

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



A downtown view of central Freetown from above Hill Cot Road.

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:

Friday, 20 May 2011

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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Thursday, 19 May 2011

Ouattara Asks ICC to Investigate Post-Poll Violence



Côte d'Ivoire's President Alassane Ouattara has asked the International Criminal Court (ICC) to open an investigation into the violence that swept the country following the disputed November election.

Ouattara sent a letter, dated 3 May, to ICC President Luis Moreno-Ocampo asking the court to investigate "the most serious crimes committed since 28 November 2010 throughout the Ivorian territory".

ICC Chief Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo has said his office is preparing to launch a formal investigation into mass killings which allegedly took place in the west African country.

There were reports of a massacre of several hundred people in Duékoué, in the west of the country, in the fighting that followed November's presidential election.

The UN, the African Union and the European Union all recognised Ouattara as the rightful winner.

However, incumbent Laurent Gbagbo refused to leave office and was captured following heavy fighting in Abidjan on 11 April.

A spokesperson for Ouattara said "there is no longer any impunity in Ivory Coast".

"Reconciliation demands that justice be done. Without truth or justice there is no reconciliation," she said. "This shows Ivory Coast has entered a new era."

Photo: President of Cote d' Ivoire, Alassane Dramane Ouattara



Friday, 20 May 2011

ICTR Prosecutor Welcomes Ex-Army Chief's Sentence

Gashegu Muramira

Arusha — The Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) , Hassan Bubacar Jallow, has welcomed the 30-year prison sentence handed down to former Army Chief of Staff, Gen. Augustin Bizimungu, for his involvement in the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi.

Bizimungu was convicted on six counts of Genocide, crimes against humanity for murder, extermination and rape and violations of Article 3 common to the Geneva Conventions and Additional protocol II (murder; rape, humiliating treatment).

"The judgement is important to all persons in positions of leadership, especially military commanders. It establishes very clearly that superiors will be held legally responsible for the acts committed by their subordinates." Jallow said in an interview in Arusha, Tanzania, the seat of the ICTR.

Three other former military officers were also sentenced on Tuesday, in the long-running case known as the 'Military II' trial.

They include former chief of the gendarmerie, Gen. Augustin Ndindiliyimana, former Commander of the Reconnaissance Battalion, Major François-Xavier Nzuwonemeye and Captain Innocent Sagahutu, who commanded one of the squadrons of the unit.

"I think that message ought to go out. Leaders are expected to prevent their subordinates from engaging in unlawful activities or if they cannot prevent them to punish them thereafter. It is an excellent message that needed to be disseminated globally in Africa and beyond," he added.

Jallow said that the prosecution did not totally lose in the case as the judges recognised that there had been a plan to exterminate Tutsis.

"The judges said that what happened in Rwanda in 1994, the Genocide, could not have happened in the absence of some kind of coordination, organisation and planning" he said.

The Chamber found Bizimungu and Ndindiliyimana responsible for offences perpetrated by soldiers and gendarmes under their command in 1994.

In addition, Bizimungu was found to have made a speech in Mukingo Commune, calling for the beginning of a killing spree of Tutsis in Ruhengeri, Northern Province.

The chamber also found Nzuwonemeye and Sagahutu, guilty of having ordered the killing of the Prime Minister Agathe Uwilingiyimana and failing to punish perpetrators involved in killing 10 Belgian UN peacekeepers on April 7, 1994.

Nzuwonemeye and Sagahutu each received a prison sentence of 20 years while Ndindiliyimana was sentenced to time served since 2000, and released.

Hirondelle News Agency

Thursday, 19 May 2011

Military officers convicted of killing of Premier

Former senior Rwanda military officers ordered the killing of Prime Minister Agathe Uwilingiyimana on April 7, 1994, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) says in its judgement delivered Tuesday in the case of four ex-military officers.

Major Francois-Xavier Nzuwonemeye was Commander of the Reconnaissance (RECCE) Battalion, while Captain Innocent Sagahutu was a member of the unity.

"Throughout the attack, Nzuwonemeye and Sagahutu remained in contact with the troops on the ground, sending them supplies and issuing operational instructions. Consequently, the Chamber finds Nzuwonemeye and Sagahutu ordered the killing of Prime Minister Uwilingiyimana," reads the judgement.

The Trial Chamber convicted the duo of crime against humanity and war crimes for their role in the death of the prime minister and killings of 10 Belgian peacekeepers. They have been sentenced to 20 years imprisonment each.

In its judgement, the Chamber found that the prosecution adduced credible and consistent evidence establishing that RECCE soldiers participated in the attack and killing of Prime Minister Agathe Uwilingiyimana and considered her death to be of great significance.

"Based on the evidence, the Chamber finds (prosecution) proved beyond reasonable doubt that her death was a result of an organized military operation carried out with the authorization of senior military officers," it ruled.

According to the judgement, the Chamber was satisfied that an armoured unit from RECCE battalion under instructions of Nzuwonemeye and Sagahutu was involved in the premier's death. It found that the duo also aided and abetted the direct perpetrators, as an aggravating factor.

Regarding the killing of 10 Belgian peacekeepers, the Chamber also found Nzuwonemeye and Sagahutu criminally responsible as superiors. Though there was no evidence for his participation in the attack, the Chamber discovered that Nzuwonemeye knew about the killings.

"Nzuwonemeye himself admitted to learning about the killings on his return from the meeting at ESM (Ecole Supérieure Militaire, the Senior Military Officers' School). Despite his knowledge, the Chamber is not satisfied that (he) took sufficient steps to punish those RECCE members involved in the killings," it said.

In the case of Sagahutu, the Chamber found that he was informed of presence of the Belgian peacekeepers in the UNAMIR building that were being attacked in camp Kigali despite their resistance and, thereafter, he instructed soldiers to put down the resistance by the peace corps.

Also in the judgement, two generals, Augustin Bizimungu, who was Chief of Staff of the Army and that of Gendarmerie, Augustin Ndindiliyimana, charged jointly with Nzuwonemeye and Sagahutu, were convicted of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.

Bizimungu was jailed 30 years, while Ndindiliyimana was sentenced to the time served since his arrest on January 29, 2000.

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The Standard (Kenya)

Friday, 20 May 2011

State seeks to reply to Ocampo's claims

By Evelyn Kwamboka

The Government is seeking permission from the International Criminal Court (ICC) to respond to allegations the Prosecutor made against some suspects of the post-election violence.

Through its advocate, Sir Geoffrey Nice, the Government said there is need to correct the "misinformation" provided by Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo.

"The allegations raised by the Prosecutor are plainly relevant to the Government's admissibility application as they directly challenge Government's ability to conduct genuine investigations and to protect witnesses both generally and in relation to the six suspects," Nice said.

The Government also wants Pre-Trial Chamber II to orally hear and determine admissibility of the case.

This is because the State views the application as that of public interest.

In his document filed at the ICC's registry, Moreno-Ocampo claimed witness tampering may have played a role in the dismissal of Eldoret North MP William Ruto's Sh272 million land case.

Dismissal of charges

Relying on media reports, the prosecutor alleged 13 witnesses could not be found and five died while the case was going on.

The Government is now seeking permission to respond to the prosecutor's allegations that former Deputy Police Commissioner Bernard Kimeli's killing was directly or indirectly linked to ICC investigations. "The assertions made by the Prosecutor are largely unsubstantiated by any concrete evidence, to which the Government seeks leave to reply," he stated.

If allowed, Sir Nice said the Government needs 28 days to file its response. Relying on media reports, Ocampo brought to the Chamber's attention the circumstances allegedly surrounding the recent dismissal of criminal charges against Ruto and Kimeli's April 28 killing.

"It should be noted that, despite the fact that Kimeli did not give any testimony to a Kenyan investigation, he was mentioned by another witness as one of the three senior police officers forced to retire during the violence, allegedly due to his opposition to the PNU's misuse of the police force at that time," Moreno-Ocampo claimed.