

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



Fish trap at Moyamba.

**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**

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

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## Sierra Express Media

Thursday, 23 June 2011



### **A Message to the AU: Why Justice Matters**

When African leaders assemble in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea on June 30 for the African Union summit, they will discuss numerous challenges confronting the continent. No doubt economic and political issues will take center stage, but international criminal justice is also likely to be in the spotlight.

More than 125 African-based civil society organizations from more than 25 countries have come together to urge African leaders to use this important opportunity to show their support for the International Criminal Court (ICC) and to press for cooperation with the court. I am proud to be part of that effort.

When the ICC issued arrest warrants for President Omar al-Bashir of Sudan for genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity committed in Darfur, the AU expressed deep concern over the warrants. It pressed the UN Security Council to suspend the case and when it didn't, the AU called on African states not to cooperate with arresting President al-Bashir. Meanwhile, the AU chairman repeatedly criticized the court for targeting Africans.

By working to create the ICC and ratifying the Rome Treaty, which established the court, African ICC states parties made a giant step forward in ending the culture of impunity on the continent. We cannot afford to reverse the gains we have made by withdrawing our support from the ICC.

It is a fact that all situations under ICC investigation to date are in Africa, which has been a source of disquiet among some observers. However, the number of African cases is also a manifestation of the growing African commitment to justice. It is true that international justice has yet to be applied evenly around the globe. But civil society organizations believe Africa should build on its support for accountability as opposed to scaling down its resolve because others have failed to demonstrate their commitment or have managed so far to avoid judicial scrutiny.

Over the last decade, the governments of Sierra Leone, Nigeria, and Liberia, among others, have demonstrated a genuine commitment to promoting international criminal justice. By asking the United Nations to set up a special court to try those most responsible for the heinous crimes during the decade-long civil war in Sierra Leone, my government and the people of Sierra Leone joined their counterparts in Rwanda in calling for an end to impunity on the continent.

Nigeria was not only in the first batch of 13 countries whose voluntary financial contributions helped establish the Special Court for Sierra Leone, but it also handed

over Charles Taylor, then a fugitive in Nigeria, to the court at the request of President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf of Liberia.

These are very significant contributions, but continued resolve to support justice for victims by West African governments is needed. Ahead of the AU summit, our civil society organizations from across the continent issued a report which calls for African ICC states parties to undertake a range of actions to support justice for serious crimes.

Specifically, we urge states to press the AU to work to extend the reach of international justice, not to curtail it. We urge the AU to direct any outstanding concerns about suspending ICC cases to the Security Council, and not the court, which has no authority to defer cases. We call for the AU to hold further consultations on challenges related to the anticipated expansion of the African Court of Justice and Human Rights to prosecute grave crimes to ensure that any expansion does not impede the ICC's role as a crucial court of last resort.

Concerns also have been expressed about the Security Council resolutions about Libya. But we hope that the AU will make a distinction between the issue of the use of force in Libya and the ICC's distinct judicial process as a result of the Security Council's referral. Finally, we call for African states to support the election of the most qualified candidate as the next ICC prosecutor through a fair and merit-based process.

Africans believe that continued cooperation with the ICC will strengthen regional efforts both to promote peace and justice and to encourage economic and institutional development. African leaders should make the right decision by siding with their people at next week's summit!

*By Ibrahim Tommy. Ibrahim Tommy is the Executive Director of the Center for Accountability and Rule of Law (CARL) – Sierra Leone.*

*Note: Ibrahim Tommy was a staff at the Press and Public Affairs Office.*

# The Guardian

Wednesday, 22 June 2011

## Robin Vincent obituary

Legal pioneer who brought justice to war-torn Sierra Leone



*Robin Vincent stood up to judges and bureaucrats with rational argument*

Robin Vincent, who has died of cancer aged 67, was an unsung hero of the international justice movement. At the time it

was faltering after 9/11, he stepped out of the genteel environs of the Lord Chancellor's Department into war-torn Sierra Leone, and not only set up an international court there, but made it work.

His achievement was such that the United Nations turned to him again, in desperate need of his expertise, to get the Lebanon Tribunal (dealing with the assassination in 2005 of the Lebanese prime minister Rafik Hariri) off the ground. Today, with the former Bosnian Serb general Ratko Mladic arrested, the Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi indicted, and a verdict imminent on the former Liberian president Charles Taylor, the principle of putting political and military leaders on trial for crimes against humanity seems accepted, but only because there is proof that it can work in practice. That proof owes much to Robin's managerial skill, belief in justice and sense of fair play.

Robin was Worcester-born and bred, a lifelong cricketer who went straight from school into the courts service, starting as a deputy clerk to the county justices. His rare ability to deal with the egos of lawyers and judges and run a courtroom, while juggling jurors and ushers and listing officials, was soon noticed and he advanced steadily to the chief clerkship of the crown court in Birmingham and then in Manchester.

The Lord Chancellor's Department then brought him in 1986 to London, where he headed several divisions (including judicial appointments) before leading the Court Service Agency from 1993 until 2001. It was then that the British Council realised that his unusual skill was exportable, and dispatched him to cities in Russia to train court administrators. Robin had found his mission – to bring justice to places where it had been absent for too long.

Bringing it to the aftermath of the war in Sierra Leone – one of the world's poorest nations – was one of the UN's biggest challenges. He helped to design a hybrid court which would sit not in the safety of The Hague but at the scene of the crime, with international judges and prosecutors working in tandem with Sierra Leone appointees. He became the registrar of the special court for war crimes, and from 2002 to 2006 he oversaw the building of its prison, its legal offices and its courtrooms in Freetown, and organised its trials and appeals, which have contributed to the development of international criminal law, notably on the illegality of recruiting child soldiers and the invalidity of amnesties for those chiefly responsible for crimes against humanity.

Freetown was still a hazardous place when the court began its work in December 2002, especially with the prevalence of malaria. Several bouts did not stop Robin. With his assistant Robert Thompson, he recruited and trained a team of officials and dealt calmly but cunningly with UN bureaucracy, local corruption and over-demanding judges. His work on the ground was interspersed with flights to New York to argue for resources to keep the court in business.

At one point he sent a list of essential demands direct to the UN secretary general, Kofi Annan, threatening to resign if they were not met. "You shouldn't resign, old chap," said a visiting stuffed-shirt from London. "You won't get your 'k'." "I don't give a damn about my 'k'," replied Robin, "I only care about my court." Annan came through with the necessary resources, and in 2006 Robin was appointed CMG. He had been made CBE in 2001.

It was my privilege, as the court's first president, to work with Robin, most importantly to establish a defence office headed by a "principal defender", in order to correct the organisational bias in favour of the prosecutor that had been apparent at Nuremberg and in early tribunals in The Hague. This became a precedent for later courts. Robin also set up a successful programme to explain the court's work in schools and at public meetings throughout the country. Transparency was a feature of his management style. When the rebel leader Foday Sankoh died of natural causes in our prison, Robin's thorough and quickly published report into his death prevented conspiracy theories from taking hold.

Robin was a joy to work with, and (his staff attest) to work for. A humble man (except when sledging Australians over cricket), he stood up to judges and bureaucrats with rational argument against their claims of privilege or red tape. He was full of good humour and kindness, and sponsored an extraordinary local football team of limbleless victims (mutilation had been a favourite rebel tactic). Asked the secret of his successful court management, he said: "A registrar should be like the referee at the football match which ends with the crowd asking 'where's the ref?' Because he did such a good job, they never noticed him."

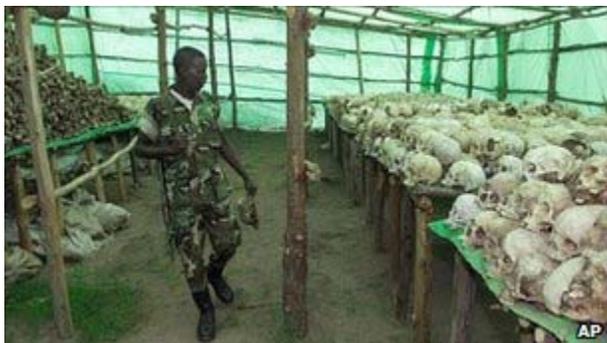
Robin is survived by Hazel, his wife of 40 years, along with his two sons, Mark and Steven, and four grandchildren. Until his service abroad, he was a first team player with Stockport Georgians Cricket Club.

**• Robin Anthony Vincent, legal manager, born 27 February 1944; died 12 June 2011**

BBC Online

Friday, 24 June 2011

## Rwanda: Ex-women's minister guilty of genocide, rape



*Hundreds of thousands of people died in the genocide*

A former Rwandan women's minister has been sentenced to life in prison for her role in the genocide and the rape of Tutsi women and girls.

Pauline Nyiramasuhuko, 65, is the first woman convicted by the UN-backed tribunal for the Rwanda genocide.

She was found guilty, along with her son and four other former officials, after a 10-year trial.

Some 800,000 ethnic Tutsis and moderate Hutus were killed during the 1994 massacres.

Nyiramasuhuko, who was family and women's empowerment minister, was accused of ordering and assisting in the massacres in her home district of Butare in southern Rwanda.

The prosecution at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) accused her of taking part in the government decision to create militias throughout the country. Their mission was to wipe out the Tutsi population as fast as possible.

Militias flown in

Along with her son, Arsene Shalom Ntahobali, who was in his early 20s at the time, she was also accused of organising the kidnap and rape of Tutsi women and girls.

Ntahobali, who was in his early 20s at the time of the genocide, was also found guilty and sentenced to life.

Four other local officials got between 25 years and life in prison.

BBC East Africa correspondent Will Ross says Nyiramasuhuko showed no emotion as she was sentenced.

She was found not guilty of murder and public incitement

She had denied all the charges.

The trial opened in 2001 and was one of those used by the Rwandan government to highlight the slow pace of justice at the tribunal, based in Arusha, Tanzania.

Butare was once home to a large mix of Hutu and Tutsi people, and there was some resistance there to the orders to carry out the massacres.

The government of which Nyiramasuhuko was a member dismissed the most senior district official - a man who opposed the genocide. He was never seen again.

When he was replaced, the massacres began and militias were flown in from the Rwandan capital Kigali to assist.

Nyiramasuhuko was accused of requesting military assistance to proceed with the massacres in her home commune.

The prosecution says along with her son she often forced people to undress completely before loading them on to trucks and taking them to their deaths.

Our correspondent says that although she was the only woman on trial for genocide before the ICTR, many other women have been convicted of genocide in Rwandan courts.

Two nuns were found guilty of participating in the genocide by a court in Belgium.

**PREVIEW: Long-awaited trial of Khmer Rouge leaders set to start**

By Robert Carmichael



*Former Khmer Rouge prisoner Mom Kimsen (C-R), shows her portrait on display at Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum (S-21 prison), in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 31 May 2011.*

The Trial Chamber of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) has announced that the initial hearing in Case 002 will commence on 27 to 30 June 2011. The indicted persons in Case 002 are former Head of State Khieu Samphan, former Deputy Prime Minister in Charge of Foreign Affairs. Ieng Sary, former Deputy Secretary of the Communist Party of Kampuchea Nuon Chea and former Minister of Social Affairs Ieng Thirith. EPA/MAK REMISSA

Phnom Penh - The mass grave lies just a few kilometres off national road 5, which connects Phnom Penh to Battambang town in western Cambodia. Villagers tell you this was a Khmer Rouge prison and that many thousands died here.

There is little to indicate that today. This place, the former Chong Chrouy Prison, is a five-minute walk off a narrow dirt road and is overgrown with bushes. Crumbling concrete fragments are all that remain of its buildings; shallow depressions in the earth mark the burial pits.

Villager Puon Kosal, 23, says that when he was a boy, there were too many holes to count and the ground was littered with bones.

'Now there aren't many left,' he says, pointing out a scrap of clothing sticking out of the ground at a place the villagers call 'the prison of ghosts.'

'The old people say many died,' he says.

The Documentation Center of Cambodia, a genocide research organization, estimated in a 1998 survey that 70,000 to 100,000 people are buried here in hundreds of mass graves.

It is impossible to know the true figure because Chong Chrouy Prison was not excavated, but villagers say large numbers of people died here during the 1975-79 Khmer Rouge rule. There are similar sites across Cambodia.

On Monday, the trial of the four surviving leaders of the Khmer Rouge, who stand accused of responsibility for the deaths of up to 2.2 million people, is to begin in Phnom Penh before a UN-backed tribunal.

The four are party ideologue Nuon Chea, known as Brother Number Two; then-head of state Khieu Samphan; foreign minister Ieng Sary; and his wife, social affairs minister Ieng Thirith.

They are accused of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, murder and an array of other charges. The four deny all the charges.

It has taken three decades to try them. Although Monday's hearing is to be procedural rather than evidential, it is a landmark, says the Documentation Center's director, Youk Chhang, whose organization has provided half a million documents to the court.

He says this trial, the second held by the court, was the 'most important for me and I think for most Cambodians,' he says. 'We all know these four [defendants]. They do not accept, they put all the blame to their subordinates, and they blame others.'

Youk Chhang says the trial 'will help us to put this [period] behind us and move on.'

Last year, the court jailed the regime's security chief, Comrade Duch, for 30 years after finding him guilty of war crimes and crimes against humanity. Duch has appealed his conviction.

But case two, which is to have its first hearing Monday, is more complicated in a number of ways, one being that Duch ran a prison where suspected enemies of the revolution were tortured and later executed. In short, he was an implementer of policy.

But the defendants in case two are charged with devising policy, which puts them at a remove from Duch's hands-on role.

Clair Duffy with the Open Society Justice Initiative, which is funded by US billionaire George Soros and monitors the tribunal, says defence teams at other trials involving alleged senior leaders have used that distance to claim their clients lacked knowledge of atrocities.

'[They say] either that they weren't present at meetings where these kinds of policies were devised or that they weren't aware of what actually was going to be the result of the policies that were being devised - such as killings, torture, etc,' Duffy says.

There are other issues. The defendants are elderly, from 79 to 85, and in varying degrees of health. There are fears one or more could die before the trial concludes.

That has happened elsewhere, most prominently with former Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic, who died in 2006 during his trial by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague.

For that reason, the Khmer Rouge tribunal has brought in a new rule allowing it to deliver convictions or acquittals as the trial proceeds.

The prosecution is confident of its case with a file containing 350,000 documents. Not so the defence team for Nuon Chea, whose lawyer Michiel Pestman says he believes his client has little chance of receiving a fair trial.

Pestman says Cambodian politics has dominated key areas of the tribunal's pursuit of justice. Among other reasons, he cites an event in 2009 when case two investigators were reportedly told to favour evidence that indicated guilt.

'The signs are on red as far as we're concerned,' Pestman says. 'We are seriously worried that this court is unable to do what they are supposed to do, and that is deliver a fair trial.'

**Libya: ICC sets date for Gaddafi arrest warrant ruling**

*Col Gaddafi is accused of personally ordering attacks on unarmed civilians*

The International Criminal Court has said it will decide on Monday whether to issue an arrest warrant for Libyan leader Col Muammar Gaddafi.

The panel of judges will also decide whether to seek the arrest of Col Gaddafi's son, Saif, and his intelligence chief Abdullah al-Sanussi.

Libyan officials have previously said they will ignore such a move.

The chief ICC prosecutor says the three men bear responsibility for "widespread and systematic attacks" on civilians.

Luis Moreno-Ocampo says the court has evidence showing Col Gaddafi "personally ordered attacks on unarmed Libyan civilians" and is behind the arrest, torture and disappearance of his opponents. Saif al-Islam and Mr Sanussi are accused of similar crimes.

The charges cover the days following the start of anti-government protests on 15 February. Between 500 and 700 people are believed to have been killed in that month alone and thousands more as the conflict continued.

Libya does not recognise the authority of the ICC, but Mr Moreno-Ocampo said it would be legally obliged to act on the warrants if they were issued.

Earlier this month he told Spain's El Mundo newspaper the court was "working on the assumption he will be arrested by his people" or by members of the rebels' National Transitional Council.

In a televised address on Wednesday evening, Col Gaddafi again insisted that attempts to remove him from power would not work.

# Kenya Broadcasting Corporation

Thursday, 23 June 2011

## Mututho summoned over ICC remarks

Written By: Maniafu Nanzushi,



Kangundo Member of Parliament Johnstone Muthama was Thursday summoned by the Criminal Investigations Department over alleged derogatory remarks against the International Criminal Court he made at Uhuru Park.

Muthama is alleged to have read a letter while at a welcoming rally for the Ocampo six from The Hague demeaning the court.

It is during the Uhuru Park prayer rally for the Ocampo six that the Naivasha MP made the demeaning remarks against the ICC

the decision of the court to throw out Kenya's admissibility challenging of the cases against the six Kenyans before

This move comes at a time when the Kenyan government has appealed against

The content of the said letter read out to the masses that had turned up for the supposed prayer rally has landed the acting government chief whip in trouble.

And wanting to prove to the ICC that the country is indeed serious in co-operating with it, the CID summoned Muthama over the remarks.

Muthama has however termed the allegations baseless and holding no waters.

The summoning comes just a day after the government appealed against the decision by ICC to throw out the case challenging the admissibility of the Ocampo Six cases.

The Guardian  
Sunday, 19 June 2011

### **War crimes: The world has seen the evidence. Now we must act**

In Sri Lanka, Libya, Bahrain and elsewhere, human rights abuses are being recorded and the evidence is on the internet

The broadcast last week of Channel 4's Sri Lanka's *Killing Fields* documentary was a defining moment not just for the media, but for those who investigate war crimes. Chronicling the final bloody weeks in 2009 of the country's civil war which claimed the lives of at least 40,000 Tamil civilians, it captured in sometimes grainy, often terrifying footage, the horrors of a nation violently divided.

There was much in the documentary to commend. Its recognition that Tamil Tigers were prepared to use as pawns the civilians they claimed to represent; the forensic way it explored the UN's unconscionable retreat as the conflict worsened; the wide range of experts interviewed to provide ballast and balance. But the real significance of the film emerged from the extraordinary, almost unwatchable, footage of the horrors of those grim weeks, much of it recorded on mobile phones.

Not all the footage was taken by desperate people determined to record the crimes they were being forced to witness. One scene in the documentary, showing three people being executed, was apparently recorded on a mobile phone by a Sri Lankan government soldier as a trophy video.

True, the provenance of some of the footage can never be established, in part because those involved are dead, displaced or in hiding. As Channel 4 acknowledged, it is impossible in some cases to establish whether the footage was taken by a Tamil Tiger, Sri Lankan soldier or a civilian.

But the documentary appeared to provide compelling evidence that Sri Lankan government forces massacred prisoners, that civilian hospitals were shelled and that female Tamil fighters were sexually assaulted before being killed.

The shaky video captured on mobile phones represents a modern-day version of Goya's *Disasters of War* prints, which recorded in harrowing detail Spain's bloody battle with Napoleonic France and which were considered so shocking they remained unpublished for more than three decades after the artist's death. David Cameron spoke for many who saw the documentary when he called for the UN to launch an investigation.

The Sri Lankan government's initial response was predictable, with its defence ministry citing an expert claiming the footage had been manipulated. But its foreign ministry, aware of the mounting international outrage, has been noticeably more

measured, suggesting action could be taken if any allegations were found to be genuine.

This is an important admission. Christof Heyns, the UN special investigator into extrajudicial killings in Sri Lanka, has said footage showing soldiers apparently executing civilians is authentic. Sri Lanka, having hosted part of the Cricket World Cup and keen to develop its thriving tourist industry, risks further tarnishing its image if it now refuses to examine the evidence.

There are important precedents here for what is happening in the Middle East. The Arab Spring owed much to the internet and the mobile phone; social networking sites nurtured, co-ordinated and shaped revolutions. But these instruments of modernity also bore witness to revolution's ugly twin: government suppression – tanks sent in against protesters in Baniyas, Saudi snipers on the rooftops in Bahrain, tear gas in Tahrir Square.

So far, the allegations of war crimes committed in the name of the Sri Lankan government have not received the international attention they deserve. Sri Lanka, anxious to put the trauma of its civil war behind it, has yet to provide a full account of its role in alleged atrocities, and the world's attention has been elsewhere. But what happened in Sri Lanka in those nightmarish days of 2009 has put governments everywhere, dictatorships and democracies alike, on notice. When suppression mutates into war crimes, they will be recorded on mobile phones and disseminated across the web. It will be increasingly difficult for bodies such as the UN to refuse an investigation when billions of people can access compelling evidence of crimes at the click of a mouse .

This is an important shift in accountability. As we report today, lawyers in Libya's rebel-held city of Misrata believe they now have sufficient evidence for the International Criminal Court to convict the Gaddafi regime of crimes against humanity. The evidence is in the form of orders signed by Gaddafi and his sons instructing the security forces to suppress revolts at all costs.

But new technology means such paper trails are no longer the only way of bringing tyrants to book. In the future, the revolution will be filmed. So, too, will war crimes.