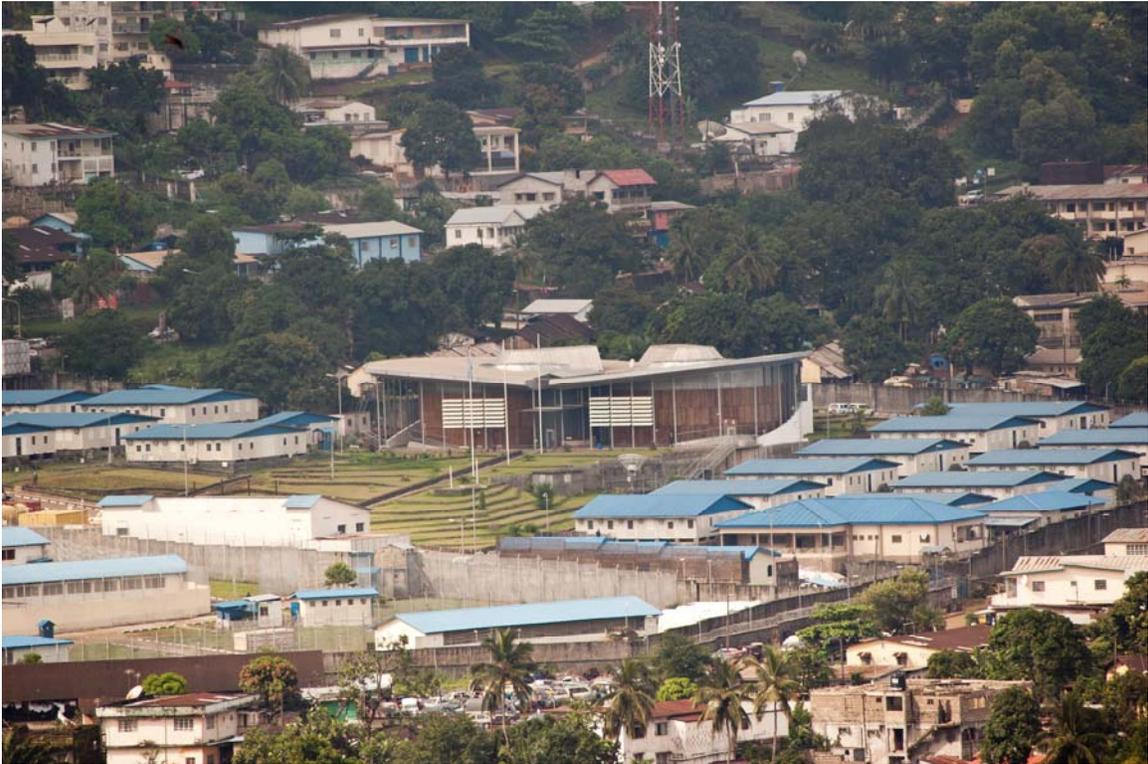


**SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
OUTREACH AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE**



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, 9 February 2012

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

Tuesday, 7 February 2012

<http://www.democracyarsenal.org/2012/02/>

From Hama to Homs, by way of Sarajevo, Kigali (but also Skopje and Nairobi)

...3. **Accountability Has Meaning.** Hafez Assad ruled Syria longer after Hama than before, dying of heart failure in 2000 as the Middle East's longest-serving ruler. His son is unlikely to be so fortunate. His former colleagues Hosni Mubarak and Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali are on trial in their own countries, Ben Ali in absentia since Saudi Arabia has declined to return him. Liberian strongman Charles Taylor is awaiting the verdict from the Special Court for Sierra Leone on his role in sparking that horrific violence. Slobodan Milosevic died of a heart attack while on trial in the Hague. The UN Human Rights Commissioner has called for Assad to be brought up on charges by the International Criminal Court, and the Gulf Cooperation Council appears to be considering a similar step. This would leave Assad very little ability to travel outside Syria, even were he to be successful in suppressing protests and rebellion.

Human Rights Watch

Thursday, 9 February 2012

Guinea: Progress in Massacre Probe

Support Work of Judges; Ensure Witness Protection, Rights of Accused

(Nairobi, February 9, 2012) – The decision by investigative judges in Guinea to file charges against a high-level military official allegedly implicated in grave violations of human rights during a massacre of protesters in 2009 is an important step toward ensuring justice for the victims, Human Rights Watch said today. Security forces were implicated in the killings of more than 150 opposition members and the rape of over 100 women in the aftermath of a peaceful demonstration.

Col. Moussa Tiégboro Camara is the highest-level official to be questioned and charged in relation to the crimes. On February 8, 2012, Tiégboro Camara appeared before the investigative judges overseeing the investigations, following the filing of charges on February 1. Tiégboro Camara has been cooperative and was not taken into custody, sources in Guinea said.

“The courageous work of the judges and the charges against Colonel Moussa Tiégboro Camara are an encouraging and meaningful step forward for justice in Guinea,” said Corinne Dufka, senior West Africa researcher for Human Rights Watch. “Ensuring justice for the 2009 victims and their families would help break the cycle of violence, fear, and impunity that has blighted the lives and hopes of so many Guineans for so many years.”

Human Rights Watch called on the Guinean government to support the judges’ work by allowing them to proceed independently and to undertake efforts to protect witnesses and victims. The group also called on the Justice Ministry to ensure that Tiégboro Camara and others accused in the massacre are prosecuted in accordance with international fair trial standards.

Tiégboro Camara is charged for his alleged involvement in abuses on and around September 28, 2009, as the security forces, some allegedly under his command, responded to what had been a peaceful demonstration by tens of thousands of protesters gathered at the main stadium in the capital. The demonstrators were protesting continued military rule and the presumed candidacy in planned elections of then-junta leader Capt. Moussa Dadis Camara.

Members of the Presidential Guard and other security units opened fire on the crowds, leaving about 150 people dead. Many were riddled with bullets and bayonet wounds, while many others died in the ensuing panic. Security forces subjected over 100 women at the rally to brutal forms of violence, including individual and gang rape, and sexual assault with sticks, batons, rifle butts, and bayonets.

A December 2009 report by Human Rights Watch and a 2009 report by a United Nations-led International Commission of Inquiry concluded that the abuses committed by security forces very likely constituted crimes against humanity. Both Human Rights Watch and the UN commission implicated Tiégboro Camara as among those most responsible for the serious crimes committed.

Human Rights Watch found that gendarmes personally commanded by Tiégboro Camara on at least two occasions used lethal force against opposition supporters converging on the stadium on September 28, resulting in the deaths of at least three unarmed protesters.

Later, Tiégboro Camara and gendarmes in his unit entered the stadium together with members of the Presidential Guard. Some of the gendarmes in his unit took an active part in the massacre, and, to a lesser degree, in the sexual violence that followed. Several witnesses told Human Rights Watch they saw

Tiégboro Camara inside the stadium while many of the serious abuses described in this report, including murder and rape, were taking place.

The massacre was widely condemned by the international community. On October 14, 2009, the International Criminal Court (ICC) prosecutor, Luis Moreno-Ocampo, confirmed that the situation in Guinea was under preliminary examination by his office.

On February 8, 2010, three Guinean magistrates were tasked with establishing individual criminal responsibility for the September 28 events. In May 2010, the ICC reported that the investigating judges had interviewed 200 people. In addition to Tiégboro Camara, at least two other men have been charged for their alleged involvement in the September 2009 killings and rapes.

One of those charged is Lt. Aboubacar Sidiki Diakité, the then-head of the Presidential Guard, or red beret troops, at the time of the massacre, whose troops were most directly implicated in the crimes. He remains at large with his whereabouts unknown. On January 19, 2011, Interpol issued a Red Notice for Diakité.

Since January 2009, Tiégboro has been a minister in the presidency in charge of fighting drug trafficking and organized crime. Human Rights Watch expressed concern about his continuation in this appointment by President Alpha Condé, along with Lt. Col. Claude Pivi as minister of presidential security, who was also implicated in the September 2009 violence.

In a May 2011 report, Human Rights Watch identified several key challenges to ensuring that domestic investigations and prosecutions are conducted fairly, impartially, and effectively. These include the absence of a witness protection program, inadequate material resources for the judiciary, and antiquated penal codes. Guinean authorities still have considerable work to do in credibly addressing these issues, Human Rights Watch said.

“For years, political interference and intimidation has undermined the independence of the judiciary and contributed to the widely held perception that the powerful are above the law,” Dufka said. “The efforts by the judges and Ministry of Justice to hold accountable those responsible for the 2009 stadium violence are playing an important role in reversing this trend.”

The Observer

Thursday, 9 February 2012

Jackson Center has reached its fund-raising goal

JAMESTOWN - The Robert H. Jackson Center is pleased to announce that thanks to all who contributed to the 2011 Annual Fund Challenge, it reached its goal of raising \$100,000, which the Board of Directors then matched.

The Robert H. Jackson Center, which last year celebrated its 10th anniversary, is excited to announce new Board leadership. Stan Lundine, who performed as Chair during 2010-11, last week passed the gavel to fellow Board member David M. Crane. Crane, a professor at Syracuse University College of Law, is the former Chief Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone and the driving force behind the Jackson Center's annual International Humanitarian Law Dialogs.

The Jackson Center is also pleased to announce the appointment of Peggy Morgan of Warren, Pa., to the Board of Directors.

On Monday at 7 p.m., Morgan and Sandy Rothenberg will co-host at the Warren County Courthouse the annual event honoring Justice Jackson's birthday - the day that will mark his 120th. The program, free and open to the public, will feature Lisa and Rich Gensheimer previewing segments of their forthcoming documentary on Robert H. Jackson, *Liberty Under Law* (working title), followed by an interactive "Talk-Back" session with the audience. The film, the latest in their "Stories from the Past that Shape Our Future" series, chronicles the life and legacy of Robert Jackson.

Institute for War and Peace Reporting

Thursday, 9 February 2012

Bemba's Men Took "No Decision Without His Consent"

By Rehema Kabuo and Lucie Bindu

As the war crimes trial of leading Congolese politician Jean-Pierre Bemba Gombo resumed last week, a member of his organisation told judges at the International Criminal Court, ICC, that the defendant alone issued orders to troops that were sent into the Central African Republic to support that country's president.

The prosecution witness, identified only by the number 45, was part of Bemba's Movement for the Liberation of Congo, MLC, and gave testimony about its hierarchical structure and decision-making process.

Bemba is standing trial at the ICC for crimes committed by his troops – including murder, rape and pillage – which he is accused of failing to prevent or punish.

MLC combatants were deployed in the Central African Republic, CAR, between October 2002 and March 2003 at the invitation of the country's president, Ange-Félix Patassé, who had requested help in defeating a coup attempt by François Bozizé.

Witness 45 told the court that Bemba was in daily contact with the commanders of the troops in CAR.

"The only person who was entitled to take decisions was the commander-in-chief, Jean-Pierre Bemba. He was in permanent contact with his second-in-command through satellite phone and radio," the witness told prosecuting counsel Horejah Bala-Gaye. "It was unimaginable that a decision would be taken without [Bemba's] consent."

Under cross-examination, the witness reiterated that Bemba was in contact with the MLC officers, who he said had the means to communicate with their supreme commanders wherever they went.

Witness 45 also described the recruitment of soldiers into the MLC force. Most came from the Équateur province of northern DRC, and were given a basic induction course delivered by Ugandan trainers.

"This training included training for parades, weapons handling and also what behaviour to adopt on a battlefield," the witness said.

Asked by the prosecutor whether there was a code of conduct that MLC troops were required to observe, the witness said such a code did exist.

"The code of conduct included sanctions for offenses such as murder, robbery, desertion, dissipation of ammunitions, [and] pillage," he said, adding that this was not always observed on the ground. Because the MLC soldiers did not receive regular supplies while in CAR, they used pillage as a means of survival.

"The MLC had a code of conduct written in French, but it was difficult for the troops to respect this code given the harsh conditions they were living under," he said.

Witness 45 said the MLC's own military court prosecuted up to ten soldiers on charges of pillage, but handed down light punishments ranging from three to six months' detention. According to the witness, the cases were intended to demonstrate that indiscipline within the MLC was being dealt with.

"The trials aimed at proving to the international community that the MLC was not responsible for the crimes committed in CAR," the witness said.

Asked about the defendant's personality, Witness 45, who had served under him since 1998, said, "Mr Bemba did not lack courage, but he was prone to authoritarianism and tyranny. Those were his character traits, and also [he had] a certain indifference towards human suffering."

Bemba denies the charges against him, arguing that once MLC fighters crossed from the DRC into CAR, they fell under Patassé's command. His defence argues that the former CAR head of state was therefore answerable for the conduct of the MLC troops.

The defence's cross-examination of Witness 45 took place mostly in closed session.

Asked to give the dates of courts martial of MLC soldiers, the witness was unable to give a precise answer, saying these events took place a long time ago.

The witness also said that aside from the MLC, there were Libyan troops in the CAR during the same period, providing Patassé's personal security.

The trial continues this week.

Rehema Kabuo and Lucie Bindu are IWPR interns in The Hague. This article was published at IWPR's ACR Issue 313.

Naharnet

Thursday, 9 February 2012

Marten Youssef Says Prosecutor Can Refer Indictment to Pre-Trial Judge Discreetly

Special Tribunal for Lebanon spokesman Marten Youssef stressed on Thursday that Prosecutor Daniel Bellemare could refer a new indictment secretly to Pre-Trial Judge Daniel Fransen without revealing its context.

“The court’s Rules of Procedure and Evidence give the prosecutor two ways to refer an indictment to the pre-trial judge either discreetly, or he can refer it without revealing its context (to the public),” Youssef told An Nahar newspaper.

The STL Judges began a two-day meeting on Wednesday to discuss amendments to the court’s Rules of Procedure and Evidence, according to a statement issued by the court.

Youssef said that “it’s up to the prosecutor to decide the timing of the indictment release as the pre-trial judge can reject it or reject parts of it.”

Asked about a fifth suspect linked to the assassination of former premier Rafik Hariri, he said: “The prosecutor decides the procedures if there was a new indictment that includes new suspects.”

The STL official noted that it’s difficult to confirm if the release of a new indictment would delay the trials in absentia.

Media reports said that Youssef expected the trials in absentia to kick off at the end of 2012, noting that the date will be set in April by Fransen.

Earlier this month, the court said that eight lawyers have been selected to represent four Hizbullah members due to be tried in absentia for the Feb. 2005 assassination of Hariri.

Each of the four defendants, who remain at large, will have a counsel and co-counsel who "are fully independent and can choose any strategy they see best fit to defend the rights of the accused," it said.

The Hague-based tribunal indicted Salim Ayyash, Mustafa Badreddine, Hussein Anaissi and Assad Sabra and sent arrest warrants for them to Lebanese authorities in June last year.

But the authorities in Lebanon have so far failed to arrest them.