

**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:**

Thursday, 17 November 2011

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

**International News**

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## Cocorioko

Wednesday, 16 November 2011

### **Remarks by the Special Court Registrar Binta Mansaray on the visit to Rwanda**

Yesterday, we published an article titled, SIERRA LEONE CONVICTS TREATED WELL, written by Mr. Edwin Musoni of the Rwandan NEWTIMES newspaper. The paper attributed the statement about the convicts' conditions to Peter Andersen, the court's Outreach and Public Affairs Chief. It is now known that in fact the statement was made by Binta Mansaray, the Special Court Registrar. We have been provided a copy of the report on the remark by Binta Mansaray and we now publish it below:

### **Remarks to the Rwandan authorities by Special Court Registrar Binta Mansaray at the end of the annual visit by the Registrar and Deputy Registrar:**

The visit was made pursuant to the bi-lateral agreement on enforcement of sentences between the Government of Rwanda and the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL)



#### **MS. BINTA MANSARAY**

During our visit to Rwanda from 1-8 November I, along with Deputy Registrar Fidelma Donlon, met with officials of government and institutions, including Rwandan government officials and the Rwandan prison management authorities. We also held several meetings with the eight Sierra Leonean prisoners serving their sentences at Mpanga Prison following their convictions by the Special Court for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The Deputy Registrar and I looked into allegations of human rights abuses raised by the prisoners in a 7 September 2011 letter addressed to the Sierra Leonean media.

In our meeting with the prisoners, the key issues raised related to their dissatisfaction over new procedures put in place for accessing supplies (e.g. milk, Ovaltine, sardines, sugar, juice, toiletries, etc.), 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 human rights, and asked to be transferred to Pademba Road Prison in Freetown.

The prisoners appeared to believe that they would be transferred to Freetown through an appeal to Sierra Leonean political authorities, or to other bodies. I reminded them that their imprisonment in Rwanda was the result of a judicial order by the Special Court, and that any determination of where they must serve their sentences, or of any possible remission of their sentences in the future, lies solely within the judicial competence and authority of the Special Court.

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. 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.

# Special Tribunal for Lebanon

Wednesday, 16 November 2011



SPECIAL TRIBUNAL FOR LEBANON

المحكمة الخاصة بلبنان

TRIBUNAL SPÉCIAL POUR LE LIBAN

## STL Media Advisory

### Deputy Registrar sworn in

**Leidschendam, 15 November 2011** – Kaoru Okuizumi was sworn in today as Deputy Registrar for the Special Tribunal for Lebanon.

Ms Okuizumi, a Japanese national, has extensive background in international criminal justice and human rights. She has served in the Registries of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and the Special Court for Sierra Leone, and has also been deployed to United Nations field operations in Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kosovo and Nepal. Ms Okuizumi comes to the Special Tribunal for Lebanon from the Criminal Law and Judicial Advisory Service in the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations in New York.

She will be working with the Registrar, Mr. Herman von Hebel, to provide administrative, legal and other essential support to the Tribunal and will deputize in his absence. Ms. Okuizumi will oversee judicial services to ensure the smooth running of court proceedings.

The Deputy Registrar position has been vacant since Mr. von Hebel was appointed Registrar in December 2010.

For media relating queries, contact STL Press Office

Beirut press office number:

00961 4 538100

NL press office number:

Tel: 0031 70 800 3560

(English/French)

Tel: 0031 70 800 3828

(Arabic/English)

Press office email

[stl-pressoffice@un.org](mailto:stl-pressoffice@un.org)

Marten Youssef (STL spokesperson) landline

Tel: 0031 70 800 3733

Marten Youssef (STL spokesperson) mobile

0031 629 501751

Marten Youssef (STL spokesperson) email

[youssef6@un.org](mailto:youssef6@un.org)

## Associated Press

Wednesday, 16 November 2011

### Experts pay tribute to Yugoslav war crimes court

By MIKE CORDER

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — Greeted with skepticism at its inception in 1993, the Yugoslav war crimes tribunal is today being hailed as a trailblazer that will help end impunity among the world's ruling classes long after it closes in three years.

At a seminar Tuesday assessing the legacy of the court, legal experts said the precedents set during dozens of trials will live on in jurisprudence, mainly through the International Criminal Court, the first permanent war crimes tribunal.

Critically, the tribunal effectively scrapped the notion of immunity for heads of state when it first indicted Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic in 1999. Since that landmark indictment, international courts have filed charges against Sudan's Omar al-Bashir, Liberian President Charles Taylor, Libya's Moammar Gadhafi and senior ministers of the Kenyan government.

The court formally known as the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, or ICTY, also laid down key case law on rape as a war crime or crime against humanity.

Alison Cole, of the Open Society Justice Initiative, said the Yugoslav court "led the way in forging a new path to justice" by laying down crucial case law in the evolving field of international criminal law.

The tribunal was established by the U.N. Security Council 17 years ago with war still raging in the Balkans. It was the first international war crimes court since the Nuremberg and Tokyo prosecutions after World War II, and observers doubted it would be able to bring justice to victims of the brutal conflicts ravaging the former Yugoslavia.

It started slowly, trying low-level officers, and it appeared unlikely that authorities in the region would ever arrest top suspects. By now, the tribunal has taken into custody all 161 suspects it indicted, including political and military leaders such as Milosevic, Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and his military chief Gen. Ratko Mladic.

"Perhaps one of the most remarkable achievements of the ICTY is the fact that every single arrest warrant ... was eventually executed," said U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay.

The tribunal "demonstrated beyond question that an international criminal tribunal for the most serious crimes can work," said Richard Dicker, director of Human Rights Watch's international justice program.

But meting out justice has not been easy for the court, which has been criticized for the slow pace of its trials and its high budget. Serbs have repeatedly accused prosecutors of bias because the majority of those indicted have been Serbs.

In the most significant setback for the tribunal and victims of the Balkan wars, Milosevic died of a heart attack in his cell in 2006 before his four-year genocide trial could reach a verdict.

But now another of the alleged architects of Serb atrocities, Karadzic, is on trial and preparations are under way for Mladic's trial, which is expected to start next year.

With the arrest this year of Mladic and former Croatian Serb rebel leader Goran Hadzic, the tribunal finally took custody of its last two fugitives. Mladic, 69, had been on the run for 16 years and he was arrested by Serb authorities with his health apparently failing.

Even so, the fact that all its suspects were arrested "shows the potential and actual effectiveness of these international courts," which have no police force of their own and must rely on states and international organizations, said Dicker.

Stephen Rapp, the U.S. ambassador at large for war crimes issues, said the arrest of the likes of Karadzic and Mladic underscores that indicted suspects like Sudan's president, who is wanted for genocide in Darfur, now face the prospect of winding up in an international courtroom.

"It sends an enormous signal around the world as we look at similar crimes committed in other places that individuals who commit these crimes won't escape," Rapp said.

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## Voice of America

Thursday, 17 November 2011

### **Documentarians Learn Ways to Best Preserve History of Rwanda's Painful Past**

Elizabeth Lee | Los Angeles

Four staff members from the Kigali Genocide Memorial Center in Rwanda recently traveled to Los Angeles to learn techniques on how to best preserve the oral history of what happened in Rwanda 17 years ago. As many as one million people lost their lives in the Rwandan Tutsi genocide of 1994. Many people did survive the horror, and their stories are waiting to be heard.

Yves Kamuromsi and three of his colleagues travelled thousands of miles from home to the University of Southern California to learn how to best document and preserve a painful past.

"My elder brother and my parents were both killed," said Kamuromsi.

Kamuromsi was only 13 when the Rwandan genocide occurred. He said the worst part of the experience is the aftermath.

"First of all you ask the questions like, 'why did that happen?' and 'why [did] that [happen] to you and your family?' but at the same time you ask yourself why you're alone. For example, when you start going to school you find [it] difficult because no parents," he said.

For Kamuromsi, talking about his experience and sharing it with other survivors helps.

"It's important because you get to learn the experience of others. At some point you may feel that you're a lucky survivor because you may see that some others have experienced [more] horrible things than you did. So I think sharing stories is a part of the healing process," said Kamuromsi.

### **Having survivors speak**

Kamuromsi now heads the documentation center at the Kigali Genocide Memorial Center in Rwanda. He has videotaped and interviewed other survivors of the genocide. He said since 2004, his team has collected 200 interviews.

"There are more than 300,000 survivors, but the difficult question is: 'Are they ready to start talking,'" he said.

For many survivors it is still too soon.

"The Rwandan genocide was 17 years ago, but for me it was this morning. It's still that vivid," said retired Lieutenant General Romeo Dallaire. He was the force commander of the U.N. peacekeeping force during the Rwandan genocide. He said it is important for survivors tell their stories so the suffering caused by the brutality of their attackers is not lost to the rest of the world.

"The rest of the world also lost its sense of humanity because it let that slaughter happen. We saw it in the media, we heard about it, it was going on for 100 days and we did nothing," said Dallaire.

## **Archiving the stories**

The Shoah Foundation Institute at the University of Southern California has been collaborating with the Rwandan team collecting the survivor interviews. Established in 1994 by movie director Steven Spielberg after his movie *Shindler's List*, the Shoah Foundation Institute collected 52,000 testimonies of the survivors of the Holocaust.

Now, the institute is training Kamuromsi and his colleagues to better conduct interviews, and about how to store, preserve and archive the survivors' stories. The institute also is collecting video testimonies of the survivors of the mass killings in Cambodia and Armenia.

The executive director of the institute, Stephen Smith, said while each case is different, there are commonalities.

"We absolutely need to be able to compare the causes and the consequences of genocide. If we know what happened and we understand the pattern and the similarities, it gives us that early warning, and nobody knows better than the victims what happens in a situation of genocide, so their voices are a warning for our future," said Smith.

The stories from Rwanda and other countries will be sent to computer servers in California and then distributed to 34 universities and museums around the world, where the voices of the survivors can be heard.