

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



An aerial view of Aberdeen

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, 16 July 2013

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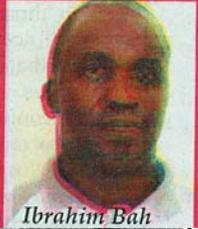
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RUF "kingpin" indicted

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Ibrahim Bah

RUF "kingpin" indicted

Senegalese national believed to have worked with war criminal, Charles Taylor and the rebel RUF movement was yesterday served a writ of summons to appear in court.

Sources close to the judiciary say Ibrahim Bah aka Ibrahim Baldeh is expected to appear before a Freetown magistrate court this week on several counts including false imprisonment, kidnapping, wounding with intent and con-

spiracy.

One source told Politico that the case had been brought to court by a Swiss-based organisation, Civitas Maxima and the local Centre for Accountability and Rule of Law (CARL). Last month the international rights group, Human Rights Watch and CARL called on the Sierra Leone authorities to start criminal investigations against Ibrahim who has been on a United Nations

travel ban since 2004 and is on the INTERPOL watch list.

The police and government sounded circumspect at the time as to whether the man being held was the man under a UN travel ban, despite a UN Security Council report detailing him to be the same person.

A United States Congressman, Frank R. Wolf has also called on US Secretary of State John Kerry to wade into the issue of Ibrahim and

press the Sierra Leone government to press criminal charges against him. He described him as "a key figure in the conflict diamond trade".

A police source has now confirmed to Politico that Ibrahim has in fact been released from police detention to be reporting every 72 hours. He is said to be in a secure house in the west of Freetown, with government tight-leaped on the matter.

Sierra Express Media

Tuesday, 16 July 2013

Johnny Paul is Alive and Kicking



JP the initiator of peace

It is now an open secret that leader of Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) junta regime is here within the walls of Sierra Leone and he is very much alive and kicking.

A close confidante and a relative of the indisposed junta leader who begged for anonymity argued strongly that Retired Brigadier Johnny Paul Koroma is currently residing in a secluded venue in Freetown. Our source say Koroma has decided to conduct himself in a pensive mood owing to scandals of a Special Court indictment hanging over him. He further boosted that Jonny Paul has been in close collaboration with a renowned Paramount Chief, whose name he did not disclosed and who has promised to facilitate a meeting between Johnny Paul Koroma and President Ernest Bai Koroma in the not too distant future. During his nine months in power, Johnny Paul proved himself a benevolent dictator thus providing an astute leadership for the people. He was held in captivity in the maximum security prison on charges of treason but was latter liberated by colleagues soldiers in the other ranks and imposed leadership

on him after the overthrow of ex-president Tejan Kabbah in the May 25th 1996 coup de' tat. During his hold on to power, Johnny Paul tends to burst international sanctions and embargos when he paid backlog of salaries to civil servants and teachers; he was able to produce enough food items locally for his people and electricity supply were in abundance. During the interregnum, Johnny Paul secured the release of 300 Ecomog soldiers that were captured by the RSLAF in June 2nd. Johnny Paul Koroma was the first to bring out the rebels of Revolutionary United Front from the jungle to engage themselves in peace talks. He was a very religious and God fearing soldier who could fondly be remembered on the day he ordered the entire nation to yell the name 'JESUS' at 6 o'clock p.m to solicit divine intervention for an end to the war ,so that the people could enjoy peace again. The Rtd. Brigadier was later appointed National Chairman for the Consolidation of Peace in the country. He further demonstrated his belief in the tenets of democracy when he formed the Peoples Liberation Party (PLP) a political party under which umbrella he contested the Presidential and Parliamentary Elections and polled an overwhelmingly significant vote. Although an international criminal court indictment threatens, much has not been heard of it lately, but many Sierra Leoneans would like to see Johnny Paul Koroma walk through the streets as a free and peaceful citizen, one of the key architects of the peace we are now enjoying.

Associated Press
Monday, 15 July 2013

Civil society, rights lawyers urge Nigeria to arrest Sudanese leader wanted for Darfur crimes

By Bashir Adigun and Michelle Faul

ABUJA, Nigeria — Angry that Nigeria is hosting a fugitive accused of genocide and war crimes, human rights lawyers Monday asked the Federal High Court to issue an arrest warrant for Sudan's leader Omar al-Bashir.

Nigerian civil rights activists sent an urgent request to the International Criminal Court to refer the Nigerian government to the U.N. Security Council for failing to detain al-Bashir and surrender him to the court in The Hague for trial, said the Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project.

The project urged Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan "to support the demand by the international community for justice for the victims of genocide and war crimes."

Britain, Nigeria's former colonizer, issued a mild reprimand. Minister for Africa Mark Simmonds expressed "disappointment" and said Nigeria's action "undermines the work of the ICC and sends the victims a dismaying message that the accountability they are waiting for will be delayed further."

The court in The Hague indicted the Sudanese leader in 2009 and 2010 for crimes including extermination, forcible transfer of population, torture and rape. He was the first sitting African head of state to be indicted by the court.

On Sunday, Nigeria rolled out a red carpet and gave al-Bashir full military honors when he arrived in Abuja, the federal capital, to attend an African Union health summit that started Monday.

Leaders from eight other African countries attended the summit, including Kenya, which has shunned al-Bashir.

Human Rights Watch was contacting diplomats to add to the pressure, urging them "to signal that Nigeria should show leadership and not host ICC fugitive Bashir," said Elise Keppler of the New York-based organization's International Justice Program.

South Africa, Malawi, Uganda, Kenya, Zambia, and Central Africa Republic "have specifically made clear Bashir will be arrested on their territory, seen to it that other Sudanese officials visit instead of Bashir, relocated conferences or otherwise avoided his visits," said human rights lawyer Chino Obiagwu, who also heads the Nigerian Coalition on the ICC.

He said the lawsuit filed Monday stresses the responsibility of Nigeria's judiciary "to implement legal obligations created by treaties undertaken by Nigeria."

Adetokunbo Mumuni, executive director of the civil rights and accountability project, said a failure to arrest al-Bashir could have "huge legal ramifications" and lead to sanctions by the Security Council. But Chad and Djibouti have welcomed al-Bashir in the past year without suffering any consequences.

Nigeria is a member of the International Criminal Court and “has international legal obligations to ensure that this country does not become a safe haven for alleged perpetrators of crimes under international law like al-Bashir,” he said.

He added that Nigeria should not use the excuse that the African Union has told its 53 member states not to cooperate with the ICC.

But that was exactly the reason given for receiving al-Bashir by Nigeria’s presidential spokesman. Reuben Abati told The Associated Press that al-Bashir was not in Nigeria on a state visit. “I think the AU has a position on this: It is that the president of Sudan can attend events organized by the African Union anywhere in the continent,” he said.

Some Africans argue that the European-based court is racist and targets Africans. All eight cases currently being investigated by the court are in Africa, but seven of them respond to requests from the governments where the crimes were committed or from the Security Council. The Security Council referred the situation in Darfur to the court because of the severity of the crimes being committed in that western Sudanese province.

The sole case in which the court has taken the initiative is in Kenya, responding to widespread frustration that the government did nothing to prosecute politicians accused of instigating tribal killings and other violence following 2007 elections.

Nigerian officials have not responded to requests for comment. Some remember with distaste the last time Nigeria was forced to hand over an internationally wanted criminal, former **Liberian President Charles Taylor**, the warlord who began that country’s devastating civil war in 1989.

In 2003, Taylor resigned under pressure and a promise from Nigeria’s government to give him a safe haven. When democratically elected leader Ellen Johnson Sirleaf demanded his extradition in 2006, Nigeria came under huge international pressure and was forced to go back on its word and hand him over.

Taylor was in May sentenced to 50 years in prison by the international court, not for crimes committed in his own country but for his responsibility for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in neighboring Sierra Leone.

Faul reported from Lagos, Nigeria.

Associated Press

Tuesday, 16 July 2013

By Bashir Adigun and Michelle Faul

Diplomat: Sudan's leader has fled Nigeria



ABUJA, Nigeria – Sudanese leader Omar al-Bashir has left Nigeria, a diplomat at his embassy said Tuesday, following demands from human rights activists for the arrest of the man indicted for genocide and war crimes in Darfur.

Human rights lawyers filed a suit in the Federal High Court on Monday to try to compel Nigeria's government to arrest al-Bashir. And a civil rights group urgently appealed to the International Criminal Court to refer the government to the United Nations Security Council for allowing the visit.

Presidential spokesman Reuben Abati told The Associated Press that al-Bashir had come to attend the African Union summit, and not at Nigeria's invitation. He said Nigeria's action in allowing him to come was in line with instructions from the African Union, which has told its 53 member states not to cooperate with the European-based court that some accuse of targeting Africans.

Nigeria was forced in the past to hand over an internationally wanted criminal — former Liberian president Charles Taylor, the warlord who began that country's devastating civil war in 1989.

In 2003, Taylor resigned under pressure and a promise from Nigeria's government to give him a safe haven. When democratically elected Liberian leader Ellen Sirleaf demanded his extradition in 2006, Nigeria came under huge international pressure and was forced to go back on its word and hand him over.

Taylor was sentenced to 50 years in prison by the **International Criminal Court** in May, not for crimes committed in his own country but for his responsibility for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in neighbouring Sierra Leone.

CORRECTED PARAGRAPH, AT REQUEST OF SCSL: Taylor was in May sentenced to 50 years in prison by the international **Special Court for Sierra Leone** at The Hague, not for crimes committed in his own country but for his responsibility for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in neighboring Sierra Leone.

A diplomat at the Sudanese Embassy in Abuja, the Nigerian capital, told The Associated Press that al-Bashir left at 3 p.m. Monday, less than 24 hours after he arrived and in the middle of a two-day summit ending Tuesday. The diplomat, who refused to give his name, said his hasty departure had nothing to do with the pressure for his arrest.

Leaders from eight other African countries are attending the summit, including Kenya, which has shunned al-Bashir.

South Africa, Malawi, Uganda, Kenya, Zambia, and Central Africa Republic "have specifically made clear Bashir will be arrested on their territory, seen to it that other Sudanese officials visit instead of Bashir, relocated conferences or otherwise avoided his visits," said human rights lawyer Chino Obiagwu, who heads the Nigerian Coalition on the ICC.

New Vision (Uganda)

Tuesday, 16 July 2013

Opinion

Is the ICC unfair to Africans or just misunderstood?

By George Ntambaazi

The African Union heads of State and Government summit proposal in Addis Ababa - Ethiopia in May, and President Museveni's recent criticism of the International Criminal Court (ICC) represents the most elaborate attempt to strengthen sovereignty of African States not only from the internal political realm, but also from the external sphere of international justice system.

The heads of states urged the ICC to refer the 2007 post-election charges against President Uhuru Kenyatta and his deputy William Ruto to the Kenyan Courts. They said Kenya has a credible judiciary.

Museveni, as a key note speaker at their inauguration ceremony in April, castigated those using the ICC for selfish ends.

He advised the ICC to avoid being used by what he described as 'a bunch of self-seekers and shallow-minded people whose interest is to mint revenge on those who hold opposing views. Former Kenyan PM Raila Odinga is leading the pro-ICC group.

It is an absurdity that the objectivity of ICC is under question. Facts and rumours are swirling around that ICC investigations and trials of African suspects are conducted in a manner which is in most circumstances inconsistent with the intent to bring the persons concerned to justice. That the institution is used to witch-hunt Africans to appease the conscious of the international community

Last month, during the joint press conference in Entebbe, Uhuru, an ICC indictee promised to cooperate with the ICC as long as it respects Kenyan sovereignty.

To Africans, Uhuru's victory and the voters' rejection of ICC sympathisers demonstrated that the endeavour to ever again get rid of African sovereignty can never be quite successful.

Formed almost 15 years ago on July 17, 1998 in Rome, over 120 nations voted to create a permanent court to try war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. Article 5 of the Rome Statute grants the court universal jurisdiction over these crimes.

The framers intended to have it as a court of last resort to eradicate the culture of impunity by investigating and prosecuting crimes where national courts failed.

However, although the UN recognises that crimes against humanity may be committed by constitutionally elected and responsible leaders, one wonders why its only African leaders and none of the western leaders is facing trial. Some suggest that leaders such as George Bush, and Tony Blair should be investigated.

The world wonders why the US is not a state party to the treaty. Africans look on in horror as Sudanese President Omar Bashir travel is restricted yet newly elected Uhuru flew to London in May and even met British Premier David Cameron at a Somalia Summit.

Frankly, I would be gratified if the ICC avoids selective justice. 99 percent of cases before the ICC are against Africans.

Those for home grown justice systems argue that a precedent to try ICC suspects in Africa has already been set. In December 2003, Uganda referred to the ICC the LRA case in Northern Uganda and the Court in July 2005 issued arrest warrants for Joseph Kony and his commanders. Since the LRA leaders demanded immunity from ICC in return for the end of the insurgency, the Government established a tribunal that meet international standards allowing the ICC warrants to be set aside.

Similarly, although the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) was set up in Arusha, to arrest and try planners of the genocide, Rwandan leaders instead set up the Gacaca tribunals that guaranteed the victims and survivors of the genocide justice, but also gave the perpetrators a chance to reintegrate in society and play a productive role in development.

Who then says Africa cannot confidently take care of itself using its national courts and traditional justice systems?

The Writer is a Regional Political Analyst

Agence France-Presse

Monday, 15 July 2013

Ethnic clashes in Guinea leave dozens wounded

Communal violence is common near Liberian border, where indigenous Guerze tribe often clashes with Muslim Koniankes

Dozens of people were wounded Monday in ethnic clashes in the west African state of Guinea, officials told AFP, after petrol station guards killed a youth from a rival tribe.

A police source said the violence broke out in the southern forest region when the guards from the Guerze tribe accused the youth, an ethnic Konianke, of stealing before torturing and beating him.

The victim's family told their fellow Konianke tribespeople who "rose up against these medieval practices" in the town of Koule, the source said.

The violence spread to the nearby provincial capital N'Zerekore, 570 kilometres (350 miles) southeast of Conakry, leaving dozens injured and several homes destroyed.

Security forces deployed to break up the fighting had been unable to restore calm in N'Zerekore by the afternoon, witnesses told AFP, while the police source said there were "dozens wounded by machetes".

"The two communities are now fighting with machetes, axes, sticks and stones. I cannot say the exact number of casualties in the districts or even the number in hospital. The situation is extremely serious," he added.

"Since the clashes broke out in Koule overnight and moved to N'Zerekore, we have registered one death and at least 50 injured, 20 in Koule and 30 in N'Zerekore," a hospital source told AFP.

Communal violence is common in the region, near the border with Liberia, where clashes between the two tribes regularly break out over religious and other grievances. The indigenous Guerze are mostly Christian or animist, while the Koniankes – seen as newcomers – are Muslims considered to be close to Liberia's Mandingo ethnic community.

In Liberia's civil war, which ended in 2003, rebels fighting the forces of then president **Charles Taylor** drew much of their support from the Mandingo community.

The Guerze, known as Kpelle in Liberia, were generally considered to be supporters of forces loyal to Taylor, who was jailed last year for "aiding and abetting" war crimes in neighbouring Sierra Leone.