

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



A woman producing palm oil at Songo. 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:**

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Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.  
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## Coalition for Justice Liberia

Tuesday, 23 April 2013

### **“Liberia may slip into chaos again!”-doe**

Tarnyon Nyenon

The General-Secretary of the Coalition for Justice in Liberia (CJL), Mr. James Kpanneh Doe, (No relation to the late Liberian President Samuel Kanyon Doe) has expressed fears over what he described as Liberia’s peculiar situation.

“Liberia may slip into chaos again that could be even more devastating than the fourteen-year old nightmare, if the prevailing conditions in Liberia are not improved drastically.” Mr. Doe pointed out. He attributed his fears to what he referred to as “Liberia’s failure to prosecute its war criminals. He regretted that “instead these war criminals were elected to continue to preside over their victims with impunity.”

Mr. Doe made these assertion when he addressed the two-day Human Rights conference held under the auspices of the Coalition for Justice in Liberia (CJL), in collaboration with the Center for Justice & Accountability (CJA), Global

Justice & Research Project (GJRP/Civitas Maximums (GJRP/CM) and the US Department of Justice (DOJ).

The National Human Rights conference was held at the Brooklyn Center Community Activity Community Center (BCCAC), in the twin cities in the State of Minnesota, on Saturday, April 20. Secretary Doe also expressed regrets that “Liberia is the only country on the face of planet earth with no record of prosecuting any of its war criminal.”

He emphasized, ”it is unfortunate that in spite of the heinous war crimes, crimes against humanity and economic crimes committed against their own people, the war criminals continue to masquerade all over the country as leaders.”

Mr. Doe cited the case of the neighboring Republic of Sierra Leone, which according to him, pursued the establishment of an International Criminal Court (ICC).

He noted that the Sierra Leoneans demanded and got an International Criminal Court, which prosecuted and/or continues to prosecute its warlords, including Liberia’s former President Charles MacArthur Taylor. We can do the same thing.” He suggested.

He sounded the warning saying, “We are afraid that Liberia may slip into another chaos again, because Liberia continues to thread on the fragile path of impunity, some of the very conditions which necessitated the war, continue to prevail today.”

Mr. Doe then challenged all Liberians to first do something to help ourselves to arrest the situation” adding, “We cannot just sit and allow that country to go down that path again.”

“We cannot just talk. We must act to help ourselves before soliciting the help of the International Community to help us, or else our country could go down the drain again and I don’t think any Liberian in his/her right mind wants such to happen again.” He warned.

Also speaking at the end of the two-day conference on Sunday, April 21, Mr. Doe assured that the CJL will continue its series of conferences around the United State where Liberians are in huge numbers, to enlist their total involvement in the Human Rights efforts.

Also making presentation at the conference, Mr. James Fasuquoi, a Liberian Photo Journalist, displayed graphic photographs depicting the horror of the Liberian carnage in its truest sense. He displayed from almost six rebel factions at the time.

Those put on display included those of the Charles Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL), Prince Johnson's Independent National Patriotic Front of Liberia (INPFL), Dr. George Boley's Liberia Peace Council (LPC).

Other faction included Alhaji Kroma's United Liberation Movement for Democracy in Liberia Organization (ULIMO-K), Roosevelt Johnson's United Liberation Movement for Democracy in Liberia Organization (ULIMO-J), Fronsuio Massaquoi's Lofa Defense Force (LDF) and Kerpeh Dwanyan's Nimba Defense Force.

## CJA Press

Tuesday, 23 April 2013

### **Accountability for atrocities committed during the Liberian civil war**

CJA Attorneys Discuss Accountability for International Crimes Committed During the Liberian Civil War  
A series of forums for the Liberian diaspora community, including survivors of the Liberian Civil War who are interested in understanding accountability mechanisms available for human rights crimes committed during the war.

From 1980 to 2003, Liberia found itself amidst a brutal civil war in which thousands lost their lives and countless human rights atrocities were committed against the civilian population. A Truth and Reconciliation Commission was convened in 2005, and in 2008 it released its recommendations for prosecution. However, to date, only Chuckie Taylor, son of former Liberian President Charles Taylor, has been held to account for his crimes in a prosecution in the United States. In 2006 former Liberian President Charles Taylor was extradited to Sierra Leone to stand trial for crimes committed there, leaving Liberia without recourse to justice for crimes committed against the Liberian people.

CJA attorneys will present members of the Liberian community with legal avenues to accountability for perpetrators living in the United States, and they will meet with survivors, witnesses, and other interested members of the Liberian community who have mobilized to seek further redress for the crimes committed during the war.

#### **WHO:**

- Members of the Liberian Diaspora community in Philadelphia and Minnesota, including survivors of the Civil War that decimated Liberia from 1989–2003
- The Center for Justice and Accountability (CJA)
- The Coalition for Justice in Liberia (CJL)

#### **WHEN:**

- Sunday March 31, 2013 from 3:00–6:00pm, Monday April 1, 2013 from 2:00–6:00pm (Philadelphia, PA)
- Saturday, April 20, 2013 from 2:30–6:00pm (Brooklyn Center, MN)

#### **WHERE:**

- African Cultural Alliance of North America ACANA Hall, Philadelphia, PA
- Brooklyn Center Community Activity Center “Constitutional Hall”, Brooklyn Center, MN

#### **About Center for Justice and Accountability**

CJA is a San Francisco-based human rights organization dedicated to deterring torture and other severe human rights abuses around the world and advancing the rights of survivors to seek truth, justice and redress. CJA uses litigation to hold perpetrators individually accountable for human rights abuses, develop human rights law, and advance the rule of law in countries transitioning from periods of abuse.  
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ACANA is not an organizer of the event; it is merely providing space accessible to the Liberian community.

# Malawi Today

Tuesday, 23 April 2013

## **Tambala wakuda is attractive, Munlo joins MCP Presidential race**

Chief Justice Lovemore Munlo, who announced his early retirement from the judiciary on Friday, has officially joined the race for the Malawi Congress Party (MCP) presidency.

Munlo was among the presidential hopefuls who presented their nomination letters for the party's hot seat, today (Monday) ahead of the closing for the submission of the nomination letters.

In an interview Munlo confirmed to Nation Online to have thrown himself into the race.

"I am one of the senior citizens in this country and we are talking of our country, we are talking about the future of our country. We, therefore, have to give people choices, we have to give hope to the people that everything is not lost and they are people who are ready to serve," he said.

Munlo, who has served in various capacities both during the MCP government and the DPP government, could not say how he looks at his chances to make it in the party.

"I am a democrat and least worried with the list (of the contenders), the decision is for the convention and the convention is better off with such a wider choice," said the former Chief Justice.

In an interview MCP Administrative Secretary Portiphar Chidaya, who confirmed having received Munlo's papers, also disclosed that apart from Assemblies of God President Reverend Dr Lazarus Chakwera and Jodder Kanjere, the party's former Political Affairs Director Eston Kankhome also submitted his papers.

Before his appointment as Chief Justice during the DPP regime, Munlo who obtained his first law degree from University of Malawi (Unima), served in various portfolios in government such as Minister of Justice and Attorney General, Deputy Minister of External Affairs, High Court judge, Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP); Senior State Advocate and State Advocate.

He has also served in several positions in international bodies such as Deputy Registrar of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in Arusha, Tanzania and Registrar of the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

## Global Research

Tuesday, 23 April 2013

### The “Criminalisation” of International Criminal Justice

By Alexander Mezyaev

On April 10 the United Nations General Assembly held its first ever and rather unique debate on the role of the international criminal justice system in fostering reconciliation. It summed up and assessed the twenty year experience of international criminal courts and tribunals activities. (1) The hearings were boycotted by some states, like, for instance, the United States of America, Canada and Jordan. Jordanian UN envoy said that the fact of holding the debates was, allegedly, an example of power abuse on the part of President of General Assembly.

This time the President of the Assembly session was Vuk Jeremić from Serbia, former Serbian Minister of Foreign Affairs...

So, why has the issue of reconciliation hit a snag in the form of boycott?

The answer is evident. The so-called international justice has totally failed. Today, there is no doubt left, the international justice system has no, whatsoever, relation neither to peace restoration, nor reconciliation after armed conflicts.

Even mentioning the interrelation evokes anxiety, or even anger of the key participants in the process of making the system of «justice» function. For instance, Prince Zeid, the Jordan’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations. He has served with UN peacekeeping contingent in Bosnia and has been the first President of the Assembly of State Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. He is the one to know really well what the interrelationship between international courts and reconciliation is like.

David Tolbert from the United States, who has served as Deputy Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), was more candid than his Jordanian counterpart. He put it straight that, as to him, the international courts cannot and should not make a contribution into reconciliation process; it’s not what they are destined for. (2)

The statement totally distorts the mission set by the United Nations before the former Yugoslavia tribunal, which was the restoration of peace and assistance in reconciliation process. David Tolbert put forward another false thesis stating that the international criminal courts have achieved outstanding successes in the recent years and thanks to them «nobody is above law» now. Talking about the criminal courts achievements and successes, the American meant the usurpation of the rights to arrest and bring to justice the heads of states and governments.

In reality the appearance of criminal courts created a new caste of people standing beyond and above any rights. They are the international prosecutors and judges. These people face no responsibility for what they do, neither according to interstate nor international law. No statutes of international tribunals or any other legislative acts envisage a procedure of making a judge or a prosecutor responsible for violating legal norms or power abuse. It is very uncommon. The laws of many states include such provisions.

The article 31 of the Russian Federation’s Criminal Code is almost fully devoted to the crimes committed by officers of the law. The judges may be made face responsibility by the Supreme Qualifying Collegium of the Russian Federation. (3) The other states have similar laws. At the same time, no responsibility is envisaged for international judges and prosecutors for crimes committed. And they are numerous enough:

conscientious handing down illegal verdicts, rigging evidence, violation of defendant's rights, non-use of existing norms of international law or their remaking, ignoring defendant's evidence, unsubstantiated rulings etc. Sometimes the violations are so massive, that the independence of judges is questioned, because their actions actually destroy the international legal system.

The immunity of heads of states and governments rejected, the caste of «untouchable» international judges and prosecutors created – all these things match the purpose set before the international criminal courts by global power. The goal is to get rid of the state leaders fallen out of favor in the name of the so-called «international community». The absence of any legal basis to make international judges and prosecutors face responsibility is not an oversight, it's the purposeful establishment of a striking potential to destroy the existing progressive legal system and create a new repressive and regressive international law.

No matter the boycott demarche, the United Nations hearings were of great significance. The representatives of a number of states lambasted the existing «system of justice» leaving no stone unturned. The address by Tomislav Nikolić stood out as bright and pithy.

Actually it was the report of an expert, offering a legal assessment going far beyond general lines and offering all the details of the problem. (4) The issues elucidated in the report included: the concept of instituting legal proceedings (the principle of division of powers and independent judiciary is violated); the assessment of the way the equality of the parties was observed, the control by Tribunal over financial activities persecution and defense, the issue of conscientious curtailing of the Tribunal's temporary jurisdiction, the violation of the principle of equality while handing down sentences to those, who represent different ethnic groups etc. (5)

The President's United Nations address convincingly demonstrated that the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia has never brought reconciliation to the Balkans; to the contrary, its activities have aggravated the schism in the society.

The other speeches are worth to mention too. Nebojša Radmanović, President of Bosnia and Herzegovina, noted that not a single ethnic group, populating his country, holds an opinion that the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia has made any contribution into the national reconciliation process. The Justice Minister of Rwanda said the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda was to blame for no peace in his country.

The Tribunal came under harsh criticism in other speeches too. Actually, the criticism was not aimed at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia only, but rather the whole system of international justice. The Justice Minister of Namibia said that this kind of 'justice' is selective and pointed the finger at the real culprit – the United Nations Security Council. John Laughland, Director of Studies at the Institute of Democracy and Cooperation in Paris, has hit the nail right on the head while summing up the results of the international courts activities. According to him, the very idea of international justice has failed.

Vitaly Churkin, the Permanent Representative (Ambassador) of the Russian Federation to the United Nations, commenting on how some considered justice critical for victims and an important element in efforts to prevent threats to peace and security, said that he could not accept the principle of retribution «at any cost».

Prosecutions could only be successfully achieved if the process was impartial and depoliticized. Although there were both positive and negative examples in that regard, he pointed out that the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia was a negative one, with a legacy that could not be seen as a success story, and whose existence had been unjustly extended «for an absurd length of time». Such

extensions had resulted in a number of key officials dying before they could be prosecuted. The question was whether such a judicial body — whose very existence seemed to cultivate the notion of guilt on one side of the conflict — could really bring about peace and justice. The Security Council must take decisive steps to help that body extricate itself from the «systemic dead end» in which it was entrenched.

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Serbia has made a breakthrough in fair assessment of what is called «international justice». It has attracted the attention of many countries to the problem. For the first time the international criminal courts were not just criticized, but rather lambasted at the session of the United Nations General Assembly. Russia has supported the «Serbian step forward». There is ground to believe the common legal position taken in the United Nations by Russia and Serbia would yield results...