

**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:

Tuesday, 18 January 2011

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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IS JOHNNY PAUL ALIVE AND GRAVELY ILL?

Exclusively, the former AFRC leader, now fugitive Johnny Paul Koroma rumoured to have died, but said to be alive in Burkina Faso. His close friends know his whereabouts.. He was indicted a couple of years past and now reported sick in Burkina Faso. His state is miserable in the country. This one time military strong man that held this country to ransom for nine months, has now become a social misfit not comfortable in a foreign land neither free in his home land. It is alleged that he is still alive and needed to appear and to answer to charges levied on him.

But if the court still want him to appear, why did he not appear uptill now even when Peter Anderson the Public Affairs Officer in the Special Court pursued and mandated that he should appear. The Special Court for Sierra Leone has expired, should he still appear to answer to his charges? The public wants to know whether he is gravely sick or he is in good and healthy condition?

Special Tribunal for Lebanon

Tuesday, 18 January 2011

Office of the Prosecutor



Bureau du Procureur

STL Prosecutor Daniel A. Bellemare video statement following filing of indictment

The Hague, 18 January 2011

Yesterday I signed an indictment in the Hariri case and filed it with the Registrar for transmission to the Pre-Trial Judge.

In doing so, I have made good on the first part of my promise to the People of Lebanon when I left Beirut on 28 February 2009. At that time, I said that “My team and I will do everything that is humanly and legally possible to ensure that the truth emerges and that those responsible for the crimes that fall within our jurisdiction are (...) brought to justice”.

This is an important moment for the People of Lebanon.

It marks the launch of the judicial phase of the Tribunal’s work. For the first time, a legal case has been launched by an international Tribunal against those responsible for a political assassination in Lebanon. This step has been taken at the request and on behalf of the People of Lebanon and in fulfillment of a mandate from the United Nations Security Council.

This is also an important moment for the international community – and for those who believe in international justice.

It has been a long process; but you have been patient. Thank you.

To all the victims, a special word of thanks.

Many attacks have been made against the Tribunal but you were not shaken: you kept your hope alive; you continued to believe in the Tribunal, its independence and professionalism. Thank you.

I know some of you think this has taken a long time. Yet for others, the filing of an indictment comes too soon. Let me address these two issues.

To the first, I would say that justice cannot be rushed. The evidence must be credible and compelling. I have made it clear from the start that I would act independently and that I would be driven by the evidence alone.

To those who did not expect or want this day to come, I would say that while justice may be slow, it is deliberate.

I am enormously proud of the persistence and professionalism of my staff and grateful to them. They are all passionate about this case. I thank them for their dedication to the task, their commitment to justice for Lebanon and their sense of duty.

I also want to thank the Lebanese Authorities for their support and ongoing assistance. It has been essential.

The indictment filed yesterday represents the fruit of the hard work, under challenging circumstances, of all those involved in the process.

This is only a first step in our collective quest to end impunity in Lebanon. A quest that must be pursued through existing laws and institutions.

It is now up to the Pre-Trial Judge to review the indictment and the supporting material that we have gathered.

Confidentiality

Let me now turn to the confidentiality of the process. As frustrating as it may be, the content of the indictment must remain confidential for the time being. So, unfortunately, you will have to wait a little bit longer.

According to the Rules of the Tribunal, I cannot reveal either the charges or the name of the person or persons referred to in the indictment.

This continued confidentiality is essential as I cannot presume that the Pre-Trial Judge will confirm the indictment.

If it is confirmed, the content of the document will be made public in due course and when so ordered by the Pre-Trial Judge.

Many of your questions will be answered at that time. As the trial process unfolds, you will have the opportunity to satisfy yourselves as to the strength of the evidence that we have gathered.

In the meantime, any speculation about the contents of the indictment would be counter-productive as the Pre-Trial Judge may not agree with me.

Public Hearing

To assist him in his review, the Pre-Trial Judge may submit to the Appeals Chamber preliminary legal questions necessary to review and rule on the indictment. The Appeals Chamber may then order a public hearing, which will be limited to questions of law.

It will not deal with any of the facts contained in the indictment, the identity of any of the persons or any of the charges contained in that document.

Presumption of Innocence

This indictment is not only a first step on the road to ending impunity in Lebanon; it is also the first step of the judicial process.

Any person or persons named in the indictment are presumed innocent.

And even after the indictment is confirmed by the Pre-Trial Judge – if it is – the person or persons whose identity is contained in the document are still presumed innocent. This means that the Prosecution will have to prove before a trial court, and beyond a reasonable doubt – that they are guilty. If there is a reasonable doubt, the accused will be acquitted.

Any accused has the right to defend himself vigorously against the allegations contained in an indictment. The Office of the Defence has been created to assist the accused and their counsel in ensuring that the best possible defence is offered.

Conclusion

In conclusion, our work is far from over.

I can assure you that we will continue our mission with the same level of passion and commitment, respecting fully the rights of the victims and the accused.

Thank you.

Daily Observer

Tuesday, 18 January 2011

Intervention in Cote d'Ivoire Significant for Liberia, Nigeria as They Prepare for Elections

Cllr Viedier Ex-TRC Boss

By: Observer Staff Reporter

The Chairman of the erstwhile Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Liberia, Cllr Jerome J. Verdier, Sr., has described the intervention of the international community in the Ivorian Coast as "an unprecedented but a necessary boost for the growth of democracy in Africa."

He praised the various world bodies for not ignoring the situation in Ivory Coast and leaving the fate of that nation to the "ego safari" of its current leaders.

Cllr Verdier said that the intervention of the African Union (AU), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the United Nations (UN) the European Union (EU), the United States (USA) and the rest of the world was robust, uncompromising and perhaps for the first time unanimous in defense of democracy in Africa and the troubled West Africa sub-region.

He said the actions and intervention of the international community in Ivory Coast are especially significant for countries like Liberia, Nigeria that are preparing for elections in 2011 and are struggling to acculturate democracy and strengthen current democratic institutions in their respective countries.

The robust and proactive role of the international community, including financial institutions, signals a departure from the core principles of the past that adopted different standards for most favored nations or leaders who were allies of the West or powerful nations, Cllr. Verdier averred.

"Sustaining democracy in Africa would tolerate neither compromise nor negotiation on the core tenets of democracy. He referred to upholding the will of the people in credible elections, the rule of law, constitutionalism, freedom of association and freedom of speech and of the press as core democratic values that must be upheld at all times," Mr. Verdier declared.

He went on to identify human rights protection, justice for all, eradicating impunity, combating corruption, and the holding of periodic elections in Africa under conditions of equality, participation and opportunity for all as the final set of core principles of democracy that "should never be compromised in Africa."

Cllr. Verdier expressed gratitude to the international community and said Africa has come of age to manage and sustain the growth of democracy throughout the continent provided the international community, including African solidarity, will muster the courage to be transparent and unambiguous in their demand for democratic change and upholding the core principles of democracy in all spheres of African development.

Kenya Broadcasting Corporation

Monday, 17 January 2011

ICC statement taking scheduled for Tuesday

Written By: Carol Gakii,



Over 1,500 people were killed and 500,000 others displaced after chaos erupted in most parts of the country.

various reasons.

Security chiefs and Provincial Commissioners who served in the post election violence hot spots are scheduled to start recording statements with the International Criminal Court Investigators on Tuesday.

Lady Justice Kalpana Rawal has expressed optimism that the statement taking process will take off without further hitches.

However, in a phone interview with KBC, the officers' lead lawyer Ken Ogeto said that their clients will not turn up to record statements until two pending cases in The Hague and Nairobi are heard and determined.

The exercise has been postponed thrice due to

"There's the case at The Hague, the application file which is the reason why this process was suspended in the first place and that application has not been decided. Then of course there's this case that was filed last week by two businessmen. Came today for hearing and will come again in the next two weeks I think. Now for those reasons this process will not take place." He said

The exercise was first scheduled for November 24 last year but was deferred to December 7th after lawyers representing the officers demanded to be issued with questions in advance.

However, their prayers were not granted prompting the officers to file a case in The Hague seeking assurance that their evidence will not be used against them.

Lady Justice Rawal then set a new date for December 20th but the ICC team failed to travel to Nairobi due to bad weather in Europe forcing the exercise to be suspended to Tuesday.

Ten witnesses are already listed for the statement taking exercise that should take about three days, once the process commences.

They include PCs who were in charge of various provinces then: Ernest Munyi (Coast), Abdul Mwasera (Western), Hassan Noor Hassan (Rift Valley), James Waweru (Nairobi) and Paul Olando (Nyanza).

The Provincial Police chiefs who were in the office at the time include Grace Kaindi [Nyanza], Everett Wasige (Rift Valley), King'ori Mwangi (Coast), Francis Munyambu (Western) and Njue Njagi who was in Nairobi at the time.

Voice of America

Tuesday, 18 January 2011

AU Launches New Bid to Resolve Ivory Coast's Political Crisis

The African Union's mediator to Ivory Coast, Kenyan Prime Minister Raila Odinga, returned Monday to Abidjan, where he had what he described as "very useful discussions" with the country's embattled president, Laurent Gbagbo.

Mr. Odinga, who is trying to resolve Ivory Coast's weeks-old political crisis, said he had proposed that further talks take place Tuesday, and suggested the possibility of direct negotiations between Mr. Gbagbo and his rival for the presidency, Alassane Ouattara.

The AU envoy has scheduled a meeting Tuesday with Ouattara, who has been internationally recognized as the winner of Ivory Coast's November election. But Ouattara has insisted that Mr. Gbagbo's resignation must precede any reconciliation talks.

Several West African leaders have threatened to remove Mr. Gbagbo by force if he continues to refuse repeated demands to relinquish power. However, Mr. Odinga said Monday that a military solution is the "last resort."

Shortly before Mr. Odinga's arrival, United Nations peacekeeping troops were forced to fire warning shots after a crowd of Gbagbo supporters gathered near the hotel in Abidjan where the AU envoy is staying.

U.N. officials have expressed concern about the level of violence in Ivory Coast in the wake of the disputed November 28 election. A spokesman acknowledged to reporters Monday that the U.N. mission is operating under difficult circumstances. But he said it will not be intimidated.

Mr. Gbagbo has called for the withdrawal of all U.N. troops. And last week, pro-Gbagbo mobs attacked and burned several U.N. vehicles.

Earlier this month, Mr. Odinga and three West African presidents met with Mr. Gbagbo. But the Ivory Coast leader refused their entreaties to step down.