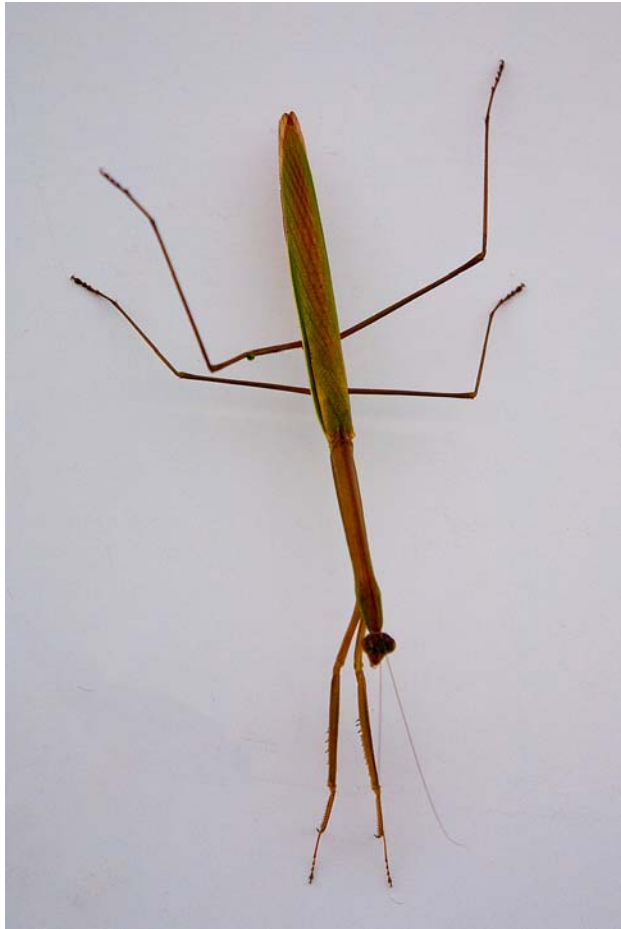


**SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
OUTREACH AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE**



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, 3 August 2011

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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The Lead

Wednesday, 3 August 2011

Prisons Implicates Judiciary, Prosecutors

By Hassan Y. Koroma From Page 1

Sources close to the Prisons Department have revealed a lot of issues implicating both the Judiciary and Police Prosecutors over the way and manner in which court matters are unfolding within the confines of the judicial system of the country.

According to some officials of the Prisons Department, facilities that the two thousand, seven hundred and seven prisoners are using now were not initially meant for the number of inmates at the moment, noting the fact that Police Prosecutors in court are in the habit of hiding prosecution files and creating an atmosphere that would keep those standing trials to untold sufferings while languishing in prisons.

They alleged that some of them are in prison for minor offences that are not really relevant for them to take years in prison. Considering the fact that a number of them has been in prison for over 4-5 years, it is

observed that some matters were only called ones or twice while others appeared before Magistrate Court during the first day they were charged from police custody.

One prisoner, Mustapha Lahai, explained that this year's 2011 marked his 6 years in prison without any trial since he was charged for two counts ranging from Larceny and False Pretence. He said after the first day he appeared in court, he has never been called again, despite the fact that sometimes his name comes in the escort team but only to spend unnecessary time in court.

The officers also alleged that bribing and other devices cannot be unconnected among the long list of factors that are responsible for the influx of Prisoners, adding that they are expecting the police to make relevant and necessary charges to lighten the work of the judiciary. In turn the Prosecutors, Lawyers and Magistrate can be able to preside over matters speedily.

Some of the aggrieved workers told this reporter recently at a prison visit that they understood that some Prosecutors are in the habit of taking money from complainants to stifle files and other related matters to derail the efforts of others to ensure that their matters have a speeding trial. This, among other things, is another factor that is making the judiciary ineffective.

To them, it is amusing for a Magistrate to pass prison sentence on mentally unbalanced accused persons only to create tension in prison, saying that both the police and the judiciary should provide special place for some of these issues especially the psychiatric patients, because this set of people is not supposed to be in prison.

Investigations conducted by this press also unearthed the fact that not only the Prison Officers are handicapped but that there are a lot of things needed to be improved, including medical facilities, the

kitchen, and free flow of information to enable the press and other civil society organisations to know exactly what is going on there.

The medical department confirmed that at the moment they have about 10 psychiatric prisoners but they do not have a permanent psychiatric nurse to take care of them, adding that Dr. Edward Nahim is only going there from time to time or at list when the need arises, and will refer certain matters to his clinic. They said that there are certain times that they have to give psychiatric drugs to prison offers to administer them which is very risky as medical practitioners, considering the negative impact this may cause at the end of the day if anything goes on wrong. Some of the mental prisoners were ones patients of the Kissy Mental Home way in the eastern part of the Municipality and escaped from there to wreck mayhem in the communities. In the course of these actions they were charged and convicted. They are currently at the prisons.

Sierra Express Media

Monday, 1 August 2011

Mister Idiot – stop the talking, you big fat hog

By: SEM on August 1, 2011.

My people, the Idiot has been told that a big fat Hog in the taming cages of the First Lady is reportedly overfed and has gone out of her senses to disrespectfully call the Editor of one of Sierra Leone's widely read and most respected newspaper, Ibrahim Samura, a **Special Court convict**.

Thank you, Madam big fat Hog. The Idiot has underlined the word **CONVICT** as used by you.

Of course, he will waste no time, but tell people how bootlickers, food finders and spent forces such as you behaved.

And Mr. Idiot's attention has been drawn to an understatement from a 'Hog' (in the form of a human) that my editor is a stupid and retched fool.

Again, Mr. Idiot will waste no time telling the Hog woman- I mean you, Flo Katta Kumbay that even the unborn knows you are a practical beggar, a fake and false ugly Hog stooge.

Fellow countrymen, even though people call me an idiot, I was able to beat the defence of guards at the office of the First Lady to skillfully listen to reckless outpouring of unwitting comments from Flo Katta Kumbay against my editor.

Gush... stupid Goat (sorry Hog)! Who dare you called my editor a convict, a stupid man! Because you have a leaking mouth, I, the cleverest Idiot, will neither sleep nor put his head down, but chase you out of the office of the First Lady.

She thinks people are fool. My dare First Lady, Flo Katta Kumbay who now contaminates your office as a loyal servant is surely an infidel to you and the APC.

She was SLPP but switched allegiance minutes after APC took over governance.

Mummy, the Idiot is a smart man! But don't be surprised that the big fat Hog is an undercover SLPP agent; sack her, else she will betray you one day.

As for the Idiot, Flo Katta Kumbay will surely not go unpunished for calling my boss a convict at all.

I am not sure the big fat Hog, Flo Katta kumbay, has full knowledge over Special Court's naked and wretched fixing up of a case of 'contempt' against Ibrahim Samura.

Well, Mr. Idiot will virtually not hold you responsible at all, but rather blame those who mischievously and unwittingly offered you employment at the office of the First Lady without knowing your background and what you are capable of doing.

Don't mind her –she is a complete spent force employee “Nar u stupid nor to mi boss.”



I am Idiot, yes. And I am proud to have 'Mr.' before my name. But being an Idiot, I and my boss have had accolades for doing things that borders around national development and not as food finders, spent forces and 'Congossas' as you are.

I, Mr. Idiot, do hereby and solemnly announce that my boss' score sheets at the Special Court are as white and as clean as a snow.

If you don't believe, go check it yourself, you shameless SLPP Hog disguising as loyalist to the First Lady.

Didn't your bosses tell you they've gone through records of Ibrahim Samura but found nothing; I mean nothing wrong against him at all?

I am sure the senses of right and wrong of management of the Special Court (from top to bottom) must have consequently ring a bell in minds of those who deceitfully masterminded 'contempt' case against Ibrahim Samura, yet loses woefully, shamefully and disgracefully.

Go tell it to the registrar of the Special Court that Ibrahim Samura boastfully, robustly and uncompromisingly hooted at conducts of the so-called court nay condemning thoughtless conspiratorial manipulations of officials (Special Court) to intentionally charge my boss (Ibrahim Samura) for an alleged (sorry lie lie) contempt violation.

My noble readers, Fellow countrymen, will it surprise you to hear from me (Mr. Idiot) that the big fat Hog that works at the office of the First Lady, ugly as she is, pretends being an APC supporter but is an undercover SLPP agent.

And shot up...I mean sheeeee! How dare you called my boss a 'convict' when you know he is virtually not?

I, the cleverest Idiot in Freetown, have no room for forgiveness for you at all. In fact, at 'Jungle Sierra Express,' we practice the 'an eye for an eye' justice, and it is sure we will apply same to you Flo Katta Kumbay.

My instructions are that you submit a letter of apology to sierraexpresssl@aol.com , info@sierraexpressmedia.com or samurabrima@yahoo.com within 48 hours or I, Mr. Idiot, will have no option but to sentence you three to weeks of nonstop lampooning in the Mr. Idiot's column.

Lonta!

The Guardian
 Wednesday, 20 July 2011

Killing of Syrian civilians 'crime against humanity', says US ambassador

Owen Bowcott, legal affairs correspondent

Stephen Rapp, diplomat in charge of investigating war crimes, believes Damascus officials will be brought to justice



Syrians loyal to president Bashar al-Assad wave national flags in this image sanctioned by the Syrian government. But many civilians demanding democracy have been killed. Photograph: Youssef Badawi/EPA

The killing of Syrian civilians demanding democracy is a "crime against humanity", according to the US ambassador in charge of investigating war crimes.

Stephen Rapp, who has been in London discussing how to bring international pressure to bear on Bashar al-Assad's regime, believes that government officials in Damascus will eventually be brought to justice.

"We are watching the situation in Syria very closely," Rapp told the Guardian.

"We see crimes against humanity. As a former prosecutor [in the special court for Sierra Leone] I can't tell whether it's ... systematic attacks against civilians based on a plan.

"But it is clearly violence that has caused more than 1,000 deaths [among] civilians who were asking for democratic rights. It constitutes a crime against humanity. That needs to stop and there needs to be accountability."

At present, Rapp conceded, there is "not sufficient support in the UN security council even to get a motion denouncing it. But we are hopeful that as people see what's happening there will be greater need to have accountability."

The UN's human rights council has set up an inquiry into the Syria situation even though it has had no direct access to the country.

"It's going to prepare a report in the next few weeks," Rapp said. "That report will provide momentum for pushing for accountability." He has discussed events in Syria with the Foreign Office.

Appointed by Barack Obama two years ago, Rapp has just completed what amounts to a world tour taking in war crimes courts in Cambodia, Tanzania and the international criminal court (ICC) in the Hague.

On Libya, the US ambassador-at-large for war crimes issues confirmed that Washington is interested in bringing the former Libyan intelligence officer, Abdelbaset al-Megrahi, to trial for his role in the bombing of Pan Am flight 103 above Lockerbie in 1988.

Megrahi, who was convicted in Scotland, was returned to Libya from the UK on grounds of ill health in 2009.

"The majority of those [on the Pan Am flight] were US citizens and there's a strong interest in the US to achieve justice. It was an act of terror.

"There's jurisdiction in the UK and US over individuals who were involved. I can't speak for the [US] department of justice, but there would be an interest in the US ... in continuing the investigation and going beyond Mr Megrahi and determining whether other individuals [were involved]."

In a post-Gaddafi Libya, Rapp said, help would be given to a new, democratic regime.

"The ICC is only going to be prosecuting a small number [of the Gaddafi regime] and those at the most senior level who can be made responsible.

"There's the question of what happens to others who committed crimes and were following orders and were they responsible for crimes at a small scale.

"Obviously we want to work with [any new] government at the national level and that may involve trials of people who were major offenders.

"We hope there will be a transition in Libya that moves to a rule of law. We will be there if the Libyan government asks us to help."

Rapp has remained closely in touch with the special court for Sierra Leone, which is expected to deliver its verdict on Charles Taylor, the former Liberian president accused of war crimes.

The UK has agreed to provide space for him in a British jail if he is eventually convicted after going through any appeal process at the Hague.

"Charles Taylor is the last one [to be tried for crimes in Sierra Leone]," Rapp explained. "Some of those [convicted] are serving sentences in Rwanda where the government has a new detention block to international standards."

It was a key condition to Taylor's trial in the Netherlands that he be imprisoned in another country and far away from west Africa.

"The UK volunteered and has signalled that Taylor would serve his sentence here if convicted," Rapp said. "It will be a question for the [British] prison system to make sure he's treated according to international standards and will be safe."

Rapp has also been seeking support for international action against the military junta in Burma.

"We said there should be an international inquiry there and we [are] consulting with our allies on the way forward.

"I'm engaged in some of that consultation. It's not a situation where we are looking for a referral to the international criminal court."

UPI.Com

Monday, 1 August 2011

U.S. welcomes STL release of names

The release of the names of members of Hezbollah allegedly tied to the killing of Rafik Hariri is a key development for the country, a U.S. official said.

The U.N.-backed Special Tribunal for Lebanon last week released the names of the four individuals wanted for the killing of Hariri, a former prime minister of Lebanon. They are: Salim Jamil Ayyash, Mustafa Amine Badreddine, Hussein Hassan Ainessi and Assad Hassan Sabra.

Hariri and 21 others were killed in a bomb attack Feb. 14, 2005.

Mark Toner, a spokesman for the U.S. State Department, said the indictments were an important development for Lebanon.

"This indictment is an important milestone and we call on the government of Lebanon to continue to meet its obligations under international law to support the special tribunal," he said.

Hezbollah said its members are off-limits to the tribunal. The Shiite movement helped bring down the government of Saad Hariri, Rafik Hariri's son, in January while he was visiting the United States.

Hezbollah said it was frustrated with Hariri's support for the tribunal, which it accuses of being part of an Israeli ploy.

Toner noted, however, that Washington hasn't seen the full indictment, which was handed in June to authorities in Beirut.

Read more: http://www.upi.com/Top_News/Special/2011/08/01/US-welcomes-STL-release-of-names/UPI-60871312208083/#ixzz1TruWdz8C

International Justice Tribune

Monday, 1 August 2011

Cambodia's Muslims seek justice for genocide



Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Zakaria Bin Ahmad cannot forget the years of horror under the brutal Khmer Rouge when even praying was to risk death for Cambodia's persecuted minority Muslims.

Many others in his community did not survive the late 1970s reign of terror by the hardline communist regime, which executed Islamic scholars, destroyed mosques, forced Muslims to eat pork and forbade headscarves.

"People tried all kinds of ways to pray. Sometimes while they were driving an ox cart... sometimes in the jungle when we asked to use the toilet, and sometimes while we were washing," the 61-year-old recalled.

But mostly, he remembers people disappearing, never to be seen again.

"Many were killed," he said quietly in his modest home in the shadow of a modern blue-domed mosque, a source of pride for the town of Chraing Chamres, whose earlier place of worship was destroyed by the Khmer Rouge.

Will they see justice?

Cambodian Muslims, known as Cham, hope finally to see justice as the most senior surviving Khmer Rouge leaders stand trial for genocide at Cambodia's UN-backed court over the treatment of the ethnic and religious minority.

"Now we can tell our story," said Sales Pin Apoutorliep, the religious leader, or hakem, of the Chraing Chamres mosque.

"We fully support the trial to tell the truth and to say what happened under the Pol Pot regime," he said, referring to the regime's main founder, who died in 1998 having escaped justice.

The high-profile genocide trial, which opened in late June, carries particular poignancy for the Cham, whose bloody persecution is an often overlooked chapter of the country's "Killing Fields" era.

Before the genocide charges were filed against the former Khmer Rouge leaders, the treatment of the Muslim minority was rarely discussed.

"In the past, there was little mention about the suffering of the Cham under the Khmer Rouge regime," said Farina So, an expert at the Documentation Centre of Cambodia (DC-Cam), which researches Khmer Rouge atrocities.

"The Chams' suffering has not been investigated much," she added. "They need recognition from the people."

Where'd they go?

Nobody knows exactly how many Muslims died under the totalitarian movement, which wiped out nearly a quarter of the population.

But the DC-Cam estimates that somewhere between 100,000 and 500,000 of the country's 700,000-strong Cham community died at the hands of the regime.

"It's still fresh in our eyes," Sales, who lost his parents and four of his siblings under the Khmer Rouge, told AFP after finishing his midday prayers. "Every family has pain."

The mass killings of Muslims, along with an estimated 20,000 Vietnamese, form the basis of the genocide charges against the four Khmer Rouge defendants, who include "Brother Number Two" Nuon Chea and former head of state Khieu Samphan.

The four also face a string of other charges including war crimes and crimes against humanity for the deaths of up to two million people through starvation, overwork or execution in a doomed bid to create an agrarian utopia.

Most of those deaths do not fall under the charge of genocide, which is defined by the United Nations as "acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group".

The indictment file against the four elderly defendants states that "the Cham were systematically and methodically targeted and killed" and that the Khmer Rouge sought to eliminate Cham culture, traditions and language.

Haunted by the past

Today, there are around half a million Cham in Cambodia, the majority of them followers of Sunni Islam, and they enjoy full freedom of religion.

But like so many in the Southeast Asian nation, they remain haunted by the past.

"They reconstructed mosques, they revived their religious and ethnic identity, they opened Islamic schools and taught Islam," Farina So said. "They are trying to recover from this trauma but it's a slow process."

Ahmad's daughter-in-law Yakin El, wearing a traditional, long-sleeved dress with matching headscarf, said she was "shocked" when as a young girl she first learned of her relatives' ordeal under the Khmer Rouge.

"I'm pleased that they will bring up the Cham suffering during the trial," the 24-year-old said. "It's the past but I can't forget it because most of the Muslims were killed at this time. We have to remember them."

Source: AFA