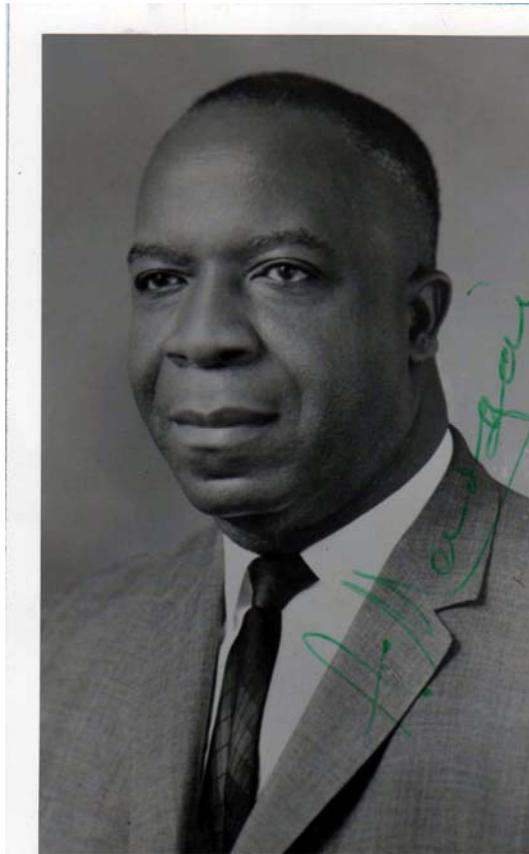


**SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
OUTREACH AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE**



Autographed photograph of Sir Albert Margai,
second Prime Minister of Sierra Leone.

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, 19 April 2011

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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Standard Times
Tuesday, 19 April 2011

NaCSA empowers female war victims

BY GBESSAY JULDEH IN BO

Some fifty-two female war victims in the Southern Region on Thursday 17th March 2011 graduated at a ceremony held at the Bo City Hall after completing some three or six months training under the reparation programme, implemented by the National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA) with support from the United Nations.

The occasion which attracted hundreds of people drawn from Bo, Bonthe, Moyamba and Pujehun Districts was chaired by the Senior Assistant Secretary in the Provincial Secretaries Office South Sahr Samuel Matturi.

Delivering his keynote statement, the Resident Minister South Honorable Mojjoye Kaikai congratulated the graduants and wished them success in all their undertakings.

have learned to others for the betterment of their respective communities and Sierra Leone in general.

The district Co-ordinator National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA) Bo, Mrs. Aminata Vandi admonished the beneficiaries to make good use of the opportunity accorded them as thousands of women of the same categories or status are yearning for such an opportunity.

Addressing the gathering, the Programme Manager of the Reparation programme in the National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA) Amadu Bangura on behalf the commissioner of NaCSA thanked all present to grace the all important ceremony.

Mr. Bangura took the opportunity to convey greetings from the Commissioner of NaCSA to the people of the Southern Region especially the graduants.

According to Mr. Amadu Bangura, the desire is to reduce the risk of its people, stating that the female war victims are part of our Sierra Leonean society.

It is in view of this that the international community and the government of Sierra Leone ought it good for the reparation programme to be implemented with the aim of empowering the targeted beneficiaries.

The Programme Manager commended and thanked all institutions that helped in the training of the aid Female War Victims referring to the learning institutions development partners.

He maintained that Government is doing all it could to fulfill its obligations in the Lome Peace Accord.

Mr. Bangura intimated that six hundred female war victims were brought on board for the training but four of them could not penetrate.

Giving an overview of the project, Amadu Bangura recalled that the Reparation Programme came about as a result of the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) which was set up by both the international community and the Government of Sierra Leone to come up with an unbiased report of the eleven year rebel war.

The aim of the reparation programme, he went on is to train, capacitate and above all empower female war victims in order to become self-reliant.

Amadu Bangura vividly stated that the main focus of NaCSA is to rehabilitate war victims so as to make the reparation programme a reality.

Considering, what the said women went through during the war, NaCSA cannot and would not compensate them, but that all they can do for them is to empower them.

He recited that women were raped, tortured, amputated, burned their houses, insulted and assaulted, etc by Armed men or gun carriers

Empowering the female war victims, Mr. Bangura noted, is a clear manifestation that their dignity is not only recognized by Government and international community but also one which is paramount.

Honourable Kaikai underscored the significance of the Reparation Programme adding that, it will help those who did not benefited from any skills training programme before, during and after the eleven year civil conflict in the country.

Mojjoye Kaikai warned against the misuse of the five hundred dollars plus the tool kits given to the graduants each if they are to contribute to nation building. He however promised to monitor the facilities in his confines region for the good of all.

In his contribution, the Mayor of the Bo City Council, Dr. Wusu Sannoh expressed felicitation and opined options in that the beneficiaries would live up to expectations.

"I was supposed to attend other functions, but adjusted myself to witness this your graduation and presentation ceremony", the Bo City Father told the graduants.

Mayor Wusu Sannoh entreated the graduants to pass on what they

While describing the graduation and presentation ceremony as colourful, the Reparation Programme Manager thanked the following dignitaries, Dr. Wusu Sannoh of the Bo City Council, Resident Minister South, Mojjoye Kaikai, Paramount Chief Prince Lappia Boima of Kakua chieftdom and Regional Chairman Civil Society Movement Mr. Alex Nallo for gracing the occasion.

The selection and training of the beneficiaries was done in collaboration with some formidable civil society and vocational institutions with the view of attaining the objective of NaCSA.

Some of the skills covered, according to the Reparation Programme Manager, are: Computing, Garbing and Dye, Soap Making, Tailoring, Thematic Issues like HIV/AIDS, Human Rights, Business Entrepreneurship and Gender Based Violence, among others.

Amadu disclosed that the said reparation programme is not only limited to the Southern Region but that it is a nationwide programme.

He confirmed that the graduant did not only benefited from the training a certificate but also a tool kit plus five hundred United State Dollars each, adding that the said foreign currency is equivalent to two million, one hundred and twenty thousand Leones each.

He categorically stated that, the aim of NaCSA is rebuild the life and dignity of the aforementioned graduants, so that they will overcome self-stigma and contribute to nation building.

The Reparation Boss, entreated the graduants to form themselves into groups in order to establish what are called enterprises.

Mr. Bangura advised the beneficiaries not to sell the tool kits or misuse the money given to them as it will not only tell on them but generations yet unborn.

He revealed that men victims are benefiting likewise, noting that plans are afoot to verify potential beneficiaries that are in male categories like the amputees, war wounded, child victims so that they too will benefit when funds are available.

Mr. Bangura encouraged war victims who are yet to benefit from the reparation programme to exercise patience because all of them cannot benefit at the same time on account of limited resources, but however said to them that they too will benefit one day as this is just the first phase of the programme.

He intimated that, the mandate given to NaCSA in 2008, the reparation programme is expected to last for ten years.

According to the Programme Manager, some five hundred and ninety-six female war victims have already benefited from this first phase of reparation programme while Southern Province got fifty-two, sixty-one in the east, Northern Province nine and three and ninety in the Western

Ocampo Six fight bond deposit push

International Criminal Court Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo.

By JILLO KADIDA jkadida@ke.nationmedia.com AND OLIVER MATHENGE
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The Ocampo Six have asked the Pre-Trial Chamber to reject an application by the International Criminal Court chief prosecutor for new conditions against them.

Deputy Prime Minister Uhuru Kenyatta, Head of Public Service Francis Muthaura and Postmaster-General Hussein Ali have cited seven grounds to fight off Mr Luis Moreno-Ocampo's application.

Tinderet MP Henry Kosgey argues that the conditions sought are "unnecessary and inappropriate" since he has already cooperated with the court as had been required.

Lawyer Katwa Kigen, responding on behalf of radio presenter Joshua Sang and Eldoret North MP William Ruto, argued that conditions requested by the prosecution violated the rights of the defendants, in a manner which is "unnecessary and disproportionate".

Mr Kenyatta, Maj-Gen Ali and Mr Muthaura said the plea to have them deposit bond was unreasonable and should not be allowed because there was no risk of them absconding.

"The prosecutor has not argued that the suspects are flight risk. Accordingly, the prosecutor has failed to establish any justification as to why suspects be required to post bond," said the three in their response filed at The Hague.

According to the defence team, the earlier conditions imposed by the ICC had not been breached to warrant imposing new and tougher conditions.

In his request, the prosecutor had sought to have the three compelled to appear in person before the Chamber at least once every six months.

The suspects have to certify before the Chamber, under oath, that they have complied in full with all the conditions.

Mr Muthaura, Mr Kenyatta and Maj-Gen Ali should also submit complete financial information.

The financial information, given under oath, is to enable the Chamber to determine the appropriate bond and to ensure its enforceability; and that the suspect can then post bond or provide real or personal security or surety in an amount sufficient to guarantee his future appearance at all required hearings of the court.

In addition, they are not to make any public statements that contain or can be construed as containing "an open or veiled threat to actual or prospective witnesses or victims".

Aid Netherlands

Thursday, 14 April 2011

<http://www.nl-aid.org/continent/south-east-asia/cambodia-war-crimes-and-the-issue-of-retribution/>

Cambodia, war crimes and the issue of retribution



Comrade Duch on trial

On March 30th this year in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, a frail looking 68-year old former math teacher, Kang Kek Lew, had his appeal against a 35-year sentence for crimes against humanity, murder and torture rejected by the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia. The man in question, better known by his *nom de guerre* Comrade Duch, ran the infamous S-21 prison camp between 1975 and 1979 during which time an estimated 15-20,000 people were tortured and killed.

Like Laurent Gbagbo of The Ivory Coast, who was captured by French and UN forces today (April 11), one of the most striking things about such figures is how ordinary they look once they no longer exercise the authority they had. This notwithstanding, Gbagbo's arrest and Duch's appeal both raise the difficult issue of how to deal with former leaders accused of committing atrocities against their own citizens. In the case of Gbagbo the prosecutor for the International Criminal Court, Luis Moren-Ocampo, has already been in negotiations with African states about a referral of recent events to the ICC. In the case of Duch, he remains the *only* person so far convicted for the horrific events known as the *Killing Fields*.

The Killing Fields refers to the period between 17 April 1975 and 6 January 1979 when Cambodia was ruled by the Communist Party of Kampuchea, better known by their moniker the Khmer Rouge. Led by Pol Pot the Khmer Rouge instigated a radical program of cultural, social, political and economic reform largely modeled on China's failed Great Leap Forward (1958-61). Glorifying the 'heroic role' of the peasant (the 'old people') the Khmer Rouge aimed to create a classless society by depopulating the country's cities and forcing the urban population (the 'New' People) into agricultural communes. Most dramatic was the forced emptying of the capital Phnom Penh. Home to approximately 2.5 million at the time of the revolution, the city, including its hospitals, was forcibly evacuated. History and society would begin again from a Year Zero in which 'Democratic Kampuchea' would forge its own glorious revolution. However like previous attempts at total revolution the revolutionaries soon became mass murderers.

In the three years and nine months the Khmer Rouge ruled Cambodia approximately 1.7 million died, 21 per cent of the country's population. Of these it is estimated that half were executed while the rest died of starvation or illness. What differentiates the Cambodian genocide from its counterparts is that the killings were instigated by the country's *own* government against its *own* population. For this reason the term *autogenocide* was coined in order to distinguish the horrific events from episodes where a particular

ethnic or religious group was the target of systematic extermination. Justice and retribution for these exterminations however, would wait nearly three decades.

Between 1979 and 1989 the vagaries of the Cold War intervened. Defeated by a Vietnamese army that ostensibly claimed to be liberating the Cambodians from their oppressor, the Khmer Rouge were shamefully supported as a guerilla force by Western governments to ‘balance’ Soviet influence in Indochina. Peace talks were finally concluded in 1991, which brought an end to the civil war and transferred authority to a United Nations Transitional Authority. Two years later power was transferred to an elected government and it was this government that four years later in 1997 called upon the United Nations to assist the country in creating a judicial body and process to try the leaders of the Khmer Rouge.

Despite this it would take another *eleven* years before hearings at the ECCC would begin. The intervening decade was beset with fractious squabbles between the government of Cambodia and the UN over the thorny issue of sovereignty. Initially the United Nations proposed the creation of an international tribunal modeled after the International Tribunals for Yugoslavia and Rwanda. The Cambodian government rejected such proposals seeking instead to insert national legal institutions into any such organization, while in 2001 the UN pulled out of negotiations because it concluded that the conditions did not exist for a fair and independent trial. Eventually in 2003 the two sides agreed to the creation of a hybrid body comprising both national and international judges. However, further delays resulted due to the alleged inability of the Cambodian government to finance the tribunal. Critics have argued that the real reason for the obstruction and delay was the fact that the government of Cambodia under prime Minister Hun Sen included several former Khmer Rouge defectors.

The ECCC presents an interesting case study of the difficulties in dealing with atrocities conducted and committed by officials of a former, usually authoritarian or military, regime. Political transitions rarely result in a complete replacement of one ruling elite by another. Instead they are often messy and muddy compromises in which the issue of impunity from justice is often dealt with behind-the-scenes. Nevertheless, however such compromises are made, and why, society as a whole often clamors for punishment and retribution. The argument is made that punishment is both an appropriate response to moral atrocity, and necessary to deter future actions. In addition, others hold that it is a necessary condition to ensure long-term peace, national unity and democratic consolidation.

Whether you accept these premises or not recent history is replete with responses that “have ranged from historical amnesia to intermediary strategies of amnesty and truth telling to limited purges (lustration) and trials” (Amstutz, 2004). Ultimately the scope, successes, or failures of such attempts will always be dependent on the specific constellation of power in each relevant country and the wider geopolitical framework. What might be possible in Yugoslavia, may not be possible in The Ivory Coast, Libya, Indonesia or Cambodia. In the case of Cambodia however complete justice will never be fully attainable since the architect of the country’s horrors, Pol Pot, died of heart failure on April 15th 1998. He unlike Kang Kek Lew will never be held to account.



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The Associated Press

Monday, 18 April 2011

International judge rules against lawyers' wigs

A judge has asked lawyers to shed their wigs next time they appear before her at the International Criminal Court.

A handful of attorneys appeared Monday in traditional black gowns and white horsehair wigs for a preliminary hearing in a case dealing with violence after Kenya's disputed 2007 presidential election.

Justice Ekaterina Trendafilova paused briefly at the end of the hearing to pass a hair-raising judgment.

"This is not the dress code of this institution," she said.

"In this quite warm weather maybe it will be more convenient to be without wigs," she added with a smile.

It is unusual for lawyers to appear at the International Criminal Court in wigs, but not unheard of. At least three lawyers wore wigs during the initial appearance of three Kenyan suspects on April 8, without Justice Trendafilova issuing any dress code guidelines.

Steven Kay, one of the lawyers wearing a wig Monday, said the court's registry gave him the option of wearing Dutch lawyer's garb or the English version of wig and gown.

"I was not aware before the proceedings of any rule that there were no wigs at the ICC," Kay told the AP in an email.

Court spokesman Fadi El Adballah said there were no specific rules about wigs, and it is up to individual judges to run their courtrooms "in a harmonious way."

Trendafilova decided that since wigs are not mandatory, it would be better for all lawyers to have the same dress code — in this case without wigs, he added.

David Hooper, another British barrister who appeared in court Monday, did so without his wig.

In 2006, Serb nationalist Vojislav Seselj refused to accept a be-wigged Hooper as a court-appointed defense lawyer because he wanted to defend himself at the Yugoslav war crimes tribunal.

"This man with a bird's nest on his head has been falsely introduced as my counsel," Seselj told the court, referring to Hooper's wig. "He will never be my defense counsel."

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Voice of America

Monday, 18 April 2011

20th Century Mass Killings Remembered

Mike O'Sullivan



Photo: REUTERS

Crucifixes hang among the personal possessions of Rwandan victims at a genocide memorial inside the church at Ntarama just outside the capital Kigali, Rwanda, August 6, 2010

Two of the worst atrocities of the 20th century started in the month of April: the killing of 1.5 million Armenians in Ottoman Empire Turkey in 1915 and 1916, and the slaughter of 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus in Rwanda in 1994. Scholars and survivors say the process of healing is not easy.

Donald Miller, who directs the Center for Religion and Civic Culture at the University of Southern California, interviewed Armenian survivors in the 1970s and '80s. He also has collected the stories of those orphaned and widowed by the Rwanda massacre.

He said several themes emerge from the interviews, most recently in Rwanda. "One thing is that forgiveness is extremely difficult. And in our experience of doing 100 interviews, that is the exceptional case. In fact, what we found is that some individuals are so traumatized that they may say that they have forgiven the perpetrators of this genocide, but they say so almost with a spirit of resignation in their voice, as if, 'we have no other choice,'" said Miller.

He said that in Rwanda there is an effort to bring about reconciliation through community courts, where perpetrators ask for forgiveness and the victims generally give it. He said it is often not clear, however, that the forgiveness is heartfelt.

The killings in Armenia took place in connection with forced deportations of the Armenian Christian minority in the largely Muslim Ottoman Empire. Historian Richard Hovannisian of the University of California, Los Angeles, recalls that it started in the imperial capital.

"In April, 1915, the Armenian intellectual, political, religious leaders in Constantinople were arrested, deported and most of them killed. And then followed in the following months, the mass deportation and massacres of Armenians throughout the Ottoman Empire through forced marches, outright killing of the male population, forced marches of the woman and children," said Hovannisian. "And the place of so-called relocation, for those who made it - not many did, but those who did - were the deserts."

In the documentary *The River Ran Red* from the Armenian Film Foundation, a survivor tells about his experience. The interview was recorded in 1985, and the man recalled what he witnessed as a child.

"In the morning, I walked and walked. I saw a boy. Together, we found a girl and we hid in the forest. We saw the Turks looking for Armenians in forest. At night, they would massacre the men. During the day, the women and the boys. We were lying down in the blood. We woke up among the dead."

The events occurred after the Ottomans entered World War I, and Turkey still insists there were civilian deaths on all sides in the confusion of war. It says Armenians were deported from the Eastern war zone because of fear of unrest and concerns that the Armenian minority could aid the enemy, Russia. Turkey also disputes the numbers, saying no more than 600,000 Armenians died, and not by intent.

Hovannisian said the question remains politically sensitive because of the strategic importance of Turkey as a bridge to the Muslim world.

"Some would prefer to avoid it. For example, President Obama, who as candidate Obama insisted one of the first things he would do would be to acknowledge the Armenian genocide, has skirted the issue by using an Armenian term, which is the equivalent of genocide, but does not say genocide. It is the Armenian word [Meds] Yeghern, which means the Great Crime, the Great Event, the Great Tragedy, rather than the word itself. So it does not make the Turkish government happy, but on the other hand, it is not the G-word."

The historian notes that President Woodrow Wilson condemned the massacre at the time it happened, and Wilson's ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, Henry Morgenthau, would call it the murder of a nation.

The Rwanda genocide began April 6, 1994, when ethnic tensions flared after the assassination of Rwanda president Juvenal Habyarimana, who was an ethnic Hutu. The Hutu power movement then targeted Tutsis for elimination.

Yvette Rugasaguhunga, a Tutsi, survived the Rwanda massacre. Now a financial analyst in New York, she has been living in the United States for seven years.

She recalls that on the third day of the genocide, her father was killed. "My father was lucky enough to be shot. He was taken inside of a home. They shot him in front of my grandmother, who begged them to kill her as well, and they shot her," said Rugasaguhunga.

The same day, her 22-year old brother was caught and killed by clubbing. She would lose another brother and two sisters in the killings.

Ironically, Yvette and her sisters were shielded by a neighboring Hutu family, and were later sheltered by a Hutu militiaman who was unaware of their ethnic background. She said the man was loving and warm in his dealings with the girls, but returned home each day from the killings covered in blood.

"And to me, that is something that I can never completely comprehend," she said. "What it taught me is, any human being can be evil, and any human being can be an angel."

Religion scholar Donald Miller said these were Christians killing Christians, and some churchmen were involved.

"In fact, one survivor that I interviewed said that his own Catholic priest refused to serve him communion, or the Eucharist, because he said, 'I do not give the body and blood of Christ to cockroaches.' And so when you identify someone as a cockroach or in the case of the Armenian genocide as an infidel, they become less than human, and there is then a campaign to exterminate these individuals who do not have the same social and civil rights as the rest of the population."

Miller said that modern technology, including the use of mass media to motivate the killers, made the 20th century a century of genocides, from Armenia and the Nazi Holocaust to Rwanda. Mass killings in Cambodia, Darfur and Southern Sudan have added other atrocities to the tragic list.

Rugasaguhunga said reconciliation in Rwanda must begin with justice. She noted that the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda has completed barely 50 trials, and she hopes for the prosecution of more of the ringleaders.

Hovannisian said that acknowledging the crime is a crucial first step to reconciliation, and he said that in Turkey's case, that has not happened.