

**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, 13 October 2010

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
Martin Royston-Wright
Ext 7217

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Concord Times

Wednesday, 13 October 2010

Stakeholders Discuss TRC Recommendations

Stakeholders across the country are currently discussing the status of the implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) recommendations.

The two-day national consultative conference at the British Council Auditorium was organized by the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone (HRC-SL) in collaboration with the Human Rights section of the United Nations Integrated Peace-building Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL) and civil society.

UNIPSIL's chief of human rights section, Beatriz Balbin, said the primary obligation of the implementation of the TRC recommen-

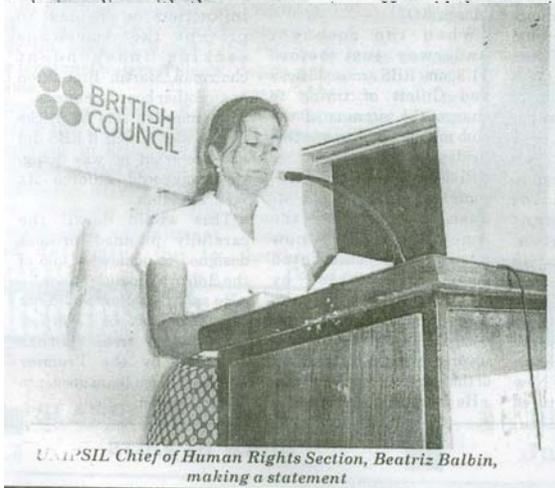
hensive strategy, with clear allocation of responsibilities to the relevant ministries and agencies and implementation time frames.

"Some progress has been made so far including the establishment of the reparations programme and the launching of the war victims' trust fund, among others. Other significant recommendations are yet to be implemented," she said.

HRC-SL chairman, Commissioner Edward Sam, said the TRC recommendations were designed to facilitate the building of a new Sierra Leone based on the values of human dignity, tolerance and respect for the rights of all persons.



Participants at the consultative conference



UNIPSIL Chief of Human Rights Section, Beatriz Balbin, making a statement



HRC-SL chair, Commissioner Edward Sam making a statement adding that all its recommendations must be fully implemented.

Chairperson board of trustees of the War Victims Trust Fund, Prof. Amy E. Joof, appealed to organizations and well meaning individuals to help them with the necessary support needed to adequately provide for victims of the war.

She said out of the 30,000 war victims that have been regis-

tered, only 20,000 are currently benefiting from the fund through their implementing agency, NaCSA.



Members of the high table

Commissioner Sam noted that the TRC recommendations call for the repeal of all statutory and customary laws that discriminate against women.

Chairperson of the Parliamentary Human Rights Committee, Hon. Elizabeth Lavalie, said she was very much concerned about the non-implementation of some of the recommendations in the TRC report.

She said Sierra Leoneans are still grappling with important issues raised in the TRC report,

Statements were also made by the national chairman of War Victims Association, Edward Conteh, representative from civil society organizations, Samuel Ansumana.

At the end of the conference, a communiqué is expected to be drafted, outlining the way forward for the successful implementation of the TRC recommendations.

Cotton Tree News
Monday, 11 October 2010

‘The death penalty is divisive and destructive’- AI- Sierra Leone

Written by Abdul Samba Brima

Amnesty International in Sierra Leone has described the death penalty as a “destructive and divisive public policy that is not consistent with widely held moral values.”

Speaking during the observance of Death Penalty Day on Monday, AI’s director in Sierra Leone, Brima Sheriff said “the cruelty inherent in the death penalty rendered it inconsistent with the norms of modern-day civilized behavior.”

Mr. Sheriff said the death penalty denied the possibility of reconciliation, rehabilitation and prolonged the suffering of the murdered victim’s family.

He added that, “although people should be held accountable for the crimes they commit, they should not be accountable in a cruel manner.” The AI director the death penalty had been used as a political weapon by some governments in the past.

Some Sierra Leoneans who spoke to CTN on the day supported the death penalty, stating that it would “end impunity” and should therefore not be expunged.

The New Times (Kigali)

Wednesday, 13 October 2010

Rwanda: ICTR Convict Dies in Prison

Edwin Musoni

Kigali — A former senior member of the Mouvement Républicain National pour le Développement et la Démocratie (MRND), a political party largely responsible for the planning and executing the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi, died in prison on Monday aged 52.

Georges Rutaganda was sentenced to life imprisonment following his conviction on several counts of Genocide by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) based in Arusha, Tanzania.

A statement released by the ICTR, reads that, "Rutaganda passed away in Benin following sudden complications of a long illness." He was serving his sentence in a Benin prison.

During the Genocide, Rutaganda was the vice president of the Interahamwe militia, the spearhead of the Genocide. He was charged genocide, crimes against humanity and organizing and implementing a mass murder of the Tutsi race.

The New Times (Kigali)

Wednesday, 13 October 2010

Rwanda: Mbarushimana Arrest Major Blow to FDLR - CPRC

James Karuhanga

Kigali — The arrest in France Monday of the FDLR Executive Secretary, on an International Criminal Court (ICC) arrest warrant for war crimes and crimes against humanity allegedly committed in the eastern DRC, has dealt a heavy blow to the terrorist group, activists have concluded.

Callixte Mbarushimana's arrest comes at the heels of the November 2009 arrest of FDLR leader Ignace Murwanashyaka and his deputy, Straton Musoni, in Germany.

"This arrest is good news and may weaken the FDLR in the Congo. The main political leaders are in jail. The FDLR are struck on the head," said Alain Gauthier, the President of a France-based organization - Collectif des Parties Civile pour le Rwanda (CPCR), which works to bring Genocide fugitives there to book.

Maj. Gen. Paul Rwarakabije, a commissioner in the Rwanda Demobilisation and Reintegration Commission (RDRC), and a former FDLR commander, doubts the efficiency of Mbarushimana's replacement, given the enormous work the latter has been doing in the groups Diaspora circles.

"The contacts that Mbarushimana had made outside there just won't continue. There will be an impact on their soldiers in Congo since the trust they normally put to those operating from outside will diminish," said Rwarakabije.

According to Rwarakabije, normally FDLR's Deputy Executive Secretary - Lt. Col. Laurent Ndagijimana, could be the likely replacement, but since he is not in Europe but based in the DRC's Walikale jungles, he "would not operate freely" like his predecessor.

He added that even the current FDLR supremo in DRC, General Gaston Iyamuremye (aka Rumuli Michel), doesn't move freely and is limited to conducting most operations or work on phone.

Gauthier concurs with Rwarakabije, saying that since the arrest of Murwanashyaka and his deputy, Mbarushimana's political power had increased largely because of his networking flexibility in Europe.

Nonetheless, the CPRC president cautions that the FDLR are probably "not completely defeated" and that they have many supporters in France.

"It seems that the city of Rouen, France, is a real "nest of wasps." Their supporters there could be many. His arrest brings to light again on the presence in France of a significant number of genocide suspects," Gauthier observes.

Daily Nation (Kenya)

Wednesday, 13 October 2010

ICC: Cabinet team agrees on secret notes to surrender

FILE | NATION. A Cabinet team on Tuesday approved a set of minutes of security meetings to be handed over to the International Criminal Court to speed up the trials of the masterminds of Kenya's worst post-election violence. Above, President Mwai Kibaki chairs a past Cabinet meeting at his Harambee House office, Nairobi.PS

By PETER LEFTIE, pmutibo@ke.nationmedia.com AND OLIVER MATHENGE, omathenge@ke.nationmedia.com

A Cabinet team on Tuesday approved a set of minutes of security meetings to be handed over to the International Criminal Court to speed up the trials of the masterminds of Kenya's worst post-election violence.

The minutes will cover sensitive security meetings held before and during the 2007 post-election violence that led to the killing of 1,133 people.

The decision was reached at Tuesday's meeting of a Cabinet committee handling matters related to the ICC.

The meeting, chaired by Internal Security minister George Saitoti, also discussed a set of regulations prepared by a technical team to guide ICC detectives in recording witness statements from top government officials who were in charge of security in various 2007 post-election violence hot spots.

The Cabinet team met as two more officials of the ICC arrived in the country for what was termed an "analysis mission".

They were said to have divided themselves into three groups in an attempt to cover as much ground as possible before the arrival of prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo next week.

The analysts are set to visit various post-election violence hotspots, among them Kisumu, Naivasha, Molo, Eldoret, Nakuru and Nairobi slums.

They are preparing the ground for Mr Moreno-Ocampo. "He may be coming in between Monday and Wednesday next week. However, this will be determined by the progress made by the investigators who came in last week and the officials who have come in," said a source.

At the Cabinet sub-committee, sources present who requested anonymity said the minutes of the security meetings to be handed over to ICC detectives cover the period just before the December 2007 General Election to the post-election violence period which lasted until President Kibaki and Prime Minister Raila Odinga signed a peace accord on February 28, 2008.

"We have looked at the minutes and agreed in principle to give them to the ICC but we will first share them with the bigger Cabinet security committee," said the sources.

"The minutes cover the period which ICC had requested. We all agreed with the minutes as provided to us by the AG and the DG," the source added, referring to Attorney General Amos Wako and the National Security Intelligence Service director General Michael Gichangi.

The meeting carefully went through all the minutes of the security meetings held during the period to ensure they were relevant to the ICC investigations and that they did not compromise the country's security.

“As you know this is a very delicate matter, whereas we have a duty to cooperate with the ICC, we are also a sovereign country,” the source explained, suggesting that minutes that could infringe on national security may have been withheld.

The ICC detectives believe the minutes of the security meetings preceding the disputed presidential election results and during the post- election violence would help establish whether “shoot-to-kill” orders were issued to security officers in various hot spots.

The sub-committee, which comprises Prof Saitoti, Cabinet ministers Mutula Kilonzo (Justice), James Orengo (Lands), Otieno Kajwang' (Immigration), Amason Kingi (Fisheries) and Mr Wako also went through the set of regulations which will guide ICC detectives in recording statements from at least five provincial commissioners, six provincial police bosses and district commissioners who served in the hot spots.

The committee, however, deferred the final decision on the regulations until its meeting Wednesday morning.

Lawyers representing the government officials expected to record the statements Tuesday met with Public Prosecutor Keriako Tobiko.

Daily Nation (Kenya)

Wednesday, 13 October 2010

Rely on victims for truth, ICC told

By NATION CORRESPONDENT

Human rights lobby groups in Rift Valley Province have appealed to the International Criminal Court (ICC) investigators to engage post-election violence victims for information on the chaos. In a joint statement issued in Nakuru town on Tuesday, the lobby groups said some city-based organisations were misleading the ICC.

“We urge ICC investigators not to rely on busy bodies in Nairobi who are not informed of what happened on the ground during post -election violence,” they said.

They added that if the ICC hoped to gather concrete evidence to charge the perpetrators of post-election violence it's investigators should visit the area and engage the victims.

The groups said many of the victims had not been contacted and were willing to co-operate with the ICC.

Sudan Tribune

Wednesday, 13 October 2010

South Africa vows to support deferring Bashir's ICC warrant at UNSC

October 12, 2010 (WASHINGTON) – South Africa will support any initiative in the UN Security Council (UNSC) that seeks to freeze the arrest warrant issued by the International Criminal Court (ICC) for Sudanese president Omer Hassan Al-Bashir, its top diplomat said today.



South Africa's Foreign Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane (Reuters)

On Tuesday India, South Africa, Germany, Portugal and Colombia won non-permanent seats on the UNSC to replace Japan, Austria, Turkey, Mexico and Uganda.

The South African Foreign Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane noted that "the majority of issues that go to the agenda before the Security Council are about the challenges of peace and security in Africa".

Nkoana-Mashabane said South Africa would "synchronize" its agenda with the African Union (AU) and the Security Council. In that context she pledged that her country would support initiatives such as deferring charges against the Sudanese leader.

South Africa was last a UNSC member during 2007 & 2008 and has generally been supportive of Khartoum's positions within the council.

The AU has relentlessly demanded a freeze to the warrant under Article (16) of the Rome Statute which is the ICC's founding text. However, veto-wielding countries from Western countries threatened to use its veto power against any such proposal. The pan-African body in response instructed its member states including those signatories not to cooperate in apprehending Bashir.

Chad and Kenya, both full ICC members, allowed Bashir to visit their territories without any trouble and justified it by the AU resolutions. However, other African countries such as South Africa, Uganda and Botswana said they will not abide by the AU decision.

(ST)

Voice of America

Tuesday, 12 October 2010

Rights Group Urges Congo To Arrest War Crimes Suspect

An international human rights group is urging the Democratic Republic of Congo to immediately arrest one of its generals, a former rebel wanted by the International Criminal Court on war crimes charges.

Human Rights Watch issued a statement Wednesday saying Bosco Ntaganda has been linked to eight murders seven arbitrary arrests and at least one abduction since January, in both Congo and neighboring Rwanda.

Anneke Van Woudenberg, a senior researcher at Human Rights Watch, says Ntaganda is a threat to the people of eastern Congo and is making a mockery of the Congolese government's policy of zero tolerance for human rights abuses.

Ntaganda is also accused of threatening supporters of Laurent Nkunda, a former head of the National Congress for Defense of the People rebel group.

He replaced Nkunda as head of the CNDP last January, and then became a general in the Congolese army.

Human Rights Watch says the Congolese government has refused to arrest Ntaganda, claiming he is vital to keeping order among the former rebels he brought into the army and to maintaining peace.

HRW says Ntaganda lives and works freely in Goma, in eastern Congo.

Some information in this story was provided by AFP.