

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



Yesterday's Outreach at the Methodist Youth Resources Centre in Bo.

**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, 14 June 2011

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

Monday, 13 June 2011

<http://www2.macleans.ca/2011/06/13/update-on-cindor-reeves/>

### Update on Cindor Reeves

By Michael Petrou

Cindor Reeves, the Canadian refugee claimant who risked his life to help build the legal case against his brother-in-law, the former Liberian warlord and president Charles Taylor, has received a removal order from the Canada Border Services Agency and may shortly be deported.

Reeves helped Taylor smuggle guns and diamonds between Liberia and Sierra Leone. Appalled by the human rights violations he saw, he began secretly gathering information for both British intelligence and for the Special Court for Sierra Leone. The Special Court put him in witness protection programs in Holland and Germany, neither of which gave him citizenship. He then came with his family to Canada and claimed refugee status.

Canada, which has given the Special Court millions of dollars in funding, has denied Reeves protection. That Reeves faces murder in Liberia is confirmed by those who worked on his case in the Special Court, and by the many threats he has received. Even Canada acknowledges this threat, as it has allowed his wife and children to stay here precisely because their relationship with Reeves would endanger them in Liberia. Reeves' relationship with himself isn't enough to save him.

His last chance is a pre-removal risk assessment — the standards for which are higher for Reeves than for regular refugee claimants because he is accused of committing war crimes. (These alleged crimes amount to his weapons and diamond smuggling on behalf of Taylor, which Reeves has never denied. The IRB has not presented any evidence Reeves himself ever committed violent acts; nor have I, in five years of researching his case, been able to discover any.)

I will stay with this story.

# Special Tribunal for Lebanon

Tuesday, 14 June 2011

## Press Release: Former STL Registrar Robin Vincent dies

Leidschendam, 14th June 2011.

It is with great sadness that the Special Tribunal for Lebanon announces the death of Mr Robin Vincent, the tribunal's first Registrar.

Mr Vincent was appointed by the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon in March 2008. As Registrar Mr Vincent was instrumental in the establishment of the tribunal and the start of its work. He prepared the tribunal's premises, coordinated the transition from the UN International Independent Investigation Commission to the STL, recruited core staff, and finalised the STL's first budget.

"It is with profound grief that I have learned of Robin's passing away", said the STL President, Judge Antonio Cassese. "He was an excellent and dedicated manager, who, as the first Registrar of the STL, worked incessantly to make it possible for the Tribunal to get off the ground."

"His contribution to the establishment of the Tribunal is invaluable. He was always ready to listen to the suggestions and proposals of others. He was an exceedingly amiable man."

Mr Vincent had a long and distinguished career in justice, first in the UK and then internationally. After his career in the UK, Mr Vincent was appointed registrar of the Special Court for Sierra Leone. He also served as the acting Deputy Registrar of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and as an adviser to the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. He advised on the establishment of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia, the STL and on the functioning of the Iraqi High Tribunal.

Mr Vincent's commitment to international criminal justice was brought to an end by ill health.

"The death of Robin Vincent is a very sad day for everyone who has been working in the field of international and transitional justice", said the Registrar of the STL, Herman von Hebel.

"The dedication to his work, his enormous energy, his creativity and last but not least his strong sense of humor made him a major figure in this field. Robin Vincent's family and friends are in our thoughts at this difficult time."

ENDS

## Yaliban

Tuesday, 14 June 2011

<http://www.yalibnan.com/2011/06/14/stl-announced-the-death-of-former-registrar-robin-vincent/>

### **STL announced the death of former registrar Robin Vincent**



The Special Tribunal for Lebanon announced today on its website the death of the tribunal's first Registrar Robin Vincent, calling his contribution to the establishment of the Tribunal "invaluable"

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# International Centre for Transitional Justice

Wednesday, 15 June 2011

## The ICC's Challenge in the Middle East and North Africa



*By Habib Nassar*

The International Criminal Court (ICC) must better communicate what is driving its actions to the public of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and elsewhere around the world if it is to develop confidence in its capacity to act as a guardian of international criminal law. The number of developments relevant to the court's mission is growing by the day: from direct involvement in Libya to potential involvement in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory, from crimes committed in Syria, Yemen and Bahrain—which ultimately may come under its jurisdiction—to impending ratifications of the Rome Statute by Tunisia and Egypt.

International courts face enormous challenges in building a sense of ownership among the communities affected by their work due to numerous factors, including distance (both physical and cultural), use of languages and rules often unfamiliar to the people under their jurisdiction, and, most importantly, hostile rhetoric often employed by some local opinion makers. The ICC is no exception, especially in the MENA region where its engagement requires a robust outreach effort.

On May 16, the court's prosecutor, Luis Moreno-Ocampo, delivered the news of his application for arrest warrants against Colonel Muammar el-Qaddafi, his son Seif al-Islam and Libya's head of intelligence services Abdullah al-Senussi on charges of crimes against humanity. The charges relate to the attacks of Qaddafi's security forces on the demonstrators who have protested against his regime since February.

Moreno-Ocampo explained the evidence "shows that civilians were attacked in their homes; demonstrations were repressed using live ammunition, heavy artillery was used against participants in funeral processions, and snipers placed to kill those leaving the mosques after the prayers."

And while this action of the prosecutor was warmly welcomed by all who support accountability for leaders who violently suppress their own citizens, questions emerged in the MENA region and beyond about the criteria that determine where and when the ICC gets involved. People in the region, including civil society groups promoting rule of law and directly advocating for the ICC, questioned how Qaddafi's conduct differed from that of Assad in Syria, Saleh in Yemen or al-Khalifa in Bahrain.

The immediate response to this query would be that the Libya situation was referred to the ICC by the UN Security Council. This is one of the mechanisms triggering the court's jurisdiction that has not been applied thus far in the cases of Yemen, Syria or Bahrain. The ICC can exercise its jurisdiction only if the state where the crimes have

occurred, or from which perpetrators come, accepts its jurisdiction, or if a case is referred by the UN Security Council acting under Chapter VII of the UN Charter to maintain or restore international peace and security. Yemen, Syria and Bahrain are not parties to the Rome Statute and it is difficult to believe their current rulers are eager to accept the court's jurisdiction.

The court cannot control what the Security Council refers to it, but only to determine if there is a reasonable basis to open an investigation in case of a referral. This does not mean Security Council referrals are bereft of political considerations. The speed with which the Security Council acted to refer Libya to the ICC, and its deafening silence on similar violence against civilians elsewhere in the Middle East, especially in Syria and Yemen, could leave the impression that powers dominating the council are turning to the court only when politically convenient to their interests.

This, coupled with a lack of response from the prosecutor to the Palestinian Authority's January 2009 recognition of the ICC's jurisdiction—intended to enable the court to investigate alleged breaches of international criminal law committed during the 22-day conflict in Gaza and southern Israel in 2008–2009—threatens to undermine the court's credibility in the region through allegations of double standards. The ICC cannot allow for these perceptions to cement, but should actively work to address them.

The recent conference on the ICC in Qatar and the resulting attention the court received in the regional media can be seen as a positive step. However, a more substantive and diverse engagement is necessary to achieve the desired degree of understanding and acceptance.

The ICC needs to be active in establishing a strong outreach presence in the MENA region to actively disseminate information governing its jurisdiction and work with media and civil society groups who can further distribute it. Its online presence must be broadened to the region and Arabic included as a language of communication on the ICC website. But more than simply providing explanations of the Rome Statute and distributing its digests and documents, the court needs to engage.

Prior to the conference in Qatar, senior ICC officials, including the prosecutor Luis Moreno Ocampo, rarely visited the region. Now is the time to do so on a more regular basis, to demonstrate the ICC's relevance to ongoing events in the region, and send clear messages about its mandate to dispel allegations of bias or politicization.

Involving prominent legal and academic figures from the region and elsewhere—the likes of former ICC president Philippe Kirsch or former judge Mohamed Amin El Mahdi of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY)—who would be able to speak about the ICC and provide analysis without the constraints of being ICC staff could be a substantive step forward.

The role of civil society cannot be overemphasised in this effort. To add to the work of the Coalition for the ICC, which has worked with local NGOs to lobby for the ratification of the Rome Statute, the ICC itself needs to establish strong links with relevant civil society groups that will spread its message and help counter misperceptions in their constituencies.

Calls for justice and accountability have been heard in Tunisia, Egypt and across the region. It is telling that one of the first decisions of Tunisia's interim government was to initiate ratification of the Rome Statute and that interim authorities in Egypt have announced the intention to do so. If the ICC is to engender the trust of people seeking justice in the region and across the world, and to relay a strong message that there can be no impunity for crimes against humanity, it has to clearly communicate what makes it act in one situation and not in another.

Daily Nation (Kenya)

Wednesday, 15 June 2011

## Hold ICC hearings in Kenya, Amnesty urges

By NATION Reporter



*ICC Pre Trial Chamber II Presiding Judge Ekaterina Trendafilova. Amnesty International has said it backs the International Criminal Court's proposal to conduct the confirmation of charges hearings for the Ocampo Six in Kenya*

Amnesty International has said it backs the International Criminal Court's proposal to conduct the confirmation of charges hearings for the Ocampo Six in Kenya.

The rights organisation said the move, if successful, would bring justice closer to the victims who bore the brunt of the post election violence that left 1,133 people and 650,000 others uprooted from their homes.

"Amnesty International fully supports the ICC proposal to hold the confirmation of charges hearings in Kenya," said Michelle Kagari, Amnesty International's deputy Africa director in a statement Wednesday.

"The proposal to hold hearings in Kenya, if implemented, would bring justice closer to victims and their relatives, and locally affected communities. It would not impinge at all the right to fair trial of those accused by the Prosecutor."

According to AI, the ICC should consider holding such hearings and trials in the states where the crimes were committed so that justice could be served closer to the victims.

It said it was aware of concerns expressed about the security of victims and witnesses in Kenya and urged Kenyan authorities to make sure that security of the proceedings, victims and witnesses is assured.

However, ICC Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo has opposed the suggestion by the Pre-Trial Chamber II that the hearings scheduled for September be held in Kenya.

Mr Moreno-Ocampo argues that security conditions make it impossible to conduct the hearing in the country.

"It is impossible to assume that the Government of Kenya will provide the essential cooperation and substantial protection to enable an effective continuation of the hearings *in situ* (in its place)," said Mr Moreno-Ocampo.

Post-election violence victims through the Office of Public Counsel for Victims also expressed opposition to the plan arguing that holding the confirmation of charges hearing in Kenya could increase the danger of an outbreak of violence.

"The Pre-Trial Chamber's initiative in considering holding the confirmation hearings as close as possible to the affected communities is greatly appreciated by the victim applicants.

"The unfortunate reality, however, is that such hearings would not be in the interests of justice given current circumstances," the victims said.

The Prosecutor and the victims made the observations as the Ocampo Six presented varied observations over the issue.

Tinderet MP Henry Kosgey welcomed the suggestion but argued that "it is desirable and in the interest of justice to conduct confirmation of charges hearings in Kenya."

He added that it is in the interests of justice that the hearing be conducted within Kenya to enable him mount "an affordable, proportionate and efficient defence."

Postmaster General Hussein Ali told the judges that he wants the ICC trial to proceed at The Hague, but wants a status conference held by all parties to discuss holding hearings in Kenya.

Head of civil service Francis Muthaura also expressed reservations to holding the hearings in Kenya arguing that unless the Court and the Government are able to adequately provide for the safety and security of the victims and witnesses, and ensure proper and orderly conduct of proceedings he would not support the move.

"Therefore, the defence invites the Court to consider Arusha as the next best alternative to Kenya, in view of the concerns raised by the Defence and which may render the conduct of the confirmation of charges hearing in Kenya not feasible," said Mr Muthaura.

Eldoret North MP William Ruto and radio presenter Joshua Sang argued that relocating ICC proceedings to Kenya could also create an erroneous perception of the Government and make it seem as if the admissibility case had been predetermined.

## News Day

Tuesday, 14 June 2011

### **Surrender fugitive — Zim told**

The tribunal trying suspects of the 1994 Rwandan genocide has complained to the United Nations (UN) Security Council that it was encountering difficulties in tracking a top fugitive believed to be holed up in Zimbabwe.

Justice Hassan Jallow, prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), wrote to the UN Security Council last week saying there were difficulties in apprehending Protais Mpiranya, a former commander of the presidential guard during the genocide.

Jallow said Zimbabwe should prevent the genocide fugitive from evading justice.

The prosecutor said they had requested for cooperation and assistance from the Zimbabwean government in bringing Mpiranya to justice.

“Difficulties experienced in the tracking of the top level fugitive Protais Mpiranya continue and I urge further cooperation and assistance from the Government of Zimbabwe in this regard,” Jallow said in a statement addressed to the UN Security Council.

But Zimbabwean police yesterday maintained they were not aware of the presence of the genocide fugitive in the country despite insistence by the tribunal.

“We do not know of his presence in Zimbabwe,”

Wayne Bvudzijena, chief police spokesperson, told NewsDay. “As police we are unaware of his presence here.”

Mpiranya’s head carries a \$5 million bounty. Prosecutors at the ICTR believe he is staying in Zimbabwe.

Mpiranya is accused of crimes against humanity, war crimes and conspiracy to commit genocide, genocide or alternatively complicity in genocide.

In his capacity as commander of the elite force, he allegedly exercised authority over the units of this battalion.

Beginning in 1992, Mpiranya allegedly supervised the training of militiamen, and in 1993, Mpiranya also reportedly sent his subordinates to supervise the training of the Interahamwe, a notorious Hutu militia.

He is also accused of distributing weapons to the militia and to certain members of the civilian population with the intent to exterminate the Tutsi population.

As of April 7 1994, killings of the civilian Tutsi population, which were preceded on many occasions by rape, sexual violence and other crimes of a sexual nature, were carried out by civilians and soldiers allegedly under orders from Mpiranya.

Mpiranya allegedly tracked down, arrested, sexually assaulted, and killed Rwandan Prime Minister Agathe Uwilingiyimana during the genocide.

He is accused of taking into custody 10 Belgian peacekeepers from a UN peacekeeping mission who had been guarding her house and killed them.

## Hirondelle News Agency

Tuesday, 14 June 2011

### **Nizeyimana defence seeks review of order for prosecution extra evidence**

The defence for Captain Ildephonse Nizeyimana has asked the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) to review its decision, allowing the prosecution to challenge the defendant's evidence over his presence in Butare prefecture (Western Rwanda) in months of April and May, 1994.

"The impugned decision should be reconsidered on four grounds: it is erroneous and unjust; it constitutes an abuse of power; it causes the accused to suffer injustice and prejudice; it causes considerable problems with the management of the case," the defence states in its motion published on the ICTR website.

In a decision of June 7, 2011, a Trial Chamber considered that it would be in the interests of justice to allow three extra prosecution witnesses to testify in response to the defendant's alibi defence that he was not in Butare as of April 21 and 22, 1994 and between April 26 through May 17, the same year.

According to the prosecution, during the period in question, Nizeyimana was at the Noncommissioned Officers School (ESO) in Butare where, as in charge of intelligence and military operations, ordered or instigated soldiers to kill Tutsi civilians at various locations in the region.

However, Nizeyimana alleges in his defence that between end of April and mid May, 1994, he was in Mata, Gokongoro prefecture (South Rwanda), where he was assigned a mission to set up a training centre for coaching new recruits.

The Chamber, therefore, notes in its decision that the proposed evidence of "rebuttal" witnesses was relevant, probative value and not of a cumulative nature and may assist in assessing other evidence adduced during the course of the trial, and more generally, in its quest to ascertain the truth.

It has ordered the prosecution to present its rebuttal evidence immediately starting June 22, 2011, following the closure of defence case on June 17, 2011. In the motion, however, the defence alleges that it could not be ready to cross-examine the witnesses as early as ordered without having investigated them and their evidence.

According to the motion, "the impugned decision places the defence in unfair situation where advantages were granted to the prosecution while statutory rights for the accused were being violated. A fair trial is unachievable under those circumstances and the impugned decision calls for reconsideration in order to safeguard the rights of the accused."

Presentation of defence case continues on Wednesday. Nizeyimana is charged with genocide, extermination, murder and rape. He was arrested in Uganda on October 5, 2009 and transferred to the UN Detention facility in Arusha, Tanzania the following day.

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## Minivan News

Tuesday, 14 June 2011

<http://minivannews.com>

### **Parliament votes to sign Rome Statute of International Criminal Court**

By JJ Robinson

Parliament today voted almost unanimously that the Maldives sign the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC), the founding treaty of the first permanent international court capable of trying perpetrators of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes.

Maldivian MPs voted 61 in favour of signing the statute out of 64 members present.

Chairman of Parliament's National Security Committee, Abdulla Yameen, presented the committee's findings stating that signing the treaty would strengthen both criminal justice in the Maldives and the country's commitment to human rights.

"All the countries that sign the treaty believe that such cases should be looked into with an international jurisdiction," he said.

Former President's Member of the Judicial Services Commission (JSC), Aishath Velezinee, said that accepting the jurisdiction of the ICC in the Maldives raised the possibility of taking cases to an international court when a fair trial was impossible in domestic courts.

"We have a unique situation in the Maldives," said Velezinee, who contends that the former government's Ministry of Justice was simply reappointed as an 'independent' judiciary by the politically-tainted JSC, in an ongoing effort to undermine the country's democracy.

For this reason, she said, "Crimes [allegedly committed] by former President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom cannot be tried domestically. We can't take the master before the slave and ask the slave to judge him. So where else can we go?"

Attorney General Abdulla Muiz had not responded at time of press.

The ICC's advocacy group – the Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC) – on May 2 submitted a letter urging the Maldives to sign the treaty, which it claimed would "contribute toward strengthening the Asia and Pacific region's under-represented voice at the ICC. Currently, only seven Asian states Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mongolia and Timor-Leste – are member states of the Court."

The CICC's Asia Regional Coordinator Evelyn Balais-Serrano said at the time the letter was sent that the decision would represent "a strong desire to be part of the international community's collective efforts towards international justice", and "signals its resolve to move forward in its goal of ending impunity locally and globally."

Internationally, 114 states have ratified or acceded to the treaty, and 139 are signatories. According to the CICC, the ICC's mandate stipulates that the Court will only intervene if national legal systems are "unable or unwilling" to investigate and prosecute perpetrators of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes.

Six pending investigations before the court include investigations in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Darfur, the Sudan, Kenya, Libya and Uganda. Three trials are ongoing, and 15 arrest warrants have been issued.