegation will be under pressure from various actors at Kampala to accept the already agreed definition of the crime of aggression and to negotiate actively on the other elements of an amendment, including how the ICC gets jurisdiction over an aggression situation.

“The Review Conference, given its importance to the ICC community, will arouse close attention to US actions and positions. If the US seeks to reopen issues that have already been settled or takes positions different from its allies who are ICC States Parties, the resulting reactions could make a closer US relationship with the Court difficult.”

Jurisdictional issues also feature prominently. Should the crime of aggression require acceptance by both the aggressor and the victim state, or only the victim state, for the ICC to proceed? Should any effort to try the crime of aggression first pass muster by way of a filter, either the UN Security Council, the UN General Assembly, the International Court of Justice, a Pre-Trial Chamber of the ICC or other body?

Two thirds of the members of the ASP must ratify the amendment to make it enter into force. Seven-eighths must ratify it for it to become binding on all states parties.

### **The voices weigh in**

With apprehension characterizing much of the pre-conference debate, a number of scholars and practitioners have expressed their viewpoints. Stephan G Rademaker, a former Bush administration official, and a recent Council on Foreign Relations report authored by Vijay Padmanabhan have argued against adoption. Both primarily cite sovereignty concerns and misgivings about the potential politicization of Court prosecutions.

Other notable voices such as Anton du Plessis, Richard Goldstone, Harold Koh, David Kaye and civil society groups under the Open Society Justice Initiative umbrella fret adoption could overwhelm the Court at an early stage, blight its credibility and hamper cooperation with the Court by non-states parties, in particular powerful states. They urge putting off the matter to a later date. Others yet, such as professors Michael Glennon and Anthony Clark Arend, have primarily taken issue with the definition produce by the Special Working Group.

Notwithstanding, there is significant momentum in favor of realizing the crime of aggression; especially among states parties that rank low in the international power hierarchy and would on balance benefit from the added legal protections. Many of the critical observers mentioned above, moreover, are notably calling for the delay and not the dismissal of the amendment. And the original framers of the Statute included the offense – Article 5 (2) – but left the paragraph undefined.

Noah Weisbord, a visiting assistant professor at Duke Law School and an expert on the working group defining the crime, advocates a compromise approach, which he popularized in a recent International Herald Tribune op-ed. If a definition can be agreed and the amendment adopted, Article 121 (5) of the Statute provides for an ‘opt-in’ mechanism whereby states parties that ratify the amendment accept jurisdiction while those that do not ratify remain immune, unless and until they sign on.

Regarding jurisdiction, Weisbord explained to ISN Security Watch, “Judging from the meeting of the Assembly of States Parties in March, the two most likely, and competing, scenarios are: 1) acceptance by aggressor State not required plus non-SC or no filter and; 2) acceptance by aggressor State required plus non-SC or no filter. The SC filter, which was on everyone's mind until recently, is not very popular, though a number of influential states, including the United States, are advocating for it. But things can change quickly at the review conference, especially if a creative diplomat or legal scholar invents a new idea that appeals to a wide range of interests.”

Weisbord prefers the latter, primarily because, although he reckons option 1 is the most fair, it could lead to a scenario in which the ICC prosecutor is unable or unwilling to prosecute a powerful and victorious aggressor, thereby undermining the credibility of the Court. “A reasonable compromise – one that tempers justice with prudence – is to require that both the aggressor and the victim state have signed onto the provision before the court can proceed. The drawback is that not all states will be bound by the new law. The hope is that states will gradually sign on, as they have with unexpected speed with the ICC Statute, and that, over time the prohibition on aggression will become the norm.” May the conferencing begin.

## The New Times (Kigali)

Thursday, 27 May 2010

### **Rwanda: ICTR Prosecution Seeks Life Sentence for Kanyarukiga**

Gashegu Muramira

Kigali — Prosecution at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), has asked the tribunal to hand a life sentence to Gaspard Kanyarukiga, a former businessman from the former Commune Kivumu in the Western Province.

The Genocide suspect is charged with four counts of: Genocide, complicity in Genocide, conspiracy to commit Genocide, and crimes against humanity (extermination).

"The most appropriate sentence is imprisonment for the remainder of his life," agencies quote Senior Trial Attorney Holo Makwaia as telling the chamber early this week.

At the beginning of his trial late last year, Prosecution also alleged that the accused committed egregious and serious charges which resulted in the deaths of thousands of civilians, which included women and children at the Nyange church.

"The accused directed the driver of the bulldozer on how to destroy the church. He remained there until the church was completely destroyed on April 16, 1994," Makwaia said, emphasizing her request for the maximum penalty against the defendant.

"Innocent civilians including children and women were killed brutally and in a barbaric manner in the house of God," charged Makwaia.

The same killings at Nyange parish led to the life sentence for the former parish priest of the church, Athanase Seromba.

Born in 1945 in Kivumu commune, Kanyarukiga was arrested in South Africa in 2004 and transferred the same year to the UN detention facility in Arusha.

## Hirondelle News Agency

Wednesday, 26 May 2010

### **Witness blames Rwandan mayor for false accusations against Nzabonimana**

Arusha, May 26, 2010 (FH) - A defence witness in the case of genocide-accused Callixte Nzabonimana alleged on Wednesday before the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) that a Rwandan mayor had compelled him to level false accusations against the defendant.

Jean-Marie Vianney Mporanzi, himself a former Rwandan mayor, declared that he had acted under duress when making two false statements to ICTR investigators in 1998 and 2003 incriminating Callixte Nzabonimana, Minister of Youth in 1994.

Jean-Marie Vianney Mporanzi was led in his examination by the defendant's main counsel, French attorney Vincent Courcelle-Labrousse.

In 1997, Mporanzi had returned from Zaire (today's DRC) after three years of exile. According to his testimony, he was then coerced by the Mayor of Rutobwe commune, Charles Gahunde, to give false testimony to the ICTR investigators.

Mayor Gahunde allegedly urged him to accuse Nzabonimana of having incited to commit genocide in Rutobwe and of having released genocide perpetrators to perpetuate the killings in the commune between April and July 1994.

"It is fabrications and lies," Mporanzi told the tribunal.

Mporanzi admitted that he had made these allegations, even though he was not under the threat of being himself accused of having participated in the genocide.

"If I had refused to collaborate I would have run the risk of being imprisoned," the witness explained.

Concluding his testimony, Mporanzi stated that he appeared before the court, among other reasons, to apologize to Nzabonimana and also to "clean his soul".

Nzabonimana is facing five charges-- genocide, conspiracy to commit genocide, direct and public incitement to commit genocide, extermination and murder. He pleads not guilty.

NI/GF

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## Daily Monitor (Uganda)

Thursday, 27 May 2010

### Youth plan ICC demo

By Andrew Bagala & Robert Mwanje

The Inter Party Cooperation youth have threatened to protest against the International Criminal Court conference slated for next week. According to the Youth Rights coordinator, Mr Francis Mwijukye, the summit is irrelevant to Ugandans since the organisation has failed to take any action against human rights abuse in Uganda despite their earlier petition to ICC demanding its intervention.

“We are going to organise a peaceful demonstration against the planned ICC conference because there is enough evidence to pin this government on human rights abuses but they (ICC) have remained silent,” Mr Mwijukye told journalists in Kampala yesterday.

The ICC conference will start today at Munyonyo in Kampala. The United Nations Secretary General, Mr Ban Ki-moon and over 1,500 delegates are expected to attend. Mr Mwijukye said: “We have tried to reach ICC but their response is hazy, which puts their reputation at stake. We can conclude that these people are here to dine and wine with criminals.”

#### Police response

But the police deputy spokesperson, Mr Vincent Ssekatte, yesterday said: “We are not aware of any demonstration sanctioned as the law requires and no one will be allowed to carry it out.”

In March, the IPC youth forum petitioned the ICC demanding investigations into September 2009 riots that left at least 27 people dead. The riots were sparked off by the government’s decision to deny Kabaka Ronald Mutebi access to Kayunga District.

In their petition, President Museveni, the police chief Maj. Gen. Kale Kayihura and the Chief of Defence Forces, Gen. Aronda Nyakairima are accused of being responsible for the riots, deaths and loss of property.

## Radio Netherlands Worldwide

Monday, 25 May 2010

### Sri Lanka shuts rehab camp for rebel child soldiers



*Colombo, Sri Lanka*

Sri Lanka on Tuesday closed a camp holding former Tamil Tiger child soldiers, but 52 of the youths will stay in government care to complete their education, an official said.

More than 500 child soldiers were picked up after security forces defeated Tamil Tiger rebels in a bloody final battle a year ago.

Most have since been reunited with their families, leaving 198 boys and girls when the facility in Colombo closed on Tuesday, the commissioner general of rehabilitation Brigadier Sudantha Ranasinghe said.

A Sri Lankan court in February ordered the camp, the only one of its kind, to be shut.

"During my time at the camp I made friends and learnt it is OK to trust (majority) Sinhala people," said 17-year-old Lukshia, who spent three years with the female Tiger wing. "I am sad to go, but happy I am going back to my family," she told AFP.

Ranasinghe said 49 boys and three girls opted to remain and continue their schooling at the Hindu College at Ratmalana, a suburb of Colombo.

For 16-year-old Christie, the rehabilitation camp took him one step closer to his dreams of being a lawyer. "I want to finish school. LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) is finished now. People won't come and take me to fight again," said Christie, who was forcibly conscripted at the age of 14 by the Tigers, or LTTE.

Around 12,000 Tiger rebels surrendered to security forces, while others were arrested from among nearly 300,000 war-displaced civilians who were held in internment camps during the final stages of fighting.

A major military onslaught crushed the Tigers in May last year, ending 37 years of violence that had claimed up to 100,000 lives, according to the United Nations.

The Tamil Tigers were widely criticised for using child soldiers in their unsuccessful battle for an independent homeland for the island's ethnic Tamil minority.