

**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:**

Thursday, 21 July 2011

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.  
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact  
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For di People  
Thursday, 21 July 2011

## Vice President Sumana Interferes with Special Court Witness

**VICE PRESIDENT SAMUEL Sam Sumana has been accused of interfering with a witness that testified against Ibrahim Bassy and Santigie Kamara in the AFRC trial at the Special Court of Sierra Leone.**

*by Arthwah Maddie*

Justice Teresa Doherty in reading the judgment of Samuel Kargbo (aka: Sammy Ragga) who had pleaded guilty of interfering with witness TFI 334 revealed that on the 3 day of December 2010 in Freetown, the accused met the witness in his house and told him to recant his testimony as Vice President of Sierra Leone Sam Sumana and the APC Chairman of the American branch have interest in the matter and were ready to give financial benefit to the witness in return.

The judge further asked the accused if he understood the statement and had any thing to say before passing sentence, he replied that he understood the statement but later pleaded for justice to be tempered with mercy.

Charles Taku, the Cameroonian lawyer representing the accused in his mitigation for bail said his client is a Sierra Leonean who is married with two children.

He said the accused would not jump bail or interfere with the protected witnesses in the matter and that they are ready to cooperate with the Court at any time it needs them.

Lawyer Taku said although his client was once a convict but had been granted presidential pardon

The judge however, upheld the plea and granted the accused bail with strict caution that, he should not interfere with the protected witnesses and should not leave the jurisdiction.

Samuel Kargbo is standing trial at the Special Court with the convicted AFRC leaders Ibrahim Bassy Kamara, Santigie Borbor Kanu (aka 55) in Rwanda and Hassan Papa Bangura alias Bomb Blast, for knowingly and willfully interfering with the Special Court administration of justice by offering a bribe to a witness who had given testimony before a Chamber, in violation of Rule 77 (A) (iv).

Particulars of offence stated that Hassan Papa Bangura (aka Bomb Blast) and Samuel Kargbo (aka Sammy Ragga) on diverse dates, between 27 November 2010 to 16 December 2010 in Freetown, offered a bribe to protected witness TFI 334 who had given testimony before trial Chamber 11 in the proceedings of the Prosecution versus Brima Kamara and Kanu in return for recanting his testimony in that trial to which Samuel Kargbo (aka Sammy Ragga) had pleaded guilty while the others pleaded not guilty. Melron Nicol-Wilson, lawyer representing the second accused Hassan

Papa Bangura applied for bail for his client. Justice Doherty granted bail but ordered that his passport be submitted to

the court and should remain in the jurisdiction. Meanwhile, if the accused persons are

found guilty of contempt under Rule 77 of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence, they will

face a prison sentence of seven years or a fine of Le2 million each (approximately \$ 500) or both.

For di People  
Thursday, 21 July 2011

## As 21 days Ultimatum Expires...

# MILITARY PETITIONS HUMAN RIGHTS VERDICT

**ARMED FORCES Republic of Sierra Leone has petitioned the verdict delivered in the tribunal of some ex-military personnel that were categorized as chronically ill and mentally imbalanced.**

by **DESRIL  
COLE**

The Human Rights Commission setup a tribunal to look into complaints made by the over two hundred aggrieved ex- soldiers that were classified as chronically ill and mentally imbalanced by the military authorities which according to them, has prevented them from securing a job.

The chairman of the tribunal, Yasmin Jusu Sheriff, after the investigation recommended that, the category of the soldiers be changed from chronically and

mentally imbalanced to wounded in action and that, they should also stand to benefit from the packages provided for the wounded in action as they are not in such a situation as classified by the military.

The tribunal also discovered that, their injuries were sustained during the rebel war while they were serving under the military and further gave 21 days ultimatum to the military to comply with the recommendations which ended on Monday 18 July 2011.

The military spokesman, Ken Jabbie who announced the position of the military

few hours before the 21 days ultimatum expired said the petition came in the wake of a consultation held with the military through the government on the issue and that, it was unanimously agreed that the verdict be petitioned as provided in the reports.

He said the petition has by all indication shown that the military is dissatisfied with the verdict as there are some recommendations in the report that need to be reviewed, adding, that the matter will be taken to a higher court for further interpretation.

When asked as to why the military had

to wait until the eleventh hour to petition the verdict, he replied that, the military was engaged in consultation with stakeholders to critically look into the matter to ensure that, the military stood a strong ground to petition the verdict.

It could be recall that the tribunal was looking into the complaints made by over two hundred ex- soldiers and to seek redress for them and during the trial, the government Pathologist, Dr Nahim, the Minister of Defence, Rtd. Paollo Conteh and other officials testified in the matter.



## Daily Digest (Ghana)

Wednesday, 19 July 2011

### **Gaddafi to pay compensation**

By Kofi Akosah-Sarpong

US Congressman Brad Sherman (Democrat, California) thinks in the wake of NATO's expensive operations in Libya to contain Muammar Gaddafi's attempts to kill protestors and the budget battle on Capitol Hill, the seized Gaddafi money, totaling over US\$100 billion, should be used to pay for the Libyan no fly zone operations. That makes sense because of the humanitarian nature of the operations.

What also makes sense, humanly, are some Sierra Leoneans and Liberians at home and abroad campaigning for some of Gaddafi's apprehended money be given to their struggling country as mandated by the United Nations Special Court for Sierra Leone. Short of charges of crimes against humanity and war crimes the UN Special Court for Sierra Leone authorized Gaddafi to pay compensations for the victims of the civil war some of whom were murdered, raped, maimed and mutilated.

Over a million Sierra Leoneans and Liberian were killed as a result of the Gaddafi induced war. Gaddafi did train, finance and encourage the deadly rebel groups Revolutionary United Front (RUF) and the National Patriotic Front of Liberia.

Swinging between sanity and insanity, Gaddafi came to the agonizing conclusion that he has caused irreparable damages to some Africans and decided to give some sort of financial aid.

Gibril Koroma, the Sierra Leonean publisher of the Vancouver, British Columbia based [thepatrioticvanguard.com](http://thepatrioticvanguard.com), making the case for Sierra Leonean victims wrote that, "A couple of years ago, Gaddafi realized he had hurt Africa too much and he started what he may have considered a reconciliation process by giving away millions of dollars in raw cash and all sorts of other gifts like cars and tractors to African leaders. He has also been financing the United States of Africa project scheduled to kick off by 2017."

But the real victims of Gaddafi's atrocities – amputations, murders, raping, maiming and mutilations – the ordinary, innocent Sierra Leoneans and Liberians did not receive any of what Gibril Koroma indicated. Now is the time for them to get their compensations direct from Gaddafi's looted billions. Their case is as reasonable and human as US Congressman Brad Sherman's arguments for NATO.

The Sierra Leonean journalist and academic Aroun Rashid Deen, currently a doctoral candidate at New York University, in making the case for Gaddafi to pay compensation to Sierra Leonean and Liberian fatalities, argued that "Muammar Gaddafi was the mastermind and key financier of the brutal war that left hundreds of thousands dead in Sierra Leone in West Africa in the 1990s. The war would not have happened in the first place had it not been for the desire of the Libyan leader to punish the government of Sierra Leone for what he regarded as its siding with the West in the 1980's when Gaddafi was at loggerhead with particularly the United States and Britain.

"It was also part of Gaddafi's broader agenda including his geopolitical ambition to destabilize much of West Africa and establish satellite states in the region to be headed by puppet regimes that will be doing his biddings. The decade-long war ripped Sierra Leone apart. Thousands of its victims, whose arms and limbs were chopped off by rebels, were reduced to paupers, roaming the streets as beggars in Freetown and other cities. Children as young as a day old were also among those whose arms and limbs were

hacked off by Gaddafi's rebels. Pregnant women, too, were disemboweled with delight in their display of ghastly brutality.”

Jesmed F. Suma, of the US-based Sierra Leone Policy Watch, a policy think tank and civic engagement group, argues insightfully that, “In 2008, in an unprecedented act of contrition, Italy agreed to pay reparation of US\$5 billion to Libya for Rome's past injustices for 30 years as colonial master over Libya in the early years of the last century. Also in 2008 Libya was ordered to pay US\$6 billion to the victims on-board the French Aircraft UTA Flight 772 for Libya's role in the bombing of the flight over Niger in 1989. In addition Libya agreed to also pay US\$1 million to each of the other 170 non-American victims.

“Libya also paid the US Govt. US\$1.5 billion for Libya's role in the Lockerbie Bombing that took the life of 270 victims and for the Berlin Disco Bombing that killed 3 and wounded 200. Now with regards to Sierra Leone and Liberia, Gaddafi sponsored a rebellion that killed thousands of poor, innocent men, women and children. These victims deserve the same justice as the victims of the Lockerbie bombing or the Libyan victims of Italian injustice.”

If Gaddafi has paid all these sums of money for his evil schemes, the time has come, through African and global institutions, for him to do same to the over million Sierra Leoneans and Liberians either slaughtered, raped, or maimed.

The Sierra Leone government, the diaspora Sierra Leonean lobby, the Mano River Union, the transnational African lobby, the Economic Community of West African States, regional giant Nigeria, the African Union, the United Nations, the European Union, and the African Development Bank, among others, should campaign for Sierra Leone and Liberia to get some of the billions of dollars seized from Gaddafi for the damages he brought upon these countries.

Daily Nation (Kenya)

Wednesday, 20 July 2011

## Sack Muthaura and Uhuru, urges Ocampo

By PETER LEFTIE pmutibo@ke.nationmedia.com



*Deputy Prime Minister Uhuru Kenyatta (left) and Public Service head Francis Muthaura. Photos/FILE*

The ICC chief prosecutor has called for the sacking of Finance minister Uhuru Kenyatta and Public Service head Francis Muthaura.

In a letter to the Cabinet sub-committee on the International Criminal Court dated July 20, Mr Luis Moreno-Ocampo also called for the sacking of suspended Industrialisation minister Henry Kosgey and Postmaster-General Hussein Ali on grounds that they could interfere with continuing investigations into the 2007/08 post-election violence.

“I remain concerned that the continued involvement in public office of Mr Muthaura, Mr Kenyatta, Mr Kosgey and Mr Ali is fostering the perception that these individuals remain influential within the Kenyan Government,” Mr Moreno-Ocampo says in the letter to the sub-committee’s head, Internal Security minister George Saitoti.

“The public perception that certain suspects continue to enjoy the support of the government is creating a climate that is not conducive for impartial investigations and proceedings,” the prosecutor added.

The letter is copied to other members of the committee, including Justice Minister Mutula Kilonzo and his Lands counterpart James Orengo, as well as Kenya’s envoy to The Netherlands, Prof Ruthie Chepkoech Rono.

The prosecutor further demanded to be told when the government would ask the four to resign in accordance with the country’s legal procedures.

The ICC accuses the four, alongside suspended Higher Education minister William Ruto and radio presenter Joshua Sang’, of bearing the greatest responsibility for the poll chaos.

It is not the first time Mr Moreno-Ocampo is demanding that Mr Kenyatta and Mr Muthaura quit. (READ: )

In March, he wrote to the government demanding to know whether their positions gave them privileged access to and influence over the State’s security apparatus in a way that could see them interfere with witnesses or with the collection of evidence.

His concern resulted in the resignation of both Mr Kenyatta and Mr Muthaura from key Cabinet and security committees.

Voice of America

Thursday, 21 July 2011

### **Amnesty Int. Reveals War Crimes Impact on Somali Children**

Amnesty International says the systematic recruitment of child soldiers, many of them under the age of 15, is escalating in Somalia.

In a report released Wednesday, the rights group says Somali children risk death all the time.

It says children recruited as soldiers are injured and killed, and those separated from parents are forced to make it on their own, under the threat of attacks by al-Shabab militants.

The Amnesty report says most child soldiers are recruited by al-Shabab. It says the militant group lures children into becoming soldiers with the promise of money and phones. Amnesty says the group raids and destroys schools and even abducts children in plain view.

Amnesty also accuses Somalia's Transitional Federal Government of using, killing and maiming children in armed conflict.

It is urging the international community to expand specific protection measures for the rising number of Somali children separated from their families and increase psychological support and education programs for Somali children.

# The Japan Times

Tuesday, 19 July 2011

## Again, justice for Cambodia

The wheels of justice turn slowly in Cambodia, but they grind nevertheless. Last month, a United Nations-backed tribunal began the second war crimes trials that attempt to hold accountable the former leaders of the Khmer Rouge. This trial is proving more contentious than its predecessor — in which the defendant accepted both the legitimacy of the tribunal and the need for an accounting. This time, however, the four defendants remain steadfast in their conviction that they did nothing wrong and that even if they did, the court has no authority over them.

This proceeding will render imperfect justice at best. But it will provide some relief for victims and their families. More significantly, it will send the signal — as do all such prosecutions — that there is no escaping such monstrous acts. The reckoning may come late, but it must be seen to be inevitable.

The Extraordinary Chambers of the Courts of Cambodia, commonly known as the Khmer Rouge Tribunal, was set up by the U.N. to try former Khmer Rouge leaders charged with genocide and other war crimes. The court, which has a mix of Cambodian and international judges, along with international prosecutors, was established because of fears that a Cambodian tribunal would be undermined by political interference or sheer incompetence.

Its first trial concluded last year, resulting in the conviction of former prison commandant Kaing Guek Eav, usually referred to as Comrade Duch, for the torture and murder of an estimated 16,000 people; only a handful survived detention in the notorious Tuol Sleng prison he oversaw. He was sentenced to 35 years in prison. But Duch converted to Christianity late in life and accepted the legitimacy of the tribunal and that he committed the deeds in question, but insisted that he was only following orders.

The four defendants in this trial — former head of state Khieu Samphan, 79; former Foreign Minister Ieng Sary, 85; his wife, former Social Affairs Minister Ieng Thirith, 79; and the chief ideologue of the Khmer Rouge, Nuon Chea, 85, — do not acknowledge the authority of the court nor the legal basis of the actions against them. All four defendants claim to be innocent of the charges of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide.

Three of the four — all save Nuon Chea — argue that a 10-year statute of limitations of the previous Cambodian legal statutes bar their prosecution. Ieng Sary's lawyers claim that prosecution is barred because of double jeopardy: He was tried in absentia by the Vietnamese in 1979 after they drove the Khmer Rouge from power; he was then pardoned by the king of Cambodia when he broke with the Khmer Rouge in 1996. The court is hearing all those claims.

While procedural issues are important to the defendants, the most critical questions surrounding the proceedings are moral and philosophical. First, can there be real justice when trials are held more than three decades after the crimes were committed? Of course, many would say — and we agree — that is precisely the knowledge that there is no escaping justice that gives the law its force and its deterrent effect. Justice delayed is most assuredly not justice denied.

But many counter that proceedings such as these merely reopen old wounds, and threaten to undo the progress that has been made in national reconciliation. It is a powerful argument, but one that is rarely made by the victims. Indeed, the most vocal advocates of moving on tend to be those individuals who have a stake in forgetting.

Thus, the biggest obstacle to additional trials appears to be Prime Minister Hun Sen — a former mid-ranking Khmer Rouge cadre. He is unlikely to be a part of the trial, while other prominent members of the Cambodian elite including his inner circle have questionable pasts. Mr. Hun Sen claims that additional trials risk dividing the country and could be destabilizing.

That is possible but unlikely. The guilty parties are old — the four defendants in the current trial range from 77 to 85 — and unlikely to rally significant forces on their behalf — at least, not if the prime minister does not chose to indulge them.

While justice is the most compelling reason to proceed, there is another equally powerful reason for letting the tribunal go forward: the need to educate the Cambodian people about their past. For years, political tensions dampened attempts to explain and understand Cambodia's past. A generation has come of age in the country that has little knowledge of its history. This may have been expedient, but the failure to understand history or its causes is a dangerous foundation upon which to build a state. Ignorance is the very opposite of reconciliation.

The growing popular interest in the tribunal suggests that the "forgetting school" is wrong. It is estimated that at least 100,000 Cambodians have visited the tribunal since 2005. The 500 seats in the court are fully occupied every day. The hearings are being broadcast live on radio and television.

The Cambodian people understand that they have a stake in their past. That is the foundation of justice.

Phnom Penh Post  
Wednesday, 13 July 2011

### **Plan to shut down tribunal monitor**

The government planned to shut down the Open Society Justice Initiative, an international group monitoring the Khmer Rouge tribunal, after the NGO called for an investigation into alleged court corruption in 2007, according to a United States cable made public yesterday.

Claims that staff on the Cambodian side of the court were forced to pay kickbacks to their supervisors surfaced in 2006, and OSJI called for an investigation in February 2007. Court staff reiterated the claims to The Post in 2009. Court administrator Sean Visoth was allegedly at the centre of the scandal and international donors and the United Nations sought his dismissal.

According to a diplomatic cable from the US embassy in Phnom Penh marked “confidential” and signed by Ambassador Joseph Mussomeli, Sean Visoth allegedly revealed the plan to close OSJI during a meeting on March 11, 2007, with the former US Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes David Scheffer. The scheme was reportedly approved by Prime Minister Hun Sen and Deputy Prime Minister Sok An.

“Vissoth confirmed for Scheffer that he (Vissoth) had been instructed by DPM Sok An to construct a chronology of the OSJI affair that would be used as part of the government’s plan to shut down the office,” Mussomeli said. “The order had been given at a recent wedding ceremony where the PM and other senior officials had discussed the matter.”

Other cables released yesterday recount negotiations between donors, the UN and the government that eventually led to the creation in 2009 of an “independent counselor” at the court designed to allow staff to make complaints about corruption without fear of reprisal.

The cables also show that the Cambodian government was allegedly reluctant during negotiations to sack Sean Visoth in the face of donor pressure.

Piper Campbell US embassy Chargé d’Affairs, reported in a confidential cable sent on November 3, 2008, that Sok An said the concerns over Sean Visoth and corruption “were a distraction from the goals of the court”. Campbell added that Sok An “made several pointed criticisms of the UN, all but asserting that UN meddling was intended to mar Cambodia’s significant contributions to the KRT and to assert UN dominance over it”.

Yesterday, a source at the court, who requested anonymity, said details of Sean Visoth’s position were still “not clear” and the issue remained “sensitive”.

Court spokesman Neth Pheaktra said Sean Visoth had not received any salary from the court since he ceased working there over two years ago.

## Mizzima

Thursday, 21 July 2011

<http://www.mizzima.com/news/world>

### Former Burmese officer says he wants to be tried by ICC

New Delhi (Mizzima) – A Burmese man who is now an Australian citizen claims he has committed war crimes and wants to face trial at the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Now living in Brisbane, Htoo Htoo Han served as a lieutenant in military intelligence and claims to have personally killed 24 protestors in the 1988 pro-democracy uprising and to have been involved in the deaths of more than 100 people, the *Associated Press* reported on Monday.

“My main objective is to face a trial at the ICC,” he said. “I want to talk on a par with the ICC. That’s my objective.”

However, his claims have met with skepticism from some of his friends and Burmese opposition groups in Australia, who see his story as confused and potentially benefiting the Burmese government.

“In Burma, there are real human rights violations. If his confession is a fake and proven to be a lie, the real events may be less credible and that will benefit the military,” Tin Maung Htoo, the executive director from Canadian Friends of Burma, told *Mizzima*.

Htoo Htoo Han, born in 1967, said that he served as a lieutenant in Military Intelligence Unit No. 6 and was assigned to work as a spy to gather information about the High School Students’ Union in the 1988 pro-democracy, where he worked as the secretary of the union.

Zeya Oo, a member of the High School Students’ Union who worked with Htoo Htoo Han in Bangkok, Thailand, and in Australia to donate money to political prisoners in Burma, told *Mizzima*, “As far as I know, his words are inconsistent and unbelievable. In politics, some people want to be heroes and say both true and untrue things. Some people will do both good things and bad things to be famous.”

A friend who lives in Brisbane said Htoo Htoo Han has received a medical pension for mental illness.

In response to the friend’s statement, Htoo Htoo Han said, “I was brutally beaten in the prisons [in Burma]. In Thayawaddy Prison, I was detained in all wards. In Australia, I have suffered from depression and need to take sleeping pills. And I need a counselor. But, I’m not a crazy man. I just have depression.”

Htoo Htoo Han said, “There are many ways to attract the media. If you can do strange things, they will follow you. My way is a short cut. The normal procedure is not effective. I want to use all possible ways to fight the Burmese government while Aung San Suu Kyi is living.”

Burmese activist Tin Maung Htoo said Htoo Htoo Han’s claims, if proven false, could harm the movement to organize a UN Commission of Inquiry on war crimes in Burma.

“What we say about human rights violations is true. Now because of his claims, some people may think our statements are made up,” Tin Maung Htoo said.

Despite Htoo Htoo Han’s confession of serious crimes, Australian police have not interrogated him, he said.

“So far they have not taken any action although I made a public confession. They could not take legal actions against me immediately. They may think what I said is a lie,” said Htoo Htoo Han. “Now, I’ve become well-known. So they are watching me. My telephone has been tapped. I know it because I was a former Military Intelligence official.”

## The Daily Star (Lebanon)

Thursday, 21 July 2011

### **Indictments II, a disappointing sequel?**

By Michael Young

The Special Tribunal for Lebanon is lucky to have Sayyed Hasan Nasrallah as a foe. On Tuesday, he again described the institution's accusations as part of a conspiracy against Hezbollah. Were it not for the secretary-general, whose anxiety tends to confirm the tribunal's seriousness, observers might have examined more critically the shortcomings in the United Nations investigation of Rafik Hariri's assassination and those of many others between 2005 and 2008.

There are reports, which may well be true, that further indictments are forthcoming. Last year officials from the tribunal's prosecution office were privately declaring the indictments would be issued in stages. Any final verdict on the success or failure of the legal process is premature. However, from what we know, there is reason to doubt that the outcome of the trial will be the identification and conviction of all, or even a large number, of those behind the Lebanese killings.

The principal reason for this is that the U.N. investigation altered its strategy in mid-stream between 2005 and 2006. This left the third investigator, and current special tribunal prosecutor, Daniel Bellemare, with little that was tangible when he began his mission.

Under Detlev Mehlis, the first commissioner of the United Nations International Independent Investigation Commission, investigators directed their suspicions at the upper echelons of the Syrian and Lebanese political and security leadership. As Mehlis explained to me in an interview in 2008, "The Hariri case is an unusual one. Usually in investigations you start at the bottom and work your way up. In the Hariri case we started pretty much at the top and worked down. We had an accurate view of how the assassination took place from above, but less clear a view of what happened on the ground."

Mehlis based his strategy on a number of factors. First, on the deductions of Peter Fitzgerald, an Irish policeman who had prepared a preliminary U.N. report shortly after Hariri's death. He concluded that the former prime minister had been the victim of a conspiracy involving "considerable finance, military precision in its execution, [and] substantial logistical support." While he did not name culprits, he described a situation that made it virtually impossible for the Syrian and Lebanese security services not to have known of the crime. He also cast doubt on their intentions by revealing that Hariri's state-provided security detail had been cut back, and accused the Lebanese security services of contaminating the crime scene.

Mehlis also had his personal experiences to go on in devising his approach to the investigation. He was familiar with the conduct of the Syrian intelligence services from the time he had investigated a bomb attack against the French cultural center in West Berlin. A Syrian diplomat who turned evidence carried the bomb used in that attack from East Berlin, under the orders of Syrian intelligence operatives.

And finally, once his investigation took off, the testimony Mehlis collected further justified a top-down approach. This included the statements of Syrian intelligence chiefs, as well as that of the former Syrian vice president, Abdel Halim Khaddam. All could attest to the centralized, hierarchical nature of decision-making in Damascus.

Under Serge Brammertz, the strategy was reversed. Mehlis' successor adopted a bottom-up approach, reduced the pace of the police investigation, brought in more analysts, and generally slowed the

investigative machinery down. Shortly before his term ended two years later, the commissioner was telling his Lebanese counterparts that he had not substantially advanced in his inquiry; and proof of this was that he had made no new arrests.

If we are to believe a much-discussed documentary produced by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation last summer, Brammertz was also lax in pursuing the analyses of telephone communications. Reportedly, he waited until late 2007 to bring in a British firm to look more closely at the evidence, after significant progress had been made in evaluating the telecommunications data by Wissam Eid, a Lebanese police officer who was assassinated in January 2008.

While this issue continues to provoke considerable disagreement, two things are undeniable: It made no sense whatsoever for Eid and the Lebanese to be handed the lead in probing by far the most sensitive facet of the U.N. investigation, namely telecoms. The Lebanese did not have the technical expertise to conduct such an exercise, and Brammertz had, earlier, ordered his team to minimize communication with the Lebanese security forces, fearing that they had been infiltrated.

Something else is undeniable: Eid was killed, and he had long anticipated his violent ending. This suggested that the officer had made some sort of breakthrough on telecoms, a view shared by Lebanese judicial figures dealing with the Hariri investigation.

Given these circumstances, when Bellemare came in he most probably found himself lost in an investigative no-man's land. On the one side he had the testimony garnered by Mehlis pointing in the direction of senior Lebanese and Syrian political and security figures. On the other, he had the fruits of Brammertz's limited endeavors focusing on the minutiae of the case, an approach that, effectively, undermined Mehlis' hypothesis by failing to build on it. And yet Brammertz had repeatedly reconfirmed the detention of the four Lebanese generals, implying that he presumed that they were culpable. This mess, many maintain, obliged Bellemare to begin from scratch.

By most accounts the telecoms information was instrumental in preparing the first indictment. But future indictments, if there are any, may be more problematical precisely because they may be damaged by the disconnect between the way Mehlis investigated the Hariri killing and the very different way Brammertz did. So, for example, if Syrians are accused – and Bellemare may have to accuse Syrians because he desperately needs a motive for the crime – he would have to rely on material gathered under Mehlis that was never sufficiently supplemented by Brammertz. That means Bellemare may have to put together a case dependent to a great extent on circumstantial evidence, which is tougher to prove in court.

Much of this is speculation. However, there is nothing reassuring in recognizing that Bellemare, in all likelihood, was obliged to extensively rebuild the Hariri investigation as of 2008, a full three years after the former prime minister was murdered. We may see new indictments, but will these will be solid? Don't bet too heavily on it.

*Michael Young* is opinion editor of **THE DAILY STAR** and author of “The Ghosts of Martyrs Square: An Eyewitness Account of Lebanon's Life Struggle” (Simon & Schuster), listed as one of the 10 notable books of 2010 by The Wall Street Journal. He tweets BeirutCalling.

Read more: <http://www.dailystar.com.lb/Opinion/Columnist/2011/Jul-21/Indictments-II-a-disappointing-sequel.ashx#ixzz1Sjrrpu84>

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