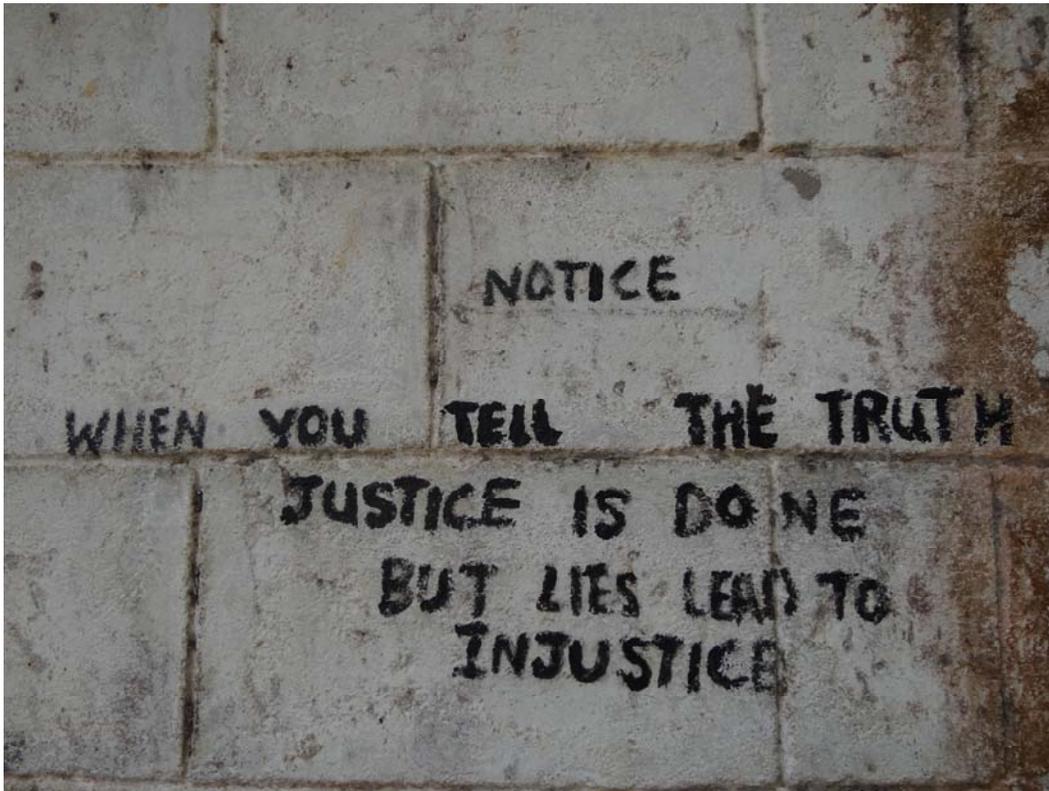


**SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
OUTREACH AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE**



Inscriptions at a Police station in Krubola, Koinadugu.

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:

Tuesday, 15 November 2011

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

Sierra Leonean Convicts Treated well – UN Court / <i>Cocorioko</i>	Page 3
ICT Will not Remove Justice Nizamul Huq / <i>BDNews24.com</i>	Page 4
'Merchant of Death' and Other Bad Guys / <i>The Korean Times</i>	Pages 5-6
ICC Prosecutor Warns Election-Related Violence Will Not be Tolerated / <i>UN News</i>	Page 7

Cocorioko

Tuesday, 15 November 2011

Sierra Leonean convicts treated well – UN Court

By Edwin Musoni

The United Nations Special Court for Sierra Leone has said that Sierra Leonean war crimes convicts serving their sentences in Rwanda were being treated in accordance with international standards.

The affirmation was made by the court's Outreach and Public Affairs Chief, Peter C. Andersen, in an email message to The New Times.

He was reacting to claims published in Sierra Leonean newspaper, The Exclusive, alleged that the prisoners wanted the court to review their detention conditions because they were being treated badly, and instead relocate them to another country to complete their prison terms.

Currently, eight Sierra Leonean war crime prisoners sentenced by the Special Court are serving their respective sentences at Mpanga Prison in the Southern Province.

The Registrar General, Binta Mansaray, subsequently came to Rwanda on an inspection tour and filed her report.

“Based on our assessment, the Special Court is satisfied with the implementation of the sentence enforcement agreement, and with the excellent cooperation of the Rwandan authorities,” Anderson said in the email.

The court's delegation met and held talks with the prisoners who expressed dissatisfaction over new procedures put in place to access supplies like milk, Ovaltine chocolate, sardines, sugar, juice, toiletries, among others, as well as the enforcement of protocols for their use of the telephone.

“The prisoners interpreted these procedures, which are in line with international standards, as violations of their rights, and asked to be transferred to Pademba Road Prison in Freetown,” said Anderson.

“We concluded that there are no human rights abuses, and that the prisoners' complaints stem from their resistance to the introduction of new procedures, and their unwillingness to adapt to prison life”.

“We would like to express our thanks and gratitude to the Rwandan Government and to the Rwanda Correctional Service for their assistance during our visit, and for their work which has ensured the success of the bi-lateral enforcement agreement with the Special Court,” Anderson added.

Prior to the Registrar General's visit, the Commissioner General of the Rwanda Correctional Service (RCS) Paul Rwarakabije, had also strongly criticised the prisoners' claims and instead said that they receive 'extraordinary' care.

Rwarakabije noted that Rwanda had essentially provided all it was required of by the MoU, adding that the prisoners had been provided with extra incentives.

“The prisoners are frequently visited by their relatives. These are international prisoners and we treat them in a special manner,” said Rwarakabije.

He added that the Sierra Leonean prisoners have access to telephone and special meals.

The eight who were transferred to Rwanda in 2009 are Issa Sesay, Morris Kallon, Alex Tamba Brima, Santigie Borbor Kanu, Ibrahim Bazy Kamara, Augustine Gboa, Musa Kondowa and Moinina Fofana.

BDNews24.com (Bangladesh)

Monday, 14 November 2011

ICT will not remove Justice Nizamul Huq (Excerpts)

Tanim Ahmed

Dhaka, Nov 14 (bdnews24.com) —The war crimes tribunal has said the laws do not provide the judges to remove co-judge Justice Nizamul Huq as petitioned by the Jamaat-e-Islami's leader Delwar Hossain Sayedee.

-SNIP-

Reading out the order, Fazle Kabir noted that Sayedee's counsel Abdur Razzaq had cited a number of precedents where a judge had been removed. However, Fazle Kabir said that **having perused the legal provisions of those courts, including the special court of Sierra Leone**, the tribunal found that those judges were empowered by special laws that allowed them to make such a ruling against a fellow judge.

The tribunal also ruled regarding a newspaper report published on Nov 10 in Jamaat mouthpiece daily Sangram. The report mentions an email sent by three lawyers, claiming to be Sayedee's lawyers, to Nizamul Huq requesting him to recuse himself for being unfit to hold the trial.

AKM Zaheer Ahmed, reading out that ruling, noted that the registrar had received an email on Nov 9 from Steven Kay QC, Toby Cadman and **John Cammegh**, addressed to the tribunal chief. The three lawyers of 9 Bedford Row, which is said to be a leading law firm in England, urged Huq to step aside in the interest of justice.

-SNIP-

[Note: John Cammegh represented Augustine Gbao in the RUF trial.]

The Korean Times

Tuesday, 15 November 2011

'Merchant of Death' and other bad guys

By Arthur I. Cyr

"Without justice, courage is weak," Ben Franklin wrote, and around the world today dangerous men are being brought to justice. Viktor Bout, rightly labeled the "Merchant of Death," has just been convicted by a jury in New York of trying to sell arms to FARC (the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia) in order to kill Americans.



Bout was seized in Thailand in a sting operation orchestrated by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. The Thai government initially vetoed extradition, reflecting strong intervention by Russian interests. The turnabout reflected intense continuous pressure by the U.S. government.

Former Soviet army officer Bout became rich and feared dealing in weapons and drugs on a vast scale. The book "Merchant of Death: Money, Guns, Planes, and the Man Who Makes War Possible," documents his extraordinary career.

Authors Douglas Farah and Stephen Braun provide details on a global trail marked in blood. Wholesale death literally was his occupation. Bout's arrest in a luxury hotel was a victory for basic morality and decency as well as law enforcement.

The FARC controls extensive territory in Colombia. Bout's fleet of private aircraft allegedly flew in guns and ammunition, and ferried out drugs for sale. The arms reportedly originated in Kazakhstan and other parts of Central Asia. The Merchant is also accused of dealing with al-Qaida and the Taliban, though he has denied these charges.

Initially based in Russia, Bout moved his operations to Belgium, then the United Arab Emirates. For years, he kept just barely ahead of a comprehensive worldwide law-enforcement effort to take him down. His conviction indicates the global rule of law is growing.

While Bout faced justice, the extremely lengthy, complex war crimes trial at The Hague of former Liberian dictator Charles Taylor continues. The final judicial verdict is pending, and probably remains some months away, but the effective employment of due process has broad positive implications for Africa.

In July, Goran Hadzic was arrested in Serbia. He was the last remaining accused Balkans war criminal not yet in custody following the brutal fighting of the 1990s in that region.

United Nations officials joined with representatives of the international judicial tribunal overseeing these trials in welcoming this benchmark event, representing symbolic closure to the armed conflict, along with confirmation of the rule of law in a historically troubled, unstable region of the world.

If this brief brutal list indicates such practices are removed from the United States, think again. Edwin P. Wilson, a retired U.S. intelligence pro, went to work for terrorist state Libya in the 1970s. Wilson recruited expert military veterans, including U.S. Army Green Berets, for Col. Moammar Gadhafi's regime.

Killings in Colorado as well as Germany were blamed on Wilson's lethal crew. Alleged deals, backed by substantial evidence, included shipping 20 tons of C-4 plastic explosives to Libya in chartered planes. Wilson became a U.S. law enforcement priority. Libya refused to extradite him but imaginative American operatives set up an attractive bogus deal and lured him to the Caribbean, where he was arrested.

Wilson spent almost three decades in prison before a federal judge declared the CIA and Department of Justice had acted improperly regarding the trial, and overturned his conviction on procedural grounds.

By definition, the rule of law puts the same obligations on all parties, innocent and guilty. Franklin and fellow Founders understood that the goal is great but the process is often painful.

Arthur I. Cyr is Clausen distinguished professor at Carthage College. He is also a columnist for Scripps Howard News Service (www.scrippsnews.com). E-mail him at acyr@carthage.edu.

DR Congo: ICC prosecutor warns election-related violence will not be tolerated



Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court Luis Moreno-Ocampo

The prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) said today he is following the electoral process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) with “utmost vigilance,” stating that violence related to the presidential and legislative polls later this month will not be tolerated.

“My office is gathering and carefully reviewing converging reports of both verbal and physical violence arising out of the electoral campaign for the presidential and parliamentary elections on 28 November,” said Luis Moreno-Ocampo in a statement issued by the ICC, which is based in The Hague, the Netherlands.

Mr. Moreno-Ocampo urged all parties in the electoral process to refrain from violence, noting that the ICC has jurisdiction to investigate and prosecute perpetrators of serious crimes committed either in the DR Congo or by Congolese nationals since 1 July 2002. The electoral process should not feed a sense of impunity on the part of those responsible for such crimes. On the contrary, it should strengthen the rule of law and the fight against impunity “We are keeping watch to ensure that the process does not lead to acts of violence or attacks against the civilian population. We are paying particular attention to reports of inciting hatred, exclusion and physical violence by various political figures in Kinshasa and across the entire country,” he said.

“Electoral violence can result in the commission of crimes falling within our jurisdiction. No one should doubt our resolve to prevent crimes or, if need be, prosecute individuals, as we are doing in Kenya and Côte d’Ivoire,” he added.

He said his office has the capacity to document any crime within its jurisdiction and, in coordination with domestic courts, will take all necessary action to investigate such crimes.

The prosecutor reiterated that people alleged to have committed serious crimes, such as Bosco Ntaganda, for whom the ICC has issued an arrest warrant, must be taken into custody and put on trial. Mr. Ntaganda, a former commander of armed militias in eastern DRC, is accused of playing a central role in enlisting and conscripting children below the 15 and using them in active combat.

“The electoral process should not feed a sense of impunity on the part of those responsible for such crimes. On the contrary, it should strengthen the rule of law and the fight against impunity,” said Mr. Moreno-Ocampo.

A United Nations report released earlier this week detailed numerous human rights violations during the pre-electoral period in the DRC, and warns that such incidents could threaten the democratic process and result in post-electoral violence.

The joint report issued by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the UN peacekeeping mission in DRC (MONUSCO), documents 188 violations apparently linked to the electoral process that occurred between 1 November 2010 and 30 September this year.