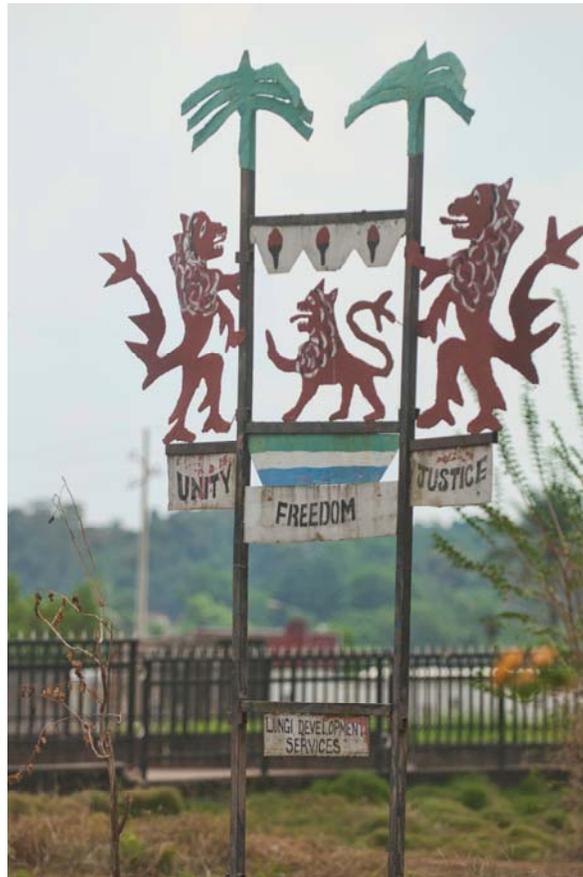


**SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
OUTREACH AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE**



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, 5 April 2011

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
Martin Royston-Wright
Ext 7217

Local News

Judiciary Tops Corrupt Institutions / <i>Concord</i>	Page 3
No Detention Facility for Women Prisoners in Kabala / <i>Premier News</i>	Pages 4-5

International News

61pc of Kenyans Back ICC Trials / <i>Kenya Broadcasting Corporation</i>	Page 6
Special Deposition Proceedings for Kabuga Starts May / <i>Hirondelle News Agency</i>	Page 7
The International Center for Transitional Justice Celebrates Ten Year Anniversary / <i>ICTJ</i>	Page 8

Judiciary tops corrupt institutions

By Rachel Horner

The National Public Perception Survey report on corruption 2010 has revealed and identified the judiciary, executive and legislature as being responsible for failure in the fight against corruption in the country.

"A large segment (74.5%) of respondents identified the judiciary to be responsible for the failure of the war against corruption, the executive (58%) and parliament (57.1%)," the report states.

The report presents the results of the 2010 National Public Perception Survey report on corruption, commissioned by the Justice Sector Coordination Office (JSCO) in collaboration with Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC). The survey is a pre-determined sample size of 1,000 respondents stratified at the four regions of Sierra Leone.

The reasons, according to the report for the overwhelming majority response for the judiciary as an institution respon-

sible for the failure of the war against corruption, was reflected in the view of one participant in the qualitative interview conducted: "I am not sure that the judiciary is independent, efficient and strong enough to hold the balance between the interest of the ACC, the government and the individual". The report also states that the most serious problems in Sierra Leone are poverty, unemployment, corruption, high cost of living and high cost of inflation.

Moreover, the ministry of Mineral Resources and Political Affairs, political parties, ministry of Energy and Water Resources, MPs and Customs authorities are perceived to be dishonest.

Launching the report, Vice President Samuel Sam-Sumana said no country can boast of a 100% corrupt free society, noting that corruption was a major epidemic in the country.

"Every sector has stigma of corruption

widely circulated," he said, adding that the ACC Act of 2008 was a trump-card the government was using to fight sleaze. He assured that the judiciary will be empowered to live up to the expectations of the general public.

ACC Commissioner Joseph Fitzgerald Kamara said his commission was challenged with capacity and shortage of specialists, noting that most Sierra Leoneans blamed the judiciary as being responsible for the failure of the ACC, as indicated in the report. He affirmed that the ACC was not in existence to execute personal vendetta or political agenda but to serve the public good.

Coordinator JSCO, Olayinka Creighton-Randall, said the survey was the third the organization has supported, and that its aim was to establish baseline information on corruption in Sierra Leone.

The ceremony was chaired by Emile Carr.

No Detention Facility For Women Prisoners In Kabala

As human right groups and organizations try to improve the condition of detained women and juveniles in various cells across the country, the Kabala Police Station has no detention facility for both women and juveniles.

By Alpha B. Barrie

This revelation was made during a visit to the Kabala Police Station by officials of the Open Government Initiative (OGI) and the members of the judiciary.

Leading the delegation to inspect the condition of the police cells and prisons was the head of the judiciary, Justice Abdaulia Fofanah, the Director of the OGI Khadija Sesay and representatives of various Ministries.

Justice Abdulia Fofanah observed that there are no detention facilities for women and juvenile who come into conflict with the law, and urged the local unit

commander ASP Amadu Deen Sesay to be open and frank to the OGI officials, adding that they should explain all their challenges and operations to the OGI so that a solution will be found for the problems.

He said he had not seen any matrices in the police and another cell has a lot of cracks on its wall.

He asked whether it is a policy that suspects do lie on matrices or not.

Fatu Kargbo, Director of gender and children's affairs, observed that there

Continued page 6



Khaji Sesay and Justice Fofanah

No Detention Facility For Women Prisoners In Kabala

From page 4

are no counseling facilities in the family support unit, adding that the only office is very small.

She added that there is no separate building for the family support unit, adding that there are no matrics for the detainees in the cells.

Alex Mohamed Conteh, head of the family support unit, said he has no facility for confidentiality between him and abused children and women.

He also said they have no place to detain juvenile suspects, adding sometimes they place suspects in an open detention and later release them because of lack detention facility. ASP Abdul Deen Sesay, local unit commander, said they received no matrics from anybody or organization to be used in cells. He added that he had never seen anybody sent matrics to the police station to be used by suspects in the cells, noting that they did not received food for suspects instead it is officials of the prisons that give food for suspects at the police stations.

"We sent the names of the suspects that we have in our custody to prisons so that they will provide food for them" he said, adding that some prisoner's relatives always provide food for their relatives.

In her opening statement during the town hall meeting at the Kabala Community Centre, the OGI director said they aim to strengthen democracy in the country, adding it will enhance the free flow of information between the people and

government functionaries.

She added OGI will help people understand the dynamics of governance, adding that they are responsible for highlighting the problems that affect people in their various localities in the country.

She said she would send the reports from the various meetings to the presidents so that government will act on them.

She said OGI has representatives in all the districts, adding the OGI is working closely with all their members in the districts to ensure the smooth running of their operations.

Mr. Abdul Rahman Sowa, Director of Operations at the office of the Chief of Staff at State House, said he will report to the chief of staff about all the concerns and problems raised by the people of kabala.

"For too long people were not allowed to express their opinions and feelings on issues about governanace"he said, adding after every three months, all permanents secretaries and ministers give account of their operations.

Chief Gbaoru of Wara yagala, said the paramount chiefs are ready to work with the OGI, adding that they want justice for everyone in the district.

He added that without justice there will be no peace in the country, urging the people to be law abiding as the law is meant to be obeyed.

Kenya Broadcasting Corporation

Tuesday, 5 April 2011

61pc of Kenyans back ICC trials

Written By Margaret Kalekye



Majority of Kenyans want the six suspected masterminds of post-election violence to be tried at the International Criminal Court, this is according to a new poll released Tuesday by Synovate.

61 percent of those polled by the research firm backed the ICC trials. Tom Wolf Synovate's head of research said only 24pc of the respondents supported local trials through a Special Tribunal.

The poll was released just hours before some of the suspects leave for The Hague to make their initial appearance.

MPs William Ruto and Henry Kosgey and radio presenter Joshua Sang will appear before the judges on Thursday at 10 am local time while Deputy Prime Minister Uhuru Kenyatta, Head of Civil Service Francis Muthaura and Post Master General Mohammed Hussein Ali have a date with the Pre-trial judges on Friday 4pm.

The six are accused of committing crimes against humanity during the 2007/2008 post election violence.

At their initial appearance, the six will be informed of their charges formally, their identities confirmed and they will also be informed of their rights.

Hirondelle News Agency

Friday, 1 April 2011

Special deposition proceedings for Kabuga starts May

The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda will start conducting special deposition proceedings in the case of the most wanted genocide fugitive Félicien Kabuga on May 16, 2011, in order to preserve the prosecution's evidence against him.

"Following an informal conference conducted with the prosecution and the Duty Counsel on March 30, 2011, and having assessed their state of readiness, I am satisfied that both parties will be in a position to commence the special deposition proceedings by May 16, 2011," Judge Vagn Joensen said.

Judge Joensen, who will preside over the proceedings said in the scheduling order that the session will continue until the depositions of all the prosecution witnesses are recorded. "The proceedings will take place from Monday through Thursday each week, with a break during the week of June 6 to 10, 2011," he said.

Apart from Kabuga, who is alleged the main financier of the 1994 Tutsi genocide, other fugitives whom the prosecution seeks to safeguard evidence against them are Augustin Bizimana, former Minister of Defence and Major Protais Mpiranya, who was Commander of the Presidential Guard.

The prosecution considers the three figures as key suspects among the 10 accused still on the run. The ICTR Prosecutor Hassan Bubacar Jallow filed the motions for the taking of deposition pursuant to Rule 71 bis of Rules of Procedure and Evidence on February 7, 2011.

Rule 71 bis states, among others, that "if within a reasonable time, a warrant of arrest has not been executed, the Prosecutor may submit a request to the President that evidence relating to the indictment be preserved for a further trial by special deposition recorded in a proceeding conducted by a single Judge."

These are first requests of this kind in the ICTR history. The prosecutor fears that evidence against them may be lost or deteriorate due to the passage of time, death and incapacity of unavailability of witnesses later on.

According to sources at ICTR, Kabuga is said to be carrying out his commercial activities in Kenya, while Mpiranya is allegedly being protected by senior officials in Zimbabwe, whereas the ex-Rwandan defence minister may be hiding in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

FK/ER/GF

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International Centre for Transitional Justice

Monday, 4 April 2011

The International Center for Transitional Justice Celebrates Ten Year Anniversary

Dear Friends,

As the International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ) marks ten years of existence, I take this opportunity to offer some thoughts on its remarkable journey to date and on the road ahead.

ICTJ was born out of the vision of some of the veterans of the global struggle for justice in societies recovering from years and decades of violence, systemic abuse of human rights, repression and mass atrocity. The organization was envisioned to help communities attempting to overcome legacies of the difficult past. ICTJ would support them by providing technical assistance using a holistic approach to justice that could lead to truth, accountability and rehabilitation of victims.

We grew as the field of transitional justice also expanded: from a small group of experts working in a cluster of offices in downtown New York to a truly global presence with staff working in more than 30 countries across the globe.

And right from the start, ICTJ established itself as a unique voice in the discourse on justice in transition with a significant impact on the groundbreaking *UN Secretary General's Report on Rule of Law and Transitional Justice in Conflict and Post-Conflict Societies*. By combining research with hands-on work on the ground, it was able to successfully distil the experiences from different contexts and turn them into policy advice. One of the best examples of this was ICTJ's *Handbook on Reparations*, which represents an enormously influential contribution from ICTJ that has greatly impacted the global debate on reparations for victims.

At the same time, ICTJ continued to work on the ground with a focus on victims and their needs, from Lebanon to the Congo, from Timor-Leste to Colombia. In the past and the present, it is this presence in the affected communities that has enabled us to bring the lessons from the field to policymakers.

This unique expertise allowed ICTJ to affect the Kampala International Criminal Court Review Conference in a real way, particularly in the discussion on the complementarity principle, which underscores the primary responsibility of states to investigate and prosecute crimes against humanity. We have taken this issue forward, drawing on our credibility and partnerships to bring together policymakers, practitioners, activists and donors to discuss ways to advance complementarity, and ensure that the connections to other elements of transitional justice are acknowledged and strengthened.

ICTJ will continue to bring attention to justice-related issues, striving to positively impact policy decisions in the United Nations and elsewhere. In these historic times of change, our work in helping societies rebuild in the aftermath of conflict and dictatorship remains as relevant and needed as ever.

We are inspired by the courage of those who brought such momentous changes to Tunisia, Egypt, and throughout the Middle East and the world, and ready to assist them in addressing the legacy of past abuses. However, it remains critically important to recognize that it is the people of these societies who own the process. This principle will drive our thinking as we contemplate a role for transitional justice in the Middle East. Great challenges face these societies where transitional justice can be seen as a new concept, but it is crucial the people themselves have the knowledge and power to reckon with the past, and affect changes that will keep abuses from recurring. We stand ready to answer their call for assistance as friends and partners in the common quest for justice.

These are inspiring times to be involved in transitional justice work. Inspiring and challenging, asking us to re-orient ourselves, to draw lessons from the past and position justice firmly at the center of the discourse on societies in transition.

We will continue to demonstrate to communities why justice is central to both broader social progress and everyday life; to the business community why justice makes sense; and to politicians why it is essential to make justice part of their programs. We will strive to connect the transitional justice concepts to other relevant areas including the fight against corruption and the rule of law, and to work closely on this with national and international partners.

Ten years after coming to life and establishing itself as a leading voice in the transitional justice field, ICTJ stands ready to confront these challenges and pursue its worthy mission of serving those seeking truth and justice.

David Tolbert
ICTJ President