

**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, 14 September 2011

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
Martin Royston-Wright
Ext 7217

Local News

Human Rights Forum Wants Bo Violations to Be Violations to be Addressed / *Premier News* Page 3

Bar Association Calls Inquiry Into Political Violence / *Awoko* Page 4

International News

Seventeen Candidates to Run For Election as ICC Judges / *Hirondelle News Agency* Pages 5-6

Cassese Trying to Reach Accused With Call to Take Part in Trials / *The Daily Star* Pages 7-8

Human Rights Forum Wants Bo Violations To Be Addressed

The worrying situation of political violence in the country has now made human rights organizations to call for actions that those found wanting will be brought to book.

By Alpha Bedoh Kamara

The coalition of over 70 human rights organizations, the Western Area Human Rights Committee made this call, citing various abuses against innocent people in Bo.

The committee also called for political parties to stop thugs from using political party offices to idle around.

A member of the committee, Abdul Tarawallie who was in Bo during the incident said the violence that erupted in the township was a carried out by few individuals.

"I do not believe the APC or SLPP mandated the action," he said, arguing that Maada Bio was somehow shocked at the violence.

He said for the purpose of sustaining the peace process, especially peaceful political atmosphere, young unemployed people should be barred from using political party offices as points for orchestrating their operations.

He said by this action many youths prone to violence will see reason to find better vocations and be responsible citizens.

"There are people who are always looking for ways to cause violence," he said, adding that most of them will see political gatherings as opportunities.

The Chairman of the Committee, James Mathew, said the issue must be investigated by the stakeholders and a solution found to the problem.

"Our concern is the abuse and violence against the people, and we are calling for the perpetrators to be brought to book," he said.

Mr. Mathew said the two political parties, APC and SLPP should do their best to address the issue of youth participation in their activities rather than wait until they put their parties into disrepute.

"Sierra Leoneans want peace and stability. We are looking forward to the various political parties to push the process of development and not disintegrate it again," he said.

The violence in Bo after to the wounding of the flagbearer of the minority opposition party (SLPP), Julius Maasa Bio, also resulted in the burning of three houses, among them the APC office and the wounding of several people.

The incident also led to the UN sending a delegation to the city to monitor the process and ensure stability.

However, while most of the victims of the violence are taking treatment in Bo, the SLPP flagbearer is reported to have left for medical treatment abroad.

Awoko

Wednesday, 14 September 2011

Bar Association calls for inquiry into Political violence

By David Krueger

In a press release issued on Tuesday, the Sierra Leone Bar Association (SLBA) condemned the recent violence in Kono and Bo and called for a "speedy investigation" into the incidents.

SLBA notes that there has been injury, loss of life and damage of individuals' property and implores the citizens of Sierra Leone to cease these violent activities.

"The SLBA condemns these violent and ugly events and urges very strongly that the people of Sierra Leone continue to be mindful of the effects of our recent violent past and have no intention to return to those dark and violent days," said the press release, signed by the Public Relations Officer, Solomon A.J. Jamiru.

The organization advocates for the Sierra Leone Police to continue its "pivotal role" of keeping the country safe, especially during times of heightened protest.

It also requests that the government looks into the matter to make sure that it is doing all that it can to keep its citizens safe.

Said the press release: "The SLBA recognizes that the security of the lives and property of the people of Sierra Leone is ultimately the responsibility of the Government of Sierra Leone; the SLBA urges government, therefore, to ensure that this security is no longer compromised."

The SLBA offers to assist in the investigations, and

do whatever it can to advise and monitor the cases until their conclusion.

Along with themselves, they hope the media will avoid "fiery exchanges" and a "sometimes inflammatory nature of stories" that can lead to increased tension and aggression by the general public.

The group celebrates the rights of those living in Sierra Leone, and begs them to demonstrate peacefully at political events.

It praises Sierra Leoneans' right to freedom of speech and political freedom which it calls "basic human rights."

However, it goes on to say that these rights are "often undermined by inciting rhetoric from senior political figures."

As a result, the SLBA also appeals to political officials to choose their words carefully, so as not to incite violence and anger among those in attendance, which appears to be mostly youths and young people according to the press release.

The press release seeks to unify the community, as well as state SLBA's intentions to monitor the events while hoping Sierra Leone doesn't continue to turn to violence and anger at political protests.

"The SLBA commits itself anew to closely monitor state organs in general and all major stakeholders whose sincerity and effectiveness determines the well-being and safety of the lives and property of the people of Sierra Leone," the release said in closing.

Hirondelle News Agency

Monday, 12 September 2011

Seventeen candidates to run for election as ICC Judges

With the application deadline of September 2 now passed, seventeen candidates have applied for election as judges of the International Criminal Court (ICC). The General Assembly of States Parties will elect six of them when it convenes in New York from December 12 to 21, 2011.

Of the 17, there are 8 African candidates, 4 from Europe, 3 from South America/Caribbean and 2 from Asia (Cyprus is in the Asian group of States at the ICC). The candidate from the Philippines is also the only woman.

The 17 candidates, starting with their country of origin, are as follows:

Tunisia: Professor Ajmi Bel Haj Amouda is a defence lawyer before Tunis' final court of Appeal.

Sierra Leone: John Bankole Thomson was a judge at the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) from 2003 to 2009 before becoming a Professor at Eastern Kentucky University (USA).

Burkina Faso: Gustave Gberdao Kam, now a technical advisor in his country's Ministry of Justice, has worked as an ad litem judge at the ICTR.

Nigeria: Chile Eboe-Osuji (also a Canadian citizen) is currently legal advisor to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. A member of the SCSL Prosecutor's office in 2007 and 2008, he also worked at the ICTR from 1997 to 2005.

Democratic Republic of Congo: After four years spent at the ICTR, Congolese Antoine Mindua has been a judge at the ICTY since 2006.

Mauritius: Vinod Boolell was formerly a judge in Cambodia and Kosovo, and is currently serving a seven-year term with the UN Dispute Tribunal located in Nairobi.

Central African Republic: Modeste-Martineau Bria has been working as a prosecutor in his home country since 1995.

Niger: Mounkalla Hamani Nouhou, specialized in public spending and corruption cases, is currently Presiding Judge of the first Chamber of Niamey's Cour des comptes (National Audit office).

Cyprus: Judge George Serghides is currently President of the Family Court of Nicosia.

Czech Republic: Robert Fremr was a judge at the Czech Supreme Court and is currently serving as an ad litem judge at the ICTR.

Poland: Wladislav Czaplinski is a Professor of Law at Warsaw University.

France: Bruno Cathala was the first Registrar of the International Criminal Court from 2003 to 2008. He now heads a tribunal in Evry (France).

UK: Howard Morrison is one of the judges in Radovan Karadzic's trial before the ICTY. He also has previous experience with the Special Tribunal for Lebanon and the ICTR.

Trinidad and Tobago: Anthony Thomas Aquinas Carmona is a judge at the Supreme Court. He previously worked with the Office of the Prosecutor at the ICTY and ICTR from 2001 to 2004. Colombia: Eduardo Munoz Cifuentes is currently an associate professor at the Andes University.

Mexico: Javier Laynez Potisek is currently a lawyer at the Ministry of Finance.

Philippines: Miriam Defensor-Santiago is currently a Senator in her home country.

SM/ER/GF

© Hironnelle News Agency

The Daily Star

Wednesday, 14 September 2011

STL: Cassese trying to reach accused with call to take part in trials

By Patrick Galey

BEIRUT: President of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon Antonio Cassese's call for the four men suspected of involvement in the 2005 assassination of statesman Rafik Hariri to take part in trials was part of efforts to reach the accused, the court's spokesman told The Daily Star.

Cassese, who previously urged the accused to come forward and defend themselves, repeated Monday night his call for the four suspects to take part in trials.

"Judge Antonio Cassese reminds the accused of their right to participate in the proceedings. By participating, the accused can fully defend themselves against the charges and evidence presented against them," the STL said in an audio announcement on its website.

Meanwhile, victims of the 2005 bomb attack will have until the end of October to register for participation in trials, a senior judge in the U.N.-backed court probing the crime said Tuesday.

STL's Pre-Trial Judge Daniel Fransen ruled that, "barring exceptional circumstances," those injured or who lost loved ones in the attack had until Oct. 31 to indicate their interest to get involved with court proceedings.

"This deadline for filing the participation requests is aimed in particular at allowing those persons who have been granted the status of a victim [to participate] in the proceedings, [in order] to make known 'their views and concerns' from the start of the pre-trial stage of the case," a court statement said.

The STL is the first international criminal court that allows victims to participate in trials.

Court Prosecutor Daniel Bellemare issued his first indictment against four Hezbollah members in June. Although Lebanon is obliged to assist the STL – including providing more than \$32 million of funding in 2011 – Lebanese security forces have been unable to apprehend any of the suspects, who are also the subject of international arrest warrants. Hezbollah, which has called for a boycott of the court, has vowed that security services will not get their hands on its members.

"The Lebanese people – and especially the victims of this attack – deserve to know the truth about what happened on Feb 14, 2005," the public announcement added.

The court stressed that the trial proceeding would be conducted to the highest international standards and that the "tribunal's judge will never convict an accused unless guilt is established beyond reasonable doubt.

Cassese himself has come under fire from Hezbollah Secretary General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, who accused the Italian judge of favoring Israel – much to the private chagrin of court staff.

Monday's message by Cassese followed the passing of deadlines of 30 days for Lebanese security forces to arrest the men. Cassese subsequently issued a 30-day public advertisement, calling for the suspects to turn themselves in.

“This is one of the efforts to reach the accused and is part of the 30-day public advertisement,” STL spokesperson Marten Youssef told The Daily Star.

“As for when trials begin, that is a decision that will be determined by judges alone. The date will clearly depend on if [the] accused are apprehended, preliminary motions such as dealing with in absentia proceedings if the accused are not arrested, the amount of evidence submitted during disclosure and the amount of time granted for the defense team to build their own case and review the material submitted by the prosecution,” he added.

The court has previously suggested that trials may begin by mid-2012. Prime Minister Najib Mikati this week indicated that Lebanon would pay its share of court running costs.

*Read more: <http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Politics/2011/Sep-14/148696-stl-cassese-trying-to-reach-accused-with-call-to-take-part-in-trials.ashx#ixzzIXvV96btv>
(The Daily Star :: Lebanon News :: <http://www.dailystar.com.lb>)*