

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



Historical postcard of a Freetown store.

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:

Monday, 4 April 2011

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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The First Victims of War In Sierra Leone

14 people were killed in cold blood on Saturday, March 1st, 1991 in Bomaru Town; Upper Bambara Chiefdom in the Kailahun District east of Sierra Leone where the first gun shot was fired, marking the beginning of the eleven years rebel war in Sierra Leone.

By Abu Bakarr Munu

Premier News went out on an investigative visit to Bomaru Town and talked to a number of stakeholders in the community and some of those that survived the dreadful attack on that fateful day and are still around to give an account of the attack.

First was the Paramount Chief of the Chiefdom, Upper Bambara, PC Cyril Foray Gondor II.

He commended Fambul Tok International and their partners for choosing Bomaru as the venue, saying they made no mistake in their decision of the venue for the ceremony.

PC Gondor II recalled how he was in the town on that day, where he was holidaying from college when the rebels stormed the town, and thanked God he escaped unhurt. He said March 23 is a day that they will never forget in the history of the country and described it as a sad day and that there is need for reflection to avoid a recurrence of the war.

He said his heart bleeds and called on the Government to declare March 23 a day of National Mourning.

At the war monument, the names of the 14 victims, among them two military officers killed on that day, were written on a plaque with 17 who sustained injuries on another.

The 14 victims were Maj. E.F.S. Foday, Lt. Kargbo, Korpur Kamara, Karimu Vandy, Bali Lahai, Hawa Sia Jusu, Abie Foffie, Bockarie Flee, Sheku Kamara, Lahai Sanyor, Fanta Braima, Bockarie Kenneh, Miatta Kobbo and Kula Lucy Saffa.

A survivor of the attack, Bernard Vandy uncovered a long scar on his right-leg saying he had just returned to the town from hunting in the bush when the attack took place.

He disclosed that he was captured, escaped and recaptured but was later rescued from the rebels by the military when they retook the town.

Vandy said as a hunter he was later asked to partner with the army to defend the chiefdom.

"During the early days of the war lots of people were killed, including members of my family," Vandy stated.

Another survivor, Mama Baindu said at the time she was a sucking mother and responsible for preparing food for the captain in charge of SLA troops manning the Sierra Leone/Liberia border.

Baindu said at about 9:00am that fateful morning, they heard sporadic gun shots from the buses, and everyone was

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The First Victims Of War

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confused and did not know what to do, with people running helter-skelter in all directions for safety.

"It was thereafter that I decided to go out to enquire what the problem was, and to my surprise I was taken aback when I saw scores of people lying dead on the ground," Baidu John explained in tears.

She said, with her two daughters, Adama and Messie John, they ran away to a nearby bush, where they lost contact with each other and since then has not set eyes on them.

She said in about a weeks time, the rebels launched another attack and during that time, they captured the Speaker of the town and threatened to kill him.

She noted that the rebels were speaking languages she could not understand, adding that she was injured and taken to a village called Siyama and later to

Pendembu, where she stayed for 17 days, adding that they were in the bush when they heard that rebels had attack Jojoima and the death of one prominent Alhaji Umaru.

"On our return home, we realized that we have lost everything we have worked for in life," Baidu said.

Premier News also spoke to the Executive Director of Fambul Tok International (FTI), John Caulker, whose organization is working in four districts, Kailahun, Kono, Koinadugu and Moyamba, trying to reconcile communities.

"With Fambul Tok we hope to address reconciliation at the community level, to create space for victims and offenders to sit together, to have a dialogue on what went wrong, why they turned against each other-to start the long journey to reconciliation," John Caulker stated.

The Exclusive
Monday, 4 April 2011

USC Law School hosts Sierra Leone Conference

The "Rebuilding Sierra Leone: Changing Institutions and Culture" conference takes place at the University of South Carolina Law School auditorium today from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The conference will discuss the connection between Sierra Leone and South Carolina.

"The connection to South Carolina is important and will be explored on the first panel," said Joel Samuels, associate professor at the law school and organizer of the conference. During the late 1600s, planters from South Carolina started bringing in captors and slaves from Sierra Leone because they were highly valued rice farmers, Bunce Island Coalition Coordinator Joseph Opala said.

"The connection is important because of the economic development that rice brought for South Carolina," said Opala, who has lived in Sierra Leone on and off for the past 20 years.

Opala will be one of the 17 speakers today, and he will talk about Sierra Leone and his coalition project that involves the country.

"The conference features the most recent U.S. ambassador to Sierra Leone

[June Carter Perry] and the U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes [David Scheffer]," Samuels said.

The conference will also focus on specific areas of concern for rebuilding Sierra Leone, the legacy of the Special Court for Sierra Leone (the international tribunal created to prosecute war criminals of Sierra Leone's civil war) and the problems of child soldiers before and after the conflict.

The conference will be divided into four panels: Sierra Leone in Context, Paths to Rebuilding Rule of Law in Sierra Leone, The Special Court for Sierra Leone and The Problem of Child Soldiers.

Samuels said that the legacy of rebuilding a state is interesting and important as to Sierra Leone but also offers broader lessons that might be applicable to places currently and recently in the news such as Egypt, Tunisia and Libya.

"The child soldier panel will address one of the most important and complex issues facing many post-conflict states: How do you handle children who were forced into combat and who actively took part in that combat? Can those children be rehabilitated? If so, how?" Samuels said.

Human Rights Watch

Saturday, 2 April 2011

Côte d'Ivoire: Ouattara Should Act to Control Troops

Fighting in Abidjan Highlights Need to Prevent Reprisals

Alassane Ouattara should take concrete measures to ensure that troops under his command fighting in Côte d'Ivoire's commercial capital, Abidjan, do not commit reprisals or other abuses against civilians or supporters of Laurent Gbagbo, Human Rights Watch said today. Ouattara should publicly pledge to hold accountable all members of his forces implicated in serious violations of international law, Human Rights Watch said.

Ouattara's troops, now called the Republican Forces of Côte d'Ivoire (Forces Républicaines de Côte d'Ivoire, FRCI) comprise a loose coalition of combatants who previously fought for the *Forces Nouvelles* ("New Forces") rebellion, neighborhood-based defense forces, and former Ivorian army soldiers, policemen, and gendarmes who have recently defected from Gbagbo's side.

"Ouattara should send an unequivocal public message to all his commanders and forces fighting on his behalf that reprisals of any kind will be punished," said Daniel Bekele, Africa director at Human Rights Watch.

In mid-March, 2011, forces loyal to Ouattara, who is internationally recognized to have won the November 2010 presidential election, began a concentrated military offensive to take over territory controlled by security forces and militias loyal to Gbagbo, who has rejected calls to step down.

Human Rights Watch has documented a four-month period of widespread abuses against civilians in which about 500 people have lost their lives, according to United Nations estimates. Human Rights Watch continued to urge all parties to the conflict to respect international humanitarian law, including not attacking civilians and ensuring the humane treatment of anyone in custody. UN peacekeepers should further enhance the protection of civilians, especially in light of the threat of reprisals, Human Rights Watch said.

The vast majority of abuses documented by Human Rights Watch were perpetrated by forces loyal to Gbagbo against real or perceived Ouattara supporters, notably members of political parties allied to Ouattara, as well as West African immigrants and Muslims. The documented abuses include targeted killings, enforced disappearances, politically motivated rapes, and unlawful use of lethal force against unarmed demonstrators. These abuses, committed over a four-month period by security forces under the control of Gbagbo and militias loyal to him, may rise to the level of crimes against humanity as defined by the Rome Statute, which created the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Human Rights Watch has also documented extrajudicial executions by Ouattara's forces against alleged pro-Gbagbo supporters and combatants detained in Ouattara territory since the *Forces Nouvelles* gained effective control of parts of Abidjan in late February. Human Rights Watch documented 11 such cases from both witnesses and perpetrators – including three detainees who were burned alive and another four whose throats were slit, acts amounting to war crimes under international humanitarian law. Credible reports indicate the death toll may be higher.

Human Rights Watch has also received credible reports of abuses committed when Ouattara's forces took control of several towns in western Côte d'Ivoire. A March 7 attack by pro-Ouattara fighters on the village of Anonkoua, near the Abobo neighborhood of Abidjan, left at least nine civilians dead in an

apparent case of collective punishment against alleged civilian supporters of Gbagbo. Ouattara has denied that his forces were responsible for the attack. The killing of civilians by pro-Ouattara forces, at times with apparent ethnic or political motivation, also risks becoming a crime against humanity should it become widespread or systematic.

Human Rights Watch has stressed the importance of a full investigation of and accountability for atrocities in Côte d'Ivoire. On March 30, the UN Security Council unanimously approved a resolution that calls upon all parties to cooperate fully with an international commission of inquiry put in place in late March by the UN Human Rights Council to investigate human rights violations committed in Côte d'Ivoire.

The Office of the Prosecutor of the ICC has repeatedly indicated that it will prosecute crimes committed in Côte d'Ivoire if the court's requirements for investigation – which relate to the gravity of the crimes and the inadequacy of national proceedings – are met. An investigation could be triggered by a referral of the situation by the UN Security Council or any state that is party to the court, or if the prosecutor decides to act on his own authority. While Côte d'Ivoire is not a party to the court's Rome Statute, it accepted the court's jurisdiction through a declaration in 2003. The Security Council resolution references this declaration and states that the report of the commission of inquiry should be provided to the Security Council and “other relevant international bodies.”

In a March 31 televised statement to the Ivorian people, Ouattara urged the Republican Forces of Côte d'Ivoire and all military and paramilitary forces who had “rallied with them” to refrain from committing atrocities. While such statements are important, they need to be backed by measures to ensure that combatants implicated in abuses are held accountable, Human Rights Watch said. Human Rights Watch called on Ouattara and commanders of the Republican Forces of Côte d'Ivoire to:

Publicly order all members of their forces, regardless of rank, to abide by international human rights and humanitarian law. Commanders should be aware that they can be held criminally responsible for failing to prevent or punish criminal acts by their subordinates;

Take all necessary measures to ensure the humane treatment of anyone in custody, including captured combatants from Gbagbo's forces, and allow access by international and domestic monitors; and.

Investigate cases of extrajudicial executions and other serious abuses and hold perpetrators accountable after fair proceedings in accordance with international standards.

Daily Nation (Kenya)

Sunday, 3 April 2011

Kenyan lawyers fly out as six gear up for ICC date

By EMEKA MAYAKA-GEKARA gmayaka@ke.nationmedia.com



File | NATION The International Criminal Court building at The Hague.

An advance team of Kenyan lawyers representing the post-election violence suspects flew out of the country to the International Criminal Court at The Hague on Sunday.

Their clients, the so-called Ocampo Six, will all be at The Hague in the Netherlands in the next 72 hours.

Deputy Prime Minister Uhuru Kenyatta, MPs William Ruto and Henry Kosgey, Public Service boss Francis Muthaura, Postmaster-General Hussein Ali and Kass FM presenter Joshua arap Sang have been summoned to make their initial appearance before the court.

Mr Ruto, Mr Kosgey and Mr Sang appear before the Pre-Trial Chamber on Thursday, while Mr Kenyatta, Mr Muthaura and Maj-Gen Ali are scheduled to attend the court on Friday. (READ: ICC sets new date for Uhuru, Muthaura)

ICC prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo accuses them of bearing the biggest responsibility for crimes against humanity during the post-election violence in 2007/08.

Mr Ruto's lawyers, Dr Kithure Kindiki, Mr Kioko Kilukumi and Mr Katwa Kigeni, said as they left that their client and his politician supporters will follow on Tuesday.

Maj-Gen Ali's lawyers, Mr Evans Monari and Mr Gershom Otachi, as well as Mr Ken Ogeto for Mr Muthaura, are scheduled to jet out on Monday night.

Mr Monari said Maj-Gen Ali will travel on Tuesday. "Our client is committed to cooperate with the court. We will support him as he makes the initial appearance," said Mr Monari, who is leading the defence team also comprising Canadian lawyer John Philpot.

As the lawyers left, some of the suspects attended their "last prayer" rally in Nakuru on Sunday.

And Mr Sang was treated and discharged from an Eldoret hospital where he spent the night after suffering a broken arm in an accident as he left a meeting in Bomet on Saturday.

He is said to have fallen from the top of a car after an enthusiastic fan embraced him. He leaves for The Hague on Tuesday night.

The departure preparations come in the wake of reports that an activist had applied to the ICC to suspend summonses against the Ocampo Six.

Ms Mora Gesicho wants the Pre-Trial Chamber to await an outcome of a case she filed at the High Court in Kisii challenging the Waki report.

"The report's findings were fraudulently obtained as the commission manipulated the terms of reference issued by the appointing authority and therein created a window to identify who planned, organised, facilitated and committed egregious human right violations," Ms Gesicho argues in her application dated March 31.

The ICC appearance is to verify the identity of the suspects and to ensure they have been informed of the crimes which they are alleged to have committed and their rights under the Rome Statute.

Inquiries by *Nation* also revealed that Mr Ruto and Mr Kosgey have beefed up their defence teams with high profile foreign lawyers who have handled cases at the ICC and other international criminal tribunals.

He could, however, not give names of the lawyers saying the matter was being handled by a top party official.

Seemingly, the Kenyan cases have turned out to be lucrative hunting grounds for foreign experts in international criminal law. (READ: State enlists Queen's Counsel in Hague cases)

Mr David Hooper, a Queen's Counsel, has joined Mr Ruto's defence team which is led by Dr Kindiki. The respected British lawyer currently represents former Congolese militia leader Germain Katanga.

Sources close to Mr Kosgey said he had sought the services of another Queen's Counsel, Mr Ben Emmerson, who is acting for former Kosovo prime minister Ramush Haradinaj.

Mr Kenyatta is represented by British lawyers Steven Kay, a Queen's Counsel, and Gilian Kay Higgins. The two defended former Yugoslav warlord Slobodan Milosevic at the (ICTY).

Besides Mr Ogeto, Mr Muthaura is represented by British lawyer Karim Ahmad Khan, who in 2006 led the defence for former Liberian President Charles Taylor at the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

Mr Khan is currently representing Sudanese Abdallah Banda and Saleh Jerbo, who were arrested over the Darfur massacres.

He is also defending Mr Bruno Stoj from Herceg Bosna, who is charged with war crimes.

Voice of America

Sunday, 3 April 2011

Rwandan War Crimes Suspect Arrested in France

A man wanted in Rwanda for war crimes, including genocide, has been arrested in France.

Tito Barahira, a former mayor of Kabarondo town in eastern Rwanda, was arrested in the southern French city of Toulouse last month.

The Kigali-based *New Times* newspaper Sunday quoted the head of a Paris-based genocide survivors' advocacy group, Alain Gauthier, as saying Interpol had confirmed Barahira's arrest.

During the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, radical Hutus killed an estimated 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus. Prosecutors in Kigali have indicted Barahira for involvement in the massacres in his area and issued an international arrest warrant for him.

John Bosco Siboyintore, the acting head of Rwanda's Genocide Fugitives Tracking Unit, welcomed the arrest and expressed hope it will be followed by others.

The *New Times* report says Barahira has been accused of organizing and participating in the killing of thousands of Tutsis who were fleeing the killings to Tanzania.

He allegedly organized and participated in the April 13, 1994 killing of Tutsis who had taken refuge at a Kabarondo church.

Standard

Monday, 4 April 2011

Rwanda genocide suspect appeals life sentence

By David Ochami, in Arusha

The alleged mastermind of the 1994 Rwanda genocide Theoneste Bagosora last week began an appeal on the life sentence imposed on him in 2008.

He was convicted alongside three other Rwandans in Military One trial at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda based in Arusha.

The trial, conviction and appeal is significant for Kenyans watching the matter of the Ocampo Six because Bagosora, who was a retired colonel before the Rwanda genocide, was the equivalent of a civilian permanent secretary in Defence and in effect in charge of armed forces, according to the indictment issued in 1997. He was on trial for 11 years.



The Arusha-based International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. [PHOTO: ANDREW KILONZI/STANDARD] Habyarimana.

His lawyer Raphael Constant from France argued that evidence used to convict his client was based on hearsay and wants him acquitted on several points. But the prosecution stuck to the argument raised at his trial that during the genocide Bagosora exercised de facto control of the Ministry of Defence and all the military institutions under it following the April 6 killing of former Rwandan president Juvenal Habyarimana.

Bagosora, who was born in 1941, called Rwanda's minister for Rehabilitation and Refugee Affairs Marcel Gatsinzi, a former chief of staff at the start of the killings, to testify in his appeal. He sought to establish that evidence adduced at trial that he controlled the military and ordered soldiers and other special forces to kill were neither factual nor tenable under Rwanda's law under

Crisis meeting

According to the prosecution, Bagosora convened a crisis meeting of military officers following Habyarimana's assassination on April 6 to try to establish a new government in the absence of then Defence Minister Augustine Bizimana in which deathly decrees were issued.

But Gatsinzi, who has since risen to the post of general under President Paul Kagame, declared that Bagosora not only controlled the armed forces but also resisted his rise to the post of chief of staff between April 6 and April 15 and sabotaged him during his brief tenure at the top of the military.

His lawyer, however, argued that Gatsinzi's testimony was contradictory and compromised by his defection to the Rwanda Patriotic Army and rise in the Kagame regime and said it is Bagosora, in fact who proposed his appointment to the post of chief of staff.

Renegade soldiers

Gatsinzi claimed Bagosora engineered his fall from the post of Chief of Staff after he established communication with Rwanda Patriotic Army through the United Nations Mission in Rwanda.

According to Gatsinzi, Bagosora sabotaged his authority by establishing a separate radio-communication channel with renegade soldiers and special forces and engineered the transfer of money from the Central Bank to a rural town at Gitarama without his authority.

But the defence lawyer questioned Gatsinzi's truthfulness as a witness and produced documents that Bagosora had no substantive powers in the Defence ministry during the minister's presence. Bagosora, who has been described as one of the architects of the Rwanda mass murder, was director of cabinet in the wartime Ministry of Defence after retiring from the military as a colonel.

Captured in Cameroon Bagosora has been in custody of the International Criminal Court for Rwanda since 1996.