

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



Moa River

**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, 31 May 2011

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

### Local News

Special Court Ropes in Sierra Leonean / <i>Independent Observer</i>	Page 3
Special Court for Sierra Leone to Hold Contempt Proceedings / <i>Aloft</i>	Page 4

### International News

Kenya Denies Undermining International Criminal Court / <i>Voice of America</i>	Pages 5-6
Representatives of STL take part in Lebanon's First International Criminal Justice... / <i>Iloubnan.Info</i>	Page 7
Charges Against Recently Arrested Fugitives Must Expose Sexual Crimes / <i>UN News</i>	Page 8
Kenyan Government Loses Bid to Stop Hague Trials / <i>Reuters</i>	Page 9
War Criminal Ratko Mladic to Be Sent to The Hague within 24 Hours / <i>Sofia News Agency</i>	Page 10

# BRIBERY:

## Special Court ropes in Sierra Leonean

Sierra Leone rebel charged with contempt in Taylor trial  
 Wed May 25, 2011 3:27pm GMT

AMSTERDAM (Reuters) - Judges at the Sierra Leone war crimes court have charged a former rebel fighter with contempt of court for trying to bribe prosecution witnesses in the trial of former Liberian president Charles Taylor, officials said.

Prosecutors in February requested a probe into allegations that a defence investigator and other people tried to bribe prosecution witnesses into recanting their evidence.

In a ruling made public on Wednesday, judges charged alleged former Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebel Eric Senessie with contempt, but dismissed allegations

that a defence investigator had also tried to influence witnesses.

"There are sufficient grounds to proceed against Eric Senessie for contempt of court, but ... there are insufficient grounds to proceed against any other person," the court said.

The ruling was made on Tuesday, court documents showed.

Senessie was charged with nine counts of contempt, including knowingly and willfully interfering with the court by allegedly offering to bribe or influence five witnesses, including two protected witnesses to persuade them to recant testimony.

Turn to page 2

### Alleged bribery at Special Court

from front page

Prosecutors had alleged that Senessie told the witnesses he had been sent by Taylor's defence team to persuade them to change their testimonies

against the former Liberian leader.

Taylor, has denied all 11 charges of instigating murder, rape, mutilation, sexual slavery and conscription of child soldiers during wars in Liberia and

Sierra Leone in which more than 250,000 people were killed.

He is accused of directing RUF rebels in a campaign of terror to plunder Sierra Leone's diamond mines for profit.

Aloft

Tuesday, 31 May 2011

## Special Court for Sierra Leone to Hold Contempt Proceedings

By Alpha Sesay

Special Court for Sierra Leone judges have issued orders for two separate contempt proceedings to be held in respect of allegations that several individuals have attempted to contact prosecution witnesses with bribes for them to recant their evidence against accused or convicted persons.

The first contempt proceedings relate to allegations that persons acting on behalf of the defense for Charles Taylor attempted to bribe several prosecution witnesses, including those with protective measures for them to recant their evidence against the former Liberian president who is on trial for allegedly controlling and providing support to rebel forces in Sierra Leone. Prosecutors say that Mr. Taylor is responsible for war crimes, crimes against humanity and other serious violations of international humanitarian law committed in the territory of Sierra Leone from November 1996 to January 2002. Mr. Taylor has denied the allegations against him.

The second contempt proceedings relate to allegations that convicted members of the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) who are now serving jail terms in a Rwandan jail personally attempted to contact protected witnesses by phone while at the same time disclosing the identities of said protected witnesses to agents in Freetown with instructions to offer the witnesses bribes to recant their evidence against them.

Two AFRC convicts, Ibrahim Bazy Kamara and Santigie Borbor Kanu, aka 55, both of whom are serving jail terms in Rwanda, and two former members of the AFRC, Hassan Papa Bangura, aka Bomblast and Samuel Kargbo, aka Sammy Ragga, both of whom reside in Sierra Leone are alleged to have breached such protective measures for witnesses. The AFRC were a group of Sierra Leonean soldiers who overthrew the democratic government of Sierra Leone in May 1997. The AFRC teamed up with RUF rebels to establish a junta government which ruled Sierra Leone until they were forcefully removed from power by West African peacekeepers in 1998.

On February 25 2011, Prosecutors filed a motion in which they alleged that former investigator for Mr. Taylor's defense team, Prince Taylor and Eric Senesie, a former

member of Sierra Leone's Revolutionary United Front (RUF), the rebel group which Mr. Taylor is on trial for allegedly supporting, attempted to bribe prosecution witnesses, including protected witnesses who had testified against Mr. Taylor for them to recant their testimonies against the former Liberian President.

The Trial Chamber judges granted the Prosecution's request and directed the Registrar of the Court to appoint an independent counsel to investigate whether the allegations were true. The Registrar appointed William L. Gardner as independent counsel on March 18 2011. On April 21 2011, the independent counsel submitted a report of his findings in which he concluded that while there was insufficient evidence to proceed in contempt against Mr. Prince Taylor, "there are sufficient grounds to proceed against Eric Senesie for contempt of Court."

The Trial Chamber therefore ordered that an "Order in lieu of Indictment" be issued against Mr. Senesie and directed the independent counsel to prosecute Mr. Senesie pursuant to said indictment.

In the said indictment, Mr. Senesie is alleged to have offered bribes to Prosecution witnesses Mohamed Kabbah, Dauda Aruna Fornie, protected witnesses TF1-516, TF1-585 and Aruna Gbonda all of whom testified against Mr. Taylor in The Hague. It is alleged that Mr. Senesie tried to influence these witnesses to recant their testimonies against Mr. Taylor.

In the case of the AFRC convicts serving jail terms in Rwanda and former AFRC commanders in Freetown, the Trial Chamber on March 18 2011 issued a decision in which the judges directed the Registrar to appoint an independent counsel to investigate allegations that convicted persons Mr. Kamara and Mr. Kanu, together with former AFRC members Ragga and Bomblast had attempted to influence a protected witness who had testified in the AFRC trials before the Special Court for Sierra Leone in order to have him recant his evidence.

The Registrar appointed Robert L. Herbst as independent counsel on March 23 2011. On May 11 2011, he independent counsel submitted

a report of his findings.

In his report, the independent counsel submitted that there are sufficient grounds to believe that all four persons had indeed breached protective measures for witnesses by contacting a protected witness asking him to recant his evidence. The Judges therefore ordered that an indictment for contempt be issued against all four persons and that the independent counsel prosecutes them pursuant to said indictment. In the said indictment,

all four persons are accused of trying to influence Protected Witness TF1-334 who testified against the AFRC convicts before Special Court for Sierra Leone judges in Freetown. It is not yet clear where the contempt proceedings will be held but it is a possibility that the AFRC convicts Kamara and Kanu will be made to leave their Rwandan jail for a temporary period to attend said proceedings if they are held at a place outside Rwanda. Justice Teresa Doherty, a judge of the Trial Chamber hearing Mr. Taylor's trial has been assigned as designated judge for both contempt proceedings.



Voice of America

Monday, 30 May 2011

## Kenya Denies Undermining International Criminal Court

Peter Clottey



**Photo: AP**

*Back row, former Kenyan Education Minister Ruto, left, former Kenyan Minister of Industrialization Kosgey, center, and Kenyan broadcaster Sang, right, appear at the International Criminal Court in The Hague, Netherlands, April 7, 2011*

Kenya's Justice and Constitutional affairs minister has denied accusations his government has created a "climate of fear" to undermine the International Criminal Court's [ICC] investigations into post-election violence in 2008.

Fighting between opposing sides in the presidential election left more than 1,300 people dead and displaced hundreds of thousands.

Mutula Kilonzo, who is also the liaison of a cabinet sub-committee on the ICC, said the Hague-based court has yet to officially complain or inform his administration about interference it encountered investigating the 2007 post-election violence.

"I am surprised, because that is not true. I am not aware of any attempt to create fear," said Kilonzo. "If anything, we are working round the clock to make sure the country goes through healing in preparation for next year's elections."

In a statement Sunday, Luis Moreno-Ocampo, chief prosecutor for the ICC, said Kenyan officials are pursuing "regional and political campaigns" to halt the case against six suspects accused of organizing the violence.

He said the campaigns send the wrong signal and promote a "climate of fear" that intimidates potential witnesses, an allegation Kilonzo rejects.

"The prosecutor may be confusing individual activities, individual agendas [as] a government agenda," said Kilonzo.

Kilonzo said his government will continue to cooperate with the ICC to ensure justice for the victims of the post-election violence.

He however admitted that recent diplomatic efforts by Kenya's vice president to defer charges against the alleged masterminds of the violence create the perception the government wants to derail the ICC investigations.

The court is investigating six prominent Kenyans accused of being "most responsible" for the attacks.

The suspects include Finance Minister Uhuru Kenyatta, Industrialization Minister Henry Kosgey and suspended Education Minister William Ruto. The others are secretary to the cabinet, Francis Kirimi Muthaura, former police Chief Mohammed Hussein Ali and radio executive Joshua Arap Sang.

Meanwhile, Kenya's cabinet sub-committee on the ICC is scheduled to meet Tuesday, ahead of the expected arrival of ICC officials to continue investigations into the post-election violence.

## Iloubnan.Info

Monday, 30 May 2011

<http://www.iloubnan.info>

### **Representatives of the STL take part in Lebanon's first international criminal justice conference**

Representatives of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL) have participated in a major conference on international criminal justice, organized in Beirut by two Lebanese NGOs – the Scientific Association for the Dissemination of Legal Culture in the Arab World and Justice without Frontiers – in cooperation with the STL Outreach section.

“From the ad hoc Tribunals to the International Criminal Court to the Special Tribunal for Lebanon – Development of International Criminal Adjudication” conference was held in Beirut from May 26th to May 28th. It is the first event of its kind in Lebanon as it brought together officials and experts from several courts including the International Criminal Court, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, the Special Court for Sierra Leone and the STL.

The conference, attended by 200 people, placed the work of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon in the context of international justice and discussions included several topics like the establishment and mandate of international judicial institutions, their jurisdiction, the complexity of international investigations and prosecutions, the protection of witnesses, the rights of the accused, the participation of victims, cooperation of states, as well as the impact of the judicial institutions on the communities affected by their work.

The conference concluded with discussions on the most recent legal developments in the Middle East and North Africa. The participants expressed their commitment to the force of law as opposed to the law of force, which they considered essential to the achievement of international peace and security and a guarantee of the respect of human rights. The participants also highlighted the necessity of empowering international criminal justice mechanisms so that they may contribute to a peaceful coexistence among nations.

The organizers unanimously adopted three recommendations.

The first called on Arab countries to join the ICC, the second called upon the civil society in the Arab world to disseminate the culture of human rights, and the third called upon legal professionals and academics to engage with and contribute to international criminal justice.

## UN News

Monday, 30 May 2011

### Charges against recently arrested fugitives must expose sexual crimes – UN envoy



*Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict Margot Wallström*

Welcoming the recent arrests of two men long sought for their roles in the Balkans conflicts and the Rwandan genocide, a top United Nations official today stressed the need to ensure that the crimes of sexual violence they both stand accused of are exposed in the legal process under way.

Ratko Mladić was apprehended last week in Serbia after evading capture for almost 16 years, while Bernard Munyagishari was arrested in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Margot Wallström, said that the indictments of the two men show that the fight against impunity for crimes of conflict-related sexual violence continues to yield results.

“In most media reports on their respective apprehension, however, sexual violence used as a tactic or weapon of war is repeatedly neglected from being mentioned,” she said in a statement.

Mr. Mladić, the war-time leader of the Bosnian Serb forces, is awaiting transfer to The Hague, where he will stand trial before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY).

He is charged with 15 counts that include the murder of close to 8,000 Bosnian Muslim men and boys in Srebrenica in July 1995. In the indictment, sexual abuse or sexual violence is mentioned five times.

Mr. Munyagishari, the former head of the Interahamwe Hutu militia for the city of Gisenyi in western Rwanda, is charged with five counts that include genocide, and rape as a crime against humanity, during the slaughter of an estimated 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus that took place in little more than three months beginning in April 1994.

He is awaiting transfer to the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), which is based in Arusha, Tanzania.

“It is crucial that the terrible acts of sexual violence they both stand accused of are exposed in the legal process currently under way,” stated Ms. Wallström.

“Only by explicitly bringing these horrible deeds into the open can we help to break history's greatest silence.”

Reuters

Tuesday, 31 May 2011

### **Kenyan government loses bid to stop Hague trials**

Kenya failed on Monday to halt an International Criminal Court investigation into its post-election violence when judges said a lack of national proceedings warranted the need for the case to go ahead.

ICC prosecutors have accused six political and business figures of involvement in the 2007-08 violence that killed more than 1,200 people. All six say they are innocent of the charges.

In March, Kenya's government objected to the proceedings, arguing adoption of its new constitution and other reforms had opened the way for it to conduct its own prosecution.

The court said that pre-trial judges had found that Kenya's request did not provide "concrete evidence of ongoing proceedings before national judges" against the six suspects.

The pre-trial judges added that Kenya did not provide information on any crimes or incidents over which the suspects are being investigated or questioned.

They added the court lacked information about the dates when investigations, if any, had commenced and whether the suspects were actually questioned. ICC judges were not given Kenyan police or prosecution reports about any questioning.

Consequently, the court ruled that it "cannot but determine that the case is admissible."

The Kenyan government can still file an appeal against the ICC decisions within five days.

The six accused men are Finance Minister Uhuru Kenyatta, Cabinet Secretary Francis Muthaura, Postal Corporation chief Hussein Ali, suspended government ministers William Ruto and Henry Kosgey, and radio executive Joshua Arap Sang.

Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo accused government officials on Sunday of creating a "climate of fear" through a campaign to halt the ICC's probe that was intimidating potential witnesses and undermining national and international investigations.

Last month the U.N. Security Council shelved a request by Kenya to defer the ICC proceedings.

Sofia News Agency

Monday, 30 May 2011

[http://www.novinite.com/view\\_news.php?id=128768](http://www.novinite.com/view_news.php?id=128768)

## War Criminal Ratko Mladic to Be Sent to The Hague within 24 Hours - Report



*War crimes suspect Ratko Mladic may be heading to The Hague on Tuesday.*

*Photo by BGNES*

Former Bosnian Serb military leader Ratko Mladic may be sent to The Hague and face genocide charges in the International Criminal Tribunal within the next 24 hours, reports say.

As soon as the appeal against the war criminal arrives to the court, which is expected to happen Tuesday, he will be extradited, an anonymous Serbian justice official has said, according to the Bulgarian Dnevnik daily.

On Monday, it was made clear that, the Prosecutor's Office of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia is considering merging the trials against Mladic and ex-president of Republika Srpska Radovan Karadzic.

Ratko Mladic, accused of orchestrating the Siege of Sarajevo and the Srebrenica massacre, in which some 8 000 Muslims were killed, was arrested on May 26 in a village close to the northern Serbian town of Zrenjanin, after 16 years on the run.

The arrest incited mass rallies in his support in Serbia. Amid violent clashes with police forces, the protesters insisted that Serbia should not hand him over to the U.N court in The Hague.