

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



School children line up to ask questions at Peninsula Secondary School. For more pictures of yesterday's Outreach at Waterloo, see today's '*Special Court Supplement*'.

**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, 1 February 2012

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

Wednesday, 1 February 2012

## Youth Groups organizes symposium on Charles Taylor Trial

By Saidu Bah

With the Special Court for Sierra Leone folding up its operations in Sierra Leone and the expectation that it would leave behind its infrastructure and case files and proceeding details as its legacy, a number of youth groups have partnered with the court to bring to sensitize their peers on the court's current activities which include the ongoing trial of Charles Taylor in Hague, Netherlands.

One of such sensitization activities a symposium, was organized by the Salone Youth and Adolescent Network on Population and Development (SALYAN) and the Youth in Development-Sierra Leone (YD-SL) on the theme, 'The ongoing Taylor trial in the Hague-Special Court for Sierra Leone and its Legacy' held in the Lumley Community, West of Freetown.

The symposium supported by the Outreach Section of the Sierra Leone Special Court brought together youth from various organizations and denominations including

school children from within the community to discuss the theme.

Programme Officer of SALYAN, Mohamed Koroma gave an overview of the symposium and called on the youth to endeavor to understand some of the issues in the ongoing Taylor trial and the legacy it is expected to leave behind for Sierra Leone.

Civil Society representative, Patrick Tucker gave a detailed explanation on the status of the Taylor trial and implored the youth to be mindful of the country's immediate past, with particular reference to the eleven-year rebel war and its concomitant ramifications in their effort at charting a way for the future of the country as a peaceful, stable and developing country.

Alhassan Kamara of the United Nations Fund for Population (UNFPA) and Komrabai Dumbuya of the National Youth Commission both spoke on the role of youth in post conflict development in Sierra Leone, and warned against youth misuse as agents and perpetrators of violence in all its forms.



Awoko

Wednesday, 1 February 2012

## UN Chief Rejects African Criticism of International Court

United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon says African criticism of the International Criminal Court is unfounded. Ban spoke to VOA's Peter Heinlein about the court and other issues, on the sidelines of the African Union summit in Addis Ababa. The U.N. secretary general takes exception to suggestions that the ICC record of prosecutions shows an anti-African bias. Critics point out that the seven active ICC investigations are all in Africa. In comments to VOA, however, Ban rejected the bias charge, arguing that African governments have, in most cases, supported the ICC actions. "On many occasions when African people were indicted, they were indicted at the request of the African countries themselves. And, there were very few cases that investigations were instigated by ICC itself," said Ban. The outgoing chairman of the Africa Union, Equatorial Guinea President Teodoro Obiang Nguema, used his farewell speech at the summit to denounce the ICC and suggest that Africa should create its own criminal court.

Ban counters that the ICC has performed well recently in ending what he calls the era of impunity in Ivory Coast and Libya.

"I think the examples and lessons we have seen in the case of Cote d'Ivoire and Libya was a very positive one in that everything was moving toward the right direction in terms of establishing international justice and putting an end to impunity and putting all these perpetrators to justice. We're now working very hard in these countries to

establish transitional justice. Therefore, an era of impunity has come to an end," said Ban. On other matters, Ban hailed as historic the recent relocation to Mogadishu of the United Nations Political Office on Somalia. The move marks an end to a 17-year period in which the world body had no permanent presence in the Somali capital. He called this moment when al Shabab insurgents are on the run a small window of opportunity for Somali's future stability. He said he will recommend that the Security Council approve an expansion of the African Union's AMISOM peacekeeping force from 10,000 to 17,000 troops before a major conference on Somalia in mid-February.

"I'm going to make a report to the Security Council very soon. I hope Security Council will have a favorable consideration on this increase in the strength of AMISOM before we meet in London for International Conference on Somalia," said Ban. The secretary general also called Sudan President Omar al-Bashir an obstacle to peace, and said the Sudan-South



*UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon arrives for the 18th African Union Summit in the Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa, January 29, 2012.*

Sudan dispute about oil is a threat to regional security. The comments come after regional leaders failed at meetings here in Addis Ababa to agree on transit fees and sharing oil revenues, prompting South Sudan to implement a total shutdown of oil production. South Sudan controls more than 70 percent of the two countries' oil output, but needs pipelines running through Sudan to get the oil to port.

Concord Times  
Wednesday, 1 February 2012

## Fambul Tok Peace Mothers meet in Tissana

In its bid to continue cementing the peace and reconciliation process in the country, Fambul Tok International's Peace Mothers in Koinadugu and Kono districts met with their counterparts in Moyamba district with the hope of sharing their experiences since Fambul Tok appealed to them to forgive their assailants in the eleven civil war and look forward to the future that holds so much comfort for them.

It was an experience-sharing venture which was meant to establish trade links within the districts so that women would be

able to exploit the available opportunities to look after their wellbeing and that of their families.

In Tissana village, Kargboro chiefdom, Moyamba district, the Peace Mothers expressed satisfaction for the good work Fambul Tok has done in the area and for them. "We are now working in unity in our community. When the war ended and we returned to our villages, most of us were not in talking terms as a result of harboured grievances against one another. But Fambul Tok was able to reconcile us in a way that all of us have now buried our grievances for the

benefit of our children and for our peaceful co-existence," said Kumba Tommy.

"We are now enjoying the fruits of unity and peace. Last year, with Fambul Tok's support, the peace mothers' group in our section was able to harvest 15 bushels of rice. We shared the proceeds among us and most of us

now have personal businesses which help us to take care of the schooling of

our children. I can now earn money on my own."



# International Centre for Transitional Justice

Friday, 27 January 2012

## **A Court for victims: Podcast on the Special Court for Sierra Leone**

Following a decade of civil war marked by intense violence meted out against civilians, the government of Sierra Leone and the United Nations jointly established the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) to try those most responsible for gross violations of human rights. On the tenth anniversary of the formal end to this conflict Binta Mansaray, registrar of the SCSL, discusses the impact the court has had in Sierra Leone and the lessons its process can afford other international judicial mechanisms.

Crucial to the success of the Special Court was that it was accessible to victims, Mansaray argued, thanks to an extensive outreach program to ensure the larger population was both aware and a part of the process.

“The fact that this court was based in the country where the crimes took place gave us the unique opportunity to interact with the larger society,” she said. “If you’re dispensing justice, you’re doing it in the name of those who suffered. So they should be able to have the opportunity to be part of the process.”

That the court is based in Sierra Leone has also had a crucial impact on capacity building. “Because we are based in the country, we are able to work with institutions in the justice sector where our impact is felt,” Mansaray said. To ensure its own effectiveness, the SCSL undertook projects as diverse as rebuilding national judicial capacity, creating the basis for a national archive, training police prosecutors and national security officers, and establishing a witness protection program.

An examination of the SCSL underscores the interconnectivity between development and justice. The success of the court’s proceedings relied on the development and rebuilding of judicial and security infrastructure after 10 years of war destroyed most institutions.

But the relationship goes both ways, Mansaray pointed out. “You cannot have sustainable development if your justice system is in trouble.”

To advance the dialogue on complementarity, ICTJ has launched a special podcast series examining the opportunities and challenges of placing the responsibility for prosecuting serious crimes at the national level. In the next podcast in the series Ambassador Thomas Winkler, undersecretary for legal affairs at Denmark's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, discusses the relationship between the Assembly of States Parties and the International Criminal Court.

# The Christian Science Monitor

Friday, 27 January 2012

## Former Guatemalan dictator Efraim Rios Montt faces trial for genocide

Efraim Rios Montt came to power in a coup and oversaw some of Guatemala's most atrocious civil war crimes.

By Mike Allison, Guest blogger



*Former Guatemalan dictator Efraim Rios Montt speaks with the media after a judge placed him under house arrest, at the Supreme Court of Justice in Guatemala City on Thursday. Rios Montt appeared in court on charges of genocide and crimes against humanity as the Central American nation seeks to close files on a brutal 36-year civil war.*

*Jorge Dan Lopez/Reuters*

On Thursday, Efraim Rios Montt appeared in a Guatemalan court on genocide charges. During the hearing, the government presented evidence of over 100 incidents involving at least 1,771 deaths, 1,445 rapes, and the displacement of nearly 30,000 Guatemalans during his 17-month rule from 1982-1983, according to the Washington Post, BBC, Siglo XXI (in Spanish), and the LA Times.

Rios Montt did not speak during today's hearings, but it looks like he will be able to test his "I was never on the battlefield" defense. Tonight, Judge Carol Patricia Flores determined that there is enough evidence to try Rios Montt on charges of genocide and crimes against humanity. The prosecution wanted him incarcerated because of his potential for flight but the judge ruled that he can remain out on bail. He has now been placed under house arrest and will be watched by the Guatemalan National Civil Police (PNC).

A tremendous victory for the people of Guatemala and a continuation of what I believe has been a pretty remarkable year-plus of human rights advancement in the region.

*Mike Allison is an associate professor in the Political Science Department and a member of the Latin American and Women's Studies Department at the University of Scranton in Pennsylvania. You can follow his Central American Politics blog [here](#).*



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