

**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

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Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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Late VP's wife testifies at Special Court

Wife of the late Liberian vice president, Enoch Dogolea has begun testifying in The Hague to circumstances surrounding the death of her husband. A prosecution witness had said vice president Dogolea was severely flogged shortly before his death on the orders of Charles Taylor.

Madam Dogolea said the prosecution evidence came as a surprise to her.

Madam Regina Dogolea said her husband's health began declining in 1999 starting with stomach pain, severe constipation and cold. She told the court that the former vice president's health got worse in 2000 when his eyes became yellowish.

On direct examina-

tion, Madam Dogolea testified that her husband refused to attend hospital so three of his brothers took him to a bush near Gbarnga, Bong County for treatment.

The former Liberian second lady is giving her testimonies in Liberian English so she's being interpreted.

Madam Dogolea, the defence 17th witness, said when the herbalists could not revive Mr. Dogolea's health, Charles Taylor sent an airplane that took him to a clinic in Abidjan, the Ivory Coast.

She said her husband died in the Abidjan clinic after receiving treatments for two weeks.

But prosecution witness, Zigzah Marzah testified in 2008 that Mr.

Dogolea was placed in a mattress and flogged severely with a young banana tree on the orders of former president, Charles Taylor.

Marzah said Taylor accused the former vice president of conniving with the Americans who were allegedly opposed to his presidency. But the late VP's wife, Regina Dogolea said she's shocked by the prosecution's evidence.

Mrs. Dogolea told the court that before her husband lost consciousness, he gave her a Holy Bible and told her to read it whenever she was bothered with a problem. She broke down in tears and stopped the court proceedings when she explained that her husband's kidneys were damaged.

Ban wraps up Africa trip with stop in Sierra Leone

Sierra Leonean amputees take part in football exhibition game

14 June 2010 – Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon met with the leader of Sierra Leone and survivors of the country's brutal civil war today, capping off his five-country tour of Africa.

In the capital, Freetown, he met with President Ernest Bai Koroma and attended a soccer game between amputees from the West African nation's decade-long conflict.

He also visited the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL), the United Nations-backed war crimes tribunal set up to deal with the worst acts committed during civil war which ended in 2002.

The Special Court is an independent tribunal established jointly by Sierra Leone's Government and the UN in 2002. It is mandated to try those who bear the greatest responsibility for atrocities committed in the country after 30 November 1996.

Mr. Ban arrived in Sierra Leone from Benin, where over the weekend, he held extensive talks with President Boni Yayi on the country's upcoming elections, climate change and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), eight anti-poverty targets with a 2015 deadline.

Visiting a seaside site which has been particularly hard-hit by coastal erosion, he told reporters the scene was both strike and alarming.

Before departing for Sierra Leone today, the Secretary-General told the people of Benin in a televised address in the southern city of Cotonou that next year's presidential and parliamentary polls will

be a test of the country's well-established democratic tradition.

Mr. Ban's latest trip to Africa – the second of three to the continent this month alone – also took him to South Africa, Burundi and Cameroon.

Early this month, he visited Malawi and Uganda, and later in June he will travel to Gabon and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), where a UN peacekeeping mission – known as MONUC – has been in operation for 11 years.

In May, the Security Council agreed to transform the operation into a stabilization mission in the coming weeks, authorizing the withdrawal of up to 2,000 UN military personnel by 30



June this year from areas where security has improved enough to allow their removal. (UN NEWS CENTRE)

UN secretary general arrives in Sierra Leone for visit

Freetown. UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon arrived in Freetown on Monday on a two-day visit on the invitation of President of Sierra Leone Ernest Bai Koroma, Xinhua News Agency informed.

He was met at the Lungi International Airport by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Zainab Bangura and other dignitaries.

He was flown from the airport to the main land by helicopter and received by a number of cabinet ministers.

In an interview with the Minister of

Information and Communications Alhaji Ibrahim Kargbo, he said the visit is of "further assurance that the UN is still with us to promote the peace process."

He said "President Koroma intends to use the occasion to explain to the UN Secretary General the ongoing reforms in the country."

Ban later held closed talks with President Koroma and visited the UN Special Court and watched a match by an amputee football team. Ban is scheduled to hold a joint press conference with President Koroma Tuesday at the State

House and later inaugurate the merged Sierra Leone Broadcasting Cooperation (SLBC) which will be made up of the local UN Radio and the formal state radio Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service (SLBS).

The UN Representative in Sierra Leone Michael Schulenberg told the media earlier that "Sierra Leone is one of the few examples in which UN has had a successfully peace mission."

UN troops were deployed in Sierra Leone in 1999 to quell the 10-year rebel war. (FOCUS NEWS INTERNATIONAL)

UN News

Tuesday, 15 June 2010

Ban lauds Sierra Leone's advances in firming up stability



Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon today hailed the “tremendous progress” Sierra Leone has made in consolidating peace and development less than one decade after the end of the West African nation’s brutal civil war.

“Sierra Leone is one of the world’s most successful examples of post-conflict recovery, peacekeeping and peacebuilding,” Mr. Ban told reporters in the capital, Freetown, today after meeting with the country’s President, Ernest Bai Koroma.

Its Government and people “have proven that peaceful and democratic change is possible,” he stressed.

The country is a model for peaceful and development in the region, as well as an “example of a multilateral approach to consolidating peace that can be emulated elsewhere,” Mr. Ban said, citing remaining challenges, such as creating opportunities for young people and improving education.

He also noted that in Sierra Leone, the United Nations’ “smooth transition” from a peacekeeping mission to a peacebuilding support operation will serve as an example for other countries emerging from conflict.

The Secretary-General also attended the inauguration of the independent Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation (SLBC), a result of a long-standing partnership between the country’s State-controlled station and UN Radio.

The world body’s efforts in the immediate post-war period to transmit information via radio “helped Sierra Leone tune itself to the frequency of peace,” he said at the event.

“We must work to ensure that this new station will build on the best traditions of its two successors,” Mr. Ban stressed, commending the country’s parliamentarians for passing a unanimous bill to create the SLBC.

But the hard work begins now, he said, with political leadership necessary to ensure that journalists can practice their work freely, while media professionals must respect the principle of non-partisanship.

“And the SLBC must be the very embodiment of its founding principles – the impartiality and accuracy that are essential for any truly independent public broadcaster,” the Secretary-General emphasized.

Yesterday, the Secretary-General attended a football match in which the players were amputees who lost limbs during Sierra Leone’s long-running conflict.

“You are much better than World Cup soccer players,” he told participants. “You are very courageous and I am just moved by your courage to overcome your difficulties.”

After the match, he announced that the UN Peacekeeping Fund will provide \$100,000 for their support, training and education.

Also yesterday, at a State dinner in Freetown, Mr. Ban underlined the need for peaceful, free and fair presidential, parliamentary and local elections in 2012.

“But here, too, I am convinced that your country will set a new standard.”

While in the country, he also visited the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL), the UN-backed war crimes tribunal set up to deal with the worst acts committed during the civil war which ended in 2002.

The Special Court is an independent tribunal established jointly by Sierra Leone’s Government and the UN in 2002. It is mandated to try those who bear the greatest responsibility for atrocities committed in the country after 30 November 1996.

This is Mr. Ban’s latest trip to Africa – the second of three to the continent this month alone – and it also took him to South Africa, Burundi, Cameroon and Benin.

Early this month, he visited Malawi and Uganda, and later in June he will travel to Gabon and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).


United Nations **Nations Unies**

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary
15 June 2010

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

UN News in Liberia

Former Bangladeshi UNMIL Peacekeeper Conduct Market Study in Liberia

[The Inquirer, Daily Observer]

- The Deputy Managing Director of the Japan-Bangladesh Group, Jahid Hossain is currently in the country to conduct a market study for the sale of security printing.
- Mr. Hossain who is a former commander of the 14th Battalion of the Bangladeshi Contingent in Bong County serving in the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) said the group comprises 27 companies.
- According to him, they are involved with the printing of cheques, degrees, testimonials, bio-metric electronic passports, death certificates, drivers' licenses, national identity cards among others.
- The former peacekeeper noted that the group decided to undertake this venture to curtail duplication and forgery of sensitive documents.
- He said with the help of micro lines, ultra violet ink and water mark, it will be difficult to falsify any public document, which according to him, will aid the Liberian Government in the fight against corruption.

Local News on Liberian issues

Liberia, Kuwait Sign MOU for Cooperation

[The Analyst, The News]

- The Governments of Liberia and Kuwait have signed two agreements aimed at restoring good relationship between the two countries.
- The agreements include the establishment of a joint commission for cooperation and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on consultations between the foreign ministers of the two nations.
- Planning Minister Amara Konneh and Liberia's new ambassador to Kuwait Konah Blackett signed for Liberia, while Kuwaiti officials signed for their country.
- The agreements followed discussions between President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Sabah as well as other Kuwaiti officials and business people.
- President Sirleaf informed the officials of the numerous opportunities for investment in Liberia and urged them to take advantage.
- In response, the Kuwaiti Amir, spoke of the importance of security for investment, and said his country would be interested in funding projects for feasibility studies.
- Meanwhile, the Liberian leader is expected to open a new embassy in Kuwait during her three-day visit there as a sign of renewed bilateral relations.

Wednesday Is "Day of the African Child"

[New Vision]

- The President, Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has by proclamation declared Wednesday, 16th June 2010 as "The Day of the African Child (DAC)", to be observed throughout the country as a working holiday.
- According to a Foreign Ministry release, the Day is in commemoration of the death of hundreds of school children in Soweto, South Africa in 1976 under the then Apartheid regime.
- President Sirleaf has ordered that all citizens and foreign residents within the borders, national and international youth organizations and all government agencies concerned, to join the Gender Ministry to mobilize, sensitize and execute appropriate programmes befitting the occasion.

- The observance of this year's DAC will be celebrated under the global theme: "Planning and Budgeting for Children", and national theme: "Planning and Budgeting for Children in the Context of MDGs."
- The DAC arises from Resolution 2040 adopted by Heads of State and Government of formally the Organization for African Unity now African Union in Abuja, Nigeria in June 1990 declaring June 16 each year as the DAC.

Brazil Dispatches 19-Man Mission

[New Vision]

- The Director of the Brazilian Agency for Industrial Development, Mr. Clayton Campanihola at the head of a 19-member high-powered Brazilian government delegation is in the country for a four-day official visit.
- The Brazilian delegation which arrived in the country Sunday 13 June 2010 include representatives from the Brazilian Ministry of Development, Industry and Foreign Trade, national Institute for Metrology, Standardization, Industrial Quality Control and the National Institute for Industrial Property.
- A Foreign Ministry release says the visit by the Brazilian mission is important for the development of bilateral relations and technical cooperation between Liberia and Brazil.
- The delegation has already started holding bilateral discussions with officials of the Liberian government.
- The focused areas of the talks include Metrology and Standardization, Industrial Property, Capacity Building of Human Resources, Hydropower and Infrastructure, Agriculture Banking, Mining, Agriculture Research and Trade and Industrial Policy, and Industrial Development.

Three Key Ministries Seek Increased Budget Support

[Daily Observer, Heritage, The News]

- Three spending ministries of government have called for increased budgetary support in the draft 2010/11 budget.
- The Ministries include Education, Health and Internal Affairs.
- The call was contained in separate speeches delivered Monday at the ongoing joint Legislative review of the over US\$347 million proposed budget.
- Education Minister Othello Gongar said the allocation of the Ministry must be increased to reflect fifteen percent of the entire draft budget noting that such increment would ensure that the US\$28.1 million allotment in the draft budget is increased to US\$51 million.
- Also, Deputy Health Minister Vivian Cherue said the budget of the Ministry needs to be increased to cater to the health needs of the country.
- While Internal Affairs Minister Harrison Karwea appealed for additional US\$3.2 million for the inclusion of local officials on the Ministry's payroll.
- Meanwhile, the Chief Administrator of the John F. Kennedy Medical Centre, Wannie Scott-McDonald has asked the Legislature for extra funding in the proposed budget for the entity.

Health Ministry Begins Mapping Exercise for Liberian Children

[The Analyst]

- The Health Ministry has begun a massive profiling exercise of Liberian children throughout the country.
- Deputy Health Minister for Social Welfare Joseph Geebro said the exercise will cover welfare institutions in ten counties including Montserrado, Bomi, Grand Cape Mount, Margibi, Bong, Nimba, Sinoe and Maryland among others.
- Deputy Minister Geebro said children initially removed from the counties to welfare institutions due to the lack of services will be seriously considered.
- He said the mapping exercise will show the current services in the counties and the existing gaps for which the orphans cannot be reunited with their parents.
- The Deputy Health Minister disclosed UNICEF has provided two data bases to track needy orphans with their bio-data.

Four Apply for River Gee By-election ... Objection Period Ends Today

[The Inquirer]

- The National Elections Commission (NEC) has announced the names of four candidates that have met all the preliminary qualifications of the commission's electoral guidelines.
- According to NEC, after today it will not entertain any objection against any of the four candidates for the River Gee County district number three by-elections.

- Those qualified are Messrs Christian Snorteh Chea and Philbert G. Toe both of the ruling Unity Party and the Congress of Democratic Change respectively.
- The others are two independent candidates, Messrs Marcus Saylee Quenneh and Francis Saywon Younge Jr.

US\$245,000 Cocaine Trafficker Nabbed

[Daily Observer]

- A Nigerian national identified as Chekusaba Onyea Ghana has been nabbed by agents of the Drugs Enforcement Agency (DEA) in Monrovia with US\$245,000 worth of cocaine in his possession, DEA officials say.
- The arrest was made in Jacob Town Community area following a tipoff from residents of the community, the Commander of the DEA's Special Drugs Operation Team, Gbarfuah Sampson said Monday.
- According to Commander Sampson, the alleged drug dealer was picked up while parading the street with the drugs, 'with no fear of any officer to have him arrested'.
- Mr. Sampson recalled that the DEA had been receiving information about the Nigerian national's alleged involvement in the illegal act for a protracted period of time, 'but we have not been able to arrest him, due to a cover-up from some of the community dwellers'.
- Residents of the community were seen rejoicing with sighs of relief over the arrest of Mr. Ghana.

UL Receives Academic Guests from US

[Front Page Africa]

- A team of science students and a professor from the United States of America have arrived in the country as guest of the University of Liberia (UL) to facilitate a 12-day training in science and technology.
- A spokesperson of the group, Benjamin Papoport, said the group will share experience with students and professors of the UL on how to conduct professional research through the means of technology.
- He said the training, which is not the first of its kind in Liberia, is sponsored by a group from Harvard University under the banner "I-Help Liberia Project."
- Papoport said at the end of the training, participants will be educated on how to write comprehensive science research report and the unique style of publishing it will easily not be forgotten.
- He said the training will be done in two phases, small and intensive research methods.
- Mr. Papoport said participants will also learn the use of an oscilloscope, basic genetics math, and sorting out the chemistry of rubber among others.

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

Liberia, Kuwait Sign MOU for Cooperation

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

Three Key Ministries Seek Increased Budget Support

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

Health Ministry Begins Mapping Exercise for Liberian Children

PPCC Reports Boycott of its Procurement Hearings

- The Public Procurement and Concessions Commission says it is disappointed over the attitude of some procurement entities to boycott the ongoing procurement plan hearings.
- According to a release, the hearings began since May 10 this year and were intended to ensure that procuring entities adhere to Section 40 of the PPC Act.
- Section 40 of the PPC Act requires all procurement entities to do procurement planning to enable them achieve maximum value for public expenditure.
- The release said to date, only 27 out of 88 procurement entities of government have responded to the Commission's hearings which end June 22.
- The PPCC did not name the delinquent entities but vowed not to compromise its mandate of ensuring effective use of public fund through procurement.

Senatorial Aspirant Sees Poverty and Neglect in Gbarpolu

- A former lawmaker and prominent citizen of Gbarpolu County has challenged lawmakers of the county to urgently respond to the devastating living conditions of their people.
- Mr. Armah Jallah said the lack of infrastructure including terrible road condition in the county represents poverty and neglect.
- According to Mr. Jallah, most families in the county cannot afford zinc to roof their houses.

- Mr. Jallah spoke in Gbarmah City over the weekend when he donated fifty bundles of zinc to residents of the city.
- He said it was a shame for over ninety percent of the housing units in Gbarpolu's second city to be covered with thatch
- Mr. Jallah promised the fifty bundles of zinc would be made available to residents of Gbarmah before September this year.

Cuttington President Clashes with Gbarnga-based Broadcasting Outfit

- The President of Cuttington University Dr. Henrique Tokpa has launched an attack on Radio Gbarnga, describing it as a cancer cell that needs to be dealt with.
- Dr. Tokpa claims the station has been involved in negative reporting against the institution; despite numerous contributions the university is rendering the public.
- The Cuttington University president disclosed his administration was considering using its radio and television stations to counter the alleged negative publicity against the institution.
- Dr. Tokpa speaking Sunday at the 49th graduation convocation of the institution also announced the launch of a bi-monthly newspaper, the Cutting Edge, to help boost the public relations crusade of the university.
- But the management of Radio Gbarnga has expressed shock over the outburst by Dr. Tokpa.
- The station dismissed the claims of negative reportage, saying it always exhibits professionalism in all of its work and pledged to remain focused in fostering peace and development through its reportage.

GBCCC Opens September, Says President

- The President of the Grand Bassa County Community College (GBCCC) says the college would formally open on September 2nd this year.
- Dr. Levi Zangar made the disclosure during a press briefing.
- He said a total of 937 candidates are eligible to enroll at the college for the first semester.
- According to Dr. Zangar, of the number, 557 candidates passed in both mathematics and English.
- He indicated that 109 of the successful candidates are required to do remedial in English and 185 in Mathematics.
- The GBCCC boss disclosed 86 candidates are eligible to enroll at the Technical and Vocational Divisions of the college.

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

Environmental Rights Group Grills NGOs' Millions

- The environmental rights group, Green Advocates has frowned on NGOs that it says receives millions of United States dollars in the name of Liberia but are spending the money on workshops.
- The chief executive of the Green Advocates, Attorney Alfred Brownell said the workshops are meaningless and don't benefit Liberians.
- Atty. Brownell said with the challenge of brain drain facing the country, the NGOs must use the millions they have received to train Liberians abroad in relevant disciplines that would benefit the entire country.
- The group's head made the remarks over the weekend during a one-day national roundtable dialogue on diamond smuggling and enforcement organized by the Ministry of Lands, Mines and Energy in partnership with Green Advocates and Partnership Africa Canada.
- The rights advocate observed that mining communities are not benefiting from natural resources leaving the areas because according to him, the people are not educated.
- Meanwhile, Atty. Brownell is asking government to institute measures that will stop illegal mining that he says is being done by 75 percent aliens.

EX-NPA Workers Storm Finance Ministry in Demands of Over US\$2.6M

- Hundreds of former workers of the National Port Authority (NPA) Monday stormed the Finance Ministry in demand of over US\$2.6 million they say government owes them.
- A spokesman of the aggrieved workers, Pastor Blokonjay Tarr said since the Supreme Court of Liberia ruled in their favour in 1992, the Finance Ministry is yet to pay them in compliance with the High Court ruling.
- Pastor Tarr said the former NPA workers are disappointed in the government for its alleged insensitivity to the welfare of people who worked sacrificially for over twenty years to help bring the NPA to its current status.
- He said while the government continues to preach equal justice for all, especially the poor have been denied justice.
- But reports have revealed that NPA authorities in January this year prepared a check of US\$150,000 as part payment for the former NPA workers, which was signed for and received by one Bobby Musa, an aide in the office of Deputy Finance Minister for Expenditure and Debt Management.

International Clip on Liberia

Arizona City librarian taking books to Liberia
<http://trivalleycentral.com>

The community's librarian, Joyce Baker, is off to Yekepa, Liberia, to help prepare and catalog books for a children's library. There are no public libraries in the entire African country and there has never been a children's library. Students at schools in Gilbert and Chandler collected more than 10,000 used books and teaching materials to help the Liberian children.

International Clips on West Africa

Guinea

Guinea Army Officers Released After Arrest
AFP

A dozen Guinean army officers close to ex-junta chief Moussa Dadis Camara were freed Monday after several days in police detention, family members and an army official said. "They were released without being told why they were detained for four days at police headquarters in Matam (a Conakry suburb)," said a relative of one of the officers. "What is certain is that we found our parent safe and sound, he does not complain about anything except the isolation and anguish he endured," he said. The release was confirmed by a source close to the army chief of staff. "We want them to rejoin their families pending an investigation on the management of the funds they had to manage without accountability," said the army source. The officers arrested on Friday include Guinean former chief of staff Colonel Oumar Sanoh, and his deputy, Colonel Abdoulaye Keita. All were close aides to Captain Camara, who was badly wounded in December 2009 in an assassination bid by his aide de camp.

Ivory Coast

UNOCI mobilizes the people of Tengrela for a peaceful electoral environment and the fight against female circumcision
African Press Organization

The United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) was in Tengrela on Friday, 11 June 2010, for an information and sensitization campaign on the peace process. The campaign, known as UNOCI Tour, attracted about 200 inhabitants of the town, situated some 800 km north of Abidjan, who were introduced to the roles and activities of the various sections of UNOCI. "A peaceful electoral environment is not only the business of political parties or religious leaders but also the concern of every son and daughter of Cote d'Ivoire," said Baruti Munda, the head of the UNOCI delegation. That is why, he said, "we are here to speak to you about creating a peaceful electoral environment so that each one of us can contribute to its establishment and consolidation," adding "good elections are those that take place in a peaceful environment." The Secretary-General of the Prefecture of Tengrela, N'Dri Yao emphasized the need for holding elections in order to definitively emerge from the crisis. He drew analogy between football and elections, saying at the end of an election, there would be a winner and a loser. "At the end of the World Cup, there would be one cup which would be won by one team. It is the same in politics," he explained, pointing out that elections were being organized so that development can follow.

Ivorian rebels disarm, say want promised government cash
Reuters

About 500 hundred ex-fighters in Ivory Coast's rebel-held north gave up their guns on Tuesday in a public display, but warned the government future disarmament would depend on the arrival of promised funding. The ceremony was another attempt to restart a process aimed at clearing a path to presidential elections, seen as crucial to reviving investment in the West African state that dried up following a 2002-03 civil war. "At this moment, no financial resources have been provided to us for this morning's disarmament operation," said General Soumaila Bakayoko, head of the Forces Nouvelles rebels which have controlled the northern part of the world's top cocoa grower since the war. "The success of this mission requires scrupulous financial support to the military," he said, referring to rebel demands for government funding for food, medical care and salaries for the ex-combatants who disarm. Ivory Coast, a former French colony once the economic star of West Africa has been in crisis since its civil war, and the regime of President Laurent Gbagbo has repeatedly put off elections originally set for 2005. Some rebels began to disarm in 2008, but the process was never completed.

Sierra Leone

Ban wraps up Africa trip with stop in Sierra Leone www.un.org

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon met with the leader of Sierra Leone and survivors of the country's brutal civil war today, capping off his five-country tour of Africa. In the capital, Freetown, he met with President Ernest Bai Koroma and attended a soccer game between amputees from the West African nation's decade-long conflict. He also visited the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL), the United Nations-backed war crimes tribunal set up to deal with the worst acts committed during civil war which ended in 2002. The Special Court is an independent tribunal established jointly by Sierra Leone's Government and the UN in 2002. It is mandated to try those who bear the greatest responsibility for atrocities committed in the country after 30 November 1996. Mr. Ban arrived in Sierra Leone from Benin, where over the weekend, he held extensive talks with President Boni Yayi on the country's upcoming elections, climate change and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), eight anti-poverty targets with a 2015 deadline. Visiting a seaside site which has been particularly hard-hit by coastal erosion, he told reporters the scene was both strike and alarming.

ICC

Friday, 11 June 2010

Registrars of international tribunals meet at ICC field office in Kampala

Registrars of international tribunals met at the field office of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in Kampala, Uganda on 4 June, 2010, on the margins of the Review Conference of the Rome Statute, to discuss matters of the Registries' responsibilities and co-operation in the context of international criminal justice. The participants were comprised of Silvana Arbia, Registrar of the ICC, Adama Dieng, Registrar of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), John Hocking, Registrar of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and Binta Mansaray, Registrar of the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL).

During the meeting, the Registrars reflected on the discussions that took place at the stocktaking exercise during the Review Conference in Kampala. In particular, the participants focused on areas within their respective responsibilities, such as outreach, victims' issues and co-operation. They also underlined the importance of the work of the Registry in the field of the 'rule of law'. Furthermore, the Registrars stressed the significance of the enduring legacy of international tribunals and agreed to strengthen co-operation in this respect.

The Registrars also expressed appreciation for the effective collaboration on various practical matters - including issues related to efficient court management - while agreeing to look into reinforcing their links. They recalled the joint declaration adopted in Venice on 3 July, 2009, and decided to hold regular video conferences between their annual meetings.

US Department of State

Tuesday, 15 June 2010

U.S. Engagement with The International Criminal Court and The Outcome Of The Recently Concluded Review Conference

Harold Hongju Koh

Legal Advisor U.S. Department of State

Stephen J. Rapp

Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes Issues

Washington, DC

MR. DUGUID: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the State Department. We have a special briefing to lead off our daily press briefing today. Recently, there was an International Criminal Court conference in Kampala, Uganda. Our delegation was led by our Legal Advisor Dr. Harold Koh and Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes Issues Stephen Rapp. We have them both here today to take your questions and tell you a little bit about the achievements of the U.S. delegation at the conference.

We'll start with Professor Koh.

MR. KOH: Thanks, Gordon. We just returned from a two-week review conference of the International Criminal Court's Assembly of States Parties in Kampala, Uganda, which we attended as an observer nation.

Ambassador Rapp and I headed an interagency delegation that included representatives from State, Justice, Defense, the Uniformed Services, and the National Security Council. Our delegation worked extremely hard to resume engagement with the court, the states parties, observer nations, and many private organizations involved in international criminal justice. And we engaged in countless hours of conversation in plenary private meetings, et cetera.

The conference completed three main tasks. It endorsed and supported the court's core work with respect to the traditional crimes of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity, and highlighted issues of state cooperation, peace and justice, stocktaking, and participation of victims, about which Ambassador Rapp will say more. It also adopted two new crimes, prohibition and non-international armed conflict of certain weapons, the so-called Belgian amendment, and a crime of aggression whose elements will be reconsidered and affirmatively considered after seven more years.

We think that with respect to the two new crimes, the outcome protected our vital interests. The court cannot exercise jurisdiction over the crime of aggression without a further decision to take place sometime after January 1st, 2017. The prosecutor cannot charge nationals of non-state parties, including U.S. nationals, with a crime of aggression. No U.S. national can be prosecuted for aggression so long as the U.S. remains a non-state party. And if we were to become a state party, we'd still have the option to opt out from having our nationals prosecuted for aggression. So we ensure total protection for our Armed Forces and other U.S. nationals going forward.

Under the terms of the resolution adopted, any crime of aggression couldn't become operational unless it were affirmatively adopted after another review by consensus or a two-thirds decision of all states parties no earlier than January 1, 2017. It could not be exercised except for acts committed one year after 30 states parties accepted the amendment. And two ways of referring to the crime would be created – one channel that would go through an exclusive Security Council trigger, and a second channel which would go through a prior Security Council review subject to four conditions.

If the Security Council did not make a determination that aggression had occurred, the prosecutor would have to offer a reasonable basis for investigating the crime under a definition that's been clarified by understandings we suggested. The prosecution would have to get a majority vote of six judges of the court's pretrial division. The Security Council would still, at that point, have the authority to stop the prosecution with a red light Chapter 7 resolution disapproving the resolution. And as I said, the channel would not apply to nationals of non-state parties or any non-consenting state party who opted out.

This issue has occupied the states parties and, in some sense, diverted the court from its core human rights mission. Many states and Kampala expressed an impulse to finalize the crime. Now, a non-final approach has been tentatively reached which takes the issue off the table for the next seven years with a notional solution that can be reexamined in 2017.

The United States considered the definition of aggression flawed, but a number of important safeguards were adopted. Understandings were adopted to make the definition more precise, to ensure that the crime will be applied only to the most egregious circumstances. And while we think the final resolution took insufficient account of the Security Council's assigned role to define aggression, the states parties rejected solutions that provided for jurisdiction without a Security Council or consent-based screen. We hope that crime will be improved in the future and will continue to engage toward that end.

The big picture going forward, I think we should keep in mind, is that as the country of Nuremberg prosecutor Justice Jackson, we are the only country that has successfully prosecuted the crime of aggression at Nuremberg and Tokyo. Of course, we do not commit aggression and the chances are extremely remote that a prosecution on this crime will, at some point in the distant future, affect us negatively.

So to paraphrase Churchill, this is not the end, it was not the beginning of the end, but it did feel like the end of the beginning of the U.S.'s 12-year relationship with this court. After 12 years, I think we have reset the default on the U.S. relationship with the court from hostility to positive engagement. In this case, principled engagement worked to protect our interest, to improve the outcome, and to bring us renewed international goodwill. As one delegate put it to me, the U.S. was once again seen, with respect to the ICC, as part of the solution and not the problem. The outcome in Kampala demonstrates again principled engagement can protect and advance our interests, it can help the states parties to find better solutions, and make for a better court, better protection of our interests, and a better relationship going forward between the U.S. and the ICC.

And let me turn it over to Ambassador Rapp.

AMBASSADOR RAPP: Well, thank you very much, Harold. I think one of the main aspects of this conference in which I think our principled engagement was so positive was working with the court in the stocktaking exercises, which looked at issues like complementarity, which is this idea that you should have justice at the national level in preference to justice at the international level. And that means strengthening national systems so that they can prosecute war crimes and genocide and crimes against humanity, the need for greater

cooperation with this court, greater recognition of the rights and the concerns of victims and affected communities, and making sure that we proceed with the process of justice in a way that benefits the search for peace.

The sessions that went on the first week, we participated in very actively. We, ourselves, together with the Norwegian Government and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo, had a separate session on accountability in the DRC, which is, I think you all know, is a prime concern of Secretary Clinton with the enormous levels of atrocity that are ongoing there, the thousands of rapes that are committed every month. International justice alone, a few cases tried at The Hague, doesn't, even if there is full cooperation – an arrest of each of the suspects, and there's still one at large – doesn't have the kind of effect that you need to have on the ground if you're going to protect people from those crimes.

So we focused, in those sessions, on ways in which we as a donor state, and a very generous one, together with the EU and other partners, can strengthen justice on the ground. And that was a message that had a very receptive audience in Africa, where there is a strong desire to see these cases prosecuted in the national system, but with help in terms of capacity and independence to ensure that justice is done. This whole conference, I think, gave us an opportunity to engage with the ICC and work toward making this institution more effective.

The United States, as everyone knows, has been a leader in international justice, beginning with Nuremberg, that Harold mentioned, and in Tokyo, but particularly beginning, again, in 1993 with the establishment of the Yugoslavia Court, the following year with the establishment of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda where I worked, and thereafter with the Special Court for Sierra Leone and other international institutions where we were a large contributor to those courts, in which Americans played leadership roles, and in which, beyond even our formal role, we provided assistance to those courts and information sharing and witness protection and diplomatic support, and support and efforts to arrest suspects. And even while we don't become a member of the ICC, the opportunity to do some of those same kinds of things presents itself with the ICC, where that court is pursuing the same kind of cases that we prosecuted through these international institutions in Rwanda and Sierra Leone.

We've had a concern in the past that the prosecutor of the ICC could make – could undertake politically motivated prosecutions, could perhaps come after Americans who were engaged in protecting people from atrocity instead of emphasizing those that were committing the crimes. Thus far, this court has been appropriately focused. The cases that it has taken up in Northern Uganda involving Joseph Kony and the crimes of the Lord's Resistance Army in the DRC, the various militia groups that have engaged in campaigns of mass atrocity in Darfur, Sudan, and in the Central African Republic were cases that cried out for justice and accountability and for the protection of the victims.

And if it weren't for the ICC, the UN would have been having to go in and establish a special court for those kinds of situations. So as we recognized in March when we participated in the Assembly of States Parties in New York, it's in our interest to support those prosecutions – not at this time as a member of the ICC, but in kind with assistance as long as it's consistent with our law. And at the same time that we support those prosecutions, also work on the whole of the international justice system, the key part of which is that that is below the level of the international system, the massive amount of work that needs to be done at the national level. That message of our commitment and our support for appropriate prosecutions at this court, I think, resonated very well when we came to this issue of aggression, where those of us that have worked in international justice know how challenging it is to prosecute, to arrest, to obtain cooperation. Even when

you're going after the cases that involve mass atrocity, people accuse you of being politically motivated.

But what's happened, as we've seen in the last 15 years, is that when a leader has been charged by one of these courts, and there's strong evidence of his involvement in mass atrocity against innocent civilians, eventually it becomes possible to dislodge that leader, as we saw with Milosevic and as we saw with Charles Taylor, and bring that person to justice. If the court, on the other hand, were to get into the political area and to deal with crimes not against individual civilians, as in war crimes or crimes against humanity or genocide, but crimes against states and the crime of aggression, it would find it even more difficult to obtain cooperation, and it would quickly find itself by having taken one side or another, even accepted a case or rejected a case involving a border conflict, really stymied from the point of view of getting the kind of cooperation that it needs to deal with atrocity crimes.

And that was an argument that resonated very strongly, and 50 human rights organizations across the world agreed with us on that point and put out a letter to the foreign ministers of the ICC countries, saying it wasn't a good idea for this court to go there. What happened is, as Harold said, in the end is that we had a deferral, at least, of the ability of this court to move into the aggression area until 2017. Even then, it'll take a vote comparable to the vote we would have had in Kampala; a vote by an overwhelming majority or a consensus in favor of going forward. This gives the court seven more years to get it right in terms of going after atrocity crime.

As I think everyone knows, the Yugoslavia and Rwanda tribunals, even though they've not moved as quickly as some would have liked, and these cases have sometimes been difficult, the results show that almost 200 people have been prosecuted, including chiefs of state and heads of government and immediate leaders like those I prosecuted in Rwanda and others. Thus far, the ICC has only begun two trials and hasn't concluded them. And this court has a way to go before it's as effective as the ad hoc tribunals were. This next seven years gives them an opportunity, I think, to be effective, and to the extent consistent with our law, at least in the situations that have been open so far, we're prepared to do what we can to assist those prosecutions to ensure that these crimes that shock the universal conscience result in accountability for those that bear the greatest responsibility.

So with that opening, I guess we can go to questions.

MR. DUGUID: Yes. Please, as you ask your question, direct it to either Professor Koh or Ambassador Rapp, Matt, and then – okay.

QUESTION: Yeah. Well, actually, this is for both of you. I guess I'm not exactly sure what you guys spent two weeks doing except for thwarting the idea – basically making sure that something that they wanted to do didn't happen and has been pushed down the road till 2017, and even then, it's going to take – there are so many conditions attached to this that it probably – it sounds as though it's almost impossible for – it will be almost impossible for the court to take up the crime of aggression. I'm wondering, what were you worried about? If you hadn't gone and engaged, did you think that they would have actually agreed on this and to start prosecuting this crime immediately?

And then second of all, you talked about how you've reset the default from hostility to engagement, but in fact, the Bush Administration was – cooperated in several notable instances, cases that – the LRA and in Darfur. So how exactly is this Administration different than the last one?

MR. KOH: Matt, we didn't thwart anything. We worked with the other countries who were there to reach a consensus outcome, which was reached. The first week was entirely about the core mission of the court – genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. We made presentations there; we participated in discussions about a set of issues going to ensuring successful prosecutions.

The International Criminal Court has not completed a case. And that's an important fact. The aggression issue is a second agenda. One prosecutor there said to me the challenge is how do you land on Mars when you haven't proved you can land on the moon? So the first week was all about strengthening the core agenda of the court. The second week was about trying to decide what kind of consensus outcome there could be with regard to the crime of aggression. And there were many different views on the table. I think everybody realized that more time was needed. And the consensus outcome, which was achieved on the last day was what I described, adopting a non-final outcome to be reconsidered. But seven years from now, the court may be quite advanced in other respects as a stronger institution with the development of U.S. engagement.

Now, you say that this was the strategy or policy of a previous administration. The fact of the matter is that in the early days, there was hostility to the court getting sufficient membership. There are now 111 states parties. It's not going to go away. The only approach that we think ensures our interests and ensure that the court accomplishes its core mission is a strategy of engagement. And so we think that after 12 years of back and forth on different approaches, that will be the default, and we think it's one that serves our interests and makes for a stronger court.

AMBASSADOR RAPP: I should note that, I mean, a number of resolutions were passed – high-level ministerial statement on cooperation and on mechanisms for increasing coordination between donors when it comes to strengthening the national justice systems. And so there were, I think, constructive steps taken by the court. And the cooperation indeed was also requested, as we suggested, of non-party states like ourselves. Because when I was in the Sierra Leone court, we sought assistance of states that weren't obliged to assist us, and they did. And so it's important that that occur.

On this whole question of engagement and what we accomplished, what we saw when this Administration took over in 2009 and – was that there had been this process of studying the crime of aggression for the last six or seven years – a working group that actually met in Princeton, New Jersey – and that came up with recommendations about how to proceed. And it reached a consensus outcome on defining the crime of aggression. Everyone seemed to think the definition was very good. We thought it very vague, a definition that would allow a court to be involved in any so-called manifest violation, without really defining what that was that could have gotten the court into border disputes, could have involved in it prosecuting people, or going in to protect civilians – as we did in Kosovo – from atrocities, from war crimes and crimes against humanity.

And because we weren't present, some things ended up in that process that I think probably wouldn't have been there if we'd been involved. We had to play catch-up with that. And as Harold said, we were successful in adding several understandings to that definition. Those understandings wouldn't have been there were it not for our participation that ensured that this court would not deal with but any of the most serious cases, that there would have to be not just character, gravity, or scale, but a combination of several of those factors, and that this wouldn't lead to national prosecutions of leaders for aggression by – alleged aggression by other states.

So I think it was successful because we raised issues, raised questions, not in a negative sort of way, but just simply said, "What about this, what about this, what about this?" And through our engagement, I think we accomplished quite a lot. We also raised this issue about the court needing, really, to become a bicycle. As Harold used the example, at the moment, it's just starting out and it's a bit wobbly; let's not overload it with this thing. And so the result was basically a deferral of this issue for seven years. But significantly, provisions have gone into the statute that can't be changed in 2017 by this process, which will protect the nationals of non-party states like ourselves, or states that opt out. So – and I don't think that would have occurred were it not for us sort of raising the issues in this conference.

But in all of the engagement that we had, we found states from each continent that considered our concerns very carefully, and worked to accommodate those concerns. And indeed, in the process of discussion, other concerns were raised by individual parties. And I think as a result, the process was much better and the result was much better, not just for the United States, but for this court itself.

MR. DUGUID: Thank you. Charlie and then Elise.

QUESTION: For Professor Koh, I'm intrigued by your use of the word "reset," because, not surprisingly, at least to me, it has a – more of a political tinge on the diplomatic – in the diplomatic dictionary in this Administration. And obviously, I don't think you used the word just out of the – out of thin air. And maybe I'm missing something. Is there a legal part to it as well? Or was, in fact, the main purpose of going to the conference, attending the way you did, to make things right or get on the other side with the ICC in a political sense?

MR. KOH: Well, Charlie, there are really three policies at work. One is our support for policies of accountability, international criminal justice, and ending impunity, which lead to our supporting international criminal tribunals ad hoc, of the kind – Rwanda, Yugoslavia, Sierra Leone, Cambodia, et cetera.

A second policy is a policy of principled engagement with existing international institutions, whether it be the Human Rights Council, the Copenhagen process, the nuclear security process. And then the third point, which was illustrated by President Obama's Nobel lecture, is that in the 21st century, sometimes there are uses of force in which nations must engage that are lawful. And the question is how to make sure that they are not criminalized if they are lawful.

Now, I think one fundamental point is that the crime of aggression is different from the other three crimes in a couple of respects. As Steve pointed out, there have been hundreds of prosecutions for genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. There have only been two prosecutions for wars of aggression, namely Nuremberg and Tokyo. Both of those happened before there was a UN system. There's been no successful prosecution for an act of aggression alone. And the question is, since we're making international criminal law for the real world, before you lock in the crime forever, you want to make sure that as a legal matter you've got it right.

And a lot of our focus on this was clarifying, as lawyers do, what terms mean, to make sure that it deters to the appropriate extent but doesn't over or under-deter; to talk exactly about what the jurisdictional filters and trigger mechanisms were going to be; and I think most important, to reaffirm the principle that when you have an organic change in an institution like this, it should be done on a consensus basis.

The other three crimes were adopted by consensus approaches at Rome. And we thought it was very important that if you're going to add to the criminal array available to this court, it should also be done by unanimity of view by the interested parties.

MR. DUGUID: Thank you. Elise.

QUESTION: Yes. For either one of you, maybe both – hi.

AMBASSADOR RAPP: How are you doing?

QUESTION: Nice to see you.

I'm just wondering what the end game is here with this Administration and the court. Are you trying to shape the court in a way that, ultimately, you can perhaps consider becoming a signatory to the court? Or are you just concerned necessarily about other crimes that you see and the way that they should be prosecuted to make sure that international justice is upheld?

Because I just – I do – it is kind of curious that an administration would become so engaged in shaping the kind of format of a court that it's not a signatory to. And what gives us the moral authority to do that if we're not becoming a signatory to the court? And in addition, are you conditioning any kind of future U.S. assistance with the court on some of the objectives that you proposed at the conference?

MR. KOH: Well, first of all, the other countries all wanted us to engage. Their recognition, as a historical matter, as international institutions and courts with which the United States is not involved tend not to be as effective. Secondly, they noticed that all of the ad hoc tribunals – the Yugoslav and Rwanda tribunal, the Cambodia tribunal – have been more successful by virtue of deep U.S. engagement.

Third, the other strategies that have been used, either isolation from the court or hostility from the court, appear to be non-starters. You have now a court that exists, it's functioning, it's hearing cases, and needs help. And it needs people who are both going to criticize things that it does that are less well thought through and to try to suggest directions in which it can go.

I don't think we're talking so much about an end game as we are talking about a process, the default --

QUESTION: A process by which eventually you hope that you can join?

MR. KOH: I think our basic conviction is a strategy of engagement is good for the court and good for U.S. interests. We might as well start that process and make a serious effort at it, which is what we did. And as I said, the reaction was favorable. On the last day, they said, "We're delighted to see a situation in which the U.S. is part of the solution for the court and not part of the problem."

AMBASSADOR RAPP: I mean, it's clear that joining the court is not on the table, as far as a U.S. decision at this time. But as you know, the United States takes a very long time to adopt international conventions and treaties, and sometimes doesn't. I mean, it took us 40 years to ratify the Genocide Convention.

I think what we're looking at here is how this court develops. We want to see it develop responsibly, to focus on crimes that involve truly massive intentional attacks on civilians,

both in terms of the decisions made by its prosecutor on where to open investigations and also by its chambers, its trial chambers that have to decide whether, sometimes, to authorize those investigations or to issue arrest warrants.

And I think over time, there's a possibility that we may gain confidence in this institution and that would enable us to move forward. And who knows what the future may hold? But at this time, we recognize that this institution is the international court where justice will be delivered if it can't be delivered at the national or the regional level, that the United Nations is not going to step up and establish a Rwanda or Yugoslavia court and spend a hundred million or more a year on a court, as they have with those, when 111 countries are dues-paying members to this one.

And so this is where accountability is to be delivered. It's also recognized, as we've seen with Darfur, that the UN Security Council, of which we're a permanent member, has the ability to send cases to it involving not just the 111 countries but all 192. And so it's a tool in the international toolbox, so to speak, for achieving accountability instead of establishing a separate, one-off institution.

So, if for nothing else, because of that role, but also because we're so committed to achieving accountability for these cases and fulfilling the promise that we've made to victims when we went and convicted Jean Kambanda, the prime minister of Rwanda, for genocide, or brought Milosevic to trial or Charles Taylor to trial, there's been an expectation created that when people of whatever level commit mass atrocities against the innocent, there's going to be accountability. And we think that's appropriate. We want it done. We want it done fairly. We want it done effectively. And the ICC wants us to assist and to the extent it's consistent with our law and we do have some laws that we have to be careful about observing that are a little different in this area than they are with other courts. We want to go forward on this, and that's something that we'll be doing in the next several years and perhaps that will build an engagement and a confidence that will allow us to go further.

MR. DUGUID: Thank you. I believe we have time for one more question. Farah, please.

QUESTION: I was hoping you could tell us a little bit more about the discussions surrounding Sudan and the effectiveness – I mean, a lot of people watched with dismay and don't feel like the court has been positive – has gotten positive outcomes for people there. And I was hoping you could tell us a little bit more about the discussions there.

And my second question is about – you've talked a lot about strengthening national justice systems, and there's an awful lot of people who say, okay, the ICTR is the last time we're ever going to have the international community coming in and imposing a – sort of creating a justice system for a country, and more like they believe that we're going to see more like Sierra Leone and Cambodia, which is just assisting a national – I mean, do you feel that that's the future, or do you think that, in fact, there will be – the future really is in these international efforts?

AMBASSADOR RAPP: Well, first of all, on the Sudan issue – and Kampala -- it was a good thing that this conference was in Africa and 30 countries in Africa – more than – I think there are about 55 countries in Africa – but a substantial majority are members of the ICC. Uganda itself sent the first case to the ICC, the Kony case, by referral. And there were discussions, particularly in this Peace and Justice Forum, about the interplay of peace and justice, and the Sudan issue was there. But I think the bottom line of the conference is that everyone recognized that when there are cases before the court, states need to cooperate. And I think it strengthened the commitment of the African parties to assist in the cases in

Africa and assisted the other countries in their resolve to ensure that arrests are made. So I think it actually was helpful to this challenging aspect of getting cooperation in Sudan.

In regard to the future of international justice, the possibility of ad hoc mixed courts at the national level – I mean, the Sierra Leone is an example of that, though more international than national – but where national judges sit with international judges, where there's international assistance to those courts, I think that remains very much an open possibility in the future. The ICC is never going to be able to prosecute more than three or four cases in each situation, and that – and there may be situations where it's better to have a court close to the people, as we had in Sierra Leone or you have in Cambodia, with international help and assistance to provide the capacity and the independence, rather than send those cases thousands of miles away to The Hague.

And that's consistent with complementarity, consistent with the idea that it's better to do it at the national level. So I think our American interest will be to look for alternatives close to the ground, as we did in Kenya for instance, where we very strongly supported the Waki Commission report and the initiative of former Secretary General Annan that urged there to be a national independent court to deal with the post-election violence and to provide, perhaps, an international prosecutor in that or other international personnel to ensure the independence to give assurance to the victims that they wouldn't – that they'd be properly treated because of some of the ethnic aspects of that conflict.

That's the best approach. Sadly, it didn't happen there. Because it didn't happen, it's gone to the ICC. But I think we'll always be working to try to do it there. And that was part of the message of the sessions on complementarity. There needs to be a continuum from the national level to the international, with the international level only handling a relative handful of cases and hopefully providing an incentive for countries to do it themselves so that it happens at the local level with their own people with assistance rather than thousands of miles administered by people that are unfamiliar with their culture and country.

MR. DUGUID: Thank you, Ambassador Rapp. Thank you, Professor Koh. Thank you for joining us, ladies and gentlemen. We'll begin with the daily press briefing shortly. That's all the time we have.

Agence France Presse

Wednesday, 16 June 2010

Two Sudan rebel leaders surrender for warcrimes trial

Two Sudan rebel leaders arrived in The Hague on Wednesday after surrendering to appear before the International Criminal Court on war crimes charges, the court said.

"Abdallah Banda Abakaer Nourain and Saleh Mohammed Jerbo Jamus, both suspected of having committed war crimes in Darfur, Sudan, arrived voluntarily this morning at the International Criminal Court," a statement said.

"Both suspects will stay at the location assigned to them by the court until their first appearance before the chamber" on Thursday morning.

The men face three counts of war crimes allegedly committed in an attack on the Haskanita military base in north Darfur on September 29, 2007, which claimed 12 African Union peacekeepers.

Hirondelle News Agency

Monday, 14 June 2010

Prosecution seeks life sentence on appeal against Callixte Kalimanzira

The Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) requested on Monday the maximum penalty on appeal against former senior civil servant Callixte Kalimanzira.

Kalimanzira, an agronomist by training, was during the closing stages of the 1994 genocide acting Minister of the Interior within the ranks of the "Hutu power" government.

On June 22, 2009, he was found guilty of genocide and incitement to commit genocide and handed down a 30 years sentence.

The lower court had concluded that on April 23, 1994, Kalimanzira ordered soldiers and policemen to shoot thousands of Tutsis who had sought refuge at Kabuye Hill following his suggestion.

Mitigating circumstances were given to the defendant who, in the eyes of his first judges, had not evinced any particular zeal or sadism. "He did not personally kill anyone and only remained at the [killing] sites for brief periods," noted the three-bench judges.

Both parties had filed an appeal.

"He gave the order to kill Tutsis and they were immediately killed", argued Prosecutor Charity Kagwy, who deemed the sentence too lenient given the high number of victims.

For his part, Kalimanzira's Lead Defence Counsel Arthur Vercken requested an acquittal, asserting that the tribunal convicted his client "on faith of vague and contradictory testimonies".

He also said that the Lower court "twisted defence testimonies in order to reject them".

Callixte Kalimanzira came last to the stand. He claimed one more time that he was innocent and appealed to his appeal judges to "rehabilitate" him.

Date of the judgment will be announced later.

Kalimanzira gave himself up to the Tanzanian authorities in November 2005. Previously, he had lived with his family in neighbouring Kenya.

ER/GF

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