

**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 December 2011

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

Monday, 12 December 2011

Photographers To Collect War Pictures

By Mukeh Mattia

The Sierra Leone Union of Photographers (SLUP), in collaboration with the Sierra Leone Peace Museum (SLPM), with funds provided by the Special Court of Sierra Leone, has organized a day's national workshop on outreach, research and collection of war photos at the Madam Wokie Hotel, Damballa Road in Bo.

Addressing Bo District SLUP officials, a member of the Sierra Leone Peace Museum Management Project, Joseph Dumbuya lauded SLUP members for their timely response to their call to provide pictures of the war.

Mr. Dumbuya enlightened that the Peace Museum, which would be opened in 2012, would be dedicated to preserving and telling the history of the country's decade-long conflict, as well as help to promote peace by helping future generations to understand the impact of the conflict and honoring war victims.

The Peace Museum, Mr. Dumbuya stressed, would also create a memorial on its premises for tourists to visit, pictures of the devastating impact of the war, efforts made to bring peace and to remember those who suffered during the war.

He assured his audience that all the pictures to be collected and donated to the Peace Museum would not be used for any indictorial purpose.

In his statement, the National President of the Sierra Leone Union of Photographers, Stephen Elogima Momoh lauded the Special Court of Sierra Leone, through the Sierra Leone Peace Museum, for the support and urged

his members to fully cooperate and collect all war and relic photographs for posterity pointing out that pictures bring memory.

He admonished his membership to improve themselves so that they can move from the present status of commercial photographing to that of photo journalism.

Earlier in his welcome address, the Vice President of the National Youth Coalition, Allie Katisco Sesay, who chaired the opening ceremony, expressed gratitude to the photography profession of which he is a proud member and encouraged the his colleagues to add more respect to the profession.

On behalf of Government and the Special Court, he appealed to all Sierra Leoneans for their fullest support to the collection of the war photographs.

In their various recommendations at the end of the session, members agreed to explain to their membership, customers and the community about the Peace Museum and its objectives, that photographers and the people of this country go back to their achieves and search for war photographs, that each picture be given accreditation, that the Copyright Act 2011 be observed and lastly that each district executive identify their own crime scenes for any slaughter house to be showed as legacy.

The Regional Chairman, South, Charles Adu Williams, also delivered a meaningful statement.

UN News

Tuesday, 13 December 2011

Ugandan judge elected to serve on UN World Court



The International Court of Justice

The General Assembly and the Security Council today elected a Ugandan jurist to fill the final vacancy on the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the principal judicial organ of the United Nations.

Julia Sebutinde obtained an absolute majority in both the Assembly and the Council, a requirement for successful candidates, during voting this afternoon at UN Headquarters in New York.

Ms. Sebutinde obtained 97 votes in the Assembly, compared to 93 for rival candidate Abdul G. Koroma of Sierra Leone, while in the Council she obtained nine votes and Mr. Koroma received six.

The new judge will serve a nine-year term on the ICJ, also known as the World Court, starting on 5 February next year.

She joins Italy's Giorgio Gaja, Hisashi Owada of Japan, Slovakian Peter Tomka and China's Xue Hanqin, who were all elected early last month during the first round of simultaneous voting in the Assembly and Council.

The Assembly and Council had been deadlocked on the final vacancy, with Ms. Sebutinde obtaining a majority in the Assembly and Mr. Koroma a majority in the Council during previous rounds of voting.

Judges are chosen on the basis of their qualifications, not their nationality, but no two judges can be from the same country. Effort is also taken to ensure that the principal legal systems of the world are reflected in the composition of the court.

Established in 1945, and based in The Hague in the Netherlands, the ICJ settles legal disputes between States and gives advisory opinions on legal questions that have been referred to it by other authorized UN organs.

The Patriotic Vanguard

Wednesday, 14 December 2011

Book Review: From SAS to Blood Diamond Wars



Crossing the River...
 From SAS to Blood Diamond Wars
 By Hamish Ross and Fred Marafono, MBE.

Review by Alfred Munda SamForay, USA.

“He who knows how to swim but has a brother who cannot swim still has a problem”. **Mende Proverb, Sierra Leone.**

The Sierra Leone International Airport at Lungi designated by the International Air Transport Association as FNA is only eight miles by road to Tagrin Ferry Terminal, the principal entry point into the country. In 1994 when one arrived at the ferry terminal one had to decide whether to return to Lungi and take the next available flight to safer shores abroad as many did during the country’s eleven year civil war; or cross the river into Freetown, the capital of Sierra Leone as very few people did during the war. If one decided to venture ten miles across the Sierra Leone River, whether by helicopter, speed boat or ferry, there were no guarantees for safe or expedient arrival to the other side of the river.

Beyond the Sierra Leone River also known as River Rokel, the blue horizon of the Atlantic Ocean is abruptly interrupted by the imposing mountains that gave the country its name by Portuguese explorers Sierra Lyoa, anglicized to Sierra Leone, the Lion Mountains. Beyond these mountains there remained a land of unrest and uncertainty. Between 1991 and 2002 Sierra Leone once known as the Land of Iron and Diamonds acquired the dubious distinction of becoming the land of blood diamond wars. A bloody civil war fought not so much to acquire or hold on to territory but to use the country’s most precious natural resource – gem diamonds – to barter for arms and ammunition on the international arms market. For those inhabitants of Sierra Leone with nowhere else to go there remained only God and the mountains He created to keep watch over them.

But there were a few people who did not have to be in Sierra Leone who chose to cross the river into this man-made hell on earth. Men like former High Commissioner of the United Kingdom to Sierra Leone, Peter Penfold, Nigerian man-of war, Gen. Maxwell Khobe and, of course, the subject of this book, Kauata Marafono (photo), hereafter referred to by his preferred name Fred, a former member of the British elite and highly secretive Special Air Service (SAS). Fred is of Fijian nationality with no ancestral ties to Sierra Leone. The destinies of those who crossed the river into Sierra Leone no doubt became permanently tied to the destiny of the six million people who call Sierra Leone home – for better or for worse. For men such as Fred, history has no choice but to induct them into a fraternity of those who as never before in the Sierra Leone’s tumultuous history vowed to “pledge our devotion, our strength, and our might. Thy cause to defend and to stand for thy right,” as the National Anthem of Sierra Leone so aptly puts it.

This is the story of “From SAS to Blood Diamond Wars” by Dr. Hamish Ross, himself a former member of the Royal Air Force and retired educator who has distinguished himself in the area of historical military figures perhaps best known and perhaps best known for his biography of Blair “Paddy” Mayne, the co-founder of the SAS. As with his previous works, Dr. Ross once again has deployed his pen to tell the story of a man not quite unlike Paddy Mayne. Two men actually – Fred Marafano and Samuel Hinga Norman – both retired military men. As Deputy Minister of Defence, Hinga Norman was hired by the people of Sierra Leone to defend his country of birth without the means to do so. The other, Fred Marafono was hired by a brotherhood known simply as Executive Outcomes to defend a country he may or may never have heard of before he joined the brotherhood. Both men born about the

same time like twins of different parents – Fred in Fiji in December 1940 and Norman in Sierra Leone in January 1940.

Like Hinga Norman, Fred came from a warrior family; his father was retired from British military service and encouraged his son to follow in his footsteps. Hinga Norman's father, Ngolo Vonjo, was a warrior in his own rights. His frequent and persistent wars against his Temne neighbours in the north earned him the nickname Noorma, which in the Mende language means "one who persists in a cause" The name was later anglicized to Norman and became the family name when Hinga Norman's elder brother, Albert, joined the Royal Sierra Leone Military Forces. It was the older sibling who encouraged Hinga Norman to join the army at the age of fourteen and later the Royal Academy at Mons. It was the war between the Temnes in the north and the Mendes in the south which Hinga Norman's father championed that established the boundary between Mende land in the south and the Temnes in the north at a place by the Taia River the Mendes called Mo-Ngele (Mongere) "the place of the great sky" beyond the reach of their enemies.

Both Fred and Hinga Norman who might as well have come from different planets fast became as though they were twins by different mothers who attended different schools together. They were like two parallel universes that altered their courses purposely in order to collide or collude with each other on some cosmic grand plan. It was as though they were appointed by God to meet at what Winston Churchill would have called Sierra Leone's finest hour. Barely days after meeting each other Fred and Norman became comrades in arms. While in Bo Fred came to know through his own sources that the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels were mingling with the townspeople looking for an easy target to kidnap or assassinate.

"Until they made their move, though, it was not possible to determine friend from foe. However, there was one likely target – Chief Hinga Norman." Sensing imminent danger to his friend, Fred took upon himself the role of a savior. "As he was paying the bill, the hands of the clock on the wall in Reception were pointing at 10 o'clock; Chief Norman arrived and Fred took him by the arm and led him straight to his waiting vehicle." (Pp. 13 – 14).

As the days progressed, it was fast becoming clear to both men that the destiny of one was becoming the destiny of the other. "And as he thought over what he had done in Bo, extracting Hinga Norman from a vulnerable situation, Fred realized he was forming a commitment to the man. He responded to Hinga Norman's integrity" (P. 15).

All the years I knew Chief Norman, I came to learn that when he first meets someone for the first time he assessed the person thoroughly as to whether they really were what they said they were and from there on treated them accordingly. Obviously, this was precisely what he did to Fred Marafono.

"He said 'Fred,' and he looked at me for a long time, and he smiled and he said 'Fred,' you have a country, you don't need to get involved in this sort of situation; you have a country that you can go to. Why do you get involved?" This is perhaps the point of this book. This was Hinga Norman's way of saying, why did you cross the river. And having crossed the river and seeing the hopelessness of our situation, why didn't go back to your country?

"Chief, if I was to turn my back on you, every time I heard something about Sierra Leone on the news, especially you fighting the war, I would feel very guilty for leaving you when you most needed me. I would carry that burden for the rest of my life." This was the SAS code as Fred understood it. This is the code of Special Forces all over the world; it is the motto of the United States Marine Corps - Semper Fideles – "Always Faithful". Never leave brother or sister behind, dead, alive or wounded. As a soldier and a traditional Mende warrior, Hinga Norman understood this as well. As the Mende people say, "He who knows how to swim but has a brother, who cannot swim, still has a problem." From here on, whether they each realized it or not Hinga Norman's problem was now Fred Marafono's problem; and perhaps most importantly, Hinga Norman's country was now Fred's country; and his people were now Fred's people

So you know by now that this book is not a book about military history, espionage or mercenaries. From SAS to Blood Diamond Wars is a story of those who with superior skills and much of the advantages of this world, decided to cross the river to be their brother's and sister's keeper. It is the story of six million men, women and children trapped behind a river they could not cross on their own; endangered by a band of sadistic rebels called the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) led by an aimless revolutionary called Foday Saybana Sankoh and told by one of the world's most adventurous story tellers. In its historical context, From SAS... is the story of those who persist

in a cause to the end, no matter what the outcome. Of those who as Jesus Christ stated, put their hands on the plow and never look back, whatever the cost.

Even if you are not a student of military history; even if you have never heard of Sierra Leone; even if you never saw Hollywood's version of the Sierra Leone story called Blood Diamonds, starring Leonardo DeCaprio, you too are about to cross the river into one of Africa's mysterious stories of blood, sweat and courage.

As a native born Sierra Leonean; as one who met Fred Marafono on several occasions during his war years in Sierra Leone; as kith and kin to the greatest hero of the war in Sierra Leone, Chief Samuel Hinga Norman, and member of the High Command of the Sierra Leone Civil Defence Forces (SL-CDF), the organization of civil warriors Norman founded to defend the State when the constitutional army turned against the people; as one of the authors of the May 2001 ceasefire agreement between the rebels and the CDF, this is also my story. Indeed it is the story of all peace loving men and women everywhere who did what was within their power to bring peace and civility to Sierra Leone. By so eloquently telling the story of Fred Marafono and his kinship with the principal defender of Sierra Leone, Sam Hinga Norman, and Hamish Ross has told our story and the story of the "Land that we love, our Sierra Leone".

The Peter Penfold Connection

From SAS to Blood Diamond Wars is actually a book about three men: Peter Penfold, Hinga Norman and Fred Marafano. It is not in a true sense a story of the lives of these men; rather it is the story of their careers. More correctly, it is the story of how the brilliant careers of Penfold, Norman and Marafano came to an end. It is like three distant planets colliding at a time and place in history and each bringing his career and his sense of duty and honor to its logical, or rather illogical conclusion.

Peter Penfold was a career diplomat in Her Majesty's Service. As High Commissioner of the United Kingdom to the former British colony of Sierra Leone Penfold's devotion to the Crown, the people of Sierra Leone and what his considered as his duty to preserve the nascent democracy in Sierra Leone not only put him in the bull's eye for political correctness gone amuck in the Foreign Office, it also put him in the line of fire in Sierra Leone's blood diamond wars.

"In March (1997) a man arrived in the country who would become so committed to supporting this fragile democracy that it would cost him his diplomatic career, but earn him the highest honour that Sierra Leone could confer: the new British High Commissioner, Peter Penfold." (Page 55) By the time Penfold left Sierra Leone and ultimately the diplomatic service, it is not clear whether he had re-shaped Sierra Leone's history or whether the country which had become his home away from home had shaped or re-shaped his life for good. What is clear from the book is that Penfold's admiration for the people of Sierra Leone for their courage almost under impossible odds, is only matched by country's admiration for perhaps the most colourful and controversial diplomat in Sierra Leone's history as a sovereign notion. For his part, Penfold does not camouflage his feelings about Sierra Leone with diplomatic jargon.

"They showed me how to remove an illegal military government peacefully and to usher in a democratic civilian government." One story among many had a particular and enduring influence on Penfold. "One person who had had his hand chopped off by the rebels because he had voted was asked how he now felt about democracy and about voting. And he waved the other hand said, I have this hand, I can use this one next time to vote." This caused Penfold to wonder if the guardians of democracy in Britain (or anywhere else in the Western world would bother to vote if they feared losing a hand. "I there was fully committed to the struggle to ensure that this fledgling democracy did not wither and perish." (Page 55)

Away from Hinga Norman, Peter Penfold whom the Temnes of the Northern Region of Sierra Leone crowned Komrabai, continues to shape (or be shaped by) Sierra Leone and its people. Komrabai is an honoured citizen among the Temnes much like the title "sagamore" was used by the American Indian Tribes of the northeastern United States to describe a lesser chief or a great man among the tribe to whom the true chief - or Paramount Chief in Sierra Leone - would look for wisdom and advice. To this day "The Sagamore of the Wabash" award is given by the Governor of the American state of Indiana as the highest honour the state can award an individual. It is a personal tribute to those who have crossed the river and rendered a distinguished service to others.

“Honorary Paramount Chiefs are few and far in between in the twentieth century, the Queen and Prince Philip had the title conferred on them, and now Peter enfold joined the ranks of a select number. At risk to his own life, he had responded to the country’s need at the time of the coup, and he sustained strong support over the months its government was in exile, and he did so (as it turned out) at a cost to his professional career. But not to his standing as a man.” (Page 116)

The Mystique of the Kamajors

It is impossible to tell the story of the war in Sierra Leone without the group that Chief Hinga Norman organized to resist the junta and restore the constitutional government of President Tejan Kabbah – the Sierra Leone Civil Defence Forces (SL-CDF, or CDF for short). The CDF comprised of six traditional hunting societies from various ethnic groups throughout the country, namely Donsos, Gbethis, Hunting Society, Kapras, Kamajors and Tamaboros. But for most people inside and outside the country, the largest group, Kamajors comprising mainly of traditional hunters from Norman’s own Mende tribe from the South and East of the country are the dominant group and the words CDF and Kamajors are often used interchangeably.

Despite their ethnic and regional diversity, what members of all the CDF shared in common was their belief in the supernatural - in particular, their belief in their divine empowerment to be invincible to bullets, fire, snake bites and poisoning. Although Westerners find such claims especially the one about being invincible to bullets hard if not impossible to believe, once you spend time with these people as Fred and some of his Western colleagues did, you are compelled to admire, if not believe along with them. And if you are already a believer in the biblical miracles of how the Hebrews crossed the Red Sea or how they were able to bring down the walls of Jericho on their way to the Promised Land, you will find it easier to believe the mystique of the Kamajors. “At the time we didn’t realize why because from that moment on it was the turning point, I believe because if weapons were to get to these people – they have this belief that they are invincible”. (Page.90) This is how the Fred describes how he felt after witnessing the “bullet diversion” demonstration the Kamajors had shown at their home at Base Zero at Talia, Yawboko Chiefdom with a chicken hanging from a rope being shot at by a bodyguard to ECOMOG Task Force Commander, later Sierra Leone’s Chief of Defence Staff, Gen. Maxwell Khobe.

“Whatever the reason for the bodyguard consistently missing the target with his own weapon (later there were stories about initiates to the Kamajors fire at with doctored ammunition and having survived, convinced it was by some miraculous power, they believed themselves to be invulnerable) this demonstration begs questions”. Although one of Fred’s colleagues named Juba (the pilot) tried to offer some rather convoluted explanation, it seems the book somewhat convinces the reader that there was indeed some truth to the Kamajor mystique – whatever its source.

In the version of the story that I got from Chief Norman, following this rather unusual demonstration, he instructed the Kamajors never again to repeat this performance in the presence of Westerners. Norman’s fear was that if Westerners became convinced that there was a group of warriors in Sierra Leone who had such miraculous ability to immune themselves from bullets it would scare the Westerners and cause them to destroy the society. In fact Mr. Norman was convinced that part of the purpose for establishing the Special Court for Sierra Leone was to get first hand testimonies from Kamajor witnesses of the power behind the movement.

Last Enemy: The Special Court for Sierra Leone

Even though this book set out to discuss the path Fred Marafono took from the SAS to Blood Diamond Wars, none the less, the book does tremendous justice to the man Fred had taken as a friend, mentor and comrade-in-arms, Sam Hinga Norman. From Chapter 2 to the end of the book, the authors make Hinga Norman integral to the story. Although not much is said about Norman’s early life, schooling or his military career in the colonial as well as Republic of Sierra Leone Military Forces, the reader gets a healthy dose of Hinga Norman the soldier-statesman; Hinga Norman the family man as well as Hinga Norman the man who as his name Norman (or Noorma, one who persists) implies stays true to his personal beliefs in himself and his country to the very end.

The book also brings into focus the love-hate relationship between President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah and Chief Hinga Norman. Anyone who worked with these two men as I did during the interregnum was well aware that Norman and Kabbah were like night and day – they saw life and their roles in government differently. Norman was a free spender to whom money was an instrument to do what he liked to do most – make friends and influence people and events. Or to provide for his endless list of dependents. Kabbah is a thrifty man both in his private as well as public

life. Norman was not very easy to provoke and was easy to forgive if not forget. Kabbah recalled petty grudges for years on end.

It all came to a head on March 10 2003 while Mr. Norman was at his office at the Ministry of Internal Affairs. According to Norman, his phone rang and it was President Kabbah on the other end of the phone. He said he just called to say hello. But a few minutes later, Norman was arrested, placed in handcuffs and carried off to an old slave dungeon on Bonthe Island off the coast of Sierra Leone. As late as a couple of years ago when I spoke to Mr. Kabbah, he swore to me on his mother's grave that he had no fore-knowledge of the arrest of his minister in charge of police, immigrations, drug enforcement and boarder control. About his insistent denials, Peter Penfold says:

As far as I am concerned, he had no excuse either way. He is damned if he did know and he is damned if he didn't know. And he is damned because, when it did happen he didn't say a thing. Because if he did then he was obviously acquiescing – and that was terrible, because he knew it was happening to a person who he owed his position to; if he didn't know, as far as I am concerned, he is damned because he is the president of this country, it is his own policemen who were going to arrest and drag out his Minister of Internal Affairs.” (Page 163).

A very spiritual man, Chief Hinga Norman saw this danger emerging:

“I had a dream – resident Kabbah said he was tired of my business, he was therefore going to get rid of me. He drew a machete from the sleeve of his gown to strike, but before he could, I automatically woke up.” (Page156).

The Special Court for Sierra Leone was the result of a special arrangement between the government of Sierra Leone under former President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, a retired UN bureaucrat, and the United Nations. Its state purpose was to try those who bore the greatest responsibility for war crimes, crimes against humanity and violations of ordinary humanitarian laws during the eleven-year civil war in Sierra Leone. Although conceived out of noble ideas, these ideas got derailed by both local politicians in Sierra Leone - least of all. President Kabbah himself -who simply did not have the testicular fortitude to man up to international politics, to wit:

“And indeed the pattern of violations by alleged perpetrators show the massive imbalance among the combatants: the RUF plus an unidentified group of rebels account for almost 70%; the AFRC almost 10%; the Sierra Leone Army almost 7%; the CDF almost 6%; a category termed unknown 5%; and ECOMOG almost 1%.” (Page157)

This according to data obtained from the Truth & Reconciliation database. Yet the Special Court brought to trial an equal number of inditees, 3 AFRC, 3 CDF and 3 RUF. The leader of the RUF, Cpl. Foday Sankoh dies in custody. The RUF field commander Sam “Maskita” Bockarie, died without being brought to trial and the leader of the junta that allowed the rebels to enter Freetown on January 6, 1999 resulting in the deaths of over 6,000 civilians, escaped and was later declared dead.

Although the book does not cover Norman's early career in the Sierra Leone Army, it is worth noting that his first brush with death came when he was found guilty of treason for his role in the military intervention of the 1967 general elections and placed on death row by then Prime Minister and later President Siaka P. Stevens. During the early part of the war, Norman was also the target of the RUF as later confessed to him by his fellow RUF inditees of the Special Court. While in Liberia trying to organize the CDF to reverse the AFRC coup, Norman was also targeted by then Liberian President, Charles Taylor, presently on trial for war crimes allegedly arming the RUF rebels in exchange for diamonds in the Sierra Leone civil war infamously referred to as the blood diamond war.

Like a cat with nine lives, having survived all these near-death experiences, Sam Hinga Norman finally met his last enemy in the Special Court set up by his friend and former boss, President Tejan Kabbah, for whom Norman had twice taken up arms to restore to power. Kabbah's government was removed first by his own military in May 1997 and then by the RUF in January 1999. With a friend like Kabbah, Norman obviously did not need any enemies. But he did have one that he could not escape from: The so-called Special Court for Sierra Leone. So-called, because the only thing special about the Special Court for Sierra Leone is that it was full of lies and incompetent prosecutors with no prior experience with international jurisprudence. To wit,

“On the day that Hinga Norman was arrested, Special Court Registrar, the Briton, Robin Vincent, disclosed that Hinga Norman would be held in a country outside of Sierra Leone. In reality, he was already on his way to a cell in Bonthe.” (Page 157)

Mr. Norman kept a detailed account of his activities throughout his incarceration from Bonthe Island to almost the last day of his life. This book appears to rely heavily on the entries in that diary.

“In his prison cell, the man who has cause to feel wronged and abandoned was allowed a notebook and a pen; his first entry was made four days later. In it and in the earliest entries, he writes not expressing feelings of self pity or outrage at his plight: He describes his dreams.” (Page 159).

It appears officials at the Special Court or the government of Sierra Leone must have been aware of Mr. Norman’s journal. For shortly after his death in Dakar, someone frantically searched his room trying to get hold of this diary, but it was too late, the diary had already left the country and is now part of the Norman Family Papers in Sierra Leone and abroad.

Following the botched-up operation to replace the hi he had broken during his arrest, Norman wrote what were to be his last words in his diary:

“The operation was successfully carried out, and Hinga Norman’s adopted son, Lansana Jawara, arrived in Senegal to be of support,” he wrote. “He (Jawara) turned up at L’Hopital de La Dantec, only to be told that his father had not been admitted there but at Hospital Aristede Le Dantec.” (Contrary to another example the lies and misinformation of the Special Court). (age 185).

And then it all ended so suddenly...

.”Lansana was informed that the nursing staff had to go home “because security closed the wing where Chief Norman was admitted at at night. From February through until q9, there was bleeding from the wound. The following day, Hinga Norman collapsed and required a transfusion of two pints of blood. And the next morning, after breakfast, he seemed to be at the point of collapsing again. Dr. Harding, the Special Court’s doctor was there; other doctors were called, and one suggested the patient be moved to intensive care.

But Dr. Harding said the hospital needed to go through security procedure first before transferring Chief Norman to the intensive care unit. At this stage I asked Dr. Harding which he thought was his priority, the security clearance or the life of my father, but he simly ignored me.

Lansana was then asked to leave the room, but he refused. A few minutes later, Oscar Lina, the Old Lion, was dead.” (Page 185)

The book concludes with fight the rebels, our appendices about the Swiss Consul-General hostage crisis, a comparative cost of the private companies hired to fight the rebels, the testimony of Sir David Richards for Norman at the Special Court, and the observations on the autopsy of Chief Hinga Norman by the former Vice President of Sierra Leone, Dr. Albert Joe Demby

Final Comments

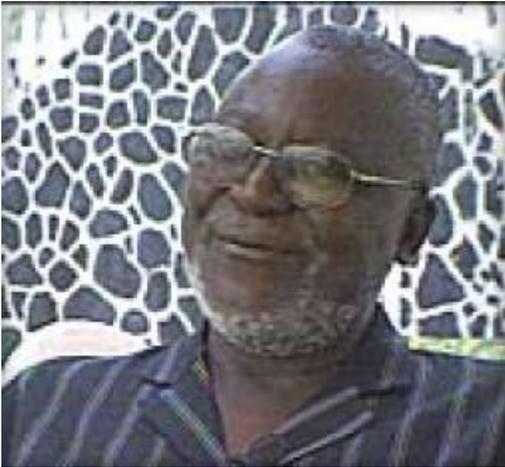
It goes without saying that from the accounts given above, that Hinga Norman,s blood is on the hands of so many people – the Sierra Leone Police who caused the injury that led to his death; Special court which constantly lied about Mr. Norman’s medical conditions to deceive the public about the true state of his health; Ray Cardinal, Chief Detention at the Special Court; Dr. Donald Harding, the physician who swore, according to the Hippocratic Oath to “first d, to name a few. no harm” but refused to allow Mr. Norman appropriate medical treatment for his condition.

But the man who bears the greatest responsibility (to use the jargon of the Special Court) for the atrocities committed against the people of Sierra Leone, who saw it coming and did nothing to prevent it; who twice boarded the helicopter and left the people behind the river they could not cross; who betrayed his own friend and confidante and handed him over to be murdered in cold blood, was Alhaji Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, President of the Republic of

Sierra Leone, 1996 – 2007. But if there was any redeeming value to Kabbah’s betrayal and the subsequent death of Chief Hinga Norman, it is that he forever sealed the brotherhood among the three principal characters in this book: Peter Penfold, Kauata Fred Marafano and Samuel Hinga Norman.

One of the shortcomings of the book is that while it discusses at length the arrest, trial and subsequent death in prison of Chief Hinga Norman, it makes no mention of the two men who were indicted and tried along with him, former Director of War for the CDF, Moinina Fofana, and former High Priest (Chief Initiator) of the Kamajors, Allieu Musa Kondewa, the two main sources of the mystic and mystery of the Kamajor Society. Both men after being convicted of war crimes, crimes against humanity and ordinary humanitarian war for their part in restoring democratic government back to Sierra Leone are presently serving 15 and 20 year sentences at Mpanga Prisons in southern Rwanda.

Another problem I found with the book is that the year is often missing when discussing critical time lines as is the case with the arrival of Chief Peter Penfold in Sierra Leone. “In March (1997) a man arrived in the country who would become so committed to supporting this fragile democracy that it would cost him his diplomatic career...”. Either the reader new the year or would have had to page back in order to find out the year Penfold arrived in the country, or would have to deduce that from the preceding discussions. If one is not a student or fan of military history, one might find the details of Fred’s extraordinary years with the SAS somewhat tedious. But if one ignores such mundane details and focus on the extraordinary coincidence of Fred’s military escapades, Penfolds diplomatic career and Norman’s military and political careers, *From SAS to Blood Diamond Wars* becomes a living, breathing account of the un-civil war in Sierra Leone.



Aside from the minor handicaps stated above, the book appears to have been well researched. Ross and Marafono seem to have gone to extraordinary lengths to uncover documents hitherto unheard of, or unavailable to the general public. In particular, Fred Marafono’s own notes, conversations from the Norman’s children, this writer’s written submission to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and perhaps, most crucial, the previously undisclosed diary of Mr. Norman.

The late Samuel Hinga Norman.

For those with detailed knowledge of the war in Sierra Leone, the book offers a refresher course. For others with little or no knowledge of the war, the book connects the dots and fills the gaps of knowledge of events one may have heard of without the proper context. It may

well be the first and perhaps only detailed account of the war from the points of view of those who fought on the side of the people and government of Sierra Leone.

In one version of the song, War is Hell, the writer says:

Close your eyes, say goodbye, and take your last breath
Death and destruction is all you’ll ever know.

The purpose of war – the only purpose of war, in my opinion – is to kill or be killed. Only dreamers and extreme idealists hope otherwise. In that sense, there is no such thing as war crimes or crimes against humanity in the course of human warfare, because war itself is a crime against humanity. The war in Sierra Leone was no exception. This is the stage on which Peter Penfold, Fred Marafono and Hinga Norman acted out the last scene of some thing akin to a Greek tragedy. For Fred and Penfold, it was the beginning of the end of their brilliant careers as soldier and diplomat, respectively. For Norman, it was the end of his life. As he once told me during a visit to the United States, he did not kill people because he hated them or out of malice or revenge. He killed people – when he had to - because that was his job as the principal defender of the State and the people.



Peter Komrabai Penfold.

From SAS to Blood Diamond Wars was formally launched June 30, 2011 in London. The Sierra Leone High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, H.E. Eddie Turay, and former High Commissioner of the United Kingdom to Sierra Leone, Chief Peter Penfold, as well as members of the family of Late Chief Samuel Hinga Norman graced the occasion. The book is available in hardcover in the United States from Amazon.com, Barnes & Noble or Pen & Sword, the publishers as well as a variety of on-line sources from \$26.00 – 39.00. It is inspiring as it is informative. It leaves us with the question we have all asked ourselves over and over: What if? What if there had been no Fred Marafono, no Peter Penfold, no Hinga Norman? Would there be today a place called Sierra Leone?

BBC Online

Monday, December 12, 2011

Africa's Fatou Bensouda is new ICC chief prosecutor

By Farouk Chothia BBC Africa



With the African Union (AU) having been a fierce critic of outgoing International Criminal Court chief prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo, it will be hoping for a better relationship with his successor, Fatou Bensouda - the first African to hold a top post at the ICC.

The AU lobbied intensely for the 50-year-old Gambian, endorsing her candidature in June after repeatedly accusing Mr Moreno-Ocampo - an Argentinian whose nine-year term expires next year - of selective justice by only investigating atrocities in Africa.

"Frankly speaking, we are not against the ICC. What we are against is Ocampo's justice," AU commission chairman Jean Ping said earlier this year.

Bensouda clearly satisfied all of the political and merit-based criteria to become the ICC's chief prosecutor" *Mark Kesten Law blogger.*

"What have we done to justify being an example to the world? Are there no worst countries, like Myanmar [Burma]?"

The appointment of Mrs Bensouda, who has been Mr Moreno-Ocampo's deputy throughout his tenure, is expected to be unanimously approved at a meeting of the legislative body of the ICC, the Assembly of States Parties (ASP), in New York on Monday.

Mrs Bensouda, a former senior legal adviser at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, which is trying key figures responsible for the 1994 genocide in the Central African state, got the job ahead of three other short-listed candidates.

They were Andrew Cayley, the British co-prosecutor at the Khmer Rouge Tribunal in Cambodia; Tanzania's chief justice Mohamed Chande Othman; and Canadian war crimes specialist Robert Petit.

"The AU has been adamant that an African candidate would be selected, and they got their wish," writes UK-based law blogger Mark Kesten on the Justice in Conflict blog.

He says the AU's hand was strengthened by the fact that African countries form the largest bloc in the ASP. Yet the ICC's various organs - including the presidency and registry - were headed by people from other continents.

"Bensouda clearly satisfied all of the political and merit-based criteria to become the ICC's chief prosecutor," Mr Kesten says.

'Great intellect'

Born into a polygamous family - her father had two wives - Mrs Bensouda is married to a Gambian-Moroccan businessman. They have three children - one of whom is adopted.



Fatou Bensouda vows to continue championing the cause of African victims

"I come from a big family, let's say it that way," she said in an interview earlier this month with the AFP news agency.

She told the BBC's Newshour programme that her African background would give her an additional insight into life on the continent, which would help her perform her new job.

However, she said she had been "proud" to have worked with Mr Moreno-Ocampo and so may not bring a radically different approach.

Mrs Bensouda was once a politician, with Gambian President Yahya Jammeh - who took power in a coup in 1994 and is accused of harassing the opposition and the press - appointing her as justice minister in 1998.

But the two fell out and Mr Jammeh sacked her about two years later.

"She was relieved of her duties while she was abroad," Gambian opposition leader Ousainou Darboe told the BBC.

Fatou Bensouda at a glance

- Grew up in the Gambian capital, Banjul
- Father was a civil servant
- Studied law in Lagos, Nigeria
- Became The Gambia's first international maritime law expert
- Joined the justice ministry in 1987 as a deputy public prosecutor
- Became Gambian attorney general and justice minister in 1998
- Worked for Tanzania-based International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda
- Deputy Chief Prosecutor at the ICC since 2004

"She is a fantastic person, and showed genuine concern about human rights issues [in The Gambia]."

Mrs Bensouda's appointment as chief prosecutor has been welcomed in the legal profession and among non-governmental organisations.

"She always struck us a very thoughtful person of great intellect," says Human Rights Watch senior counsel Liz Evenson.

A senior lecturer at the Melbourne Law School in Australia, Kevin Jon Heller, says Mr Cayley would have been an "excellent" chief prosecutor, but Mrs Bensouda was also "very qualified" for the job.

"She offers the best of both worlds - an ICC insider who offers institutional continuity, which will be critical in the coming years, but has a strong, independent voice that has not been tainted by Moreno-Ocampo's incompetent tenure," he writes on the *Opinio Juris* blog.

"Having spoken to numerous individuals involved in the ICC, from OTP [Office of The Prosecutor] staff to legal officers in chambers to defence attorneys, it is clear that Bensouda was the primary reason that the OTP didn't fall completely apart over the past eight years."

"We say that the ICC is targeting Africans, but all of the victims in our cases in Africa are African victims"
Fatou Bensouda Incoming ICC chief prosecutor

"I have also had the good fortune to spend time with Bensouda over the past couple of years. She is, to put it mildly, an incredibly impressive woman: smart, articulate, thoughtful (a welcome change from Moreno-Ocampo) and compassionate."

South Africa-based legal expert Shadrack Ghutto believes that Mrs Bensouda will keep a lower profile than Mr Moreno-Ocampo.

"He had a media-attracting personality and a propensity to make pronouncements before going through judicial processes," Mr Ghutto told the BBC.

"The chief prosecutor must not overshadow the court. I think it will now come to the fore."

The ICC has so far investigated conflicts in seven countries - all in Africa: Sudan; Libya; Ivory Coast; Kenya; Uganda; the Democratic Republic of Congo; and the Central African Republic.

Several of the cases are in court, with a verdict in the first trial - that of eastern DR Congo militia leader Thomas Lubanga - expected early next year.

'No shrinking violet'



"For many observers, it [the case] has been going on for too long, but a lot of things needed to be worked out," says Ms Evenson of Human Rights Watch.

Luis Moreno-Ocampo has antagonised Africa's leaders

"The two other trials [including that of former DR Congo vice-president and rebel leader Jean Pierre-Bemba] are going much more quickly."

Despite AU accusations of "selective justice", Mrs Bensouda is unapologetic about the ICC's focus on African conflicts.

"We say that the ICC is targeting Africans, but all of the victims in our cases in Africa are African victims," she said earlier this year.

"They are not from another continent. And they're the ones who are suffering these crimes."

Mr Heller says that while Mrs Bensouda will avoid "needlessly alienating" governments, he expects her to vigorously pursue justice.

"From what I know about her, she'll do what she believes is right - no matter how many feathers get ruffled. So if states think they are getting a shrinking violet, they're bound for serious disappointment," he says.

Mr Ghutto says for the sake of the ICC's credibility, Mrs Bensouda must address concerns that only Africans are being targeted by investigating conflicts in other parts of the world.

"The court has to be seen to be international in the way it operates," he says.

"Cases must be brought without fear, favour or prejudice."

The ICC says it is conducting preliminary investigations into eight other countries, including Afghanistan, Colombia and Korea.

Ms Evenson says part of the problem is that many powerful states, including the US and China, have refused to recognise the ICC, meaning that they cannot be investigated unless the UN Security Council - which is a "highly politicised" body - agrees.

"There has to be pressure to get more countries to join the ICC," she says.

Reuters

Monday, 12 December 2011

Horrifying legacy of Khmer Rouge

They robbed a country of an entire generation and deserve to pay the ultimate price for their foul work

Simon Kent, Toronto Sun



Former Khmer Rouge leader “Brother Number Two,” Nuon Chea, in the court room at the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia on the outskirts of Phnom Penh last week.

There was a strange, little-remarked quote buried in the international news last week that shouldn't go unchallenged.

The No. 2 leader of Cambodia's brutal Khmer Rouge regime told a court in Phnom Penh he and his murderous comrades were not “bad people.”

Further, Nuon Chea, trusted deputy of Pol Pot and one of three Maoist leaders accused of crimes against humanity at a UN-backed tribunal, denied any wrong doing.

Which must be news to the few remaining relatives of the estimated 2.2 million Cambodians who died during the Khmer Rouge's 1970s reign of terror.

It must also surprise the 1,100 Canadian military personnel assigned to Cambodia between February 1992 and September 1993 to serve in the United Nations Transitional Authority Cambodia (UNTAC).

Canada provided the military component of UNTAC with staff officers, force communications specialists and mine clearance personnel. The latter did their dangerous work on the Mekong River and inland at the disputed Thai/Laotian border.

I was there to cover both the ceasefire and lead-up to the 1993 elections. Like the Canadian servicemen and women, I saw the Khmer Rouge's legacy first hand.

Walking the streets of the capital was a journey through an open wound. An occupying Vietnamese army had just been booted out after they had supplanted the Khmer Rouge in 1979.

The evidence of occupation was everywhere, from ruined infrastructure to entire family groups wiped from the face of the earth.

The Khmer Rouge were efficient, cold-blooded murderers.

A few days after they assumed full control in 1975 they ordered concrete poured into Phnom Penh's major sewers.

Then they turned off the water and electricity and emptied the hospitals of patients.

They announced Year Zero and all history of what they called Democratic Kampuchea was to begin from that moment onwards.

“Dear Leader” Pol Pot's agrarian revolution required the abandonment of the capital and movement of all city dwellers to the countryside.

What follows is some of what I heard, first-hand, from the survivors.

Tens of thousands of men, women and children, everyone from the young to grandparents, were marched into the fields.

Those who fell by the wayside were shot on the spot. No time for burials. Relatives just had to keep marching.

The Khmer Rouge asked anyone wearing glasses to step to one side. They were shot. In their perverted belief system, anyone with glasses was an intellectual, to be killed.

Soft hands? You were unaccustomed to the toil of the proletariat and shot.

Speak a foreign language? Possess a university degree? Pregnant or carrying a child? All executed by the roadside.

The Khmer Rouge turned the city's beautiful main library into a piggery. It was next to the major international press accommodation in the crumbling French colonial Hotel Le Royal.

Every morning, I'd step out into the clamour of an open city to be surrounded by young boys with AK-47s slung over their shoulders touting a motorbike ride/lunch/sightseeing/their sister — perhaps all four. The cost was around \$5 US.

There was no inside or outside the wire as you'd find in contemporary militarized cities like Kabul or Baghdad.

Just chaos and nights of wild gunfire in the distance.

Before I left Cambodia I went to the infamous killing fields, where those who eventually stopped toiling in the fields were murdered.

It was a square kilometer pile of bones and bits of discarded clothing, paper, trenching tools and open pits of more bones.

So, in a way, Nuon Chea is right. The Khmer Rouge weren't “bad people”.

They were far worse. They robbed a country of an entire generation. They deserve to pay the ultimate price for their foul work.

The trial of Nuon Chea continues this week.

BBC Online

Tuesday, 13 December 2011

ICC refers Malawi to UN over Sudan's Bashir



African leaders have called for the ICC to suspend President Omar al-Bashir's arrest warrant

The International Criminal Court (ICC) has referred Malawi to the UN Security Council for refusing to arrest Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir.

Malawi hosted Mr Bashir in October in defiance of an ICC arrest warrant for him on charges of genocide in Darfur.

Malawi said Mr Bashir enjoyed presidential immunity, and it would not violate African Union policy by arresting him.

Three other African countries have already been referred to the Council.

These include Kenya, where a judge last month issued his own warrant for Mr Bashir's arrest, sparking a diplomatic row, which was resolved after Kenya's government said it would not arrest Sudan's president.

Many African leaders accuse the ICC of only investigating alleged war crimes in Africa and ignoring those committed elsewhere.

Immunity rejected

Mr Bashir was the first head of state to be indicted by the ICC, which accused him of genocide and war crimes in Darfur.

He denies the charges, saying they are politically motivated.

Accusations against Omar al-Bashir

Genocide

- Killing members of the Fur, Masalit and Zaghawa ethnic groups
- Causing these groups serious bodily or mental harm
- Inflicting conditions of life calculated to bring about these groups' physical destruction

Crimes against humanity

- Murder
- Extermination
- Forcible transfer
- Rape
- Torture

War crimes

- Attacks on civilians in Darfur
- Pillaging towns and villages

ICC spokesman Fadi el-Abdallah told the AFP news agency it would be up to the UN Security Council to "determine what measures they will judge appropriate" against Malawi.

Malawi has ratified the treaty establishing the ICC but said it was not its "business" to arrest Mr Bashir.

The ICC said its judges rejected the argument that Mr Bashir enjoyed immunity as a head of state.

"The judges noted that immunity for heads of state before international courts has been rejected time and time again, dating all the way back to World War I," it said in a statement.

Chad, Kenya and Djibouti have also been referred to the UN Security Council for refusing to arrest Mr Bashir, even though they recognise the ICC.

Last month, a Kenyan court criticised the government for failing to arrest Mr Bashir when he visited in August and issued its own warrant.

Kenyan Foreign Minister Moses Wetangula said the government would appeal against the ruling and it would not arrest Mr Bashir if he visited again.

"We have voiced concerns about the manner in which the ICC has been pursuing African leaders and leaving leaders with much, much heavier responsibility of human rights and murderous actions," he said, pointing to the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Some 2.7 million people have fled their homes since the conflict began in Darfur in 2003, and the UN says about 300,000 have died - mostly from disease.

Sudan's government says the conflict has killed about 12,000 people and the number of dead has been exaggerated for political reasons.

The New Dawn (Monrovia)

Tuesday, 13 December 2011

Africa: The Call for Africa to Arrest Former President George Bush

Paul Yeenie Harry

The Issues Desk wishes to look at Amnesty International's recent call for either of three African countries to which former President George Bush were to visit to arrest the former president for international crimes. The countries are Ethiopia, Tanzania and Zambia.

Frankly, Amnesty International is one of those international organizations that we regard highly, not because of its name, but because of the kind of work it has done and is doing in the interest of humanity, justice, good governance and accountability around the world.

Amnesty International's audacity and tenacity to call for the apprehension of President George Bush is a move that further stamps the organization's unbiasedness and seriousness. The organization called for and supported the arrest and trial of Charles Taylor. It called for and supported the arrest and trial of Laurent Gbagbo. They are two former African leaders. Amnesty International called for the trial of the late Muammar Gaddafi. He, too, was an African leader. It has also called for the trial of Omar Al-Bashir, another African leader.

Who would be brave to accuse Amnesty International of supporting the arrest and trial of only African leaders in the face of its open and sustained campaign to arrest and prosecute George Bush for international crimes, including torture? The organization has lived up to the true meaning of its name and functions.

Many have said that the failure of the International Criminal Court to issue an arrest warrant on George Bush or about prosecuting him shows that the ICC is biased towards leaders of developing or African countries. Those accusing the ICC indicate that, besides the late Milosevic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, all the other leaders whose arrests have been announced, or whose trials have started, are African leaders.

It is not only the ICC that is silent on the arrest or trial of George Bush. All western governments are silent on it, too. Great Britain has said nothing about it. France has said nothing about it. Canada has not said a word. Australia is no different.

On the arrest and trial of Charles Taylor, they were all on it day and night. They continued the campaign until Taylor was arrested and sent to The Hague for prosecution. And there are reports that they - the same western governments - will see to it that he Taylor is found guilty and imprisoned somewhere in their world. The mention of Taylor in this fashion does not suggest that I oppose his prosecution.

They - the same western governments - got behind Laurent Gbagbo until he was arrested and sent to The Hague. Like in the case of Taylor, it is believed that he, too, will be found guilty, no matter what, and will be imprisoned somewhere in their world. Discussing the arrest and trial of Laurent Gbagbo does not in any way presuppose that I am against his prosecution.

The same western governments sought the arrest of Gaddafi. They issued an arrest warrant and wanted him apprehended and prosecuted badly. And it is believed that he would have been found guilty, no matter what. I would have really loved to see Gaddafi stand trial.

The same group has been seeking the arrest and subsequent prosecution of Omar Al-Bashir of Sudan. They want him to be sent to The Hague. They may stick behind it tenaciously until he is arrested and dragged before the Court. Am I against his prosecution? Not at all.

The point being made is that many believe that western governments and leaders are quick to support or announce the prosecution of African leaders who are believed to have committed war crimes or crimes against humanity, but the same governments and leaders refuse to say anything about the arrest or prosecution of leaders of powerful nations or western countries, leaders who, too, are believed to have committed similar crimes. There is the argument that the talk about the arrest and trial of all these African leaders is all about the West's desire to "punish" certain African leaders for things they (the African leaders) did or refused to do. It is said that it is more about international politics than about international justice, and that there is no fair play in it, as it is done selectively.

But, again, when one considers the entire scenario, one soon realizes that it is in Africa where the governments and leaders have suffered their people the most. It is the place where the governments relish suppressing their own people, including the opposition. Yoweri Museveni remarked recently that he would put the opposition leaders of Uganda in his mouth, chew them and spit them out. It is Africa that has Paul Biya, Robert Mugabe, Yoweri Museveni. It is the same Africa that had Samuel Doe, Muammar Gaddafi, Adi Amin, Charles Taylor and Laurent Gbagbo. If it is about instituting justice for the poor and the voiceless, then it may not matter much whether it is only African leaders who are being prosecuted or not.

The Call to Arrest George Bush

Some believe that certain powerful leaders like Vladimir Putin of Russia and former President George Bush of the US have committed crimes against humanity. It is said that Putin has committed war crimes and crimes against humanity against the people of Chechnya. Some say Bush committed war crimes against the people of Iraq. Still, others say that he is guilty of water boarding, which is a form of torture under international law. The Bush administration has admitted to it. Mr. Bush himself, as well as former president Cheney, has admitted using water boarding to extract information from individuals they arrested in the "war against terror."

In spite of this, no western governments or leaders have suggested or campaigned for the arrest or prosecution of Mr. Bush. The International Criminal Court (ICC) has not issued an arrest warrant on Bush or suggested the possible prosecution of Mr. Bush. In essence, Bush's case is unlike Taylor, Gbagbo, Taylor, Bashir and others whose arrest orders were announced and known by almost all citizens and governments.

In the absence of this information, how can Amnesty International ask African countries to arrest Mr. Bush? Does Amnesty International want to put Africa against the United States or the rest of the western world? This is what our people would call "putting trouble in Africa's pocket." No, Africa's pocket is too small for such a trouble. The trouble doesn't fit there.

Leave Africa alone on this one. It is too feeble for such trouble. Like the Rock mentioned in Daniel Chapter 2, Africa will feel it if it knowingly falls onto the Rock. It will feel it even more if the Rock falls onto it. Leave Africa out of this one. It lacks the resources to deal with the trouble.

But why should Africa be the continent to arrest a US President, whether former or current, when that president has not even been indicted by an international court? Why should Africa even be asked in the process, when there is no arrest order? That trouble is too big for Africa's pocket. It is too huge for Africa; it can't get over it. It is wide for Africa; it can't get around it.

If an African country arrests Mr. Bush, where will that African country take him? To an African court? To the International Criminal Court? By the way, by what authority would Africa be carrying out the arrest? No courts have indicted him for any crimes against humanity.

Africa, through Nigeria, arrested its own son, Charles Taylor, and handed him over to the International Criminal Court. Africa, through the Ivory Coast (although through the help of the West) arrested its own son, Laurent Gbagbo, and handed him over to the International Criminal Court. Some African countries are making efforts to arrest Omar Al-Bashir. In fact, Kenya has issued an arrest order on Bashir, saying that it will arrest him if he enters Kenya.

Africa has done a lot in a short period, but to arrest a former US President, especially when that president has not even been indicted by an international court, nothing but putting trouble in Africa's small and patched and hole-ridden pocket. Africa is not ready for it. It is a responsibility that Africa would like for the countries of the West to shoulder. America is a country of law, not men. Ivory Coast arrested its own son. Amnesty International could ask the United States to arrest its own son, too. Africa arrested Taylor. North Africa could also arrest Bush.

Asking Africa to arrest Mr. Bush is tantamount to putting bad luck in Africa's closet. It is tantamount to putting trouble in Africa's pocket. It is tantamount to inviting problems in Africa's destitute life. Leave Africa alone on this one. It is already burdened with numerous problems it is unable to solve. Africa cannot arrest Bush, will not arrest Bush, and should not arrest Bush. Let the West do it.

Believe me, my people. We will never stop following the issues.