

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



Mongolian Guard force (MONBAT 10) medal parade. See more in today's *Special Court Supplement*.

**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, 19 January 2011

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.  
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact  
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## Voice of America

Wednesday, 19 January 2011

### **AU Mediator Leaving Ivory Coast Early**

The African Union's mediator on the Ivory Coast presidential crisis plans to leave the country Wednesday after failing to make progress toward resolving the presidential standoff.

A spokesman for Kenyan Prime Minister Raila Odinga says will travel to Ghana, Angola and Burkina Faso to discuss the situation.

During his time in the Ivory Coast, Mr. Odinga met separately with the internationally-recognized winner of the country's recent presidential election, Alassane Ouattara, and incumbent leader Laurent Gbagbo, who refuses to give up power.

Mr. Odinga said he had achieved "some progress," and that there is a chance the two rivals could meet, if certain undisclosed conditions are fulfilled.

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

Tuesday, the United Nations Security Council postponed a vote on sending additional peacekeepers because of objections from Russia. However, the current security council president assured reporters the council would vote on the resolution on Wednesday.

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.

## Radio Netherlands Worldwide

Tuesday, 18 January 2010

### Lebanon Tribunal files indictment amidst crisis

By Daisy Mohr, Beirut



*Beirut, Lebanon*

The Special Tribunal for Lebanon filed its first indictment this week amidst a political crisis in the country, with factions at loggerheads about the existence of the tribunal which seeks to investigate the assassination of former Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri.

STL prosecutor Daniel Bellemare on Monday filed a confidential indictment in connection with the 2005 attack on Hariri in Beirut, which killed him and 22 others. Details of the long-awaited indictment is not expected to be divulged for another six to ten weeks, when pre-trial judge Daniel Franssen is to decide whether there is enough evidence to proceed with a trial.

Last week, Lebanon's Hezbollah-led opposition stepped out of the government after Prime Minister Saad Hariri, the son of the slain Sunni leader, refused the opposition's demand to hold an immediate cabinet meeting to discuss the United Nations-backed tribunal.

Hezbollah's resignation follows the failure of a five-month mediation effort by Syria and Saudi Arabia to find a solution to Lebanon's political deadlock. The cabinet's collapse has thrown Lebanon into its worst political crisis since 2008, when a similar stalemate resulted in deadly street fighting.

Many are worried that the indictments would add fuel to the fire. While the tribunal has remained tight-lipped, it has been widely speculated that Hezbollah members will be among those indicted. Hezbollah has denied any involvement in the assassination.

"To have a dysfunctional government at a time when everyone is waiting to hear who killed Raffia Hariri is not a very safe environment. What will happen on the day the indictments will be made public? It will be a scary moment," says Paul Salem, the director of the Middle East Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

In the past months, Hezbollah officials had hoped to persuade Hariri to withdraw state funding for the tribunal, pressure its Lebanese judges to resign and declare the agreement with the UN mandating the court null and void. In exchange, they would allow him to retain his post.

Hariri, however, has repeatedly stated that he would continue supporting the tribunal. The United States, a staunch STL backer, has pledged to ensure that the tribunal continues its work. "As the US and the international community have said from the beginning: the STL is an irrevocable, international judicial process, and its work is not a matter of politics but of law," said US ambassador to Lebanon, Maura Connelly, after the government collapsed.

Hariri, in the interest of national unity, said late last year that he won't push for the arrest or prosecution of any Hezbollah members indicted. Salem pointed out that even without the government's collapse, it would still be "inconceivable that someone in Lebanon would arrest suspects."

Analysts seem to agree that for the moment, however, the collapse of the government will not have a direct impact on the STL's daily operations. "It won't affect the STL directly. No new action can be taken as this has paralyzed the situation. If there is no government for a long time, there will be no payments, but others have already indicated they're willing to make those," says Salem.

Should a new government be formed with an opposition majority, it would immediately cut ties with the STL. "I doubt, however, that they have enough votes to form such a government. They have no clear majority," he adds.

A 2006 agreement between the UN and Lebanon established the Special Tribunal for Lebanon, or 'Hariri tribunal'. Its statute was endorsed on 30 May 2007, giving the court a mandate to try those suspected of assassinating Hariri. The court may also investigate other attacks in Lebanon, of a similar nature or gravity, committed after 1 October 2004.

The Hariri Tribunal, located in the Dutch town of Leidschendam, is first UN-sponsored criminal court to try a specific person for a 'terrorist' crime. The body will be a 'hybrid' international court, similar to the war crimes courts for Sierra Leone and Cambodia, with the important distinction that it will apply Lebanese law, not international law.

Hezbollah has insisted that the tribunal is a political conspiracy by Israel and the West to increase pressure on their organization, which is on the US list of terrorist groups. Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah has warned that the organization will "cut off the hands" of anyone attempting to arrest its members.

Meanwhile, the situation remains calm in Beirut, a city only too familiar with violence. While a bloody 15-year civil war ended in 1990, sectarian and political strife since then has often degenerated into fierce clashes.

While some Lebanese feel the tribunal is necessary, others worry about country's stability. "Despite its limited mandate, it is important to bear in mind that for this country this represents a positive break with the past – if it succeeds," says Lynn Maalouf of the International Centre for Transitional Justice in Beirut. "In its contemporary history Lebanon suffered over thirty high profile assassinations without any form of accountability."

Lebanon seems to be heading for an extended political gridlock. The establishment of a new government could take months, during which time Hariri's cabinet will remain as an interim government. However, its functions may be impaired. During a speech on Sunday Nasrallah made very clear that Hezbollah and its allies will not back Hariri in forming a new government. Salem: "Forming a new government in the current situation is virtually impossible."

## Hirondelle News Agency

Tuesday, 18 January 2010

### **ICTR Defers Referral applications for two Rwandan fugitives**

The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) has deferred the proceedings in relation to two applications for referral of cases to Rwanda for trial involving fugitives Fulgence Kayishema and Charles Sikubwabo, pending their arrest or determination of a similar application of genocide detainee, Jean Uwinkindi.

"The Chamber decides that the proceedings in relation to the Prosecution's motion for the referral of Fulgence Kayishema (and) Charles Sikubwabo's case to the authorities of the Republic of Rwanda, including the appointment of counsel for the Accused, shall be deferred until the Accused (are) arrested or until a final decision has been made in relation to the request in Uwinkindi case, whatever comes first," a Trial Chamber ruled.

Prosecutor Hassan Jallow filed the three applications for referral of the cases against Kayishema, former judicial police inspector of Kivumu commune in Kibuye prefecture (Western Rwanda), Charles Sikubwabo, ex-mayor of Gishyita commune in the same prefecture and Uwinkindi, Rwandan Pentecostal Church Pastor, on November 4, 2010.

The Chamber recalled that Kayishema and Sikubwabo were still at large and, therefore, the matter pending was not in particular urgent as long as the accused have not been arrested.

It considered further that information that would be gathered in relation to referral request concerning Uwinkindi and the outcome of that case, in particular in the event of an appeal, was likely to impact on the issues that would be raised in relation to the referral requests concerning the two fugitives.

The first five similar applications made in 2007 were rejected because the Chambers were of the view that the accused would not receive fair trials in Rwanda as a result of the laws in existence in the country at that time.

Uwinkindi, currently detained at the UN Detention Facility in Arusha, was arrested on June 30, 2010 in Uganda as he was coming into the country from the neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). He pleaded not guilty to charges of genocide and extermination, as a crime against humanity, in his further appearance on December 1, 2010.

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## Cambodia Tribunal confirms trial for top regime leaders



*Phnom Penh, Cambodia*

Cambodia's UN-backed war crimes court on Thursday upheld the indictments against four top Khmer Rouge leaders, rejecting their appeals to dismiss the case and paving the way for a major trial.

The four face charges of war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and related crimes under Cambodian laws in connection with the deaths of up to two million people between 1975 and 1979 from starvation, overwork and execution.

"Today, the pre-trial chamber [...] has confirmed and partially amended the indictments against the accused persons," the court said in a statement, referring to some minor technical changes to September's closing order, which detailed the investigating judges' conclusions.

"The pre-trial chamber has ordered the accused persons to be sent for trial and to continue to be held in provisional detention until they are brought before the trial chamber," it added.

The accused, the communist regime's most senior surviving members, are "Brother Number Two" Nuon Chea, former foreign minister Ieng Sary, his wife and ex-social affairs minister Ieng Thirith and former head of state Khieu Samphan.

"We expect the trial to start within the first half of this year," court spokesman Lars Olsen said.

The ailing defendants, aged between 78 and 85, have been in detention since 2007.

Asked about the state of their health, Olsen told AFP they have "normal health conditions for their age and they have regular medical check-ups."

The second trial follows the landmark July conviction of former Tuol Sleng prison chief Kaing Guek Eav, better known as Duch, for war crimes and crimes against humanity for his role in the deaths of around 15,000 men, women and children.

The court - which does not have the power to impose the death penalty - handed Duch a 30-year jail term but he could walk free in 19 years given time already served. Both Duch, 68, and the prosecution have appealed the sentence.

Hearings for those appeals are scheduled to take place in the last week of March.

The tribunal, dogged by allegations of political interference, has yet to announce whether it will go ahead with two more cases against five as-yet-unnamed former Khmer Rouge cadres.

Prime Minister Hun Sen, himself a mid-level cadre before turning against the movement, has repeatedly warned that pursuing more suspects from the hardline regime could spark civil war.

Led by "Brother Number One" Pol Pot, who died in 1998, the Marxist regime emptied cities in the late 1970s in a bid to create an agrarian utopia.

(Source: AFP)

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