

**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, 7 July 2011

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
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Voice of America
Wednesday, 6 July 2011

Indictments in Hariri Assassination

"The confirmation of the indictments by the pre-trial judge and their delivery by the Special Tribunal to the Lebanese authorities is an important milestone."



*Photo: AP
Lebanese women pass by a giant portrait of slain Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri near his grave, in downtown Beirut, Lebanon, June 30, 2011.*

"The Special Tribunal is an independent judicial entity. ... Its work is legitimate and necessary." -- U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton

On June 30th, the United Nations Special Tribunal for Lebanon submitted to the

government of Lebanon, an indictment and arrest warrants for a number of suspects in the 2005 assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri and the murder of 22 other persons who died as a direct consequence of the assassination.

Prime Minister Hariri was assassinated on February 14th, 2005, when a massive explosion detonated as his motorcade drove through the Lebanese capital, Beirut. Hariri's murder resulted in serious consequences for Lebanon, and led to enormous political changes. It deepened the divisions between the Shia and Sunni Muslims, triggered the Cedar Revolution, forcing Damascus to withdraw its troops from Lebanon and end its nearly 30-year control over that country.

"The confirmation of the indictments by the pre-trial judge and their delivery by the Special Tribunal to the Lebanese authorities is an important milestone toward justice and ending a period of impunity for political violence in Lebanon," said Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in a written statement. "We call on the government of Lebanon to continue to meet its obligations under international law to support the Special Tribunal.

"The Special Tribunal is an independent judicial entity, established by an agreement between the Lebanese Government and the United Nations in response to a very difficult time in Lebanon's history. Its work is legitimate and necessary. It represents a chance for Lebanon to move beyond its long history of political violence and to achieve the future of peace and stability that the Lebanese people deserve. Those who oppose the Special Tribunal seek to create a false choice between justice and stability. Lebanon, like any country, needs and deserves both," wrote Secretary Clinton.

"The United States congratulates the Special Tribunal for its hard work on completing this important step."

Daily Nation
Thursday, 7 July 2011

Quest for ICC proof stepped up

By OLIVER MATHENGE omathenge@ke.nationmedia.com



Photo/FILE The International Criminal Court building at The Hague.

Kenya's quest for evidence held by the International Criminal Court against the Ocampo Six has moved to the Appeals Chamber at The Hague.

Last week, Pre-Trial Chamber II judges rejected the government's request for the evidence in the hands of the judges and prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo. On Monday, Kenya turned to the Appeals Chamber to grant its request.

The appeal was made on the same day the Criminal Investigations Department said it was having difficulties in tracing potential witnesses.

In the appeal, the government faults the decision by the Pre-Trial Chamber judges to reject the request and, in particular, for not considering the updated information submitted by Kenya.

"The Chamber chose to ignore this evidence and to rely on a highly technical reason to reject our cooperation request – that the materials were not appended.

"The materials were expressly referred to in the cooperation request, and the materials were before the Chamber," the government argues.

The government says the procedural errors by the Pre-Trial judges affect the fair and expeditious conduct of the proceedings as they have denied Kenya an opportunity to reply to the arguments relied on to reject the request.

Rejecting the application, the Pre-Trial Chamber said Kenya submitted a two-page cooperation request which did not have documentary proof that there is or has been an investigation against the Ocampo Six.

The government had sought ICC assistance in the form of statements, documents or other types of evidence obtained in the course of the ICC investigations into the violence.

The government said this would assist in conducting and advancing its own investigations and prosecutions, including those involving the ICC suspects.

The judges said Kenya must have, at least, either conducted an investigation or be doing so with respect to conduct which constitutes a crime within the jurisdiction of the Court or which constitutes a serious crime under Kenyan law.

They, however, said Kenya failed to offer proof that there were any ongoing investigations or prosecutions related to the crimes that the Ocampo Six are facing at The Hague.

The Kenyan government has been trying to access evidence held by Mr Moreno-Ocampo in its quest to kick off investigations against the Ocampo Six as a way of justifying its challenge on the admissibility of the cases at the ICC.

The six Kenyans facing cases at the ICC are Eldoret North MP William Ruto, radio presenter Joshua Sang, Tinderet MP Henry Kosgey, Deputy Prime Minister Uhuru Kenyatta, head of civil service Francis Muthaura and postmaster-general Hussein Ali.

Hirondelle News Agency

Wednesday, 6 July 2011

Trial chamber maintains its order for closing briefs in Nzabonimana case

Trial Chamber in the case of genocide-accused and former Rwandan Minister for Youth, Callixte Nzabonimana maintained its order for the parties to file their closing briefs on July 5, 2011 with words not exceeding 30,000.

The ruling signed by the bench presided over by Judge Solomy Balungi Bossa followed the defence motion filed on July 4, 2011, asking for variation of order on word limits or in the alternative, extension of time to file its closing briefs.

Prosecution response on July 5, 2011, strongly opposed the defence motion stating among others that "the request came less than 24 hours before the expiry of the deadline for filing the closing briefs set by the Trial Chamber."

According to the prosecution arguments, on May 6, the Trial Chamber issued an oral decision in which it ordered that deadline for filing of closing briefs for both parties should be July 5, 2011 and the closing briefs of the parties should not exceed 30,000 words.

"The Chamber observes that the defence provides no justification for filing its motion at the eleventh hour. In the absence of a compelling argument of good cause for the late filing, the Chamber cannot extend the deadline for submission of the filing briefs." part of the ruling reads.

In its conclusion the Chamber "reaffirms its order of May 6, 2011 regarding the deadline for filing the closing briefs," directing "the defence to file any reply to the Prosecution Response by close of business on July 7, 2011."

However the Chamber clarified also that for the interest of justice, the Chamber will review the arguments of the parties, on an expedited basis, to determine whether it would be appropriate to allow one or both parties to file amended closing briefs at a later date.

The prosecution closed its case on April 13, 2010 after presenting 20 witnesses whereas the defence rested its case on May 6, 2011 after having fielded 37 witnesses for their client. The trial itself commenced on November 9, 2009.

Nzabonimana is facing five charges of genocide, conspiracy to commit genocide, direct and public incitement to commit genocide, extermination and murder. The Prosecution presents him as the main instigator of the killings in his home prefecture of Gitarama.

NI/GF

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International Business Times

Wednesday, 6 July 2011

ICC Blames Holland for Bosnian Murders

The war in the Balkans in the mid-1990s was a terrible and confounding ethnic battle that left hundreds of thousands dead at the hands of war lords and despots.

There were many people and cumulative circumstances that encouraged the atrocities in the former Yugoslav territory to happen, but relatively few have been admonished.



(Photo: Reuters)

An elderly woman displays pictures of her missing or killed relatives as she watches the television broadcast of former Bosnian Serb army chief Ratko Mladic's court proceedings in central Sarajevo July 4, 2011.

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One of the worst moments of that period is now known as the Srebrenica Massacre, in which more than 8,000 Bosnian Muslim men and boys were killed by Serbian Croats.

The lead perpetrator of the massacre, Ratko Mladic, was arrested in May 2011, and he has been brought to The Hague for a United Nations criminal trial on war crimes.

This week, the International Criminal Court has issued guilty ruling in connection with the massacre -- but this time to a very unlikely recipient. The U.N.-sponsored court has determined that the nation of Holland is responsible for the death of three Bosnian Muslims in Srebrenica.

According to the court, Dutch peacekeepers handed over three men to Mladic after he overran a U.N.-declared "safe-area."

"The court ruled that the Dutch state is responsible for the death of these men because Dutchbat (Dutch U.N. troops) should not have handed them over," a spokeswoman for the court in The Hague told Reuters.

If some reports are true, The Netherlands might have gotten off easy and more suits could be on the way. During the events under discussion, Dutchbat troops allegedly emptied a U.N. compound of thousands of Bosnian Muslims, ostensibly delivering them to Mladic.

This is not the first time that Holland has faced legal trouble for the events in Bosnia.

Over the years, family members of victims have sued the Dutch government, but until now all the cases were ruled in favor of Holland. The Dutch government still claims that the United Nations did not provide the proper air support needed to protect civilians.

The ruling marks the first time that a country, and not an individual, has been blamed for troop actions. The Dutch government will have to compensate the families of the three victims.

The anniversary of the Srebrenica Genocide is next week, on June 11. Many Bosnian Muslims will travel to site of the massacre to re-bury loved ones, who are still being found and identified inside mass graves.

Mass rapes in DR Congo could be crimes against humanity – UN report

Poster in Goma, eastern DRC, warning of the penalties for rape

The rapes of hundreds of people in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) last year could be considered crimes against humanity and war crimes, according to a new United Nations report, which urges the Government to bring the perpetrators to justice.

The report concluded that about 200 combatants from two rebel groups, the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) and the Mayi Mayi Sheka, “systematically attacked civilians” in 13 villages in Walikale territory in North Kivu province between 30 July and 2 August 2010, and “looted most of these villages, raped hundreds of civilians, mostly women, but also men and children, and abducted more than a hundred people who were subjected to forced labour.”

“By using rape as a weapon of war, as a mean of terror and to ensure the enslavement of civilians,” the armed groups breached the Geneva conventions, according to the report, co-authored by investigators from the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the UN peacekeeping mission in the DRC (MONUSCO).

“Due to the fact that these attacks were well-planned in advance and carried out in a systematic, targeted manner, the exactions committed could constitute crimes against humanity and war crimes,” which are under the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court (ICC), the report noted.

The team said that only one person has been arrested, despite the fact that some 150 of the more than 387 rape victims have been interviewed by local authorities.

“The security situation in the targeted villages prior to the launching of the attacks makes it clear that the weakness of the State authority in Walikale territory has been one of the causes of the proliferation of the armed groups which have monopolized control over the mining industry and are trafficking arms in the region, thus causing increasing insecurity for the civilian population,” the report said.

Navi Pillay, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights said “the lack of progress in official investigations and in legal action against the perpetrators poses a severe obstacle to deterring future violations,” according to an OHCHR press statement.

“Since the attacks in Walikale there have been many other instances of rape and other types of sexual violence being systematically used as weapons of war and reprisal by armed groups,” Ms. Pillay said. “The Government should pursue its efforts to bring perpetrators to justice and ensure that victims and witnesses are protected, given the high risk of reprisals.”

Roger Meece, the head of MONUSCO and the Secretary-General's Special Representative for the DRC, said that "the anger and frustration of the people, including victims of horrific crimes, who continue to live in these areas in a situation of grave insecurity, must serve as a call to action."

"Since the violations were committed, MONUSCO has increased the number of operational bases in the affected areas and significantly improved its logistics and interaction with the civilian population there," OHCHR noted.

Today's report from OHCHR and MONUSCO is separate from an investigation under way by an assessment mission that has confirmed that Government troops in the DRC committed mass rape and acts of pillaging in several remote villages in the country's east last month.