

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



Carvings at NEC Office, Tower Hill. Photo Credit: Richard Sylvah

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, 24 January 2012

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
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Local News

By Oswald
 Hanciles

Speaking with military firmness, President Ernest Koroma told a jam-packed crowd at the Brima Attouga Stadium in the east of Freetown on Saturday January 21 where he had gone to launch the APC's campaign to urge its partisans to register with the new biometric system for the November 2012

President Koroma Raises ICC Presence Again

general elections, that the recent violence that erupted after a by-election in the Fourah Bay area "would never happen again".

President Koroma told the crowd that his government awaits the "investigation" of the police on the matter to know whether the police are ready to "live up to their responsibilities" and with a veiled threat – tinged with his resolve that the "Law is Supreme," he said that

henceforth his government would not just 'investigate' matters but would take resolute action to prevent such violence and bring to book perpetrators. The crowd cheered wildly. He said the International Criminal Court has "grabbed Charles Taylor... (former President of Liberia)" and "Gbagbo is also facing the ICC" (former President of Ivory Coast). Some of them here will have to

face the ICC too..." for he has invited the ICC into Sierra Leone, he said.

When the President added that some of those who think they can stimulate violence with impunity may not be around to take part in the November 2012 general elections in Sierra Leone, the crowd shouted their approval. While insisting that the ceremony was not one for political campaigning, President

Koroma apparently lashed out at his political opponents who he obliquely accused of being behind the spate of political violence in the country.

"Don't take us back into the Darkness from which we have come from," he said.

And, using the apt imagery of the APC party symbol, the sun, President Koroma said, "You can't cover the sunlight. The sun's light can't be blocked.

Even if you are in a hole, the sun's light would manage to penetrate there... We are not turning back with the development we engaged in now..."

The crowd chanted praises to him enthusiastically; and the women broke into a Temne song that said,

'It is not just bluffing that you will do this or that... You must show us what you can do, like our Ernest has done for us...'

Africa Review

Tuesday, 24 January 2012

Taylor denies being a US spy and vows to sue US newspaper

By TAMBA JEAN-MATTHEW and KEMO CHAM



Former Liberian president Charles Taylor peruses case documents during his trial at The Hague.

The imprisoned former Liberian president Charles Taylor has categorically denied working as a United States spy and vows to sue the Boston Globe newspaper that made the revelation.

Reacting to the publication through his Jamaican-born lawyer Courtenay Griffiths, Taylor said he has never

worked or played any role on behalf of any US government intelligence agency in his “personal capacity”.

But he acknowledged that the Liberian Security agencies as well as his National Patriotic Party of Liberia worked or associated with US intelligence organs but not himself personally.

Last week, the US-based *Boston Globe* newspaper exposed Taylor’s past role as a US intelligence informant. The expose had been confirmed by the US Defence Department acting on a Freedom of Information Act inquiry which the newspaper had lodged six years ago.

The *Globe* indicated that Taylor had been recruited to spy on the late Libyan later Muammar Gaddafi’s networks. Before launching the civil war in Liberia in the 80s, Taylor had been trained as a guerrilla leader in Libya.

Mr Griffiths said his client found it offensive for the *Globe* to publish what he claimed was “pure speculation”.

Awaiting verdict

Taylor’s reaction was carried prominently by several newspapers in Liberia on Monday. Through his lawyer, he said he was said his client is contemplating on a legal battle with the Boston Globe with the help of American lawyers.

He also insisted that the newspaper present a copy of any correspondence that the US government, the Defence Intelligence Agency or the Central Intelligence Agency sent to the *Globe* in response to its request either six years ago or recently.

BBC Online

Monday, 23 January 2012

Kenyatta and Ruto to face ICC trial over Kenya violence



Archive footage shows Kenyan violence in 2007

Two presidential candidates in Kenya are to stand trial over crimes against humanity following post-election violence in 2007, the International Criminal Court (ICC) has ruled.

Finance Minister Uhuru Kenyatta and former minister William Ruto will both face charges.

They are among four prominent Kenyans - all of whom deny the accusations - who will stand trial.

Kenya's president has appealed for people to stay calm after the news.

"Our great nation has had its share of challenging times," Mwai Kibaki said in a statement.

Mr Kenyatta - son of Kenya's founding President Jomo Kenyatta and a man who has been ranked as one of its richest citizens - is to stand trial with cabinet secretary Francis Muthaura.

The pair, both allies of President Kibaki, are accused of crimes against humanity, including murder and persecution.

Mr Kenyatta wrote on his Facebook page: "My conscience is clear, has been clear and will always remain clear that I am innocent of all the accusations that have been levelled against me."

Former Education Minister William Ruto and radio presenter Joshua arap Sang will stand trial in a separate case, as they opposed Mr Kibaki during the 2007 election. Charges against a further two officials were not confirmed by the Hague court.

More than 1,200 people were killed in weeks of unrest in 2007-8 and some 600,000 people were forced to flee their homes. Many still remain homeless.

'Break with impunity'

This decision will have a great bearing on the future of Kenyan politics.

Among the four now set to stand trial are two men who want to stand for president in the next elections: a suspended minister, William Ruto, and Uhuru Kenyatta - the son of the country's first president and the current deputy prime minister.

Last week, Mr Kenyatta told the BBC that he intended to pursue his political ambitions irrespective of whether the International Criminal Court trial went ahead.

The pressure may grow on Mr Kenyatta to change his mind and put his political ambitions on hold - to clear his name in court and then, if successful, come back in another five years.

With appeals possible, it may be months before the trials begin.

Kenya has had a history of violent elections. But no-one has ever been punished. Many Kenyans hope the ICC trials will help to end the culture of impunity and ensure future elections are more peaceful.

The violence began as clashes between supporters of the two rival presidential candidates - Raila Odinga and Mr Kibaki - but it snowballed into a bloody round of score-settling and communal violence.

"It is our utmost desire that the decisions issued by this chamber today bring peace to the people of the Republic of Kenya and prevent any sort of hostilities," ICC presiding judge Ekaterina Trendafilova said.

Kenyans are due to head to the polls in fresh elections early next year.

Ms Trendafilova stressed that the decisions do not mean guilty verdicts against the suspects, only that there is sufficient evidence to send them to trial.

"We are not passing judgment on the guilt or innocence of the individuals," she said before a public hearing held in The Hague.

No date has been set for the trials.

The news of the trials was welcomed by international campaign group Human Rights Watch.

"The ICC trials will break with decades of impunity in Kenya for political violence," the group said in a statement.

"But Kenya should act to widen accountability by carrying out prosecutions at home."

“Start Quote

I am firmly still in the presidential race, the charges confirmed against me will not affect it”

William Ruto

In Kenya itself, there was a mixed reaction to the announcement, according to the BBC's Muliro Telewa, in the Rift Valley town of Burnt Forest, the scene of one of the worst atrocities during the violence.

He said people in the town - where dozens died when a church where people had fled was set on fire - had gathered around radios in public places to listen to the ICC announcement.

Some, he said, saw the process at The Hague as political, while others were glad that justice was being done.

'Big disappointment'

Chief prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo had asked to bring two separate cases, reflecting the political and ethnic divisions behind Kenya's post-election violence.

Mr Kenyatta is accused of organising a campaign of violence including murder and rape members of ethnic groups seen as supporters of Mr Odinga.

Prosecutors say he met members of a secretive criminal organisation known as the Mungiki at a shopping centre in Nairobi before the election in 2007 to plan some of the attacks.

He denied the accusation at a preliminary hearing at the ICC last September.

Mr Kenyatta is hoping to stand in next year's presidential poll, with analysts suggesting that he has a realistic chance of winning.

Mr Ruto, a former education minister, described the charges against him as "strange" and emphasised that he still intended to put himself forward for the presidency.

"I am firmly still in the presidential race; the charges confirmed against me will not affect it," Mr Ruto said from Nairobi.

He and Mr Sang backed Mr Odinga in 2007 and are accused of organising attacks on members of ethnic groups seen as Kibaki supporters.

Mr Sang said the news of the trial had come as a "big disappointment" but said he would contest the charges.

Kenya's government has been lobbying for the cases to be dropped - a position endorsed last year by the African Union.

Mr Kibaki was eventually declared the winner of the 2007 election, and is serving his second and final term as president.

Mr Odinga was installed as prime minister under a power-sharing deal brokered by Kofi Annan to end the violence.

Mr Ruto and Mr Odinga have since fallen out and are expected to face each in the elections.

Radio Free Asia
Monday, 23 January 2012

Trial Expert Set For Cambodia Talks

The UN appointee is expected to raise Cambodia's rejection of a tribunal judge.



The courtroom at the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia in Phnom Penh, June 27, 2011.

A U.N. expert is to hold talks with Cambodian officials this week after Phnom Penh rejected the choice of a new judge to the international Khmer Rouge Tribunal in an apparent breach of an agreement on prosecuting ex-officials of the notorious regime.

American David Scheffer, the Special Expert on the United Nations Assistance to the Khmer Rouge Trials, will hold "discussions with the government and senior officials of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia," said Martin Nesirky, spokesman for U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon.

The Cambodian government on Monday refused to reconsider its veto of Swiss Laurent Kasper-Ansermet as international co-investigating judge at the Khmer Rouge Tribunal, which is officially known as the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC).

Last week, Cambodia's Supreme Council of the Magistracy decided not to appoint Kasper-Ansermet as a joint investigating judge.

"This is a matter of serious concern," Nesirky said at the weekend.

"The decision is a breach of article 5, paragraph 6, of the Agreement between the United Nations and the Royal Government of Cambodia Concerning the Prosecution under Cambodian Law of Crimes Committed During the Period of Democratic Kampuchea, done at Phnom Penh on June 6, 2003," he said.

The provision, he said, "states unequivocally that 'in case there is a vacancy or a need to fill the post of the international co-investigating judge, the person appointed to fill this post must be the reserve international co-investigating judge'."

In rejecting the U.N. choice, Cambodian officials said Kasper-Ansermet had used his Twitter account to draw attention to the debate on whether the tribunal should try two former Khmer Rouge military commanders.

The U.N. called the concerns "unfounded."

But a Cambodian government spokesman defended the decision, saying U.N. officials did not fully understand Cambodia's rights according to the 2003 pact.

"It is the authority of the Supreme Council of Magistracy whether or not to appoint him," Keo Remy said.

"It's important that there is integrity between ourselves: that the U.N. respects Cambodia's integrity and Cambodia respects the U.N.'s integrity," he added.

Trial obstacles

Kasper-Ansermet was meant to replace German judge Siegfried Blunk who resigned last October, citing political interference. Blunk had blocked moves to pursue the two cases without giving an explanation.

Scheffer, expected to discuss the latest issue with Cambodian officials, was involved in the establishment of the ECCC, the International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, the International Criminal Court, and the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

He served as the U.S. Ambassador at Large for War Crimes Issues from 1997 to 2001.

The Cambodian decision to reject the U.N. recommendation represents the latest obstacle in a tribunal process that has sought justice for some two million Cambodians who died through execution, torture, starvation, overwork, and disease while the ultra-Maoist regime ruled the country from 1975-1979.

Despite spending nearly U.S. \$150 million since it was formed in 2003, the ECCC has handed down only one sentence and has been mired in allegations of corruption.

Former Khmer Rouge prison chief Kaing Guek Eav, also known as Duch, was jailed in 2010 for 30 years for overseeing the deaths of thousands of people.

A second trial involving the Khmer Rouge's four most senior surviving leaders is under way. Many do not expect the third and fourth cases to proceed.

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, himself a former Khmer Rouge cadre, and other Cambodian officials have often expressed opposition to any further prosecutions in the Tribunal beyond the second trial.

Reported by RFA's Khmer service. Written in English by Joshua Lipis.

Agence France Presse

Monday, 23 January 2012

UN protests after Cambodia blocks Khmer Rouge judge

UNITED NATIONS — The United Nations on Friday protested at Cambodia's rejection of a Swiss judge to the international Khmer Rouge tribunal who has paralyzed probes into two cases opposed by the government.

Cambodia is in "breach" of an accord with the UN setting up the international tribunal into the Khmer Rouge crimes of the 1970s in which up to two million people died, UN spokesman Martin Nesirky told reporters.

"This is a matter of serious concern," stated Nesirky who said the Cambodian government had formally notified UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon on Thursday of its refusal to name Laurent Kasper-Ansermet of Switzerland as co-investigating judge.

"The United Nations continues to support Judge Kasper-Ansermet and Cambodia should take immediate steps to appoint him as international co-investigating judge," the spokesman said.

The tribunal, officially known as the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia, was set up with one Cambodian investigating judge and one foreign judge. The previous German judge resigned in October following government opposition to further prosecutions linked to the 1975-1979 regime.

Kasper-Ansermet was the official reserve judge and Nesirky stressed that the 2003 accord setting up the court "states unequivocally" that if there is a vacancy the person appointed must be the reserve judge.

The Cambodian government "raised ethical concerns" about Kasper-Ansermet in November, said Nesirky.

"The United Nations thoroughly reviewed the concerns, determined that they were unfounded, and requested that the Supreme Council of the Magistracy proceed with his appointment."

David Scheffer, an American named as special expert on UN assistance to the Cambodia trials, is travelling to Phnom Penh for talks with the government and court officials, the spokesman added.

Kasper-Ansermet has been blocked since his arrival in Phnom Penh in December. The supreme council, the government body charged with rubber-stamping the nomination, has not met.

And the Cambodian co-judge You Bunleng has publicly refused to work with the Swiss. Kasper-Ansermet has in turn accused You Bunleng of blocking "important" information about the two new cases involving five ex-Khmer Rouge members accused of crimes against humanity.

The tribunal has so far completed just one trial. A second is underway but risks being overshadowed by the new controversy.

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UN News

Monday, 23 January 2012

UN tribunal welcomes arrest of former member of Serb paramilitary forces



*Radovan Stankovic, a former member of Serb paramilitary forces.
Photo: ICTY*

The United Nations war crimes tribunal for the Balkan conflicts of the 1990s welcomed the arrest of Radovan Stankovic, a former member of a Serb paramilitary unit who faces multiple charges for crimes against humanity.

Mr. Stankovic was arrested over the weekend in Bosnia and Herzegovina, more than four years after he escaped from prison in May 2007.

“Today’s apprehension of Stankovic is significant for the victims of the grave crimes he has been convicted for,” said Serge Brammertz, Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY).

“I hope that this arrest reflects an increased commitment of the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to support the process of bringing to justice those responsible for the grave crimes committed on their territory in the early 1990s.”

Today’s apprehension of Stankovic is significant for the victims of the grave crimes he has been convicted for.

Mr. Stankovic was first indicted by the ICTY, which is based in The Hague, in 1992. He was then transferred by the Tribunal to Bosnia and Herzegovina in September 2005, where he was convicted to 20 years in prison by the State Court for war crimes, including the rape and enslavement of Muslim women and girls. However, he escaped from prison in Foca two years after his sentencing.

Since then, the ICTY had repeatedly called for his arrest and emphasized the importance of apprehending him to make progress in bringing those responsible for war crimes in the region to justice.

Tanzania daily news

Tuesday, January 24, 2012

Dar es Salaam Reacts to International Criminal Court Confirmation

Orton Kiishweko and Agencies

THE confirmation of charges against four Kenyan leaders by the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague may create tribal divisions and restlessness in Kenya, local political scientists and lawyers have warned.

In a majority decision, ICC pre-trial judges on Monday confirmed charges against Deputy Prime Minister Uhuru Kenyatta, Eldoret North MP William Ruto, Head of Civil Service Francis Muthaura and journalist Joshua arap Sang, as suspects claimed to have played the biggest role in the 2007/2008 post-election violence that took the country to the precipice of civil war.

In a telephone interview with the 'Daily News', political analysts said while they respect the ICC's decision, it should nonetheless be applicable to leaders all over the world, not Africa alone. Retired National Assembly Speaker Mr Pius Msekwa said he honours court decisions, whether from ICC or that of a local Resident Magistrate.

However, he warned that the ICC's ruling would have dire consequences in Kenya since William Ruto and Uhuru Kenyatta had publicly announced their bid for the presidency in next year's general election. "The ruling will affect the duo's plans to run for presidency, it will also pre-empt the electorate's freedom of choice," he said.

Mr Msekwa also said ICC's move would most likely polarize the Kenyan society along tribal lines because of tension among each other's followers. "This may not happen now because evidence is still with the prosecutors but as the cases continue and people view or hear what is going on, it may divide them...", he said.

Singida East Member of Parliament, Mr Tundu Lissu said that the decision confirms that no one, irrespective of their position was above the law. Mr Lissu, who is also the Chief Whip of the Opposition in Parliament, said it seemed ICC was only targeting leaders in 'poor Africa.'

Prof Issa Shivji said while he believed in holding leaders accountable for their actions, he was skeptical of the ICC processes.

"I'm skeptical of the ICC, why don't we hold these leaders accountable locally?" he said. He also cautioned the Kenyan community to refrain from being polarized further.

"Whether the ICC confirmation will help reconcile the Kenyan society or not, remains to be seen," he added. Prof Mwesiga Baregu, a political scientist and a lecturer at St Augustine University, received the news with mixed feelings. He said that the charge signalled that the people were involved in precipitating electoral violence in one way or the other.

The 2007 Kenya's post-election violence, in which President Jakaya Kikwete played a role to bring it to end, claimed an estimated 1,000 lives and displaced 350,000 people. Meanwhile, Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki yesterday ordered the Attorney General, Githu Muiga, to immediately form a legal panel that will advise government on how to respond to Monday's ruling by ICC pre-trial judges.

While, Kenyatta, Ruto, Sang and Muthaura "had a case to answer," charges against Tinderet MP Henry Kosgey and former Police Commissioner Hussein Ali were not confirmed after the judges found insufficient grounds for sustaining them. Judges Ekaterina Trendafilova and Cuno Tarfusser voted to the affirmative while Judge Hans-Peter Kaul dissented.

"After having thoroughly examined and analyzed individually and collectively all the evidence presented, the Chamber, by majority, decided to confirm the charges against four of the six suspects. Judge Kaul appended a dissenting opinion in both cases. He maintains that the ICC is not competent because "the crimes committed on the territory of the Republic of Kenya during the post-election violence of 2007/2008 in his view were serious common crimes under Kenyan criminal law, but not crimes against humanity as codified in Article 7 of the Rome Statute," said Judge Trendafilova who read out the ruling.

"As to the criminal responsibility of Mr Ruto and Mr Sang, the Chamber found, on the basis of the evidence presented, that they are responsible for the charges levelled against them. "In particular, Pre-Trial Chamber II confirmed the charges against Mr Ruto as an indirect co-perpetrator with others, while it found that Mr Sang contributed to the commission of the said crimes against humanity.

"However, in relation to Mr Kosgey, the Chamber found that the Prosecutor's evidence failed to satisfy the evidential threshold required. The Chamber was not persuaded by the evidence presented by the Prosecutor of Mr Kosgey's alleged role within the organization. With respect to the criminal responsibility of Mr Muthaura and Mr Kenyatta, the Chamber was satisfied that the evidence also established substantial grounds to believe that they are criminally responsible for the alleged crimes having gained control over the Mungiki and directed them to commit the crimes, the judge said, adding:

"In relation to Mr Ali, the Chamber found that the evidence presented does not provide substantial grounds to believe that the Kenya Police participated in the attack in or around Nakuru and Naivasha. Since Mr Ali was charged with contributing to the crimes through the Kenya Police, the Chamber declined to confirm the charges against him."

Mr Ruto held a press conference at his Karen residence immediately after the ruling had been made, where he insisted on his innocence and said his legal team will be looking at their options. He added: "I am firmly in the (presidential) race and to my worthy competitors let us meet at the ballot and let the will of Kenyans prevail."

Xinhua

Monday, 23 January 2012

ICC denies decision on trying Gaddafi's son Saif Islam in Libya

An International Criminal Court (ICC) spokesman said Monday that The Hague-based court has not made any decision on whether former Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi's son Saif Islam Gaddafi would be tried in Libya, contrary to what Libya's justice minister said earlier that day.

Earlier Monday, Libyan Justice Minister Ali Humaida Ashour told reporters that the ICC has decided to let Saif be tried in Libya rather than in The Hague.

However, ICC spokesman Fadi El-Abdallah later denied that there has been any decision by the ICC judges.

Over a week ago, Ashour said the ICC had accepted a request by Libyan authorities to try Saif and would make a final decision within weeks.

Libyan interim Prime Minister Abdel Rahim el-Keib has promised a fair trial for Saif, who was seized in a southern Libyan town last December after having been on the run since forces of the National Transitional Council took over the capital Tripoli in late August, 2011.

The ICC issued warrants on June 27, 2011 against Saif, his father and Abdullah Senussi, intelligence chief of Gaddafi's regime, on charges of crimes against humanity in cracking down on anti-Gaddafi protests. Earlier this month, the ICC said it would give Libya until Jan. 23 to provide information including reports on Saif's mental and physical health.

The Christian Science Monitor

Monday, 23 January 2012

The International Criminal Court's docket in Africa

With the confirmation of charges against four senior Kenyan leaders, there are now seven different countries where the International Criminal Court has filed charges of crimes against humanity. All of those cases emanate from Africa.



Joseph Kony, the leader of the Lord's Resistance Army rebel group, is pictured in this November 2006 file photo. (Stuart Price/AP/File)

1. Uganda charges

The case against Joseph Kony, and four other senior leaders of the Lord's Resistance Army rebel group is one of the ICC's first cases, referred to the court by the Ugandan government in December 2003. The LRA is a Christian militia founded by Mr. Kony to fight for the Acholi ethnic group of northern Uganda. But it has morphed into an ill-defined mass-murder movement for hire, drawing members – often child soldiers, usually by abduction – from several countries: Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan, and the Central African Republic. Twenty-one counts of war crimes and 12 counts of crimes against humanity have been filed against Kony and the other leaders (Raska Lukwiya, Okot Odhiambo, Dominic Ongwen, and Vincent Otti). Lukwiya was killed by Ugandan military in Aug. 2006, but charges remain against the other four, who are fugitives.

The Daily Star (Lebanon)

Tuesday, January 24, 2012

STL prosecutor will make final trip to Beirut



Court prosecutor Daniel Bellemare of Canada looks on during a ceremony in Leidschendam, Netherlands, Sunday March 1, 2009. (Archive, AP Photo/Bas Czerwinski)

BEIRUT: Special Tribunal for Lebanon Prosecutor Daniel Bellemare is set to begin a farewell visit to Beirut Thursday and will meet with Interior Ministry officials the following day, ministerial sources confirmed Monday.

Bellemare is scheduled to meet with Interior Minister Marwan Charbel and Justice Minister Chakib Qortbawi to discuss issues related to the STL, which is investigating the 2005 assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, the sources added.

The STL prosecutor issued a confidential document to Lebanese authorities in October outlining additional steps that could be taken to arrest the four men indicted in the case, but the suspects remain at large.

Bellemare announced last month that, for health reasons, he would resign from his position when the U.N.-backed court's first three-year mandate ends in March. He has served in the position since 2009 when he was appointed by U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon.

Earlier this month, a delegation from the STL also paid a visit to the Interior Ministry, where they thanked Charbel for his cooperation with the court.

Separately, a delegation of 29 Lebanese lawyers from the Beirut and Tripoli Bar Associations began a three-day visit to the STL, where they were welcomed by Judge Sir David Baragwanath, the president of the STL, along with top representatives from the court.

The lawyers will discuss the investigation, pre-trial stage, trials in absentia and how the certain features of the STL compare with the Lebanese legal system.