

**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, 22 September 2010

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.  
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact  
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## International Criminal Court Coalition In Consultation

**I**n spite of doubts about the importance of the International Criminal Court without the cooperation of the United States, some sections of the society are pushing ahead for its domestication.

*By Alpha Bedoh Kamara*

The Sierra Leone Coalition for the International Criminal Court (SLCICC) in collaboration with Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) will hold a consultative meeting today, to discuss the draft policy legislation on the domestication and implementation of the Rome Statute in Sierra Leone.

Chairman of the SLCICC, James Mathew, said the meeting will engage civil society and human rights organizations as well as a cross section of Parliamentarians on the draft legislative document for the implementation of the Rome Statute in the country.

"We have the positive impact of the Special Court for Sierra Leone and we want that to be part of our constitution to protect the many vulnerable women and girls in society," he said.

Mathew said most of the violations in society are grievous offences in international law but that the perpetrators go unpunished and continue their acts with impunity.

He cited the guilty verdict of ex-combatants tried at the Special Court for offences ranging from forceful marriage to sexual slavery.

"These actions are common in our communities and until there is a law to

protect women and girls in the country the problem will continue," he said.

He said it is not uncommon for people to hear of rape cases, especially teenage girls by the elderly.

"The perpetrators are very often community or family friends of the victim," he stated, adding that the guilty verdict for the perpetrators of sexual violence by the Special Court is an indication that such cases are not taken lightly by the international community.

"Our women are suffering at the hands of their brothers, family friends and even their parents under the cover of culture. And forcing young girls into marriages without their consent is a violation of their rights and a crime in international law," he said.

Director of Network Movement for Development and Human Right, Abdul Habib said Sierra Leone should take the Rome Statute seriously as it will serve as a guide to providing capacity for women in the country, noting that the Statute does not only seek the interest of women and girls but also men and boys.

"This is about a law that will ensure every Sierra Leonean full protection in his/her community," he said.

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### International Criminal Court Coalition In Consultation

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He observed that it is not the case that cases are not reported, but that they fall short of the constitutional clauses in the laws of Sierra Leone.

"But with the Rome Statute ratified, we will be protected by well defined laws covering all sections of human suffering," he noted, adding that cases of child trafficking and child labour

are a thorn in the flesh of national development. "This is the time for us to work in the interest of the people," he said.

The officials were however not clear about why some sections of the society are skeptical of the very significance of the Statute without the cooperation of some of the major players in the international community.

3News

Wednesday, 22 September 2010

<http://www.3news.co.nz>

### **Campbell a 'scapegoat' in blood diamonds trial**



#### **Naomi Campbell**

Naomi Campbell has described herself as a scapegoat for the prosecution at the war crimes trial of Liberia's former president, Charles Taylor.

The supermodel was forced to give evidence last month about whether Taylor gifted her gems he'd got for supplying guns, the so-called 'blood diamonds'.

Campbell's own blood is still boiling over the whole affair.



Lubangatrial.org

Tuesday, 21 September 2010

## **Prosecutor Asks Lubanga Trial Judges To Reopen Trial**

By Wairagala Wakabi

The International Criminal Court (ICC) prosecutor has asked trial judges to grant permission for prosecutors to interview an individual who was at the center of the stay of proceedings in the Thomas Lubanga trial.

The prosecutor wants to take the testimony of ‘intermediary 143’ while proceedings are stayed pending the decision of the appeals chamber, but he has suggested that trial judges could reopen the trial.

In a September 16, 2010 filing, ICC prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo said the identity of the individual known as ‘intermediary 143’ was disclosed to Mr. Lubanga’s defense on September 13, 2010. As a result, the prosecution needed to interview this intermediary, who helped the Office of The Prosecutor (OTP) to contact some of the witnesses who testified against Mr. Lubanga.

The prosecutor also argued that trial judges had the authority to effect a partial lifting of the stay of proceedings, and further that article 56 of the Rome Statute provided that when presented with a unique investigative opportunity, parties to the trial may take testimony in anticipation that the evidence might later be admitted at a future trial.

According to the prosecutor, nothing in the Rome Statute that formed the ICC, or the court’s Rules of Procedure and Evidence, defined a stay or specifically limited the chamber’s power to amend the stay or provisionally allow interim activity notwithstanding the stay. He contended that the power to order a stay was intertwined with the chamber’s inherent authority to prevent further or more intrusive breaches of the parties’ fundamental rights.

“Thus, the possibility of taking evidence notwithstanding that there is no ongoing trial is sanctioned by the statute. It also would serve the fundamental rights of the accused [as] the taking of steps at this point will shortcut the process if the stay itself is limited, and by shortcutting the proceedings it will reduce the length of his pre-judgment incarceration,” Mr. Moreno-Ocampo argued.

He added that a proposal to allow the chamber to hear testimony that might be admitted without further delay if the stay is lifted in advance of the possible resumption of the trial would better serve the rights the parties to the case, “of the victims who deserve closure and of witnesses who face continuing stress from the indefinite postponement of their testimony.”

The prosecutor argued further that it would serve the court’s interest by enabling the use of its resources notwithstanding that the trial is stayed: “This provisional action during the pendency of the stay order would preserve the chamber’s ruling that trial proceedings must be stayed and permit the appeals chamber to resolve the underlying legal and factual issues.”

On July 8, 2010, trial judges stayed proceedings in the war crimes trial after the prosecution failed to disclose the identity of ‘intermediary 143’ to the defense. The judges said the “refusal” by the prosecution to honor two disclosure orders meant that a fair trial for Mr. Lubanga was not possible.

However, the prosecution argued that if it were to immediately disclose the identity of the intermediary, who was in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), he would be at risk of attacks from Mr. Lubanga’s

supporters. Accordingly, prosecutors asked the court to grant them some time to institute protective measures for the intermediary, such as his relocation from the DRC, before his identity could be revealed.

The trial judges insisted that disclosing the intermediary's identity to only the defense team and its resource person in Congo would pose no threats to the security of the individual. When prosecutors still failed to reveal the intermediary's identity, trial judges ordered for Mr. Lubanga's release on July 15, 2010. He, however, remains in ICC detention until appeals judges rule on a prosecution appeal against his release.

Prosecutors at the ICC charge that Mr. Lubanga enlisted and conscripted children under the age of 15 years and used them "to participate actively" in armed conflict. The alleged crimes were committed between September 2002 and August 2003 in Ituri province in eastern DRC. Mr. Lubanga has denied the charges and instead accused intermediaries of the OTP of having bribed and coached witnesses to give evidence against him.

Mr. Moreno-Ocampo argued in his latest filing that after trial judges imposed the stay and directed that no further submissions would be entertained, they clarified that this order did not bar the parties to the trial from making filings that were directly relevant to the stay.

## The Hague Justice Portal

Wednesday, 22 September 2010

### **The Hague celebrates UN International Day of Peace 22 Sep 2010**

The Hague celebrated the United Nations International Day of peace with an open day for international organisations

On Sunday 19 and Tuesday 21 September the city of The Hague celebrated the United Nations International Day of Peace. The International Day of Peace (“Peace Day”) is an opportunity for individuals, organisations and nations to create practical acts of peace on a shared date. It was established by a United Nations resolution in 1981 to coincide with the opening of the General Assembly. The first Peace Day was celebrated in September 1982.

As a part of the event, the Hague-based international organisations opened their doors to the public on The Hague International Day, which on ended Sunday, 19 September in the City Hall. During this event The Hague demonstrated the city’s role as the international centre of peace and justice. Six international organisations and more than 20 organisations presented their work at a special International Fair. Organisations present at the International Fair include Europol, NATO, Eurojust and the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL), which offered information about their work to promote peace and justice.

The six organisations which opened their doors this year are the: International Court of Justice and Permanent Court of Arbitration (both in the Peace Palace), the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), International Criminal Court (ICC), Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and the European Patent Office (EPO). In particular, these all gave visitors a behind-the-scenes view of how they work, providing guided tours to allow a better understanding of the functioning and aims of these institutions.

On 21 September, the municipality featured a special programme with debates on peace and justice.

Iloubnau.info

Wednesday, 22 September 2010

### **Khoury: STL keeps on working even if Lebanon stops funding it**

BERIUT - Former MP Ghattas Khoury tol Future News on Wednesday that even if Lebanon stopped funding the Special tribunal for Lebanon, the latter would keep on working because it was decided to continue its mission.

"If so, the UN Secretary genral must find another funding source and Lebanon must meet its obligations before the international community", he added.

Khoury stated that Prime Minister Saad Hariri had three irrevocable standards which were the STL, the civil peace and the truth and justice. He called on any party who had suggestions to submit them to the Parliament of State institutions because overthrowing the Cabinet in the streets was unacceptable at all.



Naharnet

Monday, 20 September 2010

## French Sources Do Not Rule Out Indictment Postponement



French sources have said that Special Tribunal for Lebanon Prosecutor Daniel Bellemare is aware of the fragile situation in Lebanon and could mull postponing the indictment to avoid strife in the country.

The sources, which are following up the regional situation and inter-Arab ties, told pan-Arab daily al-Hayat in remarks published Monday that Bellemare has realized the indictment could have negative repercussions on Lebanon.

"Given the dangerous and fragile situation, he might have understood that he needs to postpone the indictment for some time," the sources said about the prosecutor.

However, French presidential circles have informed Lebanese and Arab officials that Paris cannot interfere in Bellemare's work.

They expressed fear that Lebanon is on a dangerous slope and said the issue of false witnesses in ex-Premier Rafik Hariri's assassination case is a trap set up by Hizbullah.

Furthermore, the sources regretted that Prime Minister Saad Hariri said it was wrong to accuse Syria of murdering his father because he has repeatedly said that "he trusted the international tribunal which alone would decide who is innocent and who is guilty."

Radio Free Europe

Wednesday, 22 September 2010

### **Lawyer Accused Of Bribing Witnesses At UN War Crimes Tribunal**

A lawyer who managed the legal defense of a Bosnian Serb convicted of mass murder appeared at the International Criminal Court for the former Yugoslavia today to face charges of bribing witnesses.

Jelena Rasic is accused of paying three men 1,000 euros each for testimony intended to clear Milan Lukic.

Lukic was jailed by the UN's Yugoslav war crimes tribunal for life in 2009 for the killings of Muslims in Bosnia's 1992-1995 war.

Rasic today pleaded not guilty to the charges.

One of the men allegedly paid off by her, Zuhdija Tabakovic, has already been convicted of contempt of court and sentenced to three months in prison.

Rasic faces a maximum sentence of seven years in prison if convicted. No date was set for the start of her trial.

*compiled from agency reports*