

**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

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

Flaws in Child Rights Act may Delay Enactment.../ <i>Awareness Times</i>	Page 3
Mile 91 Magistrate Court Resumes Sitings / <i>Cotton Tree News</i>	Page 4

International News

At Status Conference, Defense Say They Will Call One More Witness.../ <i>Charlestaylortrial.org</i>	Pages 5-6
Côte d'Ivoire: Fears Attack From Liberia / <i>New Democrat</i>	Page 7
Appeals Chamber Maintains Conviction of two Genocide Perpetrators / <i>Hirondelle News Agency</i>	Page 8
Six Genocide Fugitives Arrested Thanks to Cooperation with Interpol / <i>Hirondelle News Agency</i>	Page 9
Rwanda Accuses Former Intelligence Chief of Sabotage in Arrest of Kabuga / <i>Hirondelle News</i>	Page 10
Kagame Regime Demands Professor Peter Erlinder Return to Kigali to Stand Trial / <i>SFBV</i>	Pages 11-13

Flaws in Child Rights Act may delay Enactment by P'ment

By Mohamed Kanu

Child Rights Coalition (CRC-SL), a Non Governmental Organization with focus on child advocacy over the weekend drew the attention of stakeholders to the many inconsistencies in the drafted 2007 Child Rights' Act laid before Parliament for enactment by the Minister of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs, Dr. Soccoh Kabbia. In drafting the said bill, the ministry is said to have left out several integral aspects and recommendations made by both the international community and local Civil Society Organizations which in the view of the coalition needed to be part of the Act before approval.

In a forum organized by the coalition over the weekend at the Mamba Point, Wilberforce in Freetown, those inconsistencies were brought to the attention of the general public through representatives of stakeholders in attendance, including Members of Parliament, the Civil Society and members of the press.

In his presentation, the CRC representative to the last month's UN

session in Geneva, Mr. M. Kemokai noted that there were several important aspects left out by the ministry during the amendment process at the expense of both international and local recommendations previously made, and that in spite of several concerns raised through official correspondences to the ministry expressing the need for a dialogue forum on the amendment process, the ministry turned blind eyes to them. 'The primary recommendations made to cushion the Act that were left out included the entire review of the Act to align itself with international legal standards, the establishment of a National Children's Commission independent of the National Youth Commission, and the issue of traditional leaders to be decided by locals to avoid political interference among others,' he observed.

Mr. Kemokai said if those recommendations are ignored and Parliament goes ahead to enact the Act, it risks tarnishing the reputation of Sierra Leone globally, an issues he said the minister himself is aware of since he was present at the recent UN

session in Geneva. He therefore, reiterated that in as much as the amendment was timely, it was but expedient that the Ministry partnered with CSOs through vigorous consultations to ensure transparency and sustainability of the Act.

The chairperson of the Parliamentary Oversight Committee on Social Welfare, Hon. Marie Yansanneh also confirmed that indeed some lapses existed on the side of the ministry. She in that regard assured of her committee's willingness to toe the line of the civil society to ensure that Sierra Leone continued to maintain international standards that enliven the plight of children. This assurance was endorsed by other MPs present who promised to give their best in support of the recommendations as stakeholders.

At the end of the forum, it was unanimously agreed that the recommendations left out needed to be incorporated into the Act and that thorough pre-amendment debate was required by parliamentarians before the enactment of the Child Rights Act.

Cotton Tree News

Friday, 22 October 2010

Mile 91 Magistrate Court resumes sittings

Written by Ibrahim Conteh

The Resident Magistrate of the Tonkolili Judicial District Albert Moody has resumed court sittings at the Mile 91 Magistrate Court.

Court sittings at Mile 91 were suspended three weeks ago and all pending court cases were transferred to the Magburaka Magistrate court.

According to Magistrate Moody, the bad road network linking Mile 91 and Magburaka and the lack of detention facilities at Mile 91 for suspects on remand, were some of the reasons that led to the suspension of the court sittings.

He said following some consultative meetings with the police, they had resolved to resume court sittings in the town.

Magistrate Moody, appealed to the Mile 91 Police Division to increase its level of cooperation with the court to ensure the speedy dispensation of justice.

Charlestaylortrial.org (The Hague)

Friday, 22 October 2010

At Status Conference, Defense Say They Will Call One More Witness, Judges Dismiss the Defense Contempt Motion And Set Time Table to End Charles Taylor's Trial

Alpha Sesay

At a Status Conference held today in The Hague, the Special Court for Sierra Leone judges set a time table to end the trial of former Liberian president Charles Taylor.

The judges also dismissed in entirety a defense contempt motion requesting an enquiry into how prosecutors conducted themselves during their investigations. Defense lawyers further indicated that they would call one final witness to testify for Mr. Taylor.

As the Status Conference commenced this morning, the Presiding Judge of the Trial Chamber, Justice Julia Sebutinde, first informed the parties that the Trial Chamber will deliver an oral decision without reasons on the defense motion that contempt investigations be established against prosecutors for their conduct in dealing with witnesses during their investigations. In the motion that was filed by defense lawyers for Mr. Taylor on September 24, 2010, defense lawyers alleged that prosecutors had misconducted themselves during their investigations by bribing, intimidating, and sometimes physically assaulting witnesses to testify against Mr. Taylor.

As she delivered the very short ruling of the Trial Chamber today, Justice Sebutinde said, "The Trial Chamber dismisses this motion in its entirety and will publish its reasons in due cause."

The court then heard from Mr. Taylor's defense lawyers that they will call one more witness to testify for Mr. Taylor. The witness, who is identified by the Pseudonym DCT-102, will commence his testimony on Monday, November 1, 2010. Defense lawyers intend to lead the witness in direct examination for two days, but it is not clear how long prosecutors will take to cross-examine the witness. According to Mr. Taylor's defense counsel Terry Munyard, they do not anticipate that the witness's entire testimony will last for more than one week.

The court heard from both the prosecution and the defense on various issues, including disclosure of materials by the prosecution, a time limit for the closure of the defense case, and the time limit and length of closing briefs. After a brief recess, the judges returned to the court with the following orders.

1. The defense case will formally close immediately after the testimony of DCT-102 or at the latest by November 12, 2010.
2. The the court will observe a judicial recess from December 17, 2010 and will resume on January 10, 2011.
3. The parties will submit their final trial briefs by Friday, January 14, 2011 but either party could do so at an earlier date if they wish to.
4. If they wish to, the parties should file any written responses to each other's final trial briefs by January 31, 2011.
5. The court will hear final oral arguments from the parties for three days starting on February 8, 2011. Prosecutors will first deliver their final oral arguments on February 8, followed by defense oral arguments

on February 9, then the court will observe a one day hiatus on February 10, and the parties will make any rebuttals to each other's oral arguments for two hours each on February 11, 2011.

6. The the length of each party's final trial briefs should not be more than 600 pages while any responses to the trial briefs should not be more than 100 pages from each party.

After the closing arguments, the court will then determine how long it will take before a final judgment is delivered. The court adjourned and will resume on Monday, November 1, 2010 with the commencement of the evidence of DCT-102.

DCT-102 will be Mr. Taylor's 21st and final defense witness.

New Democrat (Monrovia)

Thursday, 21 October 2010

Côte d'Ivoire: Fears Attack From Liberia

Ivorian newspapers are reporting rumours of attack from Liberia as ex-fighters of the Movement for Democracy in Liberia (MODEL), once considered allies of President Laurant Gbabo, demand what they say is their war allowance from his government.

In a related development, a prominent story in Soir Info has reported that a huge number of Liberians, including former MODEL rebels have recently crossed over to Cote d'Ivoire. The article said that the sudden presence of those Liberians in the western region of the country has thrown fears among the populations. Some of the Liberians are reported as saying "we've come to collect our ID and voting card," the paper said.

Another report in L'inter said that militiamen based in western Cote d'Ivoire are threatening to sabotage the political campaign and the October 31 vote. According to the paper, the militiamen are demanding the payment of their war allowances.

In the rebel-held zones, rebel forces also beat, harassed, and sometimes killed journalists. According to Reporters Without Borders (RSF), in January, Liberians fighting alongside the army killed Press Agency Correspondent Kloueu Gonzreu, and the party he was traveling with, for unspecified reasons in the western rebel-held zone near Toulepleu. In February, MJP rebel forces arrested Rene Dessonh, press correspondent for private independent newspaper Soir Info, near Man on suspicion of spying. MJP forces released Dessonh after 3 days detention without explanation.

These developments come as Cote d'Ivoire partitioned for years, prepares for general and presidential elections on 31 October.

Cote d'Ivoire's, Soir Info (an independent daily) in its recent edition reported on instances where a top aide to President Gbagbo was held by militiamen operating in western Cote d'Ivoire over "war allowances." It also hinted that a specter of an attack from MODEL, a former Liberian rebel movement, is hovering over this region, as they were said to be threatening to invade the western region to press the government in Cote d'Ivoire to pay them "war allowances."

The article also said that the Ivorian government is concerned about the delay in the deployment of elements of the Center of Integrated Command (CCI) - the joint government and New Forces unit tasked with manning security during the electoral process; and the lack of means needed by the CCI to operate at a full scale.

The paper said looking into the possible aftermath of the October 31 presidential elections in Cote d'Ivoire, that the West African country is poised for "a historic voting," but was quick to point out that the polls could be full of "risk".

According to the paper, recent political rallies held across the country by various candidates vying for presidency have been marred by incidents, prompting the paper to ring the alarm bell about what it sees as "signs of imminent political deflagration."

While Ivorian and foreign troops are jointly working to ensuring that security prevails during the October 31 presidential elections.

Hirondelle News Agency

Friday, 22 October 2010

ICTR/Weekly Summary - Appeals chamber maintains conviction of two genocide perpetrators

Delivery of two judgements by Appeals Chamber in cases involving genocide-convicts, Priest Emmanuel Rukundo and former senior Rwandan government official, Callixte Kalimanzira, was the major event which featured this week at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR).

Other events include hearing of appeal in the case of former military officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Tharcisse Muvunyi, continuation of trial of former Youth Minister Callixte Nzabonimana, resumption of trial of two top officials of then Rwandan ruling party, MRND, and a visit by Rwandan Prosecutor General Martin Ngonga.

The Appeals Chamber dismissed the appeals by Rukundo and Kalimanzira, who had sought complete acquittal of their conviction and sentences imposed on them by lower chamber. It, however, reduced Rukundo's 25 years imprisonment sentence by two years and the 30-jail-term for Kalimanzira by five years.

It confirmed the conviction of Rukundo, former Military Chaplain, for genocide, murder and extermination in relation to abduction and murder of Tutsis who had sought refuge at Saint Joseph's College and Saint Leon Minor Seminary in Gitarama prefecture, Central Rwanda, after founding him guilty of abetting and aiding the crimes.

Furthermore, it quashed Kalimanzira's conviction for incitement to commit genocide, but upheld his conviction for genocide, confirming that he aided and abetted massacres at Kabuye hill (South Rwanda) where thousands of Tutsis were killed on April 23, 1994.

The Appeals Chamber also conducted hearing of appeal by Muvunyi, with prosecution seeking 25 years of imprisonment against the appellant who was sentenced to 15-year-jail term by lower chamber for direct and public incitement to commit genocide.

However, the defence sought for dismissal of the prosecution's arguments and that Muvunyi's conviction and sentence should be quashed because of inconsistencies of evidence given by the prosecution.

The trial of MRND top officials, Mathieu Ngirumpatse and Edouard Karemera, resumed with the latter ending his boycott of court sessions he staged since August 24. While the MRND case continues next week, the Tribunal adjourned defence hearing of Nzabonimana to February 28, next year.

Meanwhile, Rwandan Prosecutor General Martin Ngoga paid a visit to the Tribunal and told a press conference that his country would summon American lawyer Peter Erlinder, a defence counsel at ICTR, in the coming few weeks to face genocide denial charges.

FK/ER/GF

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Friday, 22 October 2010

ICTR/Interpol - six genocide fugitives arrested thanks to cooperation with Interpol

Arusha, October 22, 2010 (FH) -The cooperation between the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) and Interpol has led since 2007 to the arrest of six genocide fugitives, including two former Rwandan cabinet members.

"In December 2007, Interpol created the Rwandan Genocide Fugitives Project following a resolution at its General Assembly that year. It aims to apprehend the fugitives wanted by ICTR and by the Rwandan Judicial Authorities and to date has led to the arrest of six fugitives wanted by the International Court," a communiqué issued Friday said.

Callixte Nzabonimana, former Youth Minister, was arrested on February 18, 2008 in Tanzania and Augustin Ndirabatware, the then Minister for Planning, was nabbed in Germany on September 17, 2007. Their trials are still going on before the ICTR.

Dominique Ntawukulilyayo, former Deputy Governor was arrested in France on October 17, 2007. He was charged at ICTR and sentenced to 25 years imprisonment for genocide. He is currently waiting the hearing of his appeal before the Appeals Chamber.

Captain Idelphonse Nizeyimana and Pastor Jean-Bosco Uwinkindi were arrested in Uganda on October 5, 2009 and June 30, 2010, respectively. They are awaiting the beginning of their trials. The list also includes former mayor Grégoire Ndahimana, who was apprehended on August 10, 2009 in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Interpol has also issued red notices for the arrest of the remaining ten fugitives, among of whom, the most wanted Félicien Kabuga, who is alleged to have financed the 1994 killings. So far, ICTR has managed to arrest 81 genocide suspects, most of whom have been tried. A red notice seeks the arrest of wanted persons with a view to extradition, Interpol website reads.

Hirondelle News Agency

Friday, 22 October 2010

Rwanda accuses former intelligence chief of sabotage in arrest of Kabuga

Arusha, October 22, 2010 (FH) -Rwandan army has accused former intelligence chief, Patrick Karegeya, now exiled in South Africa, of sabotaging the government and international efforts to locate and arrest the most wanted Rwandan genocide fugitive, Félicien Kabuga, who is alleged to have financed the 1994 killings.

"At one time when the security agencies were closing in on Kabuga in Kenya, it was Karegeya who tipped him off to escape in return for large sums of money," Brigadier General Richard Rutatina, the defence and security advisor to the president and Lieutenant- Colonel Jill Rutaremara, the defence and military spokesman, claimed.

"It is strongly believed that the connection with Kabuga was through his daughter, a girlfriend to Karegeya," the duo further said in an article published on the website www.mykagame.com. In their "response to allegations by four renegades", the two high ranking military officers also attack former chief of Army staff, General Faustin Kayumba Nyamwasa, former Kagame chief of staff Theogene Rudasingwa and Gerald Gahima former Prosecutor general.

In a document published in September, the four men, currently living in exile, called for Kagame's regime ouster, claiming it is "repressive" and dictatorial.

Rutaremara and Rutatina say that General Nyamwasa was characterized, when Chief of Staff, "by favoritism, irresponsibility and lack of accountability" in his leadership.

They describe Rudasingwa as "a renowned conman", citing several examples in their response, and state that Gahima is "currently wanted by Australian government to answer fraud charges".

FK-ER/GF

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San Francisco Bay View

Sunday, 24 October 2010

<http://sfbayview.com>

Kagame regime demands Professor Peter Erlinder return to Kigali to stand trial

Introduction by Ann Garrison



This Hutu refugee survived a massacre in Congo by Rwandan President Kagame's RPF forces. A U.N. report officially released Oct. 1 labels the RPF massacres genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. – Photo source: African Survivors International.jpg

The Kagame regime continues on the offensive in the wake of the “U.N. Mapping Report on Human Rights Abuse in the Democratic Republic of Congo, 1993-2003,” released on Oct. 1, which documents the Rwandan army’s war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocidal massacres of civilian Rwandan Hutu refugees and Congolese Hutus in Congo. Kagame denied the accusations, most of all the accusations of genocide, and then responded by arresting Victoire Ingabire Umuhuza, leader of Rwanda’s FDU-Inkingi Coalition of parties and the second of three opposition presidential candidates to be jailed since attempting to contest this year’s presidential election against Kagame.

Bernard Ntaganda, founder of Rwanda’s Parti Social-Imberakuri, has been in jail since his arrest on June 24, as he tried to leave his home to protest exclusion from the election, and he is now reported to be in critical condition in a Kigali hospital. Ntaganda and Ingabire’s lawyers, family and friends report that they are being tortured and held in inhumane conditions.

Rwandan exile Umuvugizi newspaper editor Jean Bosco Gasasiras, whose deputy editor, Jean Leonard Rugambage, was gunned down on the streets of Kigali during the run-up to the Aug. 9 presidential polls, has reported a leaked account of the plot to arrest Ingabire, fabricate charges and even slow poison her. Exiled Umuseso Editor Didas Gasana says that Ingabire’s arrest is haunting him day and night and that he also fears “slow poisoning.”



In May, Victoire Ingabire Umuhuza went to court in Kigali, Rwanda, in support of her American lawyer Peter Erlinder, who was arrested within a week of traveling there to defend her. The Kagame regime has now arrested her, again, and demanded that Professor Erlinder return to Kigali to stand trial in the wake of

the U.N. report documenting Rwanda's and neighboring armies' atrocities in Congo.

Rwandan Chief Prosecutor Martin Ngoga charges Ingabire once again, as in March, with genocide denial and conspiracy to commit terrorism and, on Oct. 21, Ngoga announced that he wants American law professor and international criminal defense attorney Peter Erlinder back in court to stand trial for genocide denial as well.

Erlinder traveled to Kigali to defend Ingabire in May but was arrested within a week himself, then released on medical grounds, but only after an international outcry, including that of the National Lawyers Guild and bar associations all over the world, at the end of which Secretary of State Hillary Clinton delivered his medical records to authorities in Kigali with a plea for his release.

After the release of the U.N. report on atrocities committed in Congo by the U.S.-backed regimes of Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi, Erlinder said that no one should expect justice in response in international courts, because “the U.S. controls the International Criminal Tribunal on Rwanda (ICTR), the U.S. controls the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the U.S. controls the U.N. Security Council, which establishes and controls the international criminal tribunals.”

Professor Peter Erlinder's statement in response to the news that Rwanda's prosecutor demands his return

After having arrested would-be presidential candidate Victoire Ingabire six days ago, Rwandan Chief Prosecutor Martin Ngoga announced that he intends to prosecute her former attorney, U.S. law professor and U.N. Rwanda Tribunal lead defense counsel, Peter Erlinder, for “genocide denial” based on *articles* written in the U.S. and published on the internet.

By Professor Peter Erlinder, Director, International Humanitarian Law Institute



Rwandan Chief Prosecutor Martin Ngoga charged opposition leader Victoire Ingabire once again, as in March, with genocide denial and conspiracy to commit terrorism and, on Oct. 21, Ngoga announced that he wants Professor Peter Erlinder back in court to stand trial for genocide denial as well. – Photo: AFP

St. Paul, Oct. 21 – Following my release for medical reasons, the well-publicized myth that the Kagame dictatorship had changed, that misled both me and my former client, Madame Ingabire, has been exposed.

After my release, the banning of all serious political opposition, the beheading of the vice-president of the Green Party, Madame Ingabire's arrest, the assassination of journalists, the attempted assassination of Mr. Kagame's former chief of staff who defected to South Africa, the assassination of another ICTR defense counsel and Kagame's “election” with 93 percent of the vote caused the Obama White House to question the state of democracy in Rwanda on Aug. 13:

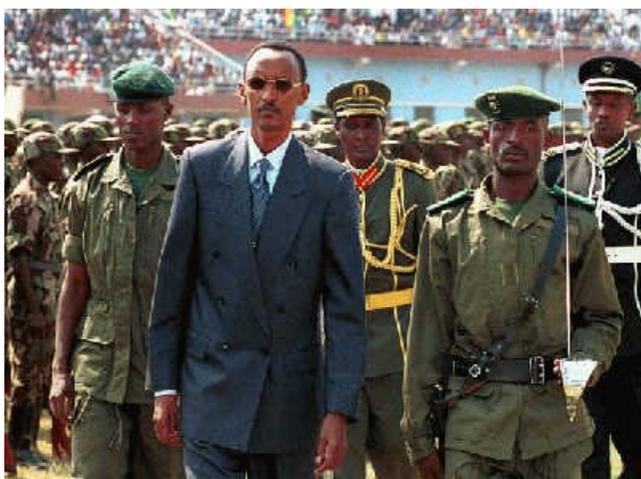
“(A) series of disturbing events prior to the election includ(es) the suspension of two newspapers, the expulsion of a human rights activist, the barring of two opposition parties from taking part in the election, and the arrest of journalists ... (S)tability and prosperity will be difficult to sustain without broad political debate and open political participation ... Democracy is about more than holding elections.”



Professor Peter Erlinder

On Aug. 28, LeMonde and the New York Times leaked a 600-page report from the files of the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights detailing crimes of Kagame’s troops in the Congo between 1993-2003, including genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. These are the same sort of crimes Chief ICTR Prosecutor Carla Del Ponte’s 2009 English language memoir says were committed by Kagame’s troops in Rwanda in 1994, but her honesty cost her job in 2003 when she refused to follow U.S. orders NOT to prosecute Kagame’s Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) at the ICTR.

These U.N. documents also confirm the evidence I put in the ICTR record that acquitted my client of “conspiracy and planning to commit genocide” in a February 2009 judgment, for which I have been accused of “genocide denial” and “spreading rumors.” Observing that the ICTR judgment runs counter to the victor’s description on the internet of the how the war developed makes me a “genocide denier” in Rwanda. My “crime” has been to say that, if there was no long-term planning and conspiracy, the victor’s story of the “Rwandan genocide” must be re-examined.



Rwanda President Paul Kagame leads his RPF troops.

But my prosecution has larger implications as well. If U.N. immunity does not apply to any prosecution of defense counsel by the Kagame government, then all defense counsel and defendants have reason to fear that meaningful representation at the U.N. Tribunal will be impossible, especially since the former chief U.N. prosecutor has confirmed that Kagame and the RPF should be in the dock themselves.

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