

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



See more photos from this weekend's Colloquium of International Prosecutors 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:

Monday, 16 May 2011

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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Local News

Sixth Colloquium of International Prosecutors Joint Statement / *OTP* Pages 3-4

International News

Sierra Leone 'Anxiously' Awaits Taylor Verdict / *Agence France-Presse* Page 5

Sierra Leone Hosts International Prosecutors / *BBC Network Africa* Page 6

World Prosecutors Meet in Sierra Leone / *News24* Page 7

Libya: Col Gaddafi Expected to be Among ICC Arrest Warrants / *The Telegraph* Page 8

ICTR Protected Witness to Testify Under his Real Identity in Denmark / *Hirondelle News Agency* Page 9

Sudanese Official Charged With War Crimes by The Hague Court Wins Governor's Seat / *AP* Page 10

Special Court Supplement

Colloquium of International Prosecutors, in pictures Pages 11-12



**SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR**

SIXTH COLLOQUIUM OF INTERNATIONAL PROSECUTORS

JOINT STATEMENT

WE THE PROSECUTORS, respectively, of the host institution - the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL), the ad hoc International Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and Rwanda (ICTR), the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC), the Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL) and the permanent court - the International Criminal Court, following constructive discussions during the Sixth Colloquium of International Prosecutors convened in Freetown, Sierra Leone on the 14th and 15th of May 2011;

CONFIRM the importance of the expeditious and effective completion of our mandates, on behalf of the victims in the affected communities that we serve, by bringing to justice those who committed serious violations of international humanitarian and criminal law

REITERATE that the international criminal justice process is an essential element in combating impunity, including for crimes against women and children, strengthening the rule of law, engendering respect for human rights and maintaining peaceful and stable societies

REITERATE ALSO the fundamental requirement that all remaining and future cases involving international crimes be conducted in accordance with the relevant provisions of due process and universal principles of justice

EMPHASISE that the independence of the prosecutors is essential in the exercise of their mandate and call on all parties to recognize and support that independence.

EMPHASISE ALSO the critical importance of witnesses to the success of all the trials and the imperative that these witnesses be free to testify without fear that their personal safety and security will be endangered

STRESS the urgent need to locate, arrest and transfer fugitives to the international criminal courts and tribunals whose closures are fast approaching

URGE national authorities to ensure full commitment to the end of impunity and to eliminating safe havens for those suspected or indicted for international crimes

RECOGNISE the essential support and cooperation of States in enabling international criminal courts and tribunals to pursue their respective mandates

ACKNOWLEDGE the critical contribution of vibrant civil society movements in the fight against impunity.

STRESS the need to maintain sufficient resources to effectively and efficiently complete our mandates

ALSO STRESS the need to establish effective residual mechanisms which are provided with sufficient political and financial support from the international community to enable them to properly fulfill their functions and have the capacity to:

- establish and operate an effective regime of protection and support to victims, witnesses and confidential sources and that access to such a regime is assured
- provide timely and effective access to the public records of the courts and tribunals whilst continuing to protect sensitive and confidential information, especially information which could jeopardize the security of witnesses and confidential sources
- continue to disseminate information about its mandate and its activities and continue to engage with relevant national authorities
- consider the views of the prosecutors in all matters that affect pardon or commutation of sentence, security of witnesses and challenges to convictions and sentences

COMMIT to support and cooperate with national authorities to build their capacity to investigate and prosecute international crimes to the extent possible within our limited resources and primary mandates.

Brenda J. Hollis, Prosecutor
Special Court for Sierra Leone

Serge Brammertz, Prosecutor
International Criminal Tribunal for the
former Yugoslavia

Andrew Cayley, Co-Prosecutor
Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of
Cambodia

Fatou Bensouda, Deputy Prosecutor
representing Luis Moreno-Ocampo,
Prosecutor, International Criminal Court

Richard Karegyesa, Chief of Prosecutions
representing Hassan Bubacar Jallow,
Prosecutor, International Criminal Tribunal
for Rwanda

Daryl Mundis, Chief of Prosecutions
representing Daniel A. Bellemare,
Prosecutor, Special Tribunal for Lebanon

FREETOWN, SIERRA LEONE
15 May 2011

Agence France-Presse

Sunday, 15 May 2011

Sierra Leone 'anxiously' awaits Taylor verdict: official

FREETOWN — Sierra Leone was "anxiously" awaiting the verdict in the war crimes trial of Liberian ex-president Charles Taylor, a top official said Saturday, as prosecutors from six international criminal tribunals gathered in the capital Freetown.

"The proceeding of Taylor's trial... is being followed closely and we still continue to wait anxiously for the verdict," Vice President Sam Sumana said of the trial at the Special Court for Sierra Leone in the Netherlands that wrapped up in March. A judgement is expected this summer.

Sumana made his comments at the opening of a two-day meeting of prosecutors from the world's six UN-backed international criminal tribunals.

He added that "the prosecutors' meeting will showcase that international criminal tribunals are not only to deliver justice but a respect for the rule of law."

The vice president stressed that "international criminal justice has enabled Sierra Leone to enjoy peace and stability."

Taylor, the first African head of state to face an international tribunal, pleaded not guilty to 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity on claims that he armed Sierra Leone's Revolutionary United Front (RUF) in exchange for illegally mined so-called "blood diamonds".

The Sierra Leone civil war claimed some 120,000 lives in the 10 years to 2001, with RUF rebels, described by the prosecution as Taylor's "surrogate army", mutilating thousands of civilians by hacking off their limbs.

The president of the Amputee Association, Jusu Jakkah, who attended the opening ceremony, told AFP that the event was "a good initiative for the various prosecutors to get together under one roof to share ideas and give motivation to the many victims of atrocities around the world."

"It gives us hope and strengthens our courage that we have not been forgotten," he said.

In the case of Taylor, he said, "We want to see justice prevail as we are victims (of the) 10-year-long war" in Sierra Leone.

The prosecutor for the Special Court for Sierra Leone, Brenda Hollis, who chaired the meeting, said the court was nearing its lifespan and discussions would begin for its replacement.

"We shall discuss closure and legacy issues and hold sessions with civil societies as to the way forward," she said.

She also said that the "prosecutors at the meeting will share the experiences of their offices as many of the issues are much the same regardless of the state (where) the crimes were committed."

It is the second time the prosecutors' meeting is being held in Sierra Leone, following one in 2005, according to records provided by the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

Besides that court, the other five tribunals in attendance are the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, the International Court of Cambodia, Special International Tribunal of Lebanon, and the International Criminal Court.

Network Africa

Monday, 16 May 2011

LEAD-IN: An interesting exchange of views and experiences has been taking place in Sierra Leone over the weekend. Lawyers and activists who've been involved in war crimes tribunals have been talking about how international courts could serve the cause of justice and peace. The meeting was hosted by the Special Court for Sierra Leone, which was set up to try those believed to bear the greatest responsibility for the country's civil war. The court prosecutor is Brenda Hollis, and she told the Freetown-based journalist, Mariama Fornah, why blanket amnesty should not be considered when negotiating peace.

HOLLIS: Blanket immunity should not be a tool in the mediator's or negotiator's tool kit. It should not be a tool looked to for the states. Number one, it does not provide lasting peace, because if wrongs to the people of a country are not addressed – and some of those require criminal redress – if that's not done, there is no lasting peace. And secondly, it doesn't really lead to peace anyway. And in Sierra Leone it took two and a half additional years, and many, many, many UN troops and other resources given to Sierra Leone before they could bring peace to this country. So the blanket immunity did not bring peace, it simply gave impunity to perpetrators of crimes that impact the entire global community.

So what's the way forward for Sierra Leone after the trial of Charles Taylor is coming to an end? What's the legacy?

HOLLIS: Well I think we have legacies, and of course with the completion of the Charles Taylor trial through the appeal phase, it is most likely that the judicial mandate will be ended for the Special Court in Sierra Leone, and it will transition into a residual court. But the first legacy, I think, and the most important, is that you can determine accountability for these terrible crimes in a court located in the country in which the crimes were committed, and you can do that in a way that is fair and just to both the accused, the victims, and the witnesses who come forward. The second I think very important legacy is that we are truly beyond impunity. You may not, if you are at a high level, think you may engage in or responsible for these terrible crimes and think that you can get away with it because you are a political figure with great power, because you are an economic figure with great power. Another legacy is that throughout the life of the court, many, many talented Sierra Leoneans have worked in the court, and they will return to the society to bring those skills and expertise they have honed in the court back to the country to serve the country in yet another capacity. And also, of course, we have the legacy of the jurisprudence that has been developed, about child soldiers, about forced marriage, about attacks on peacekeepers, and these legacies are important not just for Sierra Leone but the international community. So I think when we reflect in future years, we will see that the Special Court for Sierra Leone has well served the people of Sierra Leone and has left, I believe, a very meaningful legacy. But what I would like to leave for all of the people of Sierra Leone and Africa is that without the commitment of the populations of these countries, without the commitment of the witnesses who are willing to come forward, these courts cannot succeed. Justice cannot be done.

That was the Special Court Prosecutor Brenda Hollis talking to the Freetown-based journalist Mariama Fornah.

News24

Friday, 13 May 2011

World prosecutors meet in Sierra Leone

Freetown - Prosecutors from the six international UN-backed courts meet in Freetown this weekend to look at best practices and how to close the tribunals when their work is done, a statement said on Thursday.

The Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) prosecutor, Brenda Hollis, who will host the two-day meeting said it would bring together international and national legal experts, diplomats, civil society and rights activists.

She said it was significant the meeting is to take place in Sierra Leone, as the SCSL "will be the first international court to complete its mandate and transition to a residual mechanism".

Serge Brammertz from the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), Hassan Bubacar Jallow from the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) and Andrew Cayley from the court of Cambodia are attending.

Also present will be Daryl Mundis from the Special Tribunal for Lebanon and the deputy prosecutor of the permanent International Criminal Court (ICC), Fatou Bensouda.

"The meeting will give the SCSL an opportunity to reflect on its work, its contribution to justice in Sierra Leone and best practices as embedded in the court system," Hollis said, in a meeting with the country's Vice-President Sam Sumana on Wednesday.

Sierra Leone's special court is wrapping up its final case, the prosecution of Liberian ex-president Charles Taylor for his role in the country's brutal decade-long war which left more than 50 000 dead and thousands mutilated.

- SAPA

The Telegraph
Monday, 16 May 2011

Libya: Col Gaddafi expected to be among ICC arrest warrants

The International Criminal Court's chief prosecutor will seek arrest warrants later today for three senior Libyans - one thought to be Col Muammar Gaddafi - he says are responsible for the murder and persecution of civilians in Libya.



*ICC Chief Prosecutor, Luis Moreno-Ocampo Photo: EPA
11:38AM BST 16 May 2011*

Luis Moreno-Ocampo will hand a 74-page dossier of evidence along with nine annexes to a three-judge panel that will decide whether the case is strong enough for them to confirm crimes against humanity charges and issue international arrest warrants.

Franco Frattini, the Italian foreign minister, said last week he expected Gaddafi to be among the three suspects. Mr Moreno-Ocampo's investigators have conducted 30 missions to 11 countries and have interviewed more than 50 witnesses, including "key insiders," as well as reviewing videos, photographs and other evidence, prosecutors said last week.

In addition, several "high-level officials in Gaddafi's regime" also have called the court to say they are willing to provide information, prosecutors said on Sunday. They did not elaborate on the nature of the information or name the officials.

Many of Gaddafi's senior diplomats and supporters have switched sides or defected since fighting broke out in Libya in February.

His UN diplomatic staff, including Ambassador Abdurrahman Mohamed Shalgham, defected in February. Mr Shalgham's replacement, Ali Abdessalam Treki, a former UN General Assembly president, defected himself in March and now lives in Cairo; Moussa Koussa, the foreign minister and one of Gaddafi's earliest supporters, fled to Britain and is now in Qatar.

Mr Moreno-Ocampo says his team has gathered so much evidence that he is almost ready to go to trial. However any case is likely a long way off as the court has no police force to arrest suspects. An international arrest warrant would however make it hard for Gaddafi to live in exile. Because the Security Council ordered the ICC investigation, all U.N. member states would be obliged to arrest him if he ventures into their territory.

Underscoring the difficulty the court has in getting hold of suspects, some nations have refused to act on arrest warrants. Three countries have let Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir visit without arresting him. Al-Bashir has been indicted for crimes including genocide in Darfur in the only other International Criminal Court case ordered by the Security Council.

The elusive Gadhafi has shown little appetite for going into exile to end the crisis gripping his oil-rich North African nation, vowing instead to fight to the end.

The Libyan conflict appears largely stalemated, with each side claiming gains one day, only to be turned back the next, despite Nato air strikes aimed at supporting rebels.

Hirondelle News Agency

Monday, 16 May 2011

ICTR/Denmark - ICTR protected witness to testify under his real identity in Denmark

The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) has waived protective measures enjoyed by one of its anonymous witnesses to help the Denmark's Special International Crimes Office to investigate and eventually prosecute genocide-suspect Emmanuel Mbarushimana.

The witness testified for prosecution at the Tribunal from February 16 to 19, 2004 under the code name RV in the Butare trial involving six accused, including former Rwandan Minister for Women and Family Affairs, Pauline Nyiramasuhuko, the only woman indicted at ICTR, who is waiting delivery of judgment in her case.

According to a decision issued by a Trial Chamber on May 10, 2011, the witness is now willing to testify under his real identity and in open session in the Danish proceedings involving Mbarushimana over his alleged role in crimes committed in Rwanda in 1994.

The Trial Chamber recalled that guiding principles of state cooperation under Article 28 (1) of the Statute also apply to requests for cooperation or judicial assistance from states to the Tribunal, in their investigation or prosecution of persons accused of committing serious violations of international humanitarian law.

Moreover, it noted, the investigation and eventual prosecution by Denmark's Special International Crimes Office of crimes committed in Rwanda in 1994, requiring the involvement of witness RV, was in line with the principles of state cooperation envisaged by the completion strategy in Security Council Resolutions 1503 and 1534.

In its motion to rescind the protective measures of the witness, the prosecution had stated that the assistance to Denmark was in consistence with Article 28 of the Tribunal's Statute, its jurisprudence and Security Council Resolutions 1503 of 2003 and 1534 of 2004.

According to the prosecution, jurisprudence has expanded Rule 75 (F) (i) to apply to proceedings in other jurisdictions and not just before the Tribunal. It added that the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) amended the said Rule to apply to proceedings in other jurisdictions.

Mbarushimana is accused of having played a big part on Tutsi's massacres in Maganzo commune Butare prefecture during the genocide.

The Danish authorities arrested him in connection with the allegations on December 8, 2010. The Special International Crimes Office has been investigating several cases involving genocide suspects since its creation in 2002

FK/ER/GF

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The Associated Press

Monday, 16 May 2011

Sudanese official charged with war crimes by The Hague court wins governor's seat

A Sudanese official wanted by the International Criminal Court in The Hague on war crimes charges has been re-elected governor of a central state in Sudan, according to the country's electoral commission.

Ahmed Haroun, the candidate for the ruling National Congress Party, defeated the candidate for the Sudan People's Liberation Movement by 6,500 votes in an election Sunday. That allows him to remain governor of Southern Kordofan state, a post he was appointed to in 2009.

The opposition party said the elections were rigged, allegations which the electoral commission denied.

The United Nations mission in Sudan said it welcomed the completion of the elections, and said they "were conducted in a peaceful manner monitored by a large number of observers."

Both the U.N. and the National Election Commission urged anyone with complains regarding the election process to address them through legal channels.

Haround faces charges of murder, rape and the forced expulsion of civilians in Darfur.

He is a staunch ally of Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir, also wanted by the Netherlands-based tribunal over the conflict in the western Darfur region.

Sudan does not recognize the court in The Hague and has refused to hand indicted officials over.

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Colloquium of International Prosecutors, Opening Ceremony and Group Photos
14-15 May 2011



