

**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:**

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Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.  
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## Courthouse News Service

Monday, 25 July 2011

### **Obama Extends Sanctions on Liberia's Charles Taylor**

By TRAVIS SANFORD

WASHINGTON (CN) - Seven years after his ouster from office, the legacy of destruction of the former President of Liberia Charles Taylor continues, according to President Obama, who has extended the state of emergency regarding Liberia declared in a 2004 executive order issued by former President George Bush.

That order froze all U.S. based assets held by Taylor, members of his immediate family and senior members of his administration, and barred them from engaging in any financial activity with people, organizations or corporations in the United States.

President Obama has extended the order for one year, until July 22, 2012.

# The Patriotic Vanguard

Tuesday, 26 July 2011

## Rod Mac-Johnson heads IMC

By PV Staff Writers

A new chairman of Sierra Leone's Independent Media Commission has been appointed by president Ernest Koroma in Freetown. He is Rod Mac-Johnson, a former head of the Sierra Leone News Agency (SLENA) and correspondent for several international news media including Agence France-Presse (AFP).



The deputy chairman is Miss Hannah Ahmed, a seasoned and no-nonsense private lawyer. Other members of the commission are Miss Kahlila Kamara, Isaac Massaquoi (of the department of Mass communications at the University of Sierra Leone), Augustine Garmoh, Mohamed Samoura, Jonathan Thomas, Muctarr Turay and Sahr Mbayo.

Joshua Nicol, Samoura, Garmoh and Massaquoi retained their positions from the previous administration of Bernadette Cole, the soft-spoken head of USL's Mass Communications department. The majority of the past and current members of the commission are journalists from the private and public sectors.

Cole is said to have lost her IMC job because she is widely perceived to be too soft on some of the country's unruly and highly unprofessional journalists and news media.

Rod, the new IMC boss, is also soft-spoken and gentle. It remains to be seen whether he would have the guts to tackle and bring under control the country's notorious media within the norms of international journalism and best practices.

### Background

According to its website, which has not yet been updated to reflect the new development, (<http://imc-sl.org/AboutIMC/Backgrou...>) the Independent Media Commission was established by an Act of Parliament in 2000 as an autonomous body for the regulation of mass media institutions and for other matters connected therewith.

The IMC went into operation in 2001 and was originally housed in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, 8th Floor Youyi Building, Brookfields with the full complement of eleven (11) Commissioners and one (1) Executive Secretary.

In order to maintain its independence as provided by the Act, the Commission relocated to its present address at 54 Siaka Stevens Street in 2003 so that it would not be viewed or perceived to be a department within the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The British Government's Department for International Development (DFID) provided the initial funds to cover the rent for the first two years for the current premises. In 2005, the Commission paid the renewal rent from its funds.

*Note: Rod Mac-Johnson has been covering the Special Court for a long time.*

# Daily Nation (Kenya)

Sunday, 24 July 2011

## Police quiz Ocampo Six in violence probe

By OLIVER MATHENGE [omathenge@ke.nationmedia.com](mailto:omathenge@ke.nationmedia.com)



*Photos/FILE The interrogation by the CID is part of the government's efforts to convince the ICC that it was capable of trying the Ocampo Six (Eldoret North MP William Ruto, Tinderet MP Henry Kosgey, radio presenter Joshua Sang, Public Service boss Francis Muthaura, Deputy PM Uhuru Kenyatta and former Police boss Hussein Ali) if they are found to have been behind the violence.*

Police have started questioning the Ocampo Six suspects in connection with the 2008 post-election violence. Three suspects — former police boss Hussein Ali, Tinderet MP Henry Kosgey and radio presenter Joshua Sang — have already recorded statements.

The move to question the suspects, fingered by prosecutor Luis Moreno-- Ocampo as bearing the greatest responsibility for the mayhem, is said to be aimed at convincing the International Criminal Court that Kenya can try them at home. (READ: Hold ICC hearings in Kenya, Amnesty urges)

Some 1,133 people were killed and more than 600,000 displaced during the violence that followed the disputed 2007 presidential election results.

President Kibaki, who ran on a Party of National Unity ticket was declared winner but Mr Raila Odinga of ODM disputed the results.

The violence ended when former UN secretary general Kofi Annan mediated between the two sides leading to the formation of a coalition government.

Mr Katwa Kigen, who represents Mr Sang said on Sunday the broadcaster was interviewed by the CID on Friday. His other client, Eldoret North MP William Ruto, is scheduled to meet the CID officers this week, he added. Mr Evans Monari, who acts for Mr Ali, said the Postmaster General had recorded a statement though he did not disclose details of when this happened.

Mr Kosgey was the first to be interrogated on June 6. He denied allegations brought against him, according to a government report sent to The Hague.

However, it appears that some of the suspects are not keen to record statements even after receiving letters from the CID.

Mr Karim Khan, the lead counsel for Public Service boss Francis Muthaura said that they were focused on clearing their client's name and not any other issues. His team, he said, was busy reading through Mr Moreno-Ocampo's evidence ahead of the confirmation of charges hearings in September.

Speaking by telephone from The Hague, Mr Khan said: "I have not supported in any way filing of the admissibility challenge by the government nor have I dismissed it.

"We have been silent on the matter as our main focus is to clear Mr Muthaura of the claims that have been made against him. Any other matter is an unnecessary detraction from what we are doing."

It is still unclear whether Deputy Prime Minister Uhuru Kenyatta has recorded a statement or is planning to although sources say that he, like the rest of the suspects, received an invitation letter from the CID. The interrogation by the CID is part of the government's efforts to convince the ICC that it was capable of trying the Ocampo Six if they are found to have been behind the violence.

Mr Ruto, Mr Sang and Mr Kosgey joined Mr Ali in supporting a government report on ongoing local investigations sent to the ICC two weeks ago. (READ: ICC seeks views on probe report)  
In separate submissions, the four told the Court of Appeal judges to admit the report as a show of Kenya's efforts to try the cases at home.

Mr Ali said that while he reserved the right to file his own application challenging admissibility of the cases against the Ocampo Six, he "endorses the position taken by Kenya".

Mr Kosgey argues that accepting and considering the contents of the updated investigation report is an appropriate measure in ensuring the proper conduct of the proceedings of the appeal lodged by Kenya. "Contrary to the submissions of the prosecution, the Updated Investigation Report does provide evidence that concrete steps have been taken by the Kenyan investigative authorities in relation to the six persons accused by this court," Mr Kosgey tells the judges.

Mr Ruto and Mr Sang, in a joint submission, argue that the Appeals Chamber should compel the Pre-Trial Chamber II to accept the report and reverse the decision in which Kenya's case was thrown out. (READ: Judges reject Kenya bid to save suspects)

They are also concerned that the Kenyan investigation team has not been able to locate the people who gave the initial statements in 2008 and "speculates that they may have been relocated by the ICC prosecutor". "If this is the case, and the ICC process is in fact frustrating the possibility and progression of further national investigations, then it would be patently unfair for the court to dismiss the admissibility application on the basis of inactivity," the two tell the judges.

But the submission has been rejected by Mr Moreno-Ocampo and alleged victims of the post-election violence who argue that it has no meaningful additional information about any investigation against the Ocampo Six.

AllAfrica.Com

Tuesday, 26 July 2011

### **Ruto's ICC Lawyers Visit Eldoret**

Lawyers representing three of the violence suspects at the International Criminal Court have started visiting some of the post election violence victims in Rift Valley, the Star has established.

The lawyers expect to get evidence which they will use to prepare their defence of Eldoret North MP William Ruto, Tinderet MP Henry Kosgey and radio journalist Joshua arap Sang ahead of the confirmation of charges hearings which are scheduled to be held in September at The Hague.

Those targetted for interview by the lawyers include victims and survivors in areas which were hardest hit by the 2007/08 post election violence and which the ICC chief prosecutor Luis Moreno Ocampo has identified as hotspots.

The visit will also include a visit to Kiambaa where 35 people were burnt to death when the church where they had sought sanctuary was set ablaze. Ruto, Kosgey and Sang have been accused alongside Ruto for allegedly masterminding the 2007/08 post election violence. Ruto's team which is led by Katwa Kigen spent two days in Eldoret and other areas. They spent more than two hours at the Kiambaa KAG Church.

The team-travelling in three vehicles- also visited Ruto's home area at Sugoi in Eldoret North before heading to Turbo, Eldoret Town, Burnt Forest, Nandi Hills, Molo among other areas identified as hot spots during the violence which left more than 1,300 people dead.

None of the lawyers could be reached to comment on the visit but one of their aides said it was part of the preparations for a tight defense which was being prepared ahead of the confirmation hearings. "They took photographs and interviewed several people before leaving," said a resident of Kiambaa who lives near the church site where some of the poll violence victims are buried.

The lawyers spent two nights at a private residence sifting through piles of documents linked to the ICC cases. Among the documents they scrutinised is the Waki report which is among the documents that Ocampo intends to rely on when prosecuting his case and which is among the evidence he has released to the defence teams.

The report has documented that there was the "deliberate burning alive of mostly Kikuyu women and children huddled together in a church in Kiambaa on 1 January 2008."

The report documents that most of the Kiambaa fire victims had sought refuge in the church following a December 30 attack on their village of Kimuri, bordering Kiambaa. It also records Waki's findings as well as witness testimony detailing how mattresses and blankets were set ablaze with petrol and thrown into the building while mothers and babies who were trying to flee the inferno were pushed back into the church. Men attempting to defend their church and loved ones were hacked to death with machetes, shot with arrows, or pursued and killed.

Sources have told the Star that the lawyers also interviewed some of the witnesses that Ruto and his colleagues intend to call to testify in their defence.

Ruto, Sang and Kosgey face similar charges in connection with planning the violence in parts of Rift Valley. The other three suspects are Deputy Prime Minister Uhuru Kenyatta, Head of Civil Service

Francis Muthaura and former Police commissioner Maj General Hussein Ali. The hearing for the confirmation of charges against Uhuru Muthaura and Ali will be held on September 21st.

Ocampo has indicated that he will not be producing any of the more than 20 witnesses whom he has lined up to testify for the prosecution. All the 20 witnesses have been placed under protection-- some of them for life- in different countries in Europe. Almost all of them have indicated that they will not be returning home after the hearings because of security reasons.

Apart from Kigen who is also representing Sang, others in the team included Dr Kithuri Kindiki and British lawyer David Hooper . During the visits to the host spots the lawyers were armed with the Ocampo evidence which they are planning to counter vigorously. The confirmation hearings are particularly crucial for Ruto and Uhuru who have declared their interest to run for presidency next year.

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## The Daily Star (Lebanon)

Tuesday, 26 July 2011

### Tribunal financially sound



The U.N.-backed court probing the 2005 assassination of statesman Rafik Hariri is financially sound and has been operating without Lebanon's share of running cost funding since the start of the year, Special Tribunal for Lebanon Registrar Herman von Hebel said Monday.

In an interview with The Daily Star, von Hebel also defended court president Antonio Cassese, who has been the target of slurs from Hezbollah since the tribunal issued its first indictment, believed to contain the names of Hezbollah operatives, at the end of June.

"The STL has a solid financial basis due to other voluntary contributions. Lebanon has not paid its dues for 2011 and we expect the government to comply with its international obligations," von Hebel said.

Lebanon is obliged to assist the STL under U.N. Security Council Resolution 1757, including providing roughly half of the court's annual running costs, which for 2011 amounts to \$65 million.

Pre-Trial Judge Daniel Fransen handed down the court's first indictments, in a sealed submission to Beirut authorities, on June 30. It is thought that four members of Hezbollah, as well as other individuals, have been accused of killing Hariri.

As registrar, von Hebel is tasked with managing the STL's finances, procurement, security, media and outreach sections, including dealing with the detention of suspects.

He said it was too early to tell how cooperative Lebanese authorities had been in seeking to apprehend those named in the indictment.

"At this point we cannot make any assessment of the effectiveness of their efforts, as the implementation of the pre-trial judge's order is the responsibility of the national authorities," he said. "After the tribunal

receives the report from the Lebanese authorities, the STL president will consider if reasonable attempts have been made to serve the indictment.

“I can tell you that we expect the Lebanese authorities to search for, arrest and transfer the accused to STL custody. It is too early to make any assessment on how efficient the search has been,” von Hebel added.

Hezbollah Secretary General Sayyed Hasan Nasrallah, who has repeatedly denounced the court as a conspiracy against the resistance, vowed that party members would not be arrested, “even in 300 years.”

If, as widely expected, suspects have not been apprehended within 30 working days after the indictment’s release, the court will go public with the contents of arrest warrants. Lebanese authorities then have an additional 30 days to try and arrest suspects.

Von Hebel said that indictment names would be made public on Aug. 11, and that there was a potential for in absentia trial proceedings to commence at The Hague this year.

“The date for the commencement of trial will depend on how much time the defense team is granted to review the material by the judges,” he said.

Following Nasrallah’s comments on Cassese in the wake of the indictment, the STL president circulated internal memos to court staff, lamenting the tribunal’s inability to publicly respond to criticism.

Von Hebel, while refusing to get into a debate with the Hezbollah leader, defended Cassese and his track record of impartiality. “Nasrallah is engaging in a public debate but our focus as a judicial institution is guided by legal considerations,” he said. “President Cassese is a man whose track record and own actions speak far louder than any allegation against him. The tribunal is confident in his leadership as President and in his neutrality as the presiding judge of the Appeals Chamber.”

Following reports that Lebanon-based court staff had been asked to return to The Hague for their own safety just before the indictment landed – which later proved false – von Hebel said he was confident that authorities in Beirut were doing their utmost to ensure the wellbeing of STL employees.

“I can assure you that the Lebanese authorities have been helpful in this regard and we are counting on this cooperation to continue. We have received positive cooperation from the Dutch authorities in the Netherlands and from the authorities in Lebanon. The result is a safe environment for staff to do their work,” he said.

Voice of America

Monday, 24 July 2011

## **DRC Opposition Picks War Crimes Defendant as Candidate**

The Democratic Republic of Congo's main opposition party has named Jean Pierre-Bemba, who is on trial for war crimes at The Hague, as its presidential candidate.

The Movement for the Liberation of Congo announced its decision after a party meeting on Saturday.

Bemba, a former Congolese vice president, is currently in jail at the International Criminal Court, facing three counts of war crimes and two counts of crimes against humanity.

He is accused of leading a militia that murdered and raped hundreds of people in the Central African Republic in 2002 and 2003. He has pleaded not guilty to the charges.

Bemba finished second in Congo's 2006 presidential election to incumbent Joseph Kabila.

The president is running for re-election in polls set to take place this November.

Mr. Kabila is favored to win after pushing through changes in election law that eliminated the need for a run-off vote. Under the new system, the candidate with the most votes in the first round wins, even if he or she does not have a majority.

It was not immediately clear how Bemba could campaign or serve from his ICC jail cell.

He has been in ICC custody since July 2008, when he surrendered to the court after being arrested in Belgium.

Bemba had fled Congo in 2007, after his troops clashed with Mr. Kabila's soldiers in the capital, Kinshasa, leaving hundreds of people dead.