

**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:**

Tuesday, 4 June 2013

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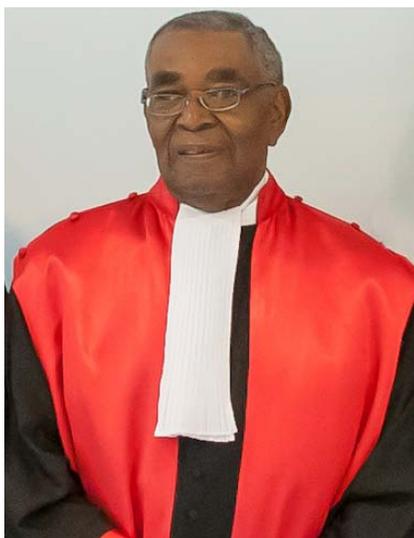


**Special Court for Sierra Leone**  
Outreach and Public Affairs Office

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**Freetown, Sierra Leone, 4 June 2013**

### **Justice George Gelaga King Elected President of the Special Court**



Justice George Gelaga King of Sierra Leone has been elected Presiding Judge of the Appeals Chamber, a post which makes him President of the Special Court. He succeeds Justice Shireen Avis Fisher of the United States, whose term ended on Monday.

Justice Emmanuel Ayoola of Nigeria was re-elected to a fourth term as Vice President, and Justice Renate Winter of Austria was elected as Staff Appeals Judge. Justices King, Ayoola and Winter were among the first set of Judges appointed to the Special Court at its inception in 2002, and they will serve in these posts until the Court completes its mandate.

Justice George Gelaga King has been President of the Sierra Leone Court of Appeal and of Court of Appeal of the Gambia. He served as Sierra Leone's Ambassador to France, Spain, Portugal and Switzerland from 1974 to 1978, and was at the same time Sierra Leone's Permanent Representative to UNESCO. Between 1978 and 1980 he served as Sierra Leone's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

Justice King taught law at the Sierra Leone Law School from 1990 to 2005. He is Chairman of both the Sierra Leone Law Journal and the Gambian National Council for Law Reporting, and was a member of the Sierra Leone Council of Legal Education. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. He holds an LLB degree from London University, and was called to the Bar at Gray's Inn, London.

In May 2007, he received Sierra Leone's highest honour when he was named a Grand Officer of the Republic of Sierra Leone (GORSL). He is a "Distinguished Visiting Professor" of Kingston University in Essex, U.K.

Justice King has been a Judge of the Special Court for Sierra Leone since 2002. He previously served two terms as President; he was first elected in 2006 and re-elected in 2007.

#END

## Civil society Collects Names Of Those Died In The War

**THE SPECIAL Court for Sierra Leone and partners including the Human Rights Commission and the Amputees and War Wounded Association have meet with civil society groups in every district headquarter town and Freetown from 8<sup>th</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup> May to launch the collection of artifacts and names of those who died as a result of the war.**

The campaign will see civil society groups in every district, and in the Western Area visit every village and town to encourage residents to donate artifacts and give the names of loved ones who died as a result of the decade-long conflict

for inclusion in the exhibition and memorial garden respectively.

Joseph Dumbuya from the Special Court told civil society activists across the country that the materials and information collected will be used in building the permanent memorial - the Sierra Leone Peace Museum - which will be

## Civil society Collects Names Of Those Died In The War

dedicated to the victims of the conflict.

He added that the Museum will achieve this objective by preserving the history of the war through an archive and an exhibition which will narrate the history of the war and the story of the peace process, and the Memorial Garden which will serve as a place of quiet reflection in honour of the war's victims.

He said artifacts are physical materials which relate to the war and the peace process, which will be used to build the exhibition. These include pictures, paintings, publicity and educational materials, short guns, traditional dress by ex-members of the civil defence

force, charm, juju and unidentified skeletons. On the other hand, the names of the war's dead will be printed on the walls of the Memorial Garden

To those who are selling their artifacts, he had this message, 'We will not pay for artifacts but will acknowledge every donation by inscribing the name of the donor underneath the artifact so that people will know you contributed to a worthy cause'

Civil society activists brainstormed challenges relating to community owned artifacts, fears and concerns about donating artifacts, collection of unidentified skeletons, and artifacts that are believed to serve an important part in the lives of people and therefore will not be donated regardless.

## Jamaica Observer

Tuesday, 4 June 2013

-SNIP-

2003: The Special Court for Sierra Leone, set up to try war crimes suspects from the country's civil conflict, makes public a 17-count indictment against Charles Taylor, the president of neighbouring Liberia.

-SNIP-

## The Province (Canada)

Tuesday, 4 June 2013

-SNIP-

In 2003, the international court for Sierra Leone indicted Liberian President Charles Taylor on war crimes charges during the West African country's civil war in the 1990's.

-SNIP-

## The Informer (Liberia)

Monday, 3 June 2013

Editorial

### Is ICC Hunting Africans Alone?

During the just ended all-important Summit of the African Union (AU) which came at a time that the Pan-African body was marking its golden jubilee anniversary at its headquarters in Addis Ababa, one of the burning issues discussed was that of certain African leaders finding themselves behind bars to answer to indictments of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

This indeed lowers the integrity and morale of third-world Countries especially Africa, to the extent that there are many who feel that this trend must change. Africa has gone through the dehumanizing slave-trade that included both the trans-Atlantic and the trans-Arabian sea slave trade, to avoid its re-occurrence accounts for one reason why the Organization for African Unity (OAU) which preceded the AU was formed in 1963.

This continent has also suffered from the humiliations of European colonialism whereby European nations especially France, Britain, Portugal, Spain among others, balkanized the continents into smaller territories and states. This is why in one way or the other, every country in Africa went through the excruciating blows of colonialism and had to struggle for their independence except Liberia, a Country that was never colonized but founded by an American based non-governmental organization.

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What was at the heart of debates at this year's AU anniversary Summit included discussions over why more African leaders including **Charles Taylor of Liberia**, Laurent Gbagbo of the Ivory Coast find themselves in the cell of the International Criminal Court (ICC) on charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity? President Omar Bashir of Sudan and Uhuru Kenyatta of Kenya have also been issued indictment warrant but not yet arrested.

The point raised by ex-President Taylor shortly before boarding the special Nigerian Presidential jet for a self-imposed exile in Nigeria upon the invitation of the then President, Olusegun Obasanjo was that 'Liberians must be very careful, as decisions (on Liberians affairs) are being made in foreign capitals. On the other hand ex-President George Bush II said that 'Taylor must go out of Liberia and ECOWAS, the West African political grouping must go in'.

One reason why African leaders are in jail at the ICC is the massive violation of the democratic rights of their opponents, the abuse of power, the greed for power which leaders to the desire to maintain the grips of power at all costs and by all means. If one analyses the situation from an objective viewpoint, Charles Taylor, Uhuru Kenyatta of Kenya and Gbagbo of the Ivory Coast were in one way or the other guilty of crimes against humanity.

Moreover, although Africa had been subjugated to European colonialism and imperialism if one considers the indictment of General Manuega of Panama, on charges of drug trafficking the indicted was lards of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia etc where several mass graves were discovered and where ethnic cleansing was the order of the day, it would be difficult to conclude that only African leaders alone are on the wanted list of the ICC Court in the Hague, Netherland.

We are however urging the international community to ensure that only those Africans on which prima-facie instances of the abuse of power and crimes against humanity with reasonable proofs are to be indicted. Indeed every effort should be made to weed out racism and favoritism in the indictment of convicts of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

It is also our ardent conviction that as a mark of respect for African unity and solidarity, and the quest to have Africans decide their own destinies, the international community must make it a point of duty to ensure the establishment of an African parallel of a war crimes tribunal on the soil of an African country but judges drawn from diverse ethnic and regional backgrounds in the world such as European and African judges.

Reuters

Monday, 3 June 2013

## **Hague court may try Kenyan vice president in Africa**

By Thomas Escritt

William Ruto (R) sits in the courtroom of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague May 14, 2013. REUTERS/Lex van Lieshout/Pool

AMSTERDAM (Reuters) - The International Criminal Court could hold a trial outside The Hague for the first time, after ICC judges said on Monday they may hear the case against Kenya's deputy president in his own country or neighboring Tanzania.

Judges were responding to requests from William Ruto's lawyers, who said it would be "in the interests of justice" for the politician's trial to be held closer to home.

Both Ruto and Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta - elected on a joint ticket in March - face charges of orchestrating violence after the previous election, five years ago, in which 1,200 people died.

The attempt to prosecute the leaders of one of Africa's biggest economies comes as the ICC is under increasing criticism from leaders on the continent who accuse it of unfairly targeting Africans.

Ruto has said he would attend hearings in The Hague if ordered to do so, but has also asked to participate by video link.

Though no final decision has been taken, the ICC judges said holding parts of the trial in Kenya, or Tanzania, where a U.N. court is trying alleged perpetrators of the Rwandan genocide, would bring it closer to victims and affected communities.

Prosecutors have warned that moving the trial to Kenya could make it harder to provide protection to witnesses who, they say, have been threatened into withdrawing their testimonies.

The trial would still be conducted by the ICC, regardless of where it was held. Kenyatta's lawyers have submitted a similar request to relocate the trial.

Judges also ruled on Monday that the trial of Ruto and his co-accused, broadcaster Joshua Arap Sang, would start on September 10, rather than the original start date of May 28, accepting defense requests for more time to prepare their cases.

Kenyatta's is a separate case, currently scheduled to start in July, though his defense has requested a delay which judges are considering.

All men deny the charges.

Leaders at an African Union summit in Addis Ababa last week urged the ICC to refer the cases to Kenyan courts.

Ethiopian President Hailemariam Desalegn accused the court of racial bias and of targeting Africans for prosecution, an allegation the court has always rejected.

(Additional reporting by Ivana Sekularac; Editing by Robin Pomeroy)

## Standard Digital (Kenya)

Saturday, 1 June 2013

### **International Criminal Court has no blemish so far, so let rulers stop calling for return of cases home**

By Anyang Nyong'o

NAIROBI, KENYA: I was not surprised when the African Heads of States and governments assembled in Addis Ababa for the 50th Anniversary of the AU and their normal summit, decided to turn their backs on the International Criminal Court. Or at least to say they intend to do so. And as a first step in this direction, they proposed to bring back the Uhuru/Ruto cases from the Hague back to Nairobi, completely oblivious of how the cases ended there in the first place. The ICC has, as expected, refused to budge, arguing that theirs is a legal and not a political process, hence outside the jurisdiction of the assembled excellencies.

Looked at more objectively, we could not have expected any different pronouncement from these excellencies when they comprise a good coterie of human rights violators against their own people. A good number of them have equally perfected the art of changing the rules of accessing power when it suits them, hence the many “near life presidents” who still sit among them. So to commit a criminal offence against the people and then ask to sit at your own judgment as the judge is no big deal to them.

In which African country have we seen a sitting president go to court as an accused and receive any semblance of a fair trial? In which African country can we expect a president accused of human rights abuses to go to his own courts and allow the due process of law to find him or her guilty? Just by thinking about initiating the process of taking a president to court, trial judge after judge will disqualify themselves fearing not just the president but the enthusiastic and sycophantic handlers of His Excellency. A judge will be as dead as a dodo even before contemplating the beginning of such a trial in most African countries.

Let us not, therefore, trivialise the Rome Statutes and the opportunity they offer to tame rogue human rights abusers in Africa, including our presidents. More importantly, Africa now has a window of opportunity to establish democracies, which, over time, will be mature enough to protect ordinary Africans against such human rights abusers. This window may, however, get closed if we turn our backs to the promotion and defence of human rights within the Rome Statutes.

At the moment facts speak for themselves in Africa: We have no judiciary that can fairly dispense justice when very powerful people are accused of rights abuse.

Let us cast our minds back to early 2008, and see on television that matatu on Nairobi-Nakuru road with passengers being pulled out by some rugged militias who proceeded to hack them to death while state security personnel watched. One passenger trying to escape was even crushed to death by the same matatu which rode over him. The same security personnel looked on. Don't tell me those pictures were not instantly available to our so-called law enforcement agencies; they were abundantly available complete with registration numbers of the vehicles used and the lapel service numbers of the security personnel who watched with glee as the macabre events unfolded. Since then nobody has been apprehended in the Kenyan courts for these wanton killings. And you want to tell me we are now ready to do what we have refused to confront for the last five years?

When some of us shouted “don't be vague go to the Hague” there was a belief that the Hague would never happen. Now that it has happened time is opportune for us to be vague. Mr Ndege, who lost 11 members

of his family in Naivasha, is expected to be content with this vagueness; since he is no big man the loss of his family does not really count, and justice can be delayed in his case until cows come home.

As far as the African heads of states and governments are concerned, cows do not need to come home anyway, because there will be no Mr Ndege to receive them. The likes of Mr Ndege, in the system of justice manufactured by these excellencies, are regarded as menaces appealing for justice from the wrong quarters such as the Hague. Very often such people are quietly eliminated to erase any evidence of injustice or human rights abuse committed by the rich and powerful in Africa. Supposing the heads of states and governments were to be honest and to say that they are ready to give the people of Africa a chance to vote on the decisions made at the AU summit meetings. Suppose the people of Africa, in this rare act of honesty by these excellencies, were to hold a referendum on the requirements of the Rome Statutes versus the proposal that former President Gbagbo of Cote d'Ivoire, for example, should be tried in Abidjan because the leaders say that African problems should be sorted out by Africans themselves. What do you think the result would be? Your guess is as good as mine. But if you ask me I think Professor Gbagbo and the people of Cote d'Ivoire are better off with the judicial process at the Hague rather than anywhere in Africa where a sitting president is very likely to intervene and bias the court one way or the other.

We are very often held hostage by the criminal behavior of our own so-called leaders. Quite often we even rise to defend them after such atrocities because we believe they acted on our behalf, to defend us against our perceived enemies as it were. This, indeed, is how fascism is nurtured; in this regard ethnic fascism, or a black version of apartheid. The trouble is that the very perpetrators of atrocities are those who will stand on mountain tops and claim their innocence, or their willingness to create a healing process without first accepting the magnitude of the disease from which the sufferers are to be weaned.

I guess the Kenyan picture comes out clearly and the malice of bringing the cases home so as to quash them at this late hour is quite obvious. We do not wish to condemn anybody without a fair trial. We need to prove that the ICC is carrying out an unfair trial before any justification can be made for stopping the trials there. Creating a populist argument that Africans should be tried on their own soil makes no sense. It is not where the trial is held that is important, but the quality of trial that is vital with regard to dispensing proper justice. So far the ICC has shown that it is very meticulous in its work.

# The Huffington Post

Saturday, 1 June 2013

## Rape in Kashmir - The Forgotten War Crime

I have previously summarised human rights abuses in Kashmir in this post. Issues affecting Kashmir appear to have been missed from the international stage. Its people bravely struggle on alone, attempting to achieve some accountability. With one of the highest rates of post traumatic stress disorder in the world, the impact is obvious. Nevertheless, their plight is largely forgotten by India and west.

In April 2013, the UK's Foreign Minister, William Hague, and the Hollywood actress and Special Envoy to the UN Commissioner for Refugees, Angelina Jolie, announced their fight against sexual violence in war. They announced additional funding of 36 million dollars from G-8 nations, to develop a series of measures to prevent sexual violence and ensure justice for survivors of military conflicts.

Mr Hague said:-

*And today we know the facts about sexual violence in conflict and we have the means to address it, so we must not look away or rest until the world faces up to its responsibilities to eradicate this violence.[Independent].*

There has been no mention of Kashmir, and just a stony silence from Foreign Office in response to my tweets. It is interesting to note, however, that Human Rights Watch [HRW] were the first to document sexual violence in conflict in 1993 [Rape in Kashmir - A Crime of War ]. They published a report outlining how the Indian security forces in Kashmir used rape to "brutalise women and punish their communities, accused of sympathising with separatist militants" [It's Not Just about Violence]. Since then HRW have investigated and documented rape in conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Colombia, Somalia, Iraq, Sierra Leone, Kosovo, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, and Haiti.

Sexualised violence in Kashmir is "systemic and institutionalised as part of a larger framework of punishment meted out to civilians". The Indian government decided to crackdown on Kashmiri insurgents in 1990. It was then that reports of rape were disclosed. A United Nations report in 1992 cited that the Indian security forces allegedly gang raped 882 women. Moreover a 2005 study by Médecins Sans Frontières found that that "11.6 percent of interviewees said they had been victims of sexual violence since 1989" and that "one in seven had witnessed rape. [ A long struggle Against Systemic Rape in Kashmir ] .

The alleged set of crimes, known as the Kunan Poshpora case, happened more than 20 years ago, on February 23, 1991, when armed forces allegedly raped at least 32 teenaged, adult, and elderly women. The Indian government has refused to hold anyone accountable for these alleged crimes. In 1992, the United States Department of State's report on international human rights rejected the Indian government's conclusion and stated that there was "credible evidence to support charges that an elite army unit engaged in mass rape in the Kashmiri village of Kunan Poshpora". It is also interesting that Justice Verma's report on the Delhi Rape issue acknowledged the need for accountability. The team wrote

*"We are indeed deeply concerned at the growing distrust of the State and its efforts to designate these regions as 'areas of conflict' even when civil society is available to engage and inform the lot of the poor. We are convinced that such an attitude on the part of the State only encourages the alienation of our fellow citizens." They continued, "It must be recognized that women in conflict areas are entitled to all the security and dignity that is afforded to citizens in any other part of our country" and finally the*

*recommendation was as follows: "Sexual violence against women by members of the armed forces or uniformed personnel must be brought under the purview of ordinary criminal law"*

A few weeks ago, "50 Kashmiri women came together to demand that police reinvestigate a well-known case of mass rape. The women--teachers, students, journalists, human rights workers, lawyers, and other professionals--filed a public interest litigation case before India's Jammu and Kashmir high court". The Hindustan Times recently reported on a petition to the High Court to reopen the Kunan Poshpora case. The petitioners pleaded "As usual, the State refused to act. One and a half years have passed and the State has displayed a cruel disregard for a crime whose consequences continue to date." The history is summarised by Women Under Siege . The local media reported on the potential reopening of the case. The international media appears to have remained tight-lipped despite these events occurring during the same time as William Hague's publicity campaign.

The disappearance of the human rights abuses from the international stage is curious. Mr Rameez Makhdoomi, a local journalist in Indian administered Kashmir, stated,

*"Tragically, Kashmir human rights violations are grossly overlooked by Western world which is otherwise considered as the region which gave birth to enlightened concepts like democracy and liberty. History will remember with dark words the silence of West over gross human rights violations committed by India in Kashmir. India may have literally committed every crime in book--rapes, murders, torture deaths to quell democratic freedom struggle of Kashmir based on the right to self-determination which was promised by Indian state. Western world is acting blind and voting economic and strategic interests over humanity and democracy when it comes to India's cruel conduct in Kashmir."*

UN Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Ms. Zainab Hawa Bangura states

*"Sexual violence in conflict needs to be treated as the war crime that it is; it can no longer be treated as an unfortunate collateral damage of war"*

It follows that the alleged crimes committed against the people of Kashmir and their difficult journey to achieve accountability must never be forgotten by the international community.