

**SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
OUTREACH AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE**



A panoramic view of some parts of Freetown.

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:

Thursday, 30 September 2010

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
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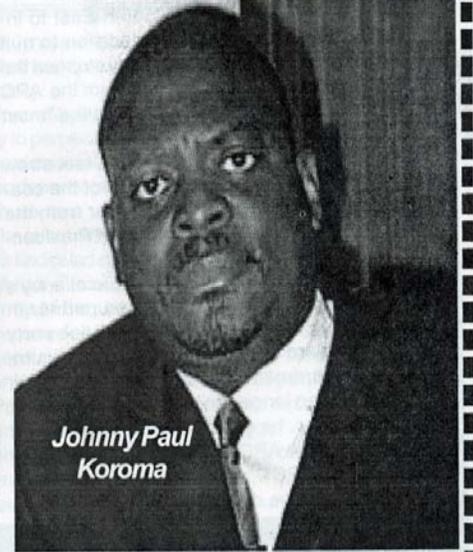
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New Court To Try Johnny Paul



Johnny Paul Koroma

By Minkailu Turay
The Special Court for Sierra Leone has established a new court to try the fugitive former leader of the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) of Sierra Leone, Johnny Paul Koroma. This was disclosed by the Special Court Prosecutor, Brenda Hollis

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New Court To Try Johnny Paul

at a farewell meeting with people of Karina in Karina Town last Wednesday. Miss Hollis told the people that a new court called the Residual Court would have its own judges and lawyers to prosecute and defend the fugitive if found, arrested and brought to Sierra Leone. She said they do not know whether or not Johnny Paul is alive

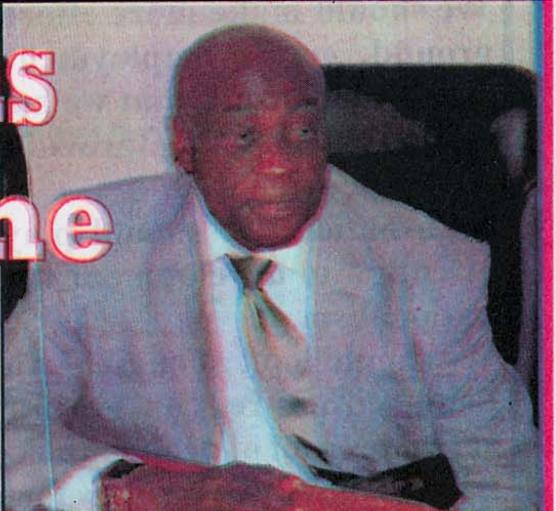
but noted that, if seen he would either be tried at the Residual Court or abroad. "The Special Court will fold up in 2011 or 2012 after Charles Taylor's trial but the Residual Court would be there to try Johnny Paul if arrested". The Prosecutor said that Sierra Leoneans benefited a lot from the Special Court including justice, employment and that the court stops impunity perpetrated

by warmongers. Among other speakers at the occasion include the Deputy Registrar of the Special Court, Fidelma Donlon, Principal Defender, Claire Carlton-Hanciles and the Outreach boss, Patrick Fatorma, whilst Youth Leader Tejan Kallon, Women's Leader Fanta Daramy and Paramount Chief Dr. Madeseray Sheriff II spoke on behalf of the people.

UN Lifts Sanctions On Sierra Leone

The United Nations Security Council is reported to have yesterday lifted the sanctions its imposed on Sierra Leone since the war. According to Information and Communication Minister Ibrahim Ben Kargbo, the country had been viewed as unsafe and not peaceable since the war and so several things were difficult for Sierra Leone because it was still categorized as still being in a war situation till yesterday.

"This is why we had to pay higher insurance premiums, UN staff were sent to work in Sierra Leone as a non-family country which is unsafe and all that but now, after reviewing the situation of peace in Sierra Leone, the Security Council has decided to lift the ban on Sierra Leone even for travelling and other issues," he said.



Minister of Information Ibrahim Ben Kargbo

It would be recalled that Sierra Leone was put under this category in 1997 after the Government of President Tejan Kabbah was overthrown by the military and RUF rebels.

CNN

Thursday, 30 September 2010

U.N.: Sanctions against Sierra Leone lifted

By Salma Abdelaziz, CNN

(CNN) -- The United Nations Security Council has ended sanctions against Sierra Leone, restrictions originally imposed during the nation's brutal civil war, the Security Council announced Wednesday.

The Council ended a 1997 arms embargo and a travel ban among other sanctions, in a move aimed at restoring confidence in the West African nation.

While the Security Council praised Sierra Leone for its progress since the end of the decade-long conflict in 2002, it maintained the need for peacekeepers in the formerly war-torn nation.

"Sierra Leone may today no longer be one of your most critical concerns," said Michael von der Schulenburg, head of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone. "But we urge you not to abandon Sierra Leone completely. It is a potential success story, not only for Sierra Leone but for the Security Council."

U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Susan Rice commended the decision to end sanctions.

"Because of the much-improved situation in Sierra Leone, including the work of its special courts and the demobilization of armed groups, the remaining sanctions can now be lifted," she said in a statement. Tens of thousands of Sierra Leone's 6 million population were believed killed in the war, and more than 2 million were forced to flee their homes amid the mayhem that was fueled by riches from the diamond trade or so called "blood diamonds."

Reuters

Thursday, 30 September 2010

Kenyan govt says it still backs Hague trials

By James Macharia and Wangui Kanina

NAIROBI (Reuters) - Kenya's justice minister said on Wednesday the government still backed an international probe into 2007/08 post-election violence, denying reports that he had asked the International Criminal Court (ICC) to drop the issue.

A political storm has raged in the country since local media quoted Justice Minister Mutula Kilonzo as saying any action by the ICC was unnecessary as cases could be heard in Kenya under its new constitution.

Violence killed 1,300 people and displaced half a million after disputed election results in late 2007. The comments attributed to Kilonzo angered many who view the legal process by the Hague-based court as key to avoiding a repeat of the bloodshed at the next elections, due in 2012.

Foreign investors, donors and local markets are closely watching the issue in east Africa's biggest economy.

Kilonzo told Reuters in an interview on Wednesday the government was still solidly behind trials by the ICC, having signed an agreement with the Hague-based court, and was strengthening the judiciary to handle similar cases.

"To the extent that some part of the media alleged that I had asked the ICC to pack up and go, that was a complete fabrication. I am a lawyer and I know that the ICC is in Kenya by virtue of a court order," Kilonzo said.

"We have a vested interest as a country and as a government to find out whether international crime was committed in Kenya in 2008, that is really critical. Kenya doesn't have any investigation ongoing on that aspect (therefore) the ICC must finish its mandate," Kilonzo said.

He said the agreement with the ICC empowered it to gather evidence for the trials.

More than half of Kenyans want those behind the violence which followed disputed elections tried at the ICC, a poll by research firm Synovate showed last week.

The prospect of ICC trials has struck fear into Kenya's political class, as the state-funded Kenya National Commission on Human Rights has named several senior cabinet ministers and prominent businessmen as architects of the violence.

ARREST WARRANTS

The ICC's chief prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo has said he will seek arrest warrants by the end of the year for up to six Kenyans from both sides of the conflict.

Kenya's scenic Rift Valley was the epicentre of the bloodletting, which pitted ethnic Kalenjin supporters of current Prime Minister Raila Odinga against Kikuyu backers of incumbent President Mwai Kibaki, who was eventually declared the winner of the presidential poll.

Kilonzo was part of a team that worked closely with former U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan, who brokered a deal that stopped the bloodshed and created Kenya's first coalition government.

The justice minister said Kenya was capable of handling trials of the kind to be conducted by the ICC once the new constitution was fully implemented, a process likely to take a few years.

Kilonzo said Kenya's new constitution promulgated last month would revamp a judiciary in which Kenyans had lost confidence.

"I'm simply expressing my confidence as a Kenyan in our ability to do these things (prosecute) when the processes (investigations) are complete," Kilonzo said.

"I will continue to say, until you put cotton wool to block your ears, that as a country ... we can do it."

He said the Hague-based court had limited resources and could take years to try cases. Kilonzo said even if Moreno-Ocampo found evidence to go ahead with trials, he would have to seek the authority of the ICC to prosecute and could face legal challenges by individual Kenyans to stop the process.

To avoid any delays taking prosecutions beyond the next elections, Kenya needed to have a back-up plan to prosecute should Moreno-Ocampo fail to do so by then.

"We don't have that luxury (of delay) in this country," Kilonzo said.

Jjj

Deutsche Press Agentur
Tuesday, 28 September 2010

ICTY president calls on Serbia to arrest war-crime fugitives

Belgrade - The president of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) called on Tuesday for Serbia to arrest the court's two last war-crime fugitives, Ratko Mladic and Goran Hadzic.

After meeting with Serb officials in Belgrade, Patrick Robinson called for Mladic and Hadzic to be caught before the ICTY shuts down in 2014 and hands its work over to local courts.

The ICTY has charged Mladic, a Bosnian Serb general, in connection with the 1995 Srebrenica genocide of more than 8,000 Muslim men and boys. Serbia's failure to detain him has blocked its path to European Union membership and access to billions of dollars in development aid.

Hadzic, a leader in the 1991-95 Serb insurgency in Croatia, is accused of crimes against humanity.

Serbian war crimes prosecutor Vladimir Vukcevic said it is in Serbia's best interest to fulfill its international and moral duty and arrest war-crime fugitives.

Robinson arrived in Belgrade to launch the ICTY's 'War Crimes Justice Project,' aimed at helping nations in the former Yugoslavia deal with war criminals when the ICTY closes.

He said the ICTY and its partners in the region will work together to build the capacity of national jurisdictions to achieve justice and the rule of law.

The 18-month project will provide documents and training for legal professionals in Serbia and other countries that emerged from the 1991-95 wars in the former Yugoslavia.

The project will be carried out in cooperation with the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the United Nations, and paid for by the European Union.

The ICTY was set up in 1993 by the UN Security Council. Since then, it has indicted more than 160 people and convicted 60 of them. Some 40 trials are still ongoing

Hirondelle News Agency

Wednesday, 29 September 2010

Human rights activist claims there were no resources to control genocide

A human right activist and defence witness in a joint case of two top leaders of the ruling MRND party in Rwanda, Francois Xavier Byuma Tuesday alleged before the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) that there were no resources which could enable the government to control the violence and killings escalating in the country in 1994.

Byuma, former President of the Human rights organization Turengere Abana, which deals with the promotion and protection of the rights of children in Rwanda, was testifying in defence of the ex-President of MRND, Mathieu Ngirumpatse.

"The authorities and soldiers were displaced the same manner as the population following series of gun fire, bomb shells and attacks," Byuma told the Chamber during cross examination by Felix Sow, Co-counsel for the other accused, Edouard Karemera.

Between 2 and 3 million people were displaced in the whole country.

The witness told the Chamber's president Judge Dennis Byron that, although Karemera was the minister of Interior beginning May 25, 1994, "it was not practically possible for him to control some parts of the country, leave alone the whole country."

He said he fled the capital city, Kigali on May 15, 1994 where as the Interim government had already left for Gitarama after the deterioration of the security following the senseless massacres which were going on the city.

"It was not easy to move about because there were many roadblocks one could observe across the country and militias and bandits were busy killing people in what was referred to as genocide," he narrated.

The prosecution took over to cross examine the witness who is also serving 17 year old jail term in Rwanda following genocide conviction by Gacaca courts (semi-traditional courts in Rwanda) more than three years ago.

The witness claimed that he never participated in genocide but his conviction was handed down simply because he was a human rights activist.

The prosecutor indicted Ngirumpatse and his co-accused Karemera, for seven counts including genocide, complicity in genocide, incitement to commit genocide and crimes against humanity allegedly committed by members of their party and its youth wing, Interahamwe.

NI/GF

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The New Yorker

Monday, 27 September 2010

The U.N., Africa, and International Justice

Posted by Alexis Okeowo

The convening of United Nations General Assembly brought together the usual cluster of halted East Side traffic, scattered protests, and both African despots and populist leaders struggling to carve out democracies. There were speeches on Africa dealing with the future of diplomatic relations, climate change, and fairer trade, all met with fanfare. But events this month raise what may be, in terms of Africa's relationship with the international community, an even bigger question: whether the U.N. International Criminal Court is useful at all when it comes to some of the world's worst cases.

The continent has been the court's most fertile experimentation ground. After Uganda endured nearly two decades of civil war between the government and a vicious rebel group called the Lord's Resistance Army, the government asked the I.C.C. in 2005 to help it apprehend the elusive, dreadlocked fighters. After Kenya's 2007 presidential election exploded and millions of citizens were uprooted and fifteen hundred killed, that country's government pledged to cooperate with the I.C.C. to find the orchestrators of the violence. After igniting a brutal, almost forgotten genocide that has stretched on for the most of the last decade, Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir was slapped with arrest warrants by the I.C.C. on charges of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. This was the court's first campaign against a sitting president—and the Sudanese government was furious.

The court went ahead anyway. While no one expected that Bashir's own government would turn him in, other African countries have welcomed Bashir within their borders—including the two that are currently working with the I.C.C. to resolve their own issues of mass injustice. Yoweri Museveni, Uganda's affable dictator, invited Bashir to two conferences this year, and refused to revoke the invitation despite a torrent of criticism. Over the border, Kenya's shaky coalition government hosted Bashir last month as he joined a celebration of the country's new constitution. In both instances, the presidents couldn't see what all the furor was about. Not to be left out, even Chad, Sudan's longtime rival, had the president over, in July.

Meanwhile, Charles Taylor, Liberia's former president, is languishing in a lengthy, expensive trial in The Hague; Uganda's rebels continue to avoid capture and have now expanded their killing and abducting spree into Congo and southern Sudan; and other investigations hinge on the cooperation (or non-cooperation) of authorities who seem to have little interest in offering up criminals for prosecution. (The court has no police or troops and relies on states that support it to carry out arrests.) The African Union has accused the I.C.C. of unfairly targeting the continent in its myriad of present pursuits; but the push for "African solutions to African problems" has so far delayed any kind of justice, local or U.N.-sponsored.

The meeting of the General Assembly was a missed opportunity for I.C.C. member states to hold countries like Kenya accountable. The terrorist Mungiki sect—which killed scores after the election and was backed by President Kibaki—has remained unpunished, and the government has refused to comply with I.C.C. demands to turn over leaders responsible for inciting the post-election killings. The stakes in Kenya are high: there is a threatening chance that ethnic violence will restart ahead of the 2012 election.

The I.C.C. reported both Chad and Kenya to the U.N. Security Council for hosting Bashir, but Kibaki still came to New York. He addressed the General Assembly last Thursday without any serious challenges. Watching him speak to the diplomats and politicians assembled in the United Nations' halls, I wondered if court supporters were beginning to ask themselves what happened to their admirable, but possibly unobtainable, idea of international justice.

Press TV

Thursday, 30 September 2010

<http://www.presstv.ir/detail/144626.html>

Lebanon opposition to block STL funding



Member of Hezbollah's political bureau Ghaleb Abu Zaynab

Lebanon's opposition alliance plans to block further Lebanese financing of a UN-backed tribunal probing the 2005 murder of the country's former premier Rafiq Hariri.

A member of Hezbollah's political bureau announced the decision to prevent further funding of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL) on Wednesday, citing the deepening political crisis in the country over the issue.

"How can we finance a tribunal that has turned into an Israeli-American tool attempting to sow discord in the country?" AFP quoted Ghaleb Abu Zaynab as asking.

"We do not want Lebanon to fall victim to US interests in the region," he stressed.

Ammar Moussaoui, head of the resistance movement's international relations, said the tribunal represented a "time bomb."

If Lebanon fails to pay its 49 percent share of the funding, donor countries must cover the cost, according to the UN Resolution that set up the court in 2007.

Western-backed factions in Lebanon had accused Syria and Hezbollah resistance movement of being behind a 2005 bomb attack that killed Rafiq Hariri, along with more than 20 others, in Beirut.

Early in September, however, Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri admitted that he and his allies in the 14 March alliance had made a mistake by accusing Syria of the murder of his father, acknowledging the charges were politically motivated.

On Sunday, Hezbollah Deputy Secretary General Sheikh Naim Qassem renewed the movement's demands for the uncovering of false witnesses in the murder case and their masters.

He also urged revealing Israel's role in the killing of Hariri based on the evidence provided by Hezbollah leader Seyyed Hassan Nasrallah, and urged that "those concerned should discuss the accusation" against Israel.

He also warned that targeting the resistance movement was tantamount to targeting Lebanon and the Middle East region.