

**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:

Monday, 5 July 2010

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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Concord Times
Monday, 5 July 2010

British Model summoned in Taylor Trial

LOCAL NEWS

Naomi Campbell, the British supermodel, has been ordered to appear at the war crimes trial of Charles Taylor, the former Liberian president, to testify about a diamond he is alleged to have given her.

The Special Court for Sierra Leone, based in The Hague, issued the subpoena on Thursday forcing Campbell to testify after she avoided prosecutors for a year.

The court has warned she could be jailed for up to seven years and be fined \$510 if she does not appear on July 29, or fails to "show good cause" for not appearing.

Prosecutors in the trial want her to say whether Taylor gave her a rough, or uncut, diamond as a gift during a celebrity-packed 1997 reception in South Africa hosted by Nelson Mandela, the then South African president.

They have said the model can provide material evidence to support their contention that Taylor lied when he testified that he never possessed rough diamonds.

Prosecutors have complained to the judges that they had tried unsuccessfully to contact Campbell several times since June 2009, when they received information that Taylor had given her the diamond.

"The prosecution has shown that there is at least a good chance that the information to be provided by Ms Campbell would be of material assistance to its case," the court said in a ruling.

It cited Campbell's public statements that she "does not want to be involved in the case".

US actress Mia Farrow and Carole White, Campbell's former agent, have agreed to testify in the same trial.

Prosecutors say White heard Taylor say he was going to give Campbell some diamonds and was there when Campbell received them, while Farrow attended the reception where Campbell met Taylor and was told by Campbell about the gift the next morning.

Prosecutors accuse Taylor of dealing in so-called "blood diamonds", gem stones mined in a war or conflict zone, the proceeds of which are used to finance an insurgency.

Taylor denies 11 charges of instigating murder, rape, mutilation, sexual slavery and conscription of child soldiers during the wars in Liberia and Sierra Leone.

He is accused of supporting rebels in Sierra Leone's 1991-2002 civil war, which claimed the lives of an estimated 500,000 victims.

In return for helping the rebels, prosecutors say Taylor plundered Sierra Leone of its timber and mineral wealth, including gems that became known as "blood diamonds".

The trial is being held in The Hague for fear of renewed violence if the hearings were conducted in Sierra Leone.

After several false starts, the trial began in earnest in January 2008. Taylor's own testimony took seven months.

NAOMI CAMPBELL FACES 7-YEAR JAIL TERM

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Supermodel summoned in Taylor trial July 29

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Diamondintelligence.com

Monday, 5 July 2010

Naomi Campbell ordered to testify against Charles Taylor at UN-backed court

Judges at the United Nations-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) in Sierra Leone have ordered British supermodel Naomi Campbell to give evidence later this month in the ongoing trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor about allegedly receiving a blood diamond from him.

A subpoena was issued for Campbell to appear at the end of this month in The Hague, where the ongoing trial of Mr. Taylor is taking place, reports the UN News Service.

Taylor faces 11 charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity in his role of fueling the extended civil war in Sierra Leone while he served as president of neighboring Liberia.

Three judges of the SCSL's trial chamber, in announcing the subpoena, said they were responding to a request from prosecutors for Campbell to testify, which may help tie the former warlord to using rough diamonds for personal enrichment and for arms purchases for the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels in Sierra Leone.

The prosecution reportedly wants to ask Campbell about allegations that she was given rough diamonds as a gift from Taylor while both attended a private dinner at the home of the former South African president Nelson Mandela in 1997. Campbell previously declined to voluntarily testify in the trial and has consistently declined to publicly talk about the case, telling prosecutors that she was concerned for her safety, sources say.

Taylor has pleaded not guilty to the multiple charges against him, which include pillage, slavery for forced marriage purposes, collective punishment and the recruitment and use of child soldiers. The charges relate to his alleged support for two rebel groups in Sierra Leone - the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council and the Revolutionary United Front.

The Prosecution opened their case against Taylor in June 2007 but Taylor boycotted the proceedings and dismissed his legal team. The trial was adjourned until new counsel could be assigned.

The Prosecution opened witness testimony in January 2008 and formally closed their case in February 2009 after having presented testimony from 91 witnesses. The Defense opened their case in July 2009. Sources say that the Prosecution has asked the court to allow it to reopen its case to present witnesses.


United Nations **Nations Unies**

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary
1 July 2010

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

UN News in Liberia

UNMIL Accused of Violations, But...

[The Monitor]

- The United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) has been accused of carrying out several violations and going with impunity.
- A source of the Bureau of Maritime Affairs said despite the Status of Forces Agreement signed between the Liberian government and UNMIL in 2007, the peacekeepers have been involved into several wilful violations and abuses.
- At the same time, international maritime experts say, the failure by UNMIL to declare the consignment of arms and ammunition onboard the vessel is tantamount to the violation of international maritime laws.
- But UNMIL has vehemently rejected the claim.
- UNMIL Chief of Public Information George Somerwill said the ship was loaded with the full acquiescence of the United Nations Movement Control based in New York.
- Mr. Somerwill clarified that the Karachi-bound MV Agean Glory ship which left Monrovia 12 May 2010 was heading for three countries, Bangladesh, India and Pakistan to deliver equipment and vehicles.
- The UNMIL Public Information boss said the equipment and vehicles were expected to be delivered in the three countries as a result of the earlier drawdown plan by UNMIL troops.
- He said it was agreed as part of the UN peacekeeping operation procedure that those equipment and vehicle be returned to those countries and governments.

Local News on Liberian issues

President Sirleaf Unveils Government Next Major Priority - After US\$4.9 Debt Cancellation

[The Informer]

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf says her administration's next challenge following Tuesday's historic debt cancellation by the World Bank and the IMF remains the restoration of infrastructure particularly roads.
- "Right now we are very concerned about our primary roads...We have to try to pave them...that's our major challenge now as a government," President declared Wednesday during a live phone-in talk show broadcast on major radio stations in Monrovia, including UNMIL Radio which covers the country.
- President Sirleaf said should the government take any loan (now or later) it would fully use it for infrastructure development of which the country and people are in dire need.
- Making special emphasis on road, the Liberian leader said her administration was very concerned about major feeder roads including the Gbarnga - Voinjama and the Fish Town - Harper routes.

President Sirleaf Receives Nimba Land Dispute Report

[The Analyst, Daily Observer]

- The Musa Bility Commission has submitted its report to President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf with a call that it serves as the beginning of the solution to the Nimba land dispute.
- Submitting the report, Mr. Bility said the commission refused to look for rights and wrongs but to reconcile those involved in the land dispute.
- Mr. Bility said although the report may not satisfy everyone, he asked that it serves as the beginning of solution to the long running land quarrel in Nimba County.
- He said a committee has already been set up to begin compensating people who are illegally occupying land in the county.

- Receiving the report, President Sirleaf thanked members of the commission but said she would read the report before commenting further.
- President Sirleaf however appealed to those involved in the Nimba land dispute to accept the findings and cooperate so as to make the county peaceful.

US Embassy Congratulates Liberia's HIPC Achievement

[The News, Heritage, The Analyst, Daily Observer, New Democrat, Front Page Africa, The Informer]

- The US Embassy near Monrovia has issued a statement congratulating the Liberian government for reaching the HIPC Completion Point.
- The statement said the achievement demonstrates the Liberian government's commitment to responsible management of public resources.
- It said the accomplishment also shows government's accountability of how Liberian's tax dollars are spent.
- According to the release, over the last two years, the Finance Ministry streamlined the budget process and revenue collection.
- The American Embassy however advised the government to take a cautious approach to debt management when borrowing to fund infrastructure projects.
- It called on all Liberians to ensure that their government maintains the positive momentum of reforms that encourages transparency and responsible spending.

Global Witness Welcomes Liberian Debt Relief, But Wants HIPC Audits Implemented

[Heritage, The News, The New republic, The Analyst, Front Page Africa, The Informer]

- The international rights group, Global Witness says it welcomes decision on Liberian debt relief, but warns that better financial controls are needed to prevent corruption.
- In a press release, Global Witness reiterates that Tuesday's decision by the World Bank to grant debt relief to Liberia under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative (HIPC) is welcomed, but points out that more need to be done to prevent corruption in post-conflict Liberia.
- Against this backdrop, the campaign group calls on the Liberian government to promote better financial governance by implementing the recommendations of audits carried out as part of the HIPC process.
- The rights group recalls that five key ministries were audited by the General Auditing Commission as a requirement under HIPC, including the Ministry of Lands, Mines and Energy, stressing reforms in the latter are particularly important to ensure accountability and transparency in the mining sector.

Swedish Delegation Arrives in Liberia

[Front Page Africa]

- A five-man delegation from the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) is in the country to monitor ongoing road projects in Bong and Lofa Counties.
- The feeder road projects which started in October 2009 are jointly implemented by SIDA and government through the Public Works Ministry.
- According to a Public Works Ministry release, the projects target specific areas in the two counties.
- SIDA and government started the 16 kilometres road rehabilitation between Salayea and Makesu which is almost completed.
- The release said other roads include the 24.5 kilometres from Voinjama to Barkedu and the Tinsue road in Lofa County.
- Public Works Minister Samuel Woods urged the visiting partners to extend their institutional capacity building to the ministry.
- For his part, the head of the delegation, Mr. Anders Kreitz promised to look into the additional capacity building needs requested by the Public Works Ministry.

Taylor's "Blood Diamond" Case Opens Soon, Supermodel Ordered to Testify

[The Monitor, Heritage, Daily Observer, Front Page Africa, The Inquirer]

- British supermodel Naomi Campbell has lost the fight against a potential subpoena to testify in former Liberian president Charles Taylor's war crimes trial in The Netherlands.
- The war crimes court has ruled that the supermodel can be called to testify in a case in which Taylor had also sought to prevent prosecutors' bid to reopen the "blood diamond" case against him.
- Prosecutors for the UN-backed court for Sierra Leone have filed a motion calling for the Brit to testify about uncut diamonds Taylor allegedly gave her as a gift in a dinner hosted in South Africa by former president Nelson Mandela in 1997.

- Campbell who feared for her safety if she appeared had insisted that she won't have much to give prosecutors if they insisted on calling her as a witness, saying Taylor was just a guest at the party she attended.
- Prosecutors said she was given a "blood diamond" by Mr. Taylor in 1997 at Nelson Mandela's house in South Africa.

Police Brainstorm on Human Resource Development Today

[The Monitor, Heritage]

- A three-day human resource development workshop organized by the Liberia National Police (LNP) gets underway today, Thursday in Monrovia.
- According to an LNP release, the workshop, which brings together 50 participants mostly police officers, will include regional, zones and depots commanders as well as administrative staff of the LNP.
- The workshop is geared toward identifying the gaps and confronting the human resource challenges faced by the police.

Logging Halted in River Cess - As Elephants Roam

[Daily Observer]

- Logging activities in River Cess County have been halted by threats of elephant attacks on facilities belonging to logging companies.
- According to the County Inspector Sims Gantor, the elephant threat was due to the failure of logging companies to implement social agreement signed between citizens of the town and the companies.
- Mr. Gantor said some elders in Yappa Central River Cess, expressed dissatisfaction over the refusal of logging companies to implement the social contract agreement that was signed prior to logging operations in the county.
- He said one elephant started the violent demonstration against the logging companies, but now there are about eight elephants that are carrying out the demonstration there.

Norway Approves US\$29 Million for Liberia's Recovery Programme

[The Inquirer]

- The Counsellor of the Royal Norwegian Embassy based in Monrovia, Mr. Thorvald Boye says his government has approved US\$29 million for Liberia's recovery process.
- Mr. Boye said US\$20 million has already been approved for the rehabilitation of the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC) in a bid to restore electricity to Monrovia and its environs in five years time.
- He said a Canadian firm, MANITOBA Hydro is gearing up to send five expatriates to commence the LEC rehabilitation work.

Six Bangladeshi Out on L\$60,000 Bond

[New Democrat]

- Six Bangladeshis under indictment by the State for human smuggling and human trafficking have been released on a bond of LD\$60,000 at Criminal Court 'D' pending trial.
- The men were indicted in May this year for violating Section 10.2 of the human smuggling and trafficking law of Liberia.
- Defense lawyers, David W. Woah and Abraham B. Sillah, Sr. filed a criminal appearance bond at Criminal Court 'D' to seek release of their clients pending assignment of the case.
- The indicted Bangladeshis released on bail are: Zahir Babor, M. A. Al, Mamun Asmot Dalal, Amit K. Sas Amul, Kalam Azad and Rayham Mozumber.

L\$348,000 Worth of Marijuana Burnt in Nimba

[Daily Observer]

- The Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) has burned 158 kilograms of marijuana in Nimba County.
- Nimba County DEA Director Col. Julius Kanuba said the drug which was arrested at various check points is valued at LD\$348,000.
- He said in order to curtail the sale and trafficking of harmful drugs in the country it will require the collaboration of the public by informing the DEA of hideouts of people possessing illegal drugs.

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

President Sirleaf Receives Nimba Land Dispute Report

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

President Sirleaf Launches LMI's Multi-media Tech

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has launched the Liberia Media Initiative (LMI) expressing apology for the absence of legislators at the programme.
- President Sirleaf who served as the key launcher, said the lawmakers were absent because of what she called pressing national engagements.
- The Liberian leader said government was willing to support any initiative that would inform the citizenry of the progress and challenges of the country.
- Speaking earlier, LMI Executive Director John Kollie said the priority of the institution is to promote democracy.
- During the programme, President Sirleaf cut the ribbon to Studio Democracy a new initiative by the LMI.

Lawmaker still wants to be President

- Presidential hopeful, Bong County Senator Franklin Siakor says discussions have begun in Monrovia with key political actors to win the 2011 Presidential election.
- Senator Siakor said he has already met with the political leader of the Liberty Party, Cllr. Charles Brumskine and Professor Dew Mayson of the Democratic Alliance to find a common ground.
- The Bong County lawmaker said he is determined to be Liberia's next president and believes the God that brought him this far will not let him down.
- Senator Siakor promised he will not be like Jonah in the Bible who was sent on a mission but betrayed the confidence reposed in him.
- He spoke to newsmen following an interactive discussion with students of the AME University on Camp Johnson Road in Monrovia.

Nimba Lawmaker Pleased with 'Clearance' for TRC Indictees

- Nimba County Senator and presidential aspirant Prince Johnson has welcomed clarification by the national Elections Commission (NEC) that Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) indictees are not ban from contesting in 2011.
- Senator Johnson said he was very pleased by the clarification from NEC Chairman James Fromayan.
- A June 23 release quoted NEC as saying there is no legal instrument to ban Liberians indicted by the TRC report from taking part in the 2011 elections.
- However, in his reaction, Senator Johnson who is listed as one of the notorious perpetrators of the war in the TRC report said he would not rejoice by the clarification by NEC.
- Meanwhile, Senator Johnson has praised the International Centre for Transitional Justice for fairly scrutinizing the TRC report.
- In his words, the group observed that the TRC report lacks evidence and there was a need for the accused to be given due process in line with the law.

US Embassy Congratulates Liberia's HIPC Achievement

EU Contributes Over US\$8 Million to Liberian Budget

- The European Union has provided more than US\$8 million to the Liberian government as budget support for fiscal year 2009/2010.
- According to a Finance Ministry release, the money was credited to the Liberian government's account on 28 June 2010.
- It said this also means an increase in the current budget that is before the National Legislature.

Swedish Delegation Arrives in Liberia

E-Jee Sirleaf Team Ends Production of Witnesses

- The defense has ended the production of witnesses in the E-Jee Sirleaf economic sabotage case.
- Defense counsels did so with the production of a call log from the Lone Star Communications Corporation.
- The document is believed to contain calls from Mr. Charles Sirleaf to the Passawe brothers and calls from them to Mr. Sirleaf.
- Mars Jusu and Richard Passawe, as well as Gbotee Peabody are on trial for dubiously planning the transfer of over US\$1 million.
- The money was transferred from the Central Bank of Liberia to EcoBank in 2009.
- But the men claimed the entire scheme was designed by Mr. Charles Sirleaf, son of President of Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

Harper Shipwreck Survival Explains Ordeal

- One of the survivors on the MV Havea which capsized off the shores of Harper in Maryland County has given startling revelations on what transpired at sea.
- Prince Toe, chief security on the MV Havea said the vessel departed the Free Port under normal conditions until it encountered rough seas near Sinoe.
- Prince said the vessel managed to overcome the turbulent waves near Sinoe County until the ship entered the Port of Harper where it threw anchor.
- He said the sea later turned rough with water entering the vessel from everywhere.
- According to Toe, the chaotic situation on the vessel forced the captain to dispose of the mattresses on board to be use as lifesaving objects.

Suspended Police Commandant Warns

- Suspended Police Training Commandant James Hallowanger has warned against undermining constituted authorities in the building of the new Liberia.
- Mr. Hallowanger said Liberia will be a success story for the whole of Africa if Liberians put aside gossips and petit jealousy that could further divide the country.
- The suspended police commandant believes Liberia remains the common national denominator and all must work together to achieve the desired goal.
- Mr. Hallowanger observed certain public officials were in the habit of lying on their colleagues through the office of the president to dispossess them of their jobs.
- The suspended police boss spoke to newsmen when he served as keynote speaker at the Grace Baptist Elementary and Junior High school in Barnesville, Montserrado County Sunday.

International Clip on Liberia

U.N. Official: Miscues Led to Kolkata Ship Debacle **blogs.wsj.com**

A ship carrying 500 tons of weapons, much of which was destined for Pakistan, ended up in Indian waters off the coast of Kolkata as a result of "inadequate communication" by the ship's captain and United Nations authorities with the Indian government, according to a U.N. official. The vessel, the Aegean Glory, was transporting military cargo used in a U.N. peacekeeping mission in Liberia back to the countries that sent it, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal. The U.N. hired a private contractor, France's Daher Group, to carry the materials, which included rocket launchers, anti-aircraft guns, explosives and military vehicles. But India detained the ship last week because it wasn't aware it was a peacekeeping vessel and wasn't given a manifesto documenting the cargo that was headed to Pakistan. The U.N. official said the incident was partly the fault of the ship's captain, who didn't follow the original plan for unloading goods in the countries. "A unilateral decision to alter the route was taken without consultation of the U.N. – thus arriving in Bangladesh first and then proceeding to India (Kolkata). This resulted in the Pakistani cargo still being on board of the ship upon arrival in India (contrary to the original plan)," the official said.

MSF hands over Liberian hospitals **www.news24.com**

Medical charity Medecins Sans Frontiers on Wednesday handed over control of its last two hospitals in Liberia to the health ministry, which still faces key challenges after a brutal civil war. "Liberia was devastated by 14 years of brutal civil war, with its health system in ruins by its end," Liberia's head of mission for MSF Dhammika Perera, said in a statement, announcing the handover. "We remain in the country, but after two decades, it is an important milestone for us and symbolic of how far Liberia has come in providing healthcare to its people again," Perera said. MSF has been slowly handing over its emergency projects and hospitals since the war ended seven years ago and is now stepping away from its two free hospitals in the capital, Benson Hospital and Island Hospital, which treat more than 20,000 women and children a year. Liberia has only 100 doctors for a population of 3.6 million, and just over 250 children's hospital beds in the capital Monrovia, which is home to more than one million. Medical care is often out of reach for people living in rural areas due to lack of roads and transport and the under-five mortality rate is 235 per 1,000 births, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO).

International Clips on West Africa

Guinea

ECOWAS Urges Calm as Vote Counting in Guinea is Extended **www1.voanews.com**

The political director of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has called for calm following heightened tensions in Guinea after the electoral commission extended the deadline to announce provisional results of the 27th June elections. Abdel Fatau-Musah said the regional body has confidence in the integrity of the chairman and the leadership of Guinea's Independent Electoral Commission (CENI). "What is compounding the issue is that all the major candidates, who feel that they must be the ones leading, are becoming jittery and their supporters are jittery. Their leaders are also insinuating that the delay being caused is an excuse to defraud the electoral process. So, there is a lot of tension in the streets," he said. Under Guinea's constitution, the electoral body was required to announce provisional results of last Sunday's election within 72 hours, which expired late Wednesday.

Concerns Raised About Irregularities in Guinea's Presidential Poll
www1.voanews.com

Candidates, civil society leaders and some observers in Guinea have voiced concern about irregularities in Sunday's presidential poll. A spokesman for the electoral commission reassured Guineans Tuesday of the commission's commitment to transparency and said "no results would be manipulated." Candidates and observers, however, have raised concerns that logistical challenges and procedural flaws on Election Day could have undermined what many hoped would be Guinea's first free and fair presidential election since independence in 1958. An official from the party of Cellou Dallein Diallo, the frontrunner among the 24 presidential hopefuls, said Tuesday that certain delays in publishing results and other irregularities in Conakry could call into question the credibility of the vote. Guinea's National Council of Civil Society Organizations said it noted attempts at voter fraud in several polling stations, including voters trying to vote multiple times or in multiple polling stations, as well as people trying to vote with voter cards that were not their own or had been falsified. Council spokesman Bori Diallo said, too, that technical and organizational shortages were noticed, including a misunderstanding of voting procedures and how to use voting material, as well as the late openings of polling stations due to procedural misunderstandings or delays in receiving voting materials.

OIC boss commends peaceful polls in Guinea
www.apanews.net

The Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, Professor Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu has commended the people of Guinea for the maturity and sense of responsibility displayed during the 27 June presidential election. In a statement copied to APA Wednesday, Prof. Ihsanoglu described the event as historic, expressing satisfaction with the enthusiasm of the voters who exercised their civic responsibility in an orderly and peaceful atmosphere. The OIC boss therefore appealed to all stakeholders to accept and respect the outcome of this democratic contest. He finally appealed to the OIC member states to continue to extend their assistance to Guinea especially to the incoming democratically elected government in order to improve the economic condition of its people and to strengthen national unity. Guineans voted Sunday to choose their first truly democratically elected president since Guinea gained independence in 1958.

The Citizen

Saturday, 3 July 2010

Court sentences businessman to 25- years-term over genocide

By The Citizen Correspondent, Arusha

The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) Wednesday sentenced the 75-year old former Rwandan businessman, Mr Yusuf Munyakazi to 25 years imprisonment after being found guilty of genocide and crimes against humanity (extermination).

Handing down the verdict, Cameroonian Judge Florence Rita Arrey said Mr Munyakazi, was liable for ‘committing’ killings of approximately 5,000 Tutsis who took refuge at Shangi Parish, and another group of Tutsis resided at Mibilizi Church in Cyangugu District, South West Rwanda on April 29 and 30, 1994.

“The trial chamber has found that Mr Munyakazi was the leader of these attacks, and that he arrived with two vehicles carrying group of Interahamwe from outside the Shangi and Mibilizi areas,” Judge Arrey affirmed.

She further stated: “The trial chamber has, therefore concluded beyond reasonable doubts that Mr Munyakazi facilitated the transportation of Bugarama Interahamwe to the two crimes sites.” Mr Munyakazi is a native of Bugarama Commune in Cyangugu District.

“The Chamber sentences Mr Munyakazi to a single sentence of 25 years of imprisonment,” concluded Judge Arrey.

However, the court did not find Mr Munyakazi guilty of the attacks, which took place at Nyamasheke Parish in Kagano Commune, because the prosecution had failed to prove his involvement beyond reasonable doubts.

Tanzanian lead defence Counsel for Mr Munyakazi, Prof Jwani Mwaikusa told Hirondele News Agency immediately after the verdict that he would appeal against the judgment.

The Ugandan senior prosecution Counsel, Mr Richard Karegyesa said he was happy with the conviction, but thought it was light considering the nature of offences.

“I am not in a position to say whether we will appeal or not until we get a written judgment,” Mr Karegyesa said.

Mr Munyakazi, the father of 13 children with two wives, was arrested in May 2004 in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) where he lived as an Imam under the name of Mzee Mandevu (literally meaning ‘the bearded old man’). His trial started on April 22, 2009.

Agence France Presse

Sunday, 4 July 2010

Rwanda genocide suspect transferred to UN tribunal

ARUSHA, Tanzania — Jean-Bosco Uwinkindi, the Rwandan genocide suspect arrested on Wednesday in Uganda, has been transferred to the UN tribunal in Arusha, Tanzania, an official said on Sunday.

"He arrived on Friday late in the day. He will appear before a judge very shortly," International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda spokesman Roland Amoussouga told AFP.

Uwinkindi, born in 1951, is a pentecostal pastor.

In 2001 he was indicted by the UN-backed ICTR for genocide, conspiracy to commit genocide and extermination as a crime against humanity.

Until his arrest in western Uganda on Wednesday, Uwinkindi was among 11 suspects still at large and wanted by the ICTR, based in Tanzania's northern town of Arusha.

The US State Department had offered a reward of 5 million dollars for information leading to his arrest.

The charge sheet says Uwinkindi was based at the pentecostal church in Kayenzi in Kanzenze commune east of the capital Kigali at the time of the genocide, from April to July 1994.

He is accused of having brought militia to kill Tutsis in Kanzenze and of sheltering Tutsi women and children in his church then ordering for them to be killed.

Japan Today

Saturday, 3 July 2010

<http://www.japantoday.com>

Japan injects \$2.25 mil for budget shortfall of Khmer Rouge trial

The Japanese government on Friday injected an additional \$2.25 million to cover costs of the ongoing U.N.-backed Cambodian war crimes court. The latest injection was made at the request of Cambodia, which said 294 local staffers of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia have not been paid for two and a half months.

Japanese Ambassador to Cambodia Masafumi Kuroki said the contribution will cover the shortfall of the national component of the ECCC operational costs from mid-April to September 2010. Kuroki said the Japanese government attaches importance to the Khmer Rouge tribunal for the main purposes of “preventing the recurrence of atrocities committed during the Khmer Rouge regime, delivering justice to the victims and strengthening the rule of law in Cambodia.”

The Express Tribune

Sunday, 4 July 2010

<http://tribune.com>

Crime and punishment

By Tayyab Siddiqui



*The writer is a former ambassador
(tayyab.siddiqui@tribune.com.pk)*

The reverberations of Israel's act of piracy and brutality against the Freedom Flotilla on May 31st remain in the air. Waves of condemnation continue across the globe and Israel has shown no signs of remorse. There is an increasing outcry that Israel should not be let off. The UN Security Council's condemnation was followed by one at the G8 Summit. The Turkish prime minister has made a clarion call to the international community: "It is

time to say 'enough'. Israel should be punished for its unacceptable behaviour."

International NGOs, such as Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and UN agencies, are in agreement that Israel has committed war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide in their treatment of Palestinians. These voices are gaining momentum, with the demands that those accused of such inhuman policies and behaviour must stand trial and be punished. The Nuremberg trials after World War II created precedence for international justice to come into play. They inspired international laws on such crimes. The Convention Against Torture was adopted in 1975 and the Convention Against War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity was signed in Rome in 1998. These conventions and increasing acts of war crimes in Yugoslavia and Rwanda led to the establishment of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in July 1998, endorsed by 112 nations.

These developments have encouraged an emergence of strong feelings that those responsible for such acts should be brought before the bar of law. In October 1998, General Augusto Pinochet, former dictator of Chile, was detained by Scotland Yard while admitted in a hospital in London. The arrest order was made at the request of a Spanish judge on a petition filed by a Chilean woman accusing him of crimes against humanity. After protracted negotiations, Pinochet was allowed to go back home. A London court in December last year issued warrants of arrest against a former foreign minister of Israel, Tzipi Livni, for her role in the killings of 1,400 Palestinians by the IDF in Gaza in January 2008. Livni cancelled her UK visit to escape arrest.

This issuance of an arrest warrant against an Israeli minister was not the first such instance. In September 2009, a British court was approached to have Ehud Barak, Israel's defence minister, arrested for war crimes. Barak was in the UK to address a Labour party meeting, but escaped arrest when he cut short the visit. The 1998 Criminal Justice Act gives British courts universal jurisdiction in cases of war crimes. This provision was invoked for arrest of Barak on behalf of 16 Palestinians, survivors of the Sabra-Shatila camps.

These instances have greatly disturbed Israeli leaders. Tel Aviv has asked the British government to "end this absurdity." The UK has promised a review and reform of the concept of universal jurisdiction. In recent years, courts in Norway and Sweden have also taken such initiatives but due to some legal lacunae, could not follow through. The Arab League and the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) have miserably failed over the years in playing an effective role on behalf of the besieged Palestinians. I suggest that the OIC, through its secretary-general, explore the possibility and options available for legal action in European courts, as done in the cases referred to above. The initiative, regardless of the outcome, would serve a notice on Israel that there is no longer any immunity or impunity for its inhuman policies. Let this be the starting point.

Voice of America

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War Crimes Suspect Spared Extradition by Australian Court

Phil Mercer



Photo: AP

Charles Zentai leaving the Perth Magistrates Court following proceedings to extradite to him to Hungary were delayed after he lodged an appeal, in Perth, Australia (Fie Photo - 22 Sept. 2006)

An Australian accused of war crimes during the Second World War has won an appeal against a decision to extradite him to Hungary. Australia's Federal Court has ruled that Charles Zentai, 88, should not be sent to Hungary to face allegations of war crimes because of his age and ill health.

Charles Zentai is accused of murdering a Jewish teenager in November 1944 in Budapest while serving as a warrant officer in the army of his native Hungary.

The 88-year-old migrant, who moved to Australia after the war, has always denied the allegations, insisting that he had left the Hungarian capital the day before the young man was killed.

Zentai has been fighting extradition from Australia for five years.

His lawyer, Malcolm McCusker, says the court ruled in his favor for a number of reasons.

"One was that he was not an eligible person as defined by the Act. So that's a very serious finding; it means that it's not just a matter of sending it back to the Minister; it's unlawful," he aid. "A ground of oppressiveness, which covers a wide range of things, including Mr. Zentai's age, health, physical infirmity and the length of time since the alleged offense occurred."

The allegations against Zentai were initially brought by the Jewish human rights group, the Simon Wiesenthal Center, which is dedicated to hunting down Nazi war criminals.

It listed Zentai as one of its 10 most-wanted suspects, alleging that the elderly man had previously taken part in the "persecution and murder" of Jews in Budapest in 1944.

The center has called on the Australian government to appeal the court's ruling that the suspect should not be extradited.

It is unclear if the authorities in Canberra will challenge the judge's decision. Outside the court in Perth, Charles Zentai said it was an "amazing feeling" to finally have the threat of extradition lifted. His family said he was the victim of a "huge injustice" and indicted they would consider applying for compensation.