

**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:**

Friday, 14 October 2011

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.  
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact  
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**Local News**Issa Sesay, Others Cry / *Exclusive*

Page 3

**International News**ICTY Judges Rule Not to Split Mladic case... / *Hague Justice Portal*

Page 4

Exclusive

Friday, 14 October 2011

# Issa Sesay, Others Cry

Eight Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) convicted war criminals including the former RUF leader Issa Sesay are calling on the Sierra Leone government and the SCSL to intervene in their plight with regard several ill treatment they allege to be currently facing while serving their jail sentences at the Mpanga detention facility in Rwanda.

The eight convicted prisoners expressed their concerns in a nine page complaint letter to key stakeholders in their home, Sierra Leone.

In the said letter, Issa Sesay and others called on government and the SCSL to address their issues in line with the agreement regarding their transfer from Sierra Leone to Rwanda. The prisoners described the transfer move as a waste of resources as according to them they understood the SLSC carried out a refurbishment of part of the prison and pays the sum US\$45 per day for each prisoner to the Rwanda authorities.

They also claimed that emergency contact address and telephone numbers provided to them by the SLSC is not working, adding that they have no money to provide themselves with some of their basic needs. Despite promises made to them for a convenient detention facility in Rwanda, inline with international standards, Issa Sesay and others expressed

dismay over the poor quality of food, medical service, education and above all blatant disrespect for their human dignity, views and concerns.

The Sierra Leonean war crime prisoners at Mpanga detention facility accused the Rwanda authorities of various human rights abuses carried out against them and their nation, citing remarks such as "Sierra Leoneans behave like dogs" "The use us as examples of genocides perpetrators when we have not been convicted on such crime," they complained. According to them bad climate condition is among their long list of concerns as they claim that they were not provided with the appropriate gears to stand such climate conditions.

The prisoner also expressed doubt over the financial report for 2010 from the Mpanga, claiming they spent US\$2928 on their feeding.

Several order complaints were catalogued in their nine page letter.

Meanwhile, human rights organizations have expressed concerns over the reported cases of maltreatment of the prisoners which is a contravention of international laws. Human Rights Guards, a non government organization is calling on the concerned institutions to look into the prisoners' claims and find ways of addressing them.

## International Justice Portal

Friday, 14 October 2011

### ICTY judges rule not to split Mladic case into two trials

#### ICTY has turned down a prosecution request to hold two separate trials, with one focusing on the Srebrenica massacre

The ICTY announced yesterday that former Bosnian Serb military leader Ratko Mladic will face one trial on genocide charges.

The prosecution had requested that the indictment be split into two trials, one examining the Srebrenica massacre, and the other pertaining to the remaining charges against him, relating to alleged crimes committed in Sarajevo and other parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Prosecutors wanted to focus first on a trial dealing specifically with Srebrenica, Europe's worst massacre since World War II, in an apparent attempt to speed up proceedings due to concerns for his health. Since his arrest and transfer to the Hague in



May, Mladic has made several complaints relating to his health and was admitted to hospital on Tuesday, allegedly suffering from pneumonia. The family of the 69 year old former general say he had two strokes during his 16 years as a fugitive. The prosecution is also mindful of the Slobodan Milosevic case, where the former Yugoslav president died in 2006 during the fourth year of his trial, before a judgment could be delivered.

However, Presiding Judge Alphons Orie noted in the ruling that splitting the indictment could not only "prejudice the accused", but could also "render the trials less manageable and less efficient, and risk unduly burdening witnesses". In addition, "participating in the pre-trial preparations of one case while simultaneously participating in the judgement or appeal stage of the first trial could unfairly overburden the accused and limit his ability to participate effectively in either". The concerns relating to Mladic's health were deemed to be "speculative and unsubstantiated", as the prosecutor had provided them with no medical reports.

The prosecution had further requested that the killing more than 30 Bosnian Muslim men in Eastern Bosnia in July 1995 be included in the charges. The judges granted the request, and Mladic will be asked to enter a plea on the new charge at his next appearance before the Chamber, scheduled for 10 November. Mladic faces 11 counts of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity for his role in Bosnia's 1992-95 war.