

**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:**

Wednesday, 14 July 2010

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

Issa Sesay Reveals 'Civil War' Within RUF / <i>Concord Times</i>	Page 3
Minister Extends Health Care to Pademba Prison / <i>Concord Times</i>	Page 4
Report from The Hague / <i>BBC World Service Trust</i>	Page 5
Naomi Campbell To Testify On Blood Diamonds / <i>National Public Radio</i>	Pages 6-7
West Africa Still at Crossroads Despite Recent Progress, Says UN Envoy / <i>UN News</i>	Pages 8-9
Venture Provides Support for Rape Victims 'Left Behind'... / <i>New York Law Journal</i>	Pages 10-11
Hamill to See Khmer Rouge Henchman Sentenced / <i>Stuff.co.nz</i>	Page 12
Decades After Genocide, Is Justice Even Possible / <i>The Salt Lake Tribune</i>	Pages 13-14
No Stay of Proceedings in Katanga Trial 12 Jul 2010 / <i>The Hague Justice Portal</i>	Page 15
ICC Targets Four MPs Over Poll Violence / <i>Nairobi Star</i>	Pages 16-17
US No Longer Safe Haven for Rights Violators / <i>Thisday Online</i>	Page 18

## LOCAL NEWS

Former interim leader of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) and war crimes convict has been telling the Charles Taylor trial of a virtual civil war in the rebel group between 1997 and 1999.

Issa Sesay, testifying for the defence in The Hague, said the conflict was sparked by the behaviour of a rebel commander known as Superman, whom he tried to kill him, and executed another commander called Rambo.

Sesay, who is serving a sentence of 52 years for atrocities committed by

# Issa Sesay reveals 'civil war' within RUF

the RUF, said an in-fighting ripped the rebel movement apart in 1997 and left it with no central control. He told the court that from 1997, Superman - whose real name was Dennis Mingo - refused to carry out orders from the RUF second-in-command, Sam Bockarie.

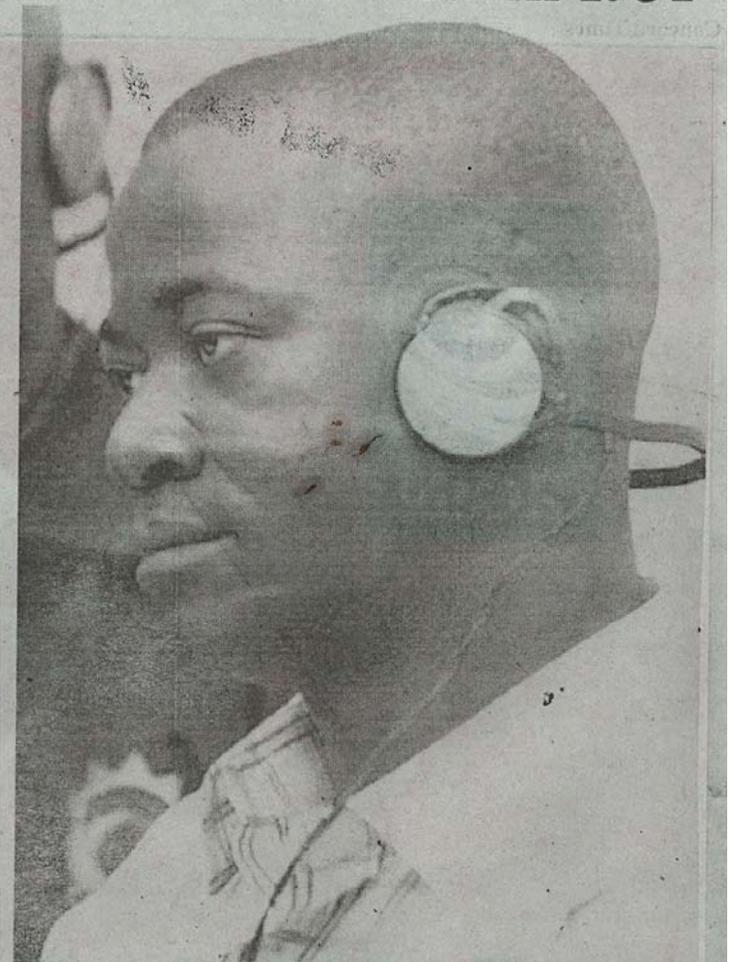
He said Superman diverted captured materials, including AK rounds and RPG rockets, to his own purposes. "At one point Superman was given Le9 million to pass on to Bockarie but he kept the cash for himself," Sesay revealed.

As part of its case that Charles Taylor had sup-

ported the RUF, the prosecution pointed to the fact that he had provided accommodation for the rebels in Monrovia.

Taylor's defence counsel, Courtenay Griffiths, picked up this issue when questioning Issa Sesay, with the witness giving a chilling account of an attack which he said was carried out on the home of the RUF commander, Maurice Kallon by Superman's forces.

He said Kallon's wife was assaulted and her infant baby banged against a wall. The baby's injuries were so severe that it died the following year, he explained.



Concord Times  
Tuesday, 14 July 2010

## Minister extends health care to Pademba Prison

*By Zainab Kanu*

Deputy minister of health and sanitation has extended the free health care services to inmates of the Pademba road maximum prison.

Mohamed Daudis Koroma said the reason for extending the free medication to inmates was because of the poor health facilities in the prison, adding, "This will help inmates to get better medication."

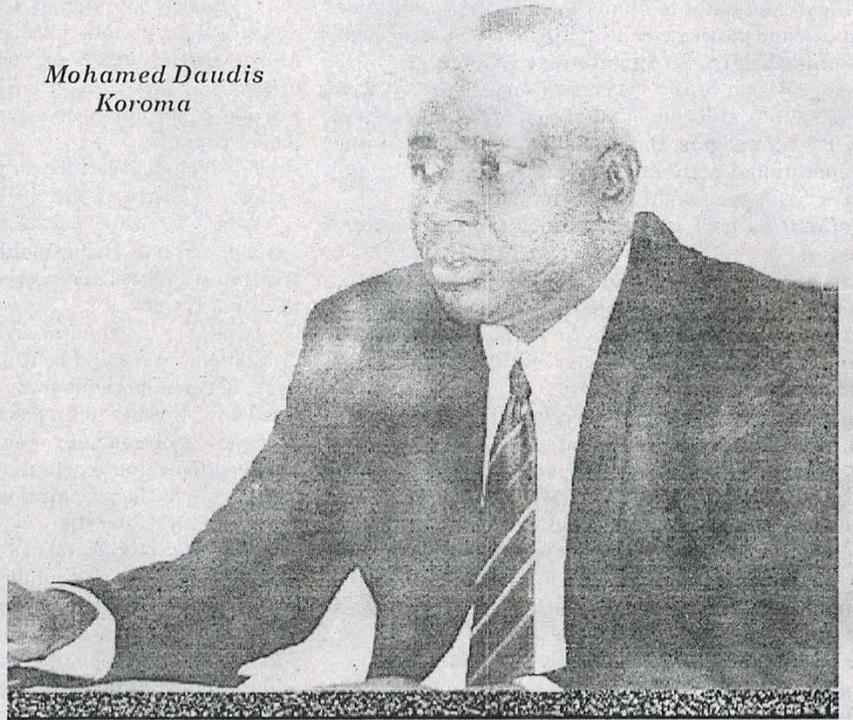
"It has always been the dream of my ministry to extend the free healthcare delivery to inmates at the Pademba prison. My recent visit to the prison was to assess the

healthcare facilities currently in place there, especially for pregnant women and lactating mothers and see how they will benefit from the free medication," he said.

Koroma revealed that free drugs and other equipment have already been presented to the prison clinic and that he was very pleased with the work done by prison officers.

"We think one way to help inmates in the prison is to first address the issue of poor healthcare facility. We want female prisoners to also benefit from the free medication," he noted.

*Mohamed Daudis  
Koroma*



## NEWS ITEM

July 14, 2010

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*The former RUF commander, Issa Sesay, has told the Charles Taylor trial that crimes against humanity in Sierra Leone intensified after the RUF joined forces with the AFRC in 1997. Mr Sesay also revealed that shortly after he was arrested in , he was taken forcibly to the home of the former chief prosecutor of the Special Court, David Crane. From the trial in The Hague, John Kollie transcribes reports from The Hague on the trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor...*

Issa Sesay is serving 52 years for his role in atrocities committed during Sierra Leone's civil war.

He's testifying as a defence witness. He said that many of the crimes associated with the civil war grew in number after the RUF allied with the AFRC in 1997.

Mr Sesay also gave evidence about events which followed his arrest with the RUF commanders, Morris Kallon and Gibril Massaquoi.

He said that a war crimes investigator, John Berry, told him : " Issa, this is the end of your life." Then, within an hour, he was taken to the home in Freetown of the then chief prosecutor of the special court, David Crane.

He said it was the first of a number of visits. He's being questioned by defence counsel, Courtenay Griffiths.

Mr Griffiths promised that he would return to the issue of these forcible visits to David Crane's house later.

## National Public Radio

Wednesday, 14 July 2010

### Naomi Campbell To Testify On Blood Diamonds

By Gregory Crouch



British model Naomi Campbell arrives for an AIDS benefit during the Cannes international film festival in May.

Matt Sayles/AP

British model Naomi Campbell arrives for an AIDS benefit during the Cannes international film festival in May.

Supermodel Naomi Campbell is known nowadays as much for her outbursts as her outfits.

Now she finds herself caught up in yet another controversy.

Prosecutors at an international tribunal in the Netherlands have summoned her to testify later this month in the war crimes trial of former Liberian leader Charles Taylor. Among the many charges against him is involvement in the trade for so-called blood diamonds — gems used to finance a civil war in the neighboring West African nation of Sierra Leone.

#### Taylor's Diamond Gift To Campbell?

The prosecution alleges that Taylor, while president of Liberia, teamed up with rebels in neighboring Sierra Leone to rob that country of its natural resources, including diamonds. Tens of thousands of people were killed or maimed during the 11-year civil war that officially ended in 2002.

"In Sierra Leone you had crimes of mutilation, serial rapes, enslaving people," says Brenda Hollis, prosecutor at the Special Court for Sierra Leone in The Hague. Hollis alleges Taylor took diamonds from rebels in Sierra Leone and gave them weapons and ammunition in return.

Individuals came to where Naomi Campbell was lodging and gave her a diamond, indicating that the diamond came from Mr. Charles Taylor.

- Brenda Hollis, prosecutor in the war crimes case against Taylor

Taylor has denied all of the charges against him, which include murder, recruiting child soldiers and terrorizing civilians. "Most definitely I am not guilty," Taylor told the court.

#### Dinner Party In South Africa

The prosecution recently got the court's permission to reopen its case after hearing of possible new evidence dating back to 1997.

"In South Africa, after a dinner party, attended by Mr. Taylor, Naomi Campbell, Mia Farrow and others, individuals came to where Naomi Campbell was lodging and gave her a diamond, indicating that the diamond came from Mr. Charles Taylor. The next morning she related that story to Mia Farrow and perhaps others at breakfast," Hollis alleges.

But Campbell recently told a producer for ABC News that never happened. "I didn't receive a diamond and I'm not going to speak about that. Thank you very much," Campbell said.

Taylor's defense attorney Courtenay Griffiths says prosecutors are desperate.

"The prosecution have obtained a subpoena for a witness whom they know in advance is not going to support their case. The bottom line is the prosecution are calling this evidence and have made a big deal out of it in order to get some cheap publicity," Griffiths says.

Documents show that the story around Campbell was corroborated by the model's former agent and actress Mia Farrow, both of whom have agreed to testify.

The story is significant because prosecutors want to show that Taylor had diamonds on him just weeks before a crucial deal. At that time, arms and ammunition were shipped to rebels in Sierra Leone, and the allegation is they were bought with diamonds.

I didn't receive a diamond and I'm not going to speak about that.

- Naomi Campbell to ABC News

### **Diamonds In A Mayonnaise Jar**

One witness, Varmuyan Sherif, told the court he saw a rebel leader with a mayonnaise jar full of diamonds, in his jacket, just prior to a meeting with Taylor.

"He took a jacket off, to hang it. While in the process of taking his jacket off, I saw the bottle, the mayonnaise bottle ... with diamond in it in his pocket," Sherif testified.

Taylor scoffed at the idea.

"I am supposed to be such a scumbag that people bring me diamonds in nothing but mayonnaise jars? How much more can you demonize me?" Taylor said.

Prosecutors say Taylor's links to rebel leaders went far beyond diamonds. They've presented evidence of satellite phone conversations between Taylor and the rebels. And one witness testified that he overheard a rebel refer to Taylor as his boss.

Griffiths says his client is not guilty of the charges against him. Griffiths acknowledges, however, that Taylor knows some bad people.

"I'm not suggesting Charles Taylor is a saint," he says.

But what Naomi Campbell thinks of him remains to be seen. She is scheduled to testify at the end of this month.

## UN News

Tuesday, 13 July 2010

### West Africa still at crossroads despite recent progress, says UN envoy



*Special Representative for West Africa Said Djinnit*

Root causes of conflicts in West Africa, including ethnic tensions and governance challenges, could overturn gains made in consolidating peace, leaving the region at a crossroads, a senior United Nations official said today.

“This requires the continued support of the international community, including the United Nations, to maintain the momentum for peace and stability in the sub-region,” Said Djinnit, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon’s Special Representative for West Africa, told the Security Council.

In the six months since his last briefing to the Council, Mr. Djinnit said that the situation in the region has improved. Earlier this year, a constitutional crisis was brewing in Niger, while the lives of large segments of Guinea’s population were affected by food insecurity, drug trafficking and other obstacles.

Since then, the staging of peaceful elections in Togo – with the subsequent formation of a new Government with the participation of part of the opposition – and the continued commitment of Niger’s authorities to a transition programme are “encouraging signs of progress,” he said.

In Guinea, steps are being taken to restore constitutional order, with the first round of presidential polls having been peacefully held on 27 June. Unrest erupted last year after the forces of Moussa Dadis Camara, who seized power in a coup in 2008 following the death of long-time president Lansana Conté, opened fire on unarmed protesters at a rally, killing at least 150 people.

“Needless to say... stable and peaceful democratic governance in Guinea will have far-reaching implications for regional stability,” especially in bolstering hard-won peace in Sierra Leone and Liberia, Mr. Djinnit pointed out.

Progress in Guinea could also help to address the ongoing crisis in neighbouring Guinea-Bissau, which has seen political and security tensions rise in recent months, he said.

A series of political assassinations last year had threatened security and stability in Guinea-Bissau, but order was restored with the election of Malam Bacai Sanhá in the June 2009 presidential election.

The past six months has seen economic growth in West Africa supported by the global economic recovery, but Mr. Djinnit noted that these improvements have not resulted in sustainable poverty reduction schemes.

At the same time, “prospects for achieving the Millennium Development Goals [MDGs] remain weak,” he said, referring to the eight anti-poverty targets world leaders have pledged to achieve by 2015. Also of concern, he said, is the food crisis touching the lives of millions of people in the Sahel, especially in Niger, home to more than 7 million hungry people.

Later in closed-door talks with Council members, Mr. Djinnit presented the Secretary-General's latest report on the UN Office for West Africa (UNOWA), which notes that despite progress in shoring up peace and human rights, such strides are being undercut by the paucity of good governance.

"The resurgence of coups d'état in West Africa, which I have consistently denounced, and the major role played by the armed forces in these coups, are a reflection of the difficult civil-military relationships in situations of bad governance," Mr. Ban wrote.

The Special Representative told the Council today that "recent experience in the subregion has shown that opportunities for crisis prevention and sustainable peace are now available more than ever," underscoring the key role international assistance could play in promoting human rights, supporting electoral processes and helping in the fight against drug trafficking, among others.

Speaking to reporters after the Council session, Mr. Djinnit said the 15-member body took note "of the proactive role played by UNOWA in mobilizing the system of the UN in the subregion and in forging strong partnerships with regional and continental partners and also mobilizing international support."

Asked about Guinea's recent polls, he said that "one year ago, I think nobody could believe that the elections would indeed take place."

He noted that some parties have made allegations of fraud and irregularities, which the country's Supreme Court is set to rule on.

Mr. Djinnit said that the UN notes "with satisfaction" that all international observers – from the European Union (EU), African Union (AU), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and other groups – have commended the fact that the polls were peaceful and organized.

He reminded reporters that the 27 June elections were the first multi-party democratic polls in Guinea, which gained independence more than half a century ago.

On Niger, Mr. Djinnit said the role of his office, UNOWA, along with ECOWAS and the AU, is to sensitize Niger's new authorities "to cooperate in a transparent manner" on the country's food crisis.

The previous regime was "not always cooperative" with the international community, said the envoy, who also urged donors to follow through on their commitments to help the countries of the Sahel, especially Niger.

New York Law Journal  
Wednesday, 14 July 2010

## Venture Provides Support for Rape Victims 'Left Behind' by Rwandan Genocide

Thomas Adcock

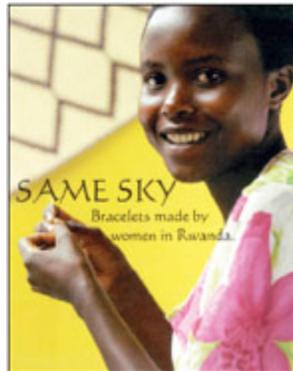
Two women who have always known safety and material comfort—attorney Lauren J. Wachtler and filmmaker Francine A. LeFrak—are helping women halfway around the world forge new lives after the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, during which they were raped and their husbands hacked to death by machete-wielding militiamen.

Same Sky, a nonprofit artisan collective envisioned two years ago by Ms. LeFrak and incorporated and trademarked by Ms. Wachtler, today provides secure income from jewelry-making jobs for Rwandan rape victims, some of whom bore children as the result of sexual violence.

Until Same Sky was established in 2008, "The women had nothing except their survival," said Ms. Wachtler, a partner in the New York office of Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp.



Attorney Lauren Wachtler, left, and filmmaker/philanthropist Francine LeFrak started "Same Sky," a nonprofit venture that supports Rwandan women who were raped during the 1994 civil war and genocide in their country by teaching them to make jewelry which is marketed in the West.



Photos: NYLJ/Rick Kopstein, Same Sky

In the months prior to creating Same Sky, Ms. LeFrak shelved "One Hundred Days of Darkness," a years-long film project to document conflicts between the Hutu and Tutsi tribes in Rwanda leading to the slaughter of 800,000, according to a United Nations study. Instead, she focused on the sorrows of the forgotten, an estimated 250,000 women raped by marauding killers, among them women housed individually or in survivor camps in and around the capital city of Kigali.

"It's a bigger story," said Ms. LeFrak, of "women left behind, thin and sick and with no support, of women empowering women."

Ms. LeFrak, whose production company won an Emmy Award for the film "Miss Rose White" and the Pulitzer Prize for the stage play "Crimes of the Heart," has long been involved in philanthropies through her family's real estate development firm, the LeFrak Organization. On first meeting the forgotten women in Kigali, her impulse was charity.

But beyond money, said Ms. LeFrak, "I had to give sustainable work."

Inspired by the philosophy of Muhammad Yunus, the Bangladeshi economist and winner of the Nobel Peace Prize for his work in microenterprise bank loans, Ms. LeFrak enlisted her friend, Ms. Wachtler, in the task of building a financial foundation for the Rwandan women. With input from the Women and Public Policy Program at Harvard Kennedy School, they developed Same Sky, whose workers produce a line of hand-made bracelets marketed in the West.

Ms. LeFrak credits Ms. Wachtler with "giving me tools and structure, the level I lacked." In addition to maintaining corporate records, Ms. Wachtler handles licensing agreements with Rwandan interests, including Same Sky's association with Gayaha Links, a company that employs HIV-positive women.

The name "Same Sky," said Ms. LeFrak, "just came to me in a flash. I wanted the idea of connection and inclusion. We all live under the same sky, and the same stars."

#### Trade Not Aid

The two New Yorkers hope to see their venture in Rwanda become what they term a "trade-not-aid" model replicated elsewhere in the world where women bear heaviest damage from wars and natural disasters. But the idea should be kept small-scale, wherever it may develop, they say.

"When we started talking about the finer points, it became very important that we didn't have the women making more than three or four bracelets a day," said Ms. Wachtler. "They simply can't work that much. We don't want to turn this into something where everyone's out for a big profit."

Gayaha Links maintains the shop in Kigali where Same Sky workers, about 75 women at any one time, are provided stipends for daily commuting and a free lunch. Same Sky workers are provided with individual bank accounts for direct, electronic deposit of wages.

The shop also serves a secondary function as a social center for the women, who are trained in bracelet making by Gayaha's supervising artisans.

Bracelets are marketed online, at [www.samesky.com](http://www.samesky.com) and sold at retail outlets in the United States, Europe and the Caribbean, as well as private sale events, such as one tonight at DKNY Madison Avenue, and December's special sale at the Sackler Center for Feminist Art, part of the Brooklyn Museum of Art. The result is "justice in the finest tradition of the New York bar," said David M. Crane, a professor at Syracuse University College of Law and from 2002 to 2005 chief prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, a U.N. war crimes tribunal.

Reached at his vacation home in the Great Smoky Mountains, Mr. Crane said in an interview, "Women and children bear the brutal price of internal armed conflict throughout the world. The Same Sky program is a tremendous symbiosis of nurturing, healing and providing a future. It's making a difference in facing down the beast of impunity."

Meanwhile, Ms. LeFrak has not entirely given up on the idea of filming a Rwanda-based documentary, this time about the women of Same Sky. She and Ms. Wachtler, whose practice area at Mitchell Silberg includes securities and insurance defense, promote the sale of Same Sky bracelets in New York.

"Every once in awhile I'll have an idea for marketing [Same Sky bracelets], and that's fun for me," said Ms. Wachtler. "It's a departure from being just the lawyer."

As counsel for Same Sky, she added, "It's not like I'm a lawyer trying to undo a deal. I'm a lawyer trying to build a dream."

@*Thomas Adcock is a freelance writer in New York.*

Stuff.co.nz

Wednesday, July 14, 2010

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/world/3917126/Hamill-to-see-Khmer-Rouge-henchman-sentenced>

## Hamill to see Khmer Rouge henchman sentenced



*SEEKING JUSTICE: Rob Hamill testifies the Extraordinary Chamber of the Courts of Cambodia in 2009.*

*AFP/Getty Images*

New Zealand rower Rob Hamill is going to Cambodia to be in court for the sentencing of the Khmer Rouge henchman who headed the prison where his brother Kerry was tortured and killed.

Kerry Hamill ended up at the S-21 or Tuol Sleng prison headed by Kaing Guek Eav, better known as Duch, when the yacht he and friends were sailing strayed into Cambodian waters on August 13 1978.

One crewman, Canadian Stuart Glass, was shot while Mr Hamill and Briton John Dewhirst were taken for interrogation and torture for two months before being killed.



Mr Hamill testified at the Extraordinary Chamber of the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) on July 26 last year - the 31st anniversary of his brother's abduction. The ECCC is a joint Cambodia-United Nations court and former New Zealand Governor-General Dame Silvia Cartwright is one of the judges.

"Nearly two million Cambodians were killed during the Khmer Rouge regime between 1975 and 1979," Mr Hamill said in a statement.

*Reuters*

*'DUCH': Kaing Guek Eav, the Khmer Rouge prison boss*

"I only hope that this verdict brings some sense of justice to those who have suffered so much and waited so long."

A documentary is being made about Mr Hamill's experience.

Led by Pol Pot, who died in 1998, the Khmer Rouge sought to set up a communist utopia. Up to two million people died from starvation, overwork, torture or execution during the 1975-1979 regime.

## The Salt Lake Tribune

Thursday, 8 July 2010

<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/home>

By Matthew D. LaPlante



*(Al Hartmann | The Salt Lake Tribune) 6/2/2010 Markus Zimmer, former clerk of the state court of Utah now spends much of his time overseas consulting with nations that are trying to build and improve their courts systems. He recently returned from a stint in Cambodia where he was helping with United Nations war crimes tribunals.*

Sath Prum was just a boy when the Khmer Rouge came to take away his father. But he was old enough to know that he would never see his dad again.

“I knew that they would execute him,” Prum said. “They tied him up and put a blindfold on him. I didn’t know where they were going to take him. I didn’t know how it would be done. I just knew that he would be killed.”

Prum’s sister, two brothers and a brother-in-law were also killed during Pol Pot’s four-year reign of terror in Cambodia, when about 1.7 million people died of hunger, disease and execution.

On July 26, Cambodians scattered across the world will gather around computers, television sets and radios to hear the verdict in the case of Kaing Guek Eav, better known as “Comrade Duch,” who oversaw a Khmer Rouge prison system in which thousands of Cambodians were tortured and executed between 1975 and 1979.

Three decades have passed, but Duch is the only Khmer Rouge leader who has been tried for crimes against humanity. Pol Pot died in 1998. The trials of four additional defendants are expected to begin later this year. But it is uncertain if the U.N.-backed Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia will indict many others — if anyone at all.

And that has left many Cambodians, like Prum, feeling as though the tribunal has failed to achieve anything resembling justice.

“It’s too late to save anyone,” said Prum, a 49-year-old assembly line worker who lives in West Valley City. “They cannot give me my father back.”

The handful of indicted leaders “are very old now,” Prum said. “They’re going to die soon anyway. So what is the point?”

Donor countries have poured more than \$100 million into the tribunal, but on the eve of the Duch verdict, Japan sent an emergency payment of \$2.26 million to keep the cash-strapped court solvent.

Prum doesn't think that's a good investment — particularly not given the small number of people the court has managed to indict. He believes the money could have been better spent in a nation that continues to suffer from the economic legacy of decades of war and political strife.

Markus Zimmer, who recently returned home to Utah after an assignment as a judicial systems consultant to the Cambodian court, understands the criticism. Zimmer noted that Duch was a cooperative and contrite defendant. The next trial will likely be more complicated, with the defendants mounting “vigorous defenses with international defense teams.”

Those cases could take years to complete.

“There's kind of a race going on,” he said. “They're trying to get these cases processed before people die or before they become mentally incompetent.”

But Zimmer, who has served as an advisor in 27 nations, also sees promise in tribunals like the one in Cambodia, which have the potential to leave the legacy of a better functioning justice system. After all, he said, a nation that can handle the complexities of decades-old war crimes cases should be better situated, in the future, for simpler criminal prosecutions.

What the courts can't do is promise even justice for every offender and every victim. They also set a standard that some believe is unsustainable for nations with few legal resources and little experience. The justice provided in U.N.-backed tribunals “is a standard of justice that would be justice in a really good world,” said University of Utah philosophy professor Leslie Francis, who lectures on the intersection of international law and ethics. “But that's not the world we live in.”

“That's not to say you should abandon due process and other types of guarantees,” Francis said, “but one of the things that needs to be thought about is how to institution build. If you don't ever punish anybody, how do you build institutions of justice that work?”

She questioned whether building courts capable of handling “big fish” is the best way of creating institutions of justice that work for everyone else.

Among other failings, war crimes courts don't generally address the individual perpetrators of war crimes — the soldiers who actually arrested and executed Phum's father, for instance.

Utah lawyer David Schwendiman, the former head of the Special Department of War Crimes for the Prosecutor's Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina, lamented the impossibility of achieving a standard of justice that satisfies everyone touched by crimes of war.

“Ask someone what justice is and you will get as many definitions as there are people,” he said.

During his time in Bosnia, Schwendiman helped develop an elaborate system to prioritize crimes for prosecution. “Our goal was to do as much as possible with the amount of time we were given and the amount of resources we had available,” he said.

The system rated the level of the atrocity, the number of victims, status of the perpetrator, geography of the event and time span in which the crime occurred.

Even still, he said, it was a largely subjective exercise and not everyone agreed with the results.

## The Hague Justice Portal

Monday, 12 July 2010

### **ICC: No stay of proceedings in Katanga Trial 12 Jul 2010**

The International Criminal Court has dismissed a Defence motion to order a stay of proceedings in the trial of Germain Katanga.

On 12 July 2010, the Appeals Chamber at the International Criminal Court (ICC) upheld a Trial Chamber decision to dismiss a Defence motion to order a stay of proceedings in the trial of Germain Katanga.

In June 2009, Katanga filed a motion requesting a declaration for unlawful detention and a stay of the proceedings against him for his alleged unlawful arrest and detention in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) prior to his surrender to the ICC. In November 2009 the Trial Chamber dismissed the motion to stay proceedings on procedural grounds. The Appeals Chamber found no legal error in the Trial Chamber's decision to dismiss the motion, finding that the decision did not infringe Katanga's right to a fair hearing and that he had been given adequate notice and opportunity to raise the issue of his alleged unlawful pre-surrender arrest and detention.

Judges Kourula and Trendafilova issued a dissenting opinion. The judges considered that the Trial Chamber erred when it decided that the Defence motion was inadmissible for having been filed at too advanced a stage in the proceedings.

On 8 July 2010, in the other case relating to the situation in the DRC, the ICC ordered a stay of proceedings in the case of Thomas Lubanga due to fair trial concerns.



## Nairobi Star (Nairobi)

Tuesday, 13 July 2010

### **Kenya: ICC Targets Four MPs Over Poll Violence**

Mathews Ndanyi

Nairobi — THE International Criminal Court investigators have zeroed in on two Cabinet ministers, one former and one sitting MP as their main targets for prosecution, the Star has established.

The investigators have recorded statements from witnesses whose testimony is considered crucial to indict the four people.

The detectives also have credible evidence about a senior police officer who reportedly issued shoot-to-kill orders to his juniors during the post-election violence.

One of the key witnesses whose testimony has been corroborated by others is being relocated to Europe where he will be held in a safe-house until he is summoned to appear before the tribunal.

"He has already been issued with a passport and other necessary documents in readiness for him to be taken out. His family of three will follow him to the secret location," said very close family sources who are aware of the relocation plan.

At least 30 people who witnessed first-hand the mayhem or were aware of the planning and execution of the violence have been interrogated. Most of them relocated from their homes a month ago when they started receiving threats soon after being questioned by the ICC investigators.

"I am still in hiding because I was really scared. The four foreigners who interrogated me said they were from the ICC and promised to get in touch which they have yet to do," one of the witnesses said from a safe house in Nairobi.

The ICC Chief Prosecutor Luis Moreno Ocampo promised to complete his investigations by October. He is expected to present the evidence to the pre-trial chamber after this and request the court to issue warrants of arrests for the key suspects.

In March this year and following a request for additional information, Ocampo named 20 people whom he said held the most responsibility for the violence which swept through many parts of the country following the December 2007 General Election.

Ocampo said that while the list he had received from Chief Mediator Kofi Annan contained nearly 20 names, he was unlikely to prosecute all of them. He said his intention was to prosecute five or six people who had the greatest responsibility and use them to set an example for the future.

In November last year, Ocampo sought authorisation from the ICC pre-trial chamber to open an investigation into the violence in which more than 1,000 people were killed and over 300,000 forced to leave their homes.

At the time, Ocampo indicated that the key suspects were senior leaders from both PNU and ODM and were guided by political motive to retain or gain power.

"They utilised their personal, government, business and tribal network to commit the crimes," Ocampo said.

Since March, teams of investigators have been in the country collecting information. Their main areas of focus are towns in Rift Valley which bore the brunt of the violence and where most of the deaths and displacement occurred.

The teams have focused their probe on three areas which include the Kiambaa KAG Church incident in Eldoret in which at least 38 women and children were locked in a church before it was set ablaze; the revenge killings in Naivasha following the church attack and the indiscriminate shooting of rioting civilians by the police in Eldoret, Kisumu and Nairobi.

Apart from the witnesses who appeared before the Justice Philip Waki-chaired commission, the ICC teams have recorded statements from fresh witnesses who may not have been able to testify before Waki because of certain constraints.

Multiple sources within civil society groups who have been working with the ICC said the investigating teams had been able to cover a lot of ground as many of the political leadership was engaged in the ongoing referendum campaigns.

And in anticipation of the arrests of the four suspects before the end of the year, the National Commission on Integration and Cohesion has already carried out an assessment survey of what the situation could be like if this happened. Commission chairman Mzalendo Kibunjia who visited Rift Valley a week ago said they were putting in place mechanisms for mitigation against any unrest or uncertainty should the ICC decision cause instability in the country.

"We are looking at the possible reactions by the people in the eventuality of such a decision by the ICC. We are considering how communities will perceive the arrests. Will they look at the arrests as if the ICC will be targeting the individuals or communities?" said Kibunjia.

Meanwhile, the ICC last night issued a second warrant against Sudanese President Omar Hassan Al Bashir.

The ICC pre-trial chamber considers that there are reasonable grounds to believe him responsible for three counts of genocide committed against the Fur, Masalit and Zaghawa ethnic groups.

This second arrest warrant does not replace or revoke the first warrant of arrest issued against Al Bashir on March 4, 2009, which still remains in effect. The previous arrest warrant was issued as the ICC believed that Al Bashir was criminally responsible for five counts of crimes against humanity and two counts for war crimes.

Following the issuance of the second arrest warrant, the ICC registrar is expected to issue a supplementary request for co-operation in the arrest and surrender of Al Bashir from competent Sudanese authorities, to all States Parties to the Rome Statute, and to all the United Nations Security Council members that are not States Parties to the Statute.

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### **FBI: US No Longer Safe Haven for Rights Violators**

From Tokunbo Adedaja

Henceforth, United States would no longer be a safe haven for violators of human rights, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has said.

FBI, an agency of the US Department of Justice, which serves as both federal criminal investigative body and internal intelligence agency, said domestic prosecution of serious human rights violations committed abroad is a critical way to ensure that US does not serve as a safe haven to those who commit these crimes.

It also added that "even when domestic prosecutions aren't possible, there are other avenues to pursue—such as extraditing a criminal subject to stand trial in another country, offering US assistance to an international tribunal, or deporting a suspect."

The agency cited the case of Roy Belfast, Jr., former Liberian President Chairles Taylor's son, who was brought to justice for his human rights crimes in a federal court in Miami, where he was sentenced to 97 years in prison.

"As the commander of a paramilitary security force in the West African nation of Liberia, he led a reign of terror from 1999 to 2003. Along with his associates, he tortured a series of victims in the most horrific ways: burning them with cigarettes, scalding water, candle wax, and an iron...severely beating them with firearms...cutting and stabbing them...and shocking them with an electric device", the FBI said in a statement yesterday.

Tracing the genesis of his travails, FBI said, "Because US law says that if human rights violators are US nationals, commit offences against US citizens, or are present in this country, they can be charged here. In Taylor's case, he was born in America, and he was arrested in 2006 while trying to enter the country illegally."

In a footnote, the agency also said: "The apple apparently didn't fall far from the tree—his father is former Liberian dictator Charles Taylor, currently standing trial for human rights crimes in an international court at The Hague."

Noting that since 1988, Congress had enacted laws that have expanded FBI's authority over human rights violations—genocide, torture, war crimes, and the recruitment or use of child soldiers - it said its primary focus today is to identify violators in the US and bring them to justice for crimes committed within or outside US; and investigate individuals for both specific human rights violations, like in Chuckie Taylor's case and more traditional crimes, like the sexual assault of a 14-year-old girl in Iraq and the murder of both the girl and her family, which led to the conviction of an American soldier.

The intelligence agency said with additional funding from Congress, it has expanded efforts in the area of human rights enforcement, using four key strategies. These include to continue to investigate priority human rights cases with domestic and international law enforcement partners; training US personnel and those of foreign counterparts to ensure that human rights investigations are conducted with the rule of law principles; collecting domestic and international intelligence on human rights violators and violations through field offices, legal attaché offices overseas, network of sources inside and outside US, and its relationships with domestic and international law enforcement partners; and in response to requests from international and foreign investigative bodies, providing training and other assistance to their personnel.