

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



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, 11 July 2011

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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The Daily Star (Lebanon)

Monday, 11 July 2011

Hariri court seeks Interpol's help to apprehend suspects

By Patrick Galey

The U.N.-backed probe into the 2005 assassination of statesman Rafik Hariri has asked Interpol to assist in apprehending suspects, a court spokesperson said Sunday.

"I can confirm that based on a request by the Pre-Trial Judge [Daniel Fransen] we've submitted international arrest warrants to Interpol," Special Tribunal for Lebanon spokesperson Marten Youssef told The Daily Star.

Youssef said that Bellemare had requested a "red notice" for accused individuals, which would allow Interpol to contact authorities in member states and issue arrest warrants that are closed to the public.

"The reason for that the indictment remains confidential," Youssef said.

"The STL has a memorandum of understanding with Interpol that allows us to share information. Once the indictment becomes public, the red notices given to Interpol will be made public," Youssef added.

The court issued its first indictment to authorities in Beirut earlier this month, in a document believed to contain the names of several Hezbollah members. Lebanon is now obliged, according to agreements it signed with the U.N. and The Hague, to apprehend accused individuals.

Judge Fransen ruled that the indictment would be "sealed" – or confidential – and hence did not name suspects publicly.

The court's statute dictates that if suspects are not arrested within 30 working days of an indictment being issued, their names will be made public.

The Daily Star has received information that the STL's indictment contains the names of non-Lebanese individuals. The court's agreement with Interpol would allow warrants it has issued to be distributed to any country believed to be harboring suspects.

Although Youssef declined to be drawn on whether all accused individuals are in Lebanon, he said Interpol's involvement would increase the likelihood of catching the men.

"The idea of sharing [warrants] with Interpol is that through its agreements with member states we can get them to communicate information [on suspects]. This means [suspects] would not be allowed to travel and hopefully they can be arrested," he said. "If these individuals are outside Lebanon or try to leave Lebanon, they would be arrested."

The debate over the STL held up Prime Minister Najib Mikati's Cabinet policy statement, which stopped short of expressly promising that Lebanon would abide by U.N. Security Council Resolution 1757, an agreement stating that Beirut must cooperate with the court and help with its running costs. The vague reference to the court led France and the EU to express their concern that some politicians in Lebanon may be trying to discredit the court.

Following the indictment, Hezbollah Secretary-General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah made a televised address vowing that party members would not be turned over to the court. Nasrallah had previously called for a Lebanese boycott of the court, which he labeled an “Israeli project.”

Chafik Masri, professor of international law at the American University of Beirut said the tribunal had asked for Interpol assistance as a precaution.

“The court cannot wait to start moving, and they need these precautions immediately,” he told The Daily Star. “In principle, a red notice is issued to individuals who are suspected of unlawful killing or terrorist acts.” “According to bilateral agreements between Interpol and member countries, when they [countries] receive a list of suspects – and this does not mean they are criminals as they are innocent until proven guilty – they must act.”

Hariri’s killing was initially blamed on Syria. Although Damascus has always denied involvement in the crime, reports have suggested that individuals thought to be connected to the assassination are residing in Syria. Since Syria is an Interpol member state, Masri said its authorities would have to act on any warrant they received.

“Syria is within the member states of Interpol and they are supposed, according to treaties, to respond if there is any possibility,” he said. “Of course, [Interpol] does not have police powers to be invoked but it can communicate with member states and this means that suspects should be stopped from escaping.”

New Vision

Wednesday, 6 July 2011

ICC to train universities on law

BY MILTON OLUPOT

The International Criminal Court (ICC) is working towards facilitating East African universities to start courses on international criminal law.

Maria Kamara, the ICC outreach coordinator for Uganda, yesterday said the academic programme of the public information and documentation section of the court will promote in-depth teaching of courses related to international criminal law in universities, especially in countries where the ICC is conducting investigations.

She made the remarks at the opening of a four-day seminar in Kampala for lecturers and professors in law faculties in selected universities in Uganda and Kenya.

Kamara said the programme targets partners of the court in an effort to promote respect for international criminal law through high level education.

With support from the Universite Paul-Cezanne AixMarseille III of France, the ICC has contracted Prof. Xavier Philippe, a professor of international criminal law, to facilitate seminars about the course across ICC signatory countries.

Philippe said the area of international criminal law was virgin because it never existed until the last few years when the ICC was born.

About 20 lecturers and professors of law from Uganda and Kenya are taking part in the seminar at Hotel Africana in Kampala.

“The programme will provide the dons with useful tools and background material they require to teach international criminal law and ICC courses to students in their respective universities,” Kamara said.

The seminar is handling topics such as the ICC and other forms of justice, the jurisdiction of the court, triggering proceedings before ICC and the various forms of international responsibility.

Philippe said the challenge with the ICC today is that people responsible are not specifically trained in international criminal law and are, therefore, grappling to facilitate effective management of the court.

“We have to teach judges and advocates and not only university students,” he said.

The other challenge he observed was the unwillingness of states to be signatories to the Rome Statute.

Note: Maria Kamara worked in the Outreach section of the Special Court before joining the ICC.

Agence France Presse

Monday, 11 July 2011

Uganda charges rebel commander in war crimes trial

Uganda on Monday opened its first war crimes trial against a commander of the Lord's Resistance Army rebels accused of brutal civilian killings during a 20-year war in the north of the country.

Thomas Kwoyelo was charged before the International Crimes Division court in the northern town of Gulu with 53 counts of wilful killing, hostage taking, destruction of property and causing injury.

The 39-year-old Kwoyelo, who was a "colonel" under the command of the elusive LRA supremo Joseph Kony, denied the accusations.

Kwoyelo was captured in March 2009 in Garamba forest in the Democratic Republic of Congo during a sweep by regional armies against the LRA rebels who had fled from northern Uganda.

"All attacks were either committed by him or were carried out with his full knowledge," according to the charge sheet.

His hair neatly combed and wearing a green shirt, Kwoyelo shook his head as the charges were read out in the packed courtroom.

At the opening of the trial, Uganda's main judge Yorokamu Bamwiine said: "Ugandans and the international community have a feeling that justice must be done and it is there to be done."

"This is regardless of who wins or who loses," he added.

Kwoyelo is not among the top LRA commanders, including Kony wanted by the International Criminal Court for rape, mutilation, murdering and forcefully recruiting child soldiers.

Tens of thousands of people were killed and nearly two million displaced in the two decades of fighting between Kony's LRA and the Ugandan government.

Uganda's civil war effectively ended in 2006 when a peace process was launched but Kony and his top commanders have remained elusive and continued to commit atrocities in remote areas of neighbouring countries.

The LRA supremo, a semi-literate former altar boy, took charge in 1988 of a regional rebellion among northern Uganda's ethnic Acholi minority.