

**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:

Wednesday, 17 August 2011

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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Special Tribunal for Lebanon

Wednesday, 17 August 2011

STL Prosecutor Bellemare Welcomes Tribunal's Order to Unseal the Indictment

OTP Press Release No. 2011/009

Leidschendam, 17 August 2011 – Prosecutor Daniel A. Bellemare welcomes the recent order of the Pre-Trial Judge to unseal the indictment. The Prosecutor stated, “This Order will finally inform the public and the victims about the facts alleged in the indictment regarding the commission of the crime that led to charging the four accused. This unsealing of the indictment answers many questions about the 14 February 2005 attack. The full story will however only unfold in the courtroom, where an open, public, fair and transparent trial will render a final verdict”.

The investigations of the Office of the Prosecutor are ongoing and preparations for trial continue.

For the convenience of the public, the Office of the Prosecutor has prepared the following brief overview of the indictment. The indictment alone is the authoritative charging instrument.

The Indictment charges the four following accused persons for their individual criminal responsibility in the attack against Rafik Hariri:

Salim Jamil Ayyash,
Mustafa Amine Badreddine (aka Sami Issa, Mustafa Youssef Badreddine, Elias Fouad Saab),
Hussein Hassan Oneissi (aka Hussein Hassan Issa), and;
Assad Hassan Sabra.

The evidence filed with the indictment (known as supporting material and comprising more than 20,000 pages) corroborates the following factual allegations and charges included in the indictment.

On the morning of 14 February 2005, Rafik Hariri, the former Prime Minister of Lebanon, departed his residence at Quraitem Palace in Beirut to attend a session of Parliament. As usual, he travelled in a convoy. An assassination team consisting of Ayyash and others positioned themselves in several locations where they were able to track and observe Hariri's convoy. They had done such tracking of Hariri on previous days in preparation for the attack.

Before 11:00 that day, Hariri arrived at Parliament. Shortly before 12:00, Hariri left Parliament to go to Café Place de l'Étoile, located nearby, where he stayed for approximately 45 minutes, before leaving to go back to his residence. At 12:49, Hariri entered his vehicle accompanied by MP Bassel Fuleihan and the convoy then departed the Place de l'Étoile. Hariri and his security detail in a six-vehicle convoy started to drive back to Quraitem Palace via a coastal route, including Rue Minet el Hos'n. At 12:52, a Mitsubishi Canter van moved very slowly towards the St. Georges Hotel, located on Rue Minet el Hos'n. Approximately two minutes ahead of the convoy, the Mitsubishi Canter van moved towards its final position on Rue Minet el Hos'n. At 12:55, as Hariri's convoy passed the St. Georges Hotel, a male suicide bomber detonated a large quantity of explosives concealed in the cargo area of the Mitsubishi Canter van, killing Hariri and 21 other victims and injuring 231 persons.

Shortly after the explosion, Oneissi and Sabra, acting together, called Reuters and Al-Jazeera in Beirut. Then Sabra called Al-Jazeera again and gave information on where to find a videotape that had been placed in a tree at ESCWA Square in Beirut. The videotape was recovered together with a letter. In the video, which was later broadcast on television, a man named Ahmad Abu Adass falsely claimed to be the suicide bomber on behalf of a fictitious fundamentalist group using the name 'Victory and Jihad in Greater Syria'.

As a result of the investigation which followed this attack, a significant amount of evidence was gathered, including witness statements, documentary evidence and electronic evidence (such as closed circuit television and telephone call data records). The evidence has led to the identification of some of the persons responsible for the attack on Hariri. Analysis of the call data records, for example, has revealed the users of a number of interconnected mobile phone networks involved in the assassination of Hariri. Each network consisted of a group of phones, usually registered under false names, whose users had a high frequency of contact with each other.

The Indictment charges all four accused with Conspiracy aimed at committing a Terrorist Act, as co-perpetrators (Count 1). Ayyash and Badreddine are charged (in Counts 2 to 5) with Committing a Terrorist Act by means of an explosive device, Intentional Homicide (of Hariri and the 21 other victims) with premeditation by using explosive materials, and Attempted Intentional Homicide (of those that survived but were injured) with premeditation by using explosive materials. Oneissi and Sabra are charged as being accomplices to the commission of the others' offences (Counts 6 to 9). All charges in the Indictment are crimes under Lebanese criminal law.

The roles that the accused played in the attack were as follows. Badreddine served as the overall controller of the attack. Ayyash coordinated the assassination team that was responsible for the physical perpetration of the attack. Oneissi and Sabra, in addition to being conspirators, prepared and delivered the false claim of responsibility video, which sought to blame the wrong people, in order to shield the conspirators from justice.

It will be for the Trial Chamber to reach its own verdict after considering all the evidence at trial.

For further information, please contact:

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Hirondelle News Agency

Tuesday, 16 August 2011

Conference to open in Kigali on "compensation for genocide survivors"

An international conference organized jointly by Ibuka, African Rights and Redress is set to open in Kigali on Wednesday. It will address the issue of "compensation for genocide survivors".

African Rights and Redress are two NGOs based in London while Ibuka is Rwanda's main organization for genocide survivors. Lawyers without borders and the French CPCR (Collectif des parties civiles pour le Rwanda) are also expected to attend the conference.

"We will trade ideas on what we could do and how to do it", Executive Secretary of Ibuka Janvier Forongo told Hirondelle News Agency. "Compensation are still a thorny problem 17 years after the genocide ended", he added. He stressed that restitution or payment of looted belongings was particularly difficult. "People who were convicted are insolvent or don't want to pay", he explained.

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The Washington Post

Tuesday, 16 August 2011

Justice for Hariri's killers requires the world's support

By David M. Crane and Carla Del Ponte,

The past month has brought milestones but also new challenges to the Special Tribunal for Lebanon. The tribunal recently released the names of four men wanted for the assassination of former Lebanese prime minister Rafiq al-Hariri and 22 others in 2005.

The suspects are Mustafa Amine Badreddine, a senior figure in the Shiite militant group Hezbollah who is suspected of making the bomb that blew up the U.S. Marine barracks in Beirut in 1983; Salim Ayyash; Assad Sabra; and Hassan Anise. The unsealing of the long-awaited indictments triggered a 30-day period during which the Lebanese government is required to serve arrest warrants, but Lebanese authorities informed the court last week that they are unable to arrest the four or serve the indictments. Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah has vowed to thwart the suspects' arrest, and this opposition is no small threat. The previous Lebanese government, led by Saad Hariri, son of the slain prime minister, collapsed in January after Hezbollah ministers and their allies left the cabinet to protest the government's support for the tribunal.

The special tribunal was established in 2007 by the U.N. Security Council at the request of Lebanon's then-prime minister. The court is charged with rendering justice for the massive bombing that rocked the nation in February 2005. Although Lebanon is no stranger to extreme violence, Hariri's assassination rekindled the tension between Lebanon's various factions that had been seething just under the surface. Lebanon sought to recover by turning a corner from political violence to the rule of law. It established a tribunal based in Lebanese law, with judges from Lebanon and other countries, that operates with a U.N. mandate. Knowing how perilous this project would be, the government signed on to an internationally sanctioned court that could transcend taint or accusations of sectarian partiality.

As the tribunal's president, the noted Italian jurist Antonio Cassese, pointed out in a column last month, Lebanon's government has aimed "to uphold and to practice the principle of judicial accountability for those who grossly deviated from the rules of human decency" and "to entrench the notion that democracy cannot survive without the rule of law, justice and respect for fundamental human rights."

This is the first time an international tribunal has been created to deal with an act of terrorism. Yet while the tribunal has novel aspects, the indictments present challenges that are all too familiar to us. We served as chief prosecutors of international tribunals established since the mid-1990s. We are intimately familiar with the challenges pointed up by the mere existence of such courts — and with the values at stake in achieving success. We have closely followed the tribunal's work

and challenges, and understand that, now more than ever, this tribunal will need the unwavering support of the international community.

International courts such as this tribunal have no capacity to arrest their suspects; they must rely on individual countries to do so. The International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, for example, would not have been able to deliver justice to survivors of “ethnic cleansing” and genocide if individual governments had not made concerted efforts to ensure that suspects were found, arrested and delivered to trial.

One of us served as chief prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, a tribunal that, like the Lebanon tribunal, is a blend of national and international elements. When the Sierra Leone court’s indictment of Liberia’s then-president, Charles Taylor, was unsealed in 2003, some predicted that step would derail peace negotiations. They were wrong: Although not its aim, the indictment of Taylor facilitated peace in war-torn Liberia and maintained peace in Sierra Leone. Earlier, the indictment of Radovan Karadzic by the tribunals for the former Yugoslavia was an essential precursor of the 1995 Dayton Agreement that silenced the guns in that region of Europe.

We know what it means to face long odds and extraordinary defiance in the pursuit of international justice. We succeeded in beating those odds, with historic results, because the international community supported us and governments honored their obligations despite formidable pressures. The Special Tribunal for Lebanon deserves no less.

David M. Crane, a professor at Syracuse College of Law, is a former chief prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, a U.N.-sponsored international tribunal. Carla Del Ponte is a former chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and for Rwanda.

Hirondelle News Agency

Tuesday, 16 August 2011

UN calls for probe into crimes in Sudan's southern Kordofan

The United Nations Monday called for a thorough investigation into violations of international law to establish offences of crimes against humanity or war crimes allegedly committed in June 2011, by the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) in Sudan's Southern Kordofan state.

Southern Kordofan lies in Sudan but borders the newly independent South Sudan. According to a statement issued Tuesday by the UN News Centre, a preliminary report produced jointly by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the former UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS), describes wide range of alleged violations of international law in the town of Kadugli, as well as in the surrounding Nuba Mountains, after fighting broke out on June 5, between the SAF and the Sudan People's Liberation Army North (SPLA-N).

It also describes aerial bombardments on civilian areas in Kadugli and elsewhere in Southern Kordofan, which, it says, have resulted in "significant loss of life."

Reported violations included "extrajudicial killings, arbitrary arrests and illegal detention, enforced disappearances, attacks against civilians, looting of civilian homes and destruction of property," as well as massive displacement.

"The SAF regularly conducted aerial bombardments in the Nuba Mountains, and in several towns and villages populated by the Nuba," the report states.

High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay is quoted in the statement as saying that what the report suggests "has been happening in Southern Kordofan is so serious that it is essential there is an independent, thorough and objective inquiry with the aim of holding perpetrators to account."

On June 6, 2005, the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), Luis Moreno-Ocampo, opened investigation in Darfur Region in Sudan after the UN Security Council referred to the Court the matter through its Resolution 1593 on March 31, 2005.

Three arrest warrants against Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir and two other government leaders, Ahmad Harun and Ali Kushayb have been issued and several calls for cooperation have been made by the Court and its prosecutor.

The Sudanese Government has consistently refused to cooperate with the Court and the Security Council in this regard.

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